

ENGLISH STANDARD 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 over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

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

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

⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶ And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters,

and let it separate the waters from the waters."

⁷ And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so.

⁸ And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ And 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 God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

¹¹ And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so.

¹² The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years,

¹⁵ and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so.

¹⁶ And God made the two great lights--the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night--and the stars.

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

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

¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens."

²¹ So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, 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 And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds--livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so.

²⁵ And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and 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 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

²⁹ And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.

³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.

³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

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

² And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.

³ So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

⁴ These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

⁵ When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up--for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground,

⁶ and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground--

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

⁸ And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.

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

¹⁰ A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers.

¹¹ The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold.

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

¹³ The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush.

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

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

¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden,

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 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."

¹⁹ So out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.

²⁰ The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.

²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.

²² And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

²³ Then the man said, "This at last is 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 his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

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

3 ¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"

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

³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

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

⁵ For God knows that when 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, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

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

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

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

¹⁰ And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."

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

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

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

¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

¹⁶ To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in

pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

¹⁷ And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

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

²¹ And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

²² Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever--"

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

²⁴ He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that 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, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD."

² And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground.

³ In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground,

⁴ and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering,

⁵ but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.

⁶ The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen?"

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

⁸ Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel 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 the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground.

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

¹² When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth."

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

¹⁴ Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me."

¹⁵ Then the LORD said to him, "Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD

put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him.

¹⁶ Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

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

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

¹⁹ And Lamech took two wives. The name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah.

²⁰ 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 lyre and pipe.

²² Zillah also bore Tubal-cain; he was the forger of all instruments of bronze and iron. The sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah.

²³ Lamech said to his wives: "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; you wives of Lamech, listen to what I say: I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for striking me.

²⁴ If Cain's revenge is sevenfold, then Lamech's is seventy-sevenfold."

²⁵ And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, "God has appointed for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him."

²⁶ To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time people began to call upon the name of the LORD.

5 ¹ This is the book of the generations of Adam. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God.

² Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when they were created.

³ When Adam had lived 130 years, he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.

⁴ The days of Adam after he fathered Seth were 800 years; and he had other sons and daughters.

⁵ Thus all the days that Adam lived were 930 years, and he died.

⁶ When Seth had lived 105 years, he fathered Enosh.

⁷ Seth lived after he fathered Enosh 807 years and had other sons and daughters.

⁸ Thus all the days of Seth were 912 years, and he died.

⁹ When Enosh had lived 90 years, he fathered Kenan.

¹⁰ Enosh lived after he fathered Kenan 815 years and had other sons and daughters.

¹¹ Thus all the days of Enosh were 905 years, and he died.

¹² When Kenan had lived 70 years, he fathered Mahalalel.

¹³ Kenan lived after he fathered Mahalalel 840 years and had other sons and daughters.

¹⁴ Thus all the days of Kenan were 910 years, and he died.

¹⁵ When Mahalalel had lived 65 years, he fathered Jared.

¹⁶ Mahalalel lived after he fathered Jared 830 years and had other sons and daughters.

¹⁷ Thus all the days of Mahalalel were 895 years, and he died.

¹⁸ When Jared had lived 162 years he fathered Enoch.

¹⁹ Jared lived after he fathered Enoch 800 years and had other sons and daughters.

²⁰ Thus all the days of Jared were 962 years, and he died.

²¹ When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah.

²² Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters.

²³ Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years.

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

²⁵ When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he fathered Lamech.

²⁶ Methuselah lived after he fathered Lamech 782 years and had other sons and daughters.

²⁷ Thus all the days of Methuselah were 969 years, and he died.

²⁸ When Lamech had lived 182 years, he fathered a son

²⁹ and called his name Noah, saying, "Out of the ground that the LORD has cursed this one shall bring us relief from our work and from the painful toil of our hands."

³⁰ Lamech lived after he fathered Noah 595 years and had other sons and daughters.

³¹ Thus all the days of Lamech were 777 years, and he died.

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

6 ¹ When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them,

² the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose.

³ Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years."

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

⁵ The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention 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 it grieved him to his heart.

⁷ So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them."

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

⁹ These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.

¹⁰ And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

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

¹² And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.

¹³ And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

¹⁴ Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch.

¹⁵ This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 cubits, its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits.

¹⁶ Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above, and set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks.

¹⁷ For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die.

¹⁸ But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come 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 according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their

kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground, according to its kind, two of every sort shall come in to you to keep them alive.

²¹ Also take with you every sort of food that is eaten, and store it up. It shall serve as food for you and for them."

²² Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

7 ¹ Then the LORD said to Noah,
"Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before me in this generation.

² Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and his mate, and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and his mate,

³ and seven pairs of the birds of the heavens also, male and female, to keep their offspring alive on the face of all the earth.

⁴ For in seven days I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground."

⁵ And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him.

⁶ Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came upon the earth.

⁷ And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him went into the ark to escape the waters of the flood.

⁸ Of clean animals, and of animals that are not clean, and of birds, and of everything that creeps on the ground,

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

¹⁰ And after seven days the waters of the flood came upon the earth.

¹¹ In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that

day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened.

¹² And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights.

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

¹⁴ they and every beast, according to its kind, and all the livestock according to their kinds, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, according to its kind, and every bird, according to its kind, every winged creature.

¹⁵ They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life.

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

¹⁷ The flood continued forty days on the earth. The waters increased and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth.

¹⁸ The waters prevailed and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the face of the waters.

¹⁹ And the waters prevailed so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered.

²⁰ The waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep.

²¹ And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, livestock, beasts, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all mankind.

²² Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died.

²³ He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens. They were blotted out

from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark.

²⁴ And the waters prevailed on the earth 150 days.

8 ¹ But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided.

² The fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from the heavens was restrained,

³ and the waters receded from the earth continually. At the end of 150 days the waters had abated,

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

⁵ And the waters continued to abate until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen.

⁶ At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made ⁷ and sent forth a raven. It went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth.

⁸ Then he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground.

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

¹⁰ He waited another seven days, and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark.

¹¹ And the dove came back to him in the evening, and behold, in her mouth was a freshly plucked olive leaf. So Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth.

¹² Then he waited another seven days and sent forth the dove, and she did not return to him anymore.

¹³ In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried from off the earth. And Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and behold, the face of the ground was dry.

¹⁴ In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth had dried out.

¹⁵ Then God said to Noah,

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

¹⁷ Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh--birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth--that they may swarm 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 beast, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out by families from the ark.

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

²¹ And when the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, the LORD said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done.

²² While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease."

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

² The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered.

³ Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything.

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

⁵ And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man.

⁶ "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.

⁷ And you, be fruitful and multiply, teem on the earth and multiply in it."

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

⁹ "Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you,

¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth.

¹¹ I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."

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

¹³ I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

¹⁴ When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds,

¹⁵ I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

¹⁶ When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."

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

¹⁸ The sons of Noah who went forth from the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (Ham was the father of Canaan.)

¹⁹ These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the people of the whole earth were dispersed.

²⁰ Noah began to be a man of the soil, and he planted a vineyard.

²¹ He drank of the wine and became drunk and lay uncovered in his tent.

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

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

²⁴ When Noah awoke from his wine and knew what his youngest son had done to him,

²⁵ he said, "Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be to his brothers."

²⁶ He also said, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem; and let Canaan be his servant.

²⁷ May God enlarge Japheth, and let him dwell in the tents of Shem, and let Canaan be his servant."

²⁸ After the flood Noah lived 350 years.

²⁹ All the days of Noah were 950 years, and he died.

10 ¹ These are the generations of the sons of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Sons were born to them after the flood.

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

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

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

⁵ From these the coastland peoples spread in their lands, each with his own language, by their clans, in their nations.

⁶ The sons of Ham: Cush, Egypt, Put, and Canaan.

⁷ The sons of Cush: Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabteca. The sons of Raamah: Sheba and Dedan.

⁸ Cush fathered Nimrod; he was the first on earth to be a mighty man.

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

¹⁰ The beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

¹¹ From that land he went into Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth-Ir, Calah, and

¹² Resen between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great city.

¹³ Egypt fathered Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim,

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

¹⁵ Canaan fathered Sidon his firstborn and Heth,

¹⁶ and the Jebusites, the Amorites, the Girgashites,

¹⁷ the Hivites, the Arkites, the Sinites,

¹⁸ the Arvadites, the Zemarites, and the Hamathites. Afterward the clans of the Canaanites dispersed.

¹⁹ And the territory of the Canaanites extended from Sidon in the direction of Gerar as far as Gaza, and in the direction of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, as far as Lasha.

²⁰ These are the sons of Ham, by their clans, their languages, their lands, and their nations.

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

²² The sons of Shem: Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, and Aram.

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

²⁴ Arpachshad fathered Shelah; and Shelah fathered Eber.

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

²⁶ Joktan fathered 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 The territory in which they lived extended from Mesha in the direction of Sephar to the hill country of the east.

³¹ These are the sons of Shem, by their clans, their languages, their lands, and their nations.

³² These are the clans of the sons of Noah, according to their genealogies, in

their nations, and from these the nations spread abroad on the earth after the flood.

11 ¹ Now the whole earth had one language and the same words.

² And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there.

³ And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar.

⁴ Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth."

⁵ And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built.

⁶ And the LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they have all one

language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them.

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

⁸ So the LORD dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city.

⁹ Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth. And from there the LORD dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

¹⁰ These are the generations of Shem. When Shem was 100 years old, he fathered Arpachshad two years after the flood.

¹¹ And Shem lived after he fathered Arpachshad 500 years and had other sons and daughters.

¹² When Arpachshad had lived 35 years, he fathered Shelah.

¹³ And Arpachshad lived after he fathered Shelah 403 years and had other sons and daughters.

¹⁴ When Shelah had lived 30 years, he fathered Eber.

¹⁵ And Shelah lived after he fathered Eber 403 years and had other sons and daughters.

¹⁶ When Eber had lived 34 years, he fathered Peleg.

¹⁷ And Eber lived after he fathered Peleg 430 years and had other sons and daughters.

¹⁸ When Peleg had lived 30 years, he fathered Reu.

¹⁹ And Peleg lived after he fathered Reu 209 years and had other sons and daughters.

²⁰ When Reu had lived 32 years, he fathered Serug.

²¹ And Reu lived after he fathered Serug 207 years and had other sons and daughters.

²² When Serug had lived 30 years, he fathered Nahor.

²³ And Serug lived after he fathered Nahor 200 years and had other sons and daughters.

²⁴ When Nahor had lived 29 years, he fathered Terah.

²⁵ And Nahor lived after he fathered Terah 119 years and had other sons and daughters.

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

²⁷ Now these are the generations of Terah. Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran fathered Lot.

²⁸ Haran died in the presence of his father Terah in the land of his kindred, in Ur of the Chaldeans.

²⁹ And 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 Iscah.

³⁰ Now Sarai was barren; she had no child.

³¹ Terah took Abram his son and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram's wife, and they went forth together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan, but when they came to Haran, they settled there.

³² The days of Terah were 205 years, and Terah died in Haran.

12 ¹ Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.

² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

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

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

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

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

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

⁸ From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD.

⁹ And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

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

¹¹ When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, "I know that you are a woman beautiful in appearance,

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

¹³ Say you are my sister, that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared for your sake."

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

¹⁵ And when the princes of Pharaoh saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house.

¹⁶ And for her sake he dealt well with Abram; and he had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male servants, female servants, female donkeys, and camels.

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

¹⁸ So 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,' so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your wife; take her, and go."

²⁰ And Pharaoh gave men orders concerning him, and they sent him away with his wife and all that he had.

13 ¹ So Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the Negeb.

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

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

⁴ to the place where he had made an altar at the first. And there Abram called upon the name of the LORD.

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

⁶ so that the land could not support both of them dwelling 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. At that time the Canaanites and the Perizzites were dwelling in the land.

⁸ Then Abram said to Lot, "Let there be no strife between you and me, and between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, for we are kinsmen.

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

¹⁰ And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.)

¹¹ So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley, and Lot journeyed east. Thus they separated from each other.

¹² Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom.

¹³ Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the LORD.

¹⁴ The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward,

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

¹⁶ I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted.

¹⁷ Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you."

¹⁸ So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to the LORD.

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

² these kings 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 And all these joined forces in the Valley of Siddim (that is, the Salt Sea).

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

⁵ In the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him came and defeated the Rephaim in Ashteroth-karnaim, the Zuzim in Ham, the Emim in Shaveh-kiriathaim,

⁶ and the Horites in their hill country of Seir as far as El-paran on the border of the wilderness.

⁷ Then they turned back and came to En-mishpat (that is, Kadesh) and defeated all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites who were dwelling in Hazazon-tamar.

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

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

¹⁰ Now the Valley of Siddim was full of bitumen pits, and as the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, some fell into them, and the rest fled to the hill country.

¹¹ So the enemy took all the possessions of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their provisions, and went their way.

¹² They also took Lot, the son of Abram's brother, who was dwelling in Sodom, and his possessions, and went their way.

¹³ Then one who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew, who was living by the oaks of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and of Aner. These were allies of Abram.

¹⁴ When Abram heard that his kinsman had been taken captive, he led forth his trained men, born in his house, 318 of them, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.

¹⁵ And he divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and

defeated them and pursued them to Hobah, north of Damascus.

¹⁶ Then he brought back all the possessions, and also brought back his kinsman Lot with his possessions, and the women and the people.

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

¹⁸ And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.)

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

²⁰ and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!" And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

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

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

²³ that I would not take a thread or a sandal strap or anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich.'

²⁴ I will take nothing but what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me. Let Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre take their share."

15 ¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great."

² But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless,

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

³ And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir."

⁴ And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir."

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

⁶ And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

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

⁸ But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?"

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

¹⁰ And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half.

¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him.

¹³ Then the LORD said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years.

¹⁴ But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward

they shall come out with great possessions.

¹⁵ As for yourself, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age.

¹⁶ And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.

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

¹⁹ the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, 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. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar.

² And Sarai said to Abram, "Behold now, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.

³ So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife.

⁴ And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress.

⁵ And Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my servant to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the LORD judge between you and me!"

⁶ But Abram said to Sarai, "Behold, your servant is in your power; do to her as you please." Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she fled from her.

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

⁸ And he said, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai."

⁹ The angel of the LORD said to her, "Return to your mistress and submit to her."

¹⁰ The angel of the LORD also said to her, "I will surely multiply your offspring

so that they cannot be numbered for multitude."

¹¹ And the angel of the LORD said to her, "Behold, you are pregnant and shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, because the LORD has listened to your affliction.

¹² He shall be a wild donkey of a man, his hand against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen."

¹³ So she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, "You are a God of seeing," for she said, "Truly here I have seen him who looks after me."

¹⁴ Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between Kadesh and Bered.

¹⁵ And Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram called the name of 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 God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless,

² that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly."

³ Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him,

⁴ "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations.

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

⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you.

⁷ And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

⁸ And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for 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 offspring after you throughout their generations.

¹⁰ This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised.

¹¹ 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 throughout your generations, whether born in your house or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring,

¹³ both he who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money, shall surely be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant.

¹⁴ Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant."

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

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

¹⁷ Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"

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

¹⁹ God said, "No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him.

²⁰ As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I have blessed him and will make him fruitful and multiply him greatly. He shall father twelve princes, and I will make him into a great nation.

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

²² When he had finished talking with him, God went up from Abraham.

²³ Then Abraham took Ishmael his son and all those born in his house or bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham's house, and he circumcised the flesh of their foreskins that very 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 day Abraham and his son Ishmael were circumcised.

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

18 ¹ And the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day.

² He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth

³ and said, "O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant.

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

⁵ while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on--since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said."

⁶ And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes."

⁷ And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly.

⁸ Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹ They said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "She is in the tent."

¹⁰ The LORD said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him.

¹¹ Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah.

¹² So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?"

¹³ The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?'

¹⁴ Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son."

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

¹⁶ Then the men set out from there, and they looked down toward Sodom. And Abraham went with them to set them on their way.

¹⁷ The LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do,

¹⁸ seeing that 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 chosen him, that he may command his children and his household

after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring to Abraham what he has promised him."

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

²¹ I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know."

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

²³ Then Abraham drew near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?

²⁴ Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it?

²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?"

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

²⁷ Abraham answered and said, "Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes.

²⁸ Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking. Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there."

²⁹ Again he spoke to him and said, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it."

³⁰ Then he said, "Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. Suppose thirty

are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there."

³¹ He said, "Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it."

³² Then he said, "Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

³³ And the LORD went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.

19 ¹ 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 bowed himself with his face to the earth

² and said, "My lords, please turn aside to your servant's house and spend the night and wash your feet. Then you may

rise up early and go on your way." They said, "No; we will spend the night in the town square."

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

⁴ But before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both young and old, all the people to the last man, surrounded the house.

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

⁶ Lot went out to the men at the entrance, shut the door after him,

⁷ and said, "I beg you, my brothers, do not act so wickedly.

⁸ Behold, I have two daughters who have not known any man. Let me bring them out to you, and do to them as you

please. Only do nothing to these men, for they have come under the shelter of my roof."

⁹ But they said, "Stand back!" And they said, "This fellow came to sojourn, and he has become the judge! Now we will deal worse with you than with them." Then they pressed hard against the man Lot, and drew near to break the door down.

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

¹¹ And they struck with blindness the men who were at the entrance of the house, both small and great, so that they wore themselves out groping for the door.

¹² Then the men said to Lot, "Have you anyone else here? Sons-in-law, sons, daughters, or anyone you have in the city, bring them out of the place.

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

¹⁴ So Lot went out and said to his sons-in-law, who were to marry his daughters, "Up! Get out of this place, for the LORD is about to destroy the city." But he seemed to his sons-in-law to be jesting.

¹⁵ As morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be swept away in the punishment of the city."

¹⁶ But he lingered. So the men seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city.

¹⁷ And as they brought them out, one said, "Escape for your life. Do not look back or stop anywhere in the valley. Escape to the hills, lest you be swept away."

¹⁸ And Lot said to them, "Oh, no, my lords.

¹⁹ Behold, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have shown me great kindness in saving my life. But I cannot escape to the hills, lest the disaster overtake me and I die.

²⁰ Behold, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one. Let me escape there--is it not a little one?--and my life will be saved!"

²¹ He said to him, "Behold, I grant you this favor also, that I will not overthrow the city of which you have spoken.

²² Escape there quickly, for I can do nothing till you arrive there." Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.

²³ The sun had risen on the earth when Lot came to Zoar.

²⁴ Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the LORD out of heaven.

²⁵ And he overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.

²⁶ But Lot's wife, behind him, looked back, 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 And he looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah and toward all the land of the valley, and he looked and, behold, the smoke of the land went up like the smoke of a furnace.

²⁹ So it was that, when God destroyed the cities of the valley, God remembered Abraham and sent Lot out of the midst

of the overthrow when he overthrew the cities in which Lot had lived.

³⁰ Now Lot went up out of Zoar and lived in the hills with his two daughters, for he was afraid to live in Zoar. So he lived in a cave with his two daughters.

³¹ And the firstborn said to the younger, "Our father is old, and there is not a man on earth to come in to us after the manner of all the earth.

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

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

³⁴ The next day, the firstborn said to the younger, "Behold, I lay last night with my father. Let us make him drink wine tonight also. Then you go in and lie with

him, that we may preserve offspring from our father."

³⁵ So 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 became pregnant 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 The younger also bore a son and called his name Ben-ammi. He is the father of the Ammonites to this day.

20 ¹ From there Abraham journeyed toward the territory of the Negeb and lived between Kadesh and Shur; and he sojourned in Gerar.

² And 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, "Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man's wife."

⁴ Now Abimelech had not approached her. So he said, "Lord, will you kill an innocent people?"

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

⁶ Then God said to him in the dream, "Yes, I know that you have done this in the integrity of your heart, and it was I who kept you from sinning against me. Therefore I did not let you touch her."

⁷ Now then, return the man's wife, for he is a prophet, so that he will pray for you, and you shall live. But if you do not

return her, know that you shall surely die, you, and all who are yours."

⁸ So Abimelech rose early in the morning and called all his servants and told them all these things. And the men were very much afraid.

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

¹⁰ And Abimelech said to Abraham, "What did you see, that you did this thing?"

¹¹ Abraham said, "I did it because I thought, There is no fear of God at all in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.

¹² Besides, she is indeed my sister, the daughter of my father though not the

daughter of my mother, and she became my wife.

¹³ And when God caused me to wander from my father's house, I said to her, 'This is the kindness you must do me: at every place to which we come, say of me, He is my brother.'"

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

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

¹⁶ To Sarah he said, "Behold, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver. It is a sign of your innocence in the eyes of all who are with you, and before everyone you are vindicated."

¹⁷ Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, and also healed

his wife and female slaves so that they bore children.

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

21 ¹ The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had promised.

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

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

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

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

⁶ And Sarah said, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me."

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

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

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

¹⁰ So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not be heir with my son Isaac."

¹¹ And the thing was very displeasing to Abraham on account of his son.

¹² But God said to Abraham, "Be not displeased because of the boy and because of your slave woman. Whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for through Isaac shall your offspring be named."

¹³ And I will make a nation of the son of the slave woman also, because he is your offspring."

¹⁴ So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba.

¹⁵ When the water in the skin was gone, she put the child under one of the bushes.

¹⁶ Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, "Let me not look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept.

¹⁷ And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What

troubles you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is.

¹⁸ Up! Lift up the boy, and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make him into 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 boy a drink.

²⁰ And God was with the boy, and he grew up. He lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow.

²¹ He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

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

²³ Now therefore swear to me here by God that you will not deal falsely with

me or with my descendants or with my posterity, but as I have dealt kindly with you, so you will deal with me and with the land where you have sojourned."

²⁴ And Abraham said, "I will swear."

²⁵ When Abraham reproved Abimelech about a well of water that Abimelech's servants had seized,

²⁶ Abimelech said, "I do not know who has done this thing; you did not tell me, and I have not heard of it until today."

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

²⁸ Abraham set seven ewe lambs of the flock apart.

²⁹ And Abimelech said to Abraham, "What is the meaning of these seven ewe lambs that you have set apart?"

³⁰ He said, "These seven ewe lambs you will take from my hand, that this may be a witness for me that I dug this well."

³¹ Therefore that place was called Beersheba, because there both of them swore an oath.

³² So they made a covenant at Beersheba. Then Abimelech and Phicol the commander of his army rose up and returned to the land of the Philistines.

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

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

22 ¹ After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I."

² He said, "Take 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, saddled his donkey, and took two of

his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.

⁴ On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar.

⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you."

⁶ And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together.

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

⁸ Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering,

my son." So they went both of them together.

⁹ When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.

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

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

¹² He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."

¹³ And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and

offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.

¹⁴ So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

¹⁵ And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven

¹⁶ and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son,

¹⁷ I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies,

¹⁸ and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

¹⁹ So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together

to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba.

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

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

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

²³ (Bethuel fathered Rebekah.) These eight Milcah bore to Nahor, Abraham's brother.

²⁴ Moreover, his concubine, whose name was Reumah, bore Tebah, Gaham, Tahash, and Maacah.

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

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

³ And Abraham rose up from before his dead and said to the Hittites,

⁴ "I am a sojourner and foreigner among you; give me property among you for a burying place, that I may bury my dead out of my sight."

⁵ The Hittites answered Abraham,

⁶ "Hear us, my lord; you are a prince of God among us. Bury your dead in the choicest of our tombs. None of us will withhold from you his tomb to hinder you from burying your dead."

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

⁸ And he said to them, "If you are willing that I should bury my dead out of my sight, hear me and entreat for me Ephron the son of Zohar,

⁹ that he may give me the cave of Machpelah, which he owns; it is at the end of his field. For the full price let

him give it to me in your presence as property for a burying place."

¹⁰ Now Ephron was sitting among the Hittites, and Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the hearing of the Hittites, of all who went in at the gate of his city,

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

¹² Then Abraham bowed down before the people of the land.

¹³ And he said to Ephron in the hearing of the people of the land, "But if you will, hear me: I give the price of the field. Accept it from me, that I may bury my dead there."

¹⁴ Ephron answered Abraham,

¹⁵ "My lord, listen to me: a piece of land worth four hundred shekels of silver, what is that between you and me? Bury your dead."

¹⁶ Abraham listened to Ephron, and Abraham weighed out for Ephron the silver that he had named in the hearing of the Hittites, four hundred shekels of silver, according to the weights current among the merchants.

¹⁷ So the field of Ephron in Machpelah, which was to the east of Mamre, the field with the cave that was in it and all the trees that were in the field, throughout its whole area, was made over

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

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

²⁰ The field and the cave that is in it were made over to Abraham as property for a burying place by the Hittites.

24 ¹ Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years. And the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things.

² And Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he had, "Put your hand under my thigh,

³ that I may make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and 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 will go to my country and to my kindred, and take a wife for my son Isaac."

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

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

⁷ The LORD, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my kindred, and who spoke to me and swore to me, 'To your offspring I will give this land,' he will send his angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there.

⁸ But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free from this oath of mine; only you must 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, taking all sorts of choice gifts from his master; and he arose and went to Mesopotamia to the city of Nahor.

¹¹ And he made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water

at the time of evening, the time when women go out to draw water.

¹² And he said, "O LORD, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master Abraham.

¹³ Behold, I am standing by the spring of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water.

¹⁴ Let the young woman to whom I shall say, 'Please let down your jar that I may drink,' and who shall say, 'Drink, and I will water your camels'--let her be the one whom you have appointed for your servant Isaac. By this I shall know that you have shown steadfast love to my master."

¹⁵ Before he had finished speaking, behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel the son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, came out with her water jar on her shoulder.

¹⁶ The young woman was very attractive in appearance, a maiden whom no man had known. She went down to the spring and filled her jar and came up.

¹⁷ Then the servant ran to meet her and said, "Please give me a little water to drink from your jar."

¹⁸ She said, "Drink, my lord." And she quickly let down her jar upon her hand and gave him a drink.

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

²⁰ So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough and ran again to the well to draw water, and she drew for all his camels.

²¹ The man gazed at her in silence to learn whether the LORD had prospered his journey or not.

²² When the camels had finished drinking, the man took a gold ring weighing a half shekel, and two bracelets for her arms weighing ten gold shekels,

²³ and said, "Please tell me whose daughter you are. Is there room in your father's house for us to spend the night?"

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

²⁵ She added, "We have plenty of both straw and fodder, and room to spend the night."

²⁶ The man bowed his head and worshiped the LORD

²⁷ and said, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken his steadfast love and his faithfulness toward my master. As for me, the LORD has led me in the way to the house of my master's kinsmen."

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

²⁹ Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban. Laban ran out toward the man, to the spring.

³⁰ As soon as he saw the ring and the bracelets on his sister's arms, and heard the words of Rebekah his sister, "Thus the man spoke to me," he went to the man. And behold, he was standing by the camels at the spring.

³¹ 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 So the man came to the house and unharnessed the camels, and gave straw and fodder to the camels, and there was water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him.

³³ Then food was set before him to eat. But he said, "I will not eat until I have said what I have to say." He said, "Speak on."

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

³⁵ The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become great. He has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male servants and female servants, 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 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 clan and take a wife for my son.'

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

⁴⁰ But he said to me, 'The LORD, before whom I have walked, will send his angel with you and prosper your way. You shall take a wife for my son from my clan and from my father's house.

⁴¹ Then you will be free from my oath, when you come to my clan. And if they will not give her to you, you will be free from my oath.'

⁴² "I came today to the spring and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you are prospering the way that I go,

⁴³ behold, I am standing by the spring of water. Let the virgin who comes out to draw water, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,"

⁴⁴ and who will say 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 "Before I had finished speaking in my heart, behold, Rebekah came out with her water jar on her shoulder, and she went down to the spring and drew water. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.'

⁴⁶ She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder and said, 'Drink, and I will give your camels drink also.' So I drank, and she gave the camels drink also.

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

⁴⁸ Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to take the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son.

⁴⁹ Now then, if you are going to show steadfast love and faithfulness to 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 has come from the LORD; we cannot speak to you bad or good.

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

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

⁵³ And the servant brought out jewelry of silver and of gold, and garments, and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave to her brother and to her mother costly ornaments.

⁵⁴ And he and the men who were with him ate and drank, and they spent the night there. When they arose in the

morning, he said, "Send me away to my master."

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

⁵⁶ But he said to them, "Do not delay me, since the LORD has prospered my way. Send me away that I may go to my master."

⁵⁷ They said, "Let us call the young woman and ask her."

⁵⁸ And they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" 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 thousands of ten thousands, and may

your offspring possess the gate of those who hate them!"

⁶¹ Then Rebekah and her young women arose and rode on the camels and followed the man. Thus the servant took Rebekah and went his way.

⁶² Now Isaac had returned from Beer-lahai-roi and was dwelling in the Negeb.

⁶³ And Isaac went out to meditate in the field toward evening. And he lifted up his eyes and saw, and behold, there were camels coming.

⁶⁴ And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she dismounted from the camel

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

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

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

25 ¹ Abraham took another wife, whose name was Keturah.

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

³ Jokshan fathered Sheba and Dedan. The sons of Dedan were Asshurim, Letushim, and Leummim.

⁴ The sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Hanoah, Abida, and Eldaah. All these were the children of Keturah.

⁵ Abraham gave all he had to Isaac.

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

⁷ These are the days of the years of Abraham's life, 175 years.

⁸ 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 Isaac and Ishmael his sons buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite, east of Mamre,

¹⁰ the field that Abraham purchased from the Hittites. There Abraham was buried, with Sarah his wife.

¹¹ After the death of Abraham, God blessed Isaac his son. And Isaac settled at Beer-lahai-roi.

¹² These are the generations of Ishmael, Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's servant, bore to Abraham.

¹³ These are the names of the sons of Ishmael, named in the order of their birth: Nebaioth, the firstborn of Ishmael; and Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam,

¹⁴ Mishma, Dumah, Massa,

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

¹⁶ These are the sons of Ishmael and these are their names, by their villages and by their encampments, twelve princes according to their tribes.

¹⁷ (These are the years of the life of Ishmael: 137 years. He breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people.)

¹⁸ They settled from Havilah to Shur, which is opposite Egypt in the direction of Assyria. He settled over against all his kinsmen.

¹⁹ These are the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham fathered Isaac,

²⁰ and Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah to be his wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, the sister of Laban the Aramean.

²¹ And Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren. And the LORD granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

²² The children struggled together within her, and she said, "If it is thus, why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the LORD.

²³ And the LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger."

²⁴ When her days to give birth were completed, behold, there were twins in her womb.

²⁵ The first came out red, all his body like a hairy cloak, so they called his name Esau.

²⁶ Afterward his brother came out with his hand holding Esau's heel, so his name

was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

²⁷ When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, dwelling in tents.

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

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

³⁰ And Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stew, for I am exhausted!" (Therefore his name was called Edom.)

³¹ Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright now."

³² Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?"

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

³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

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

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

³ Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father.

⁴ I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring 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 settled in Gerar.

⁷ When the men of the place asked him about his wife, he said, "She is my sister," for he feared to say, "My wife," thinking, "lest the men of the place should kill me because of Rebekah," because she was attractive in appearance.

⁸ When he had been there a long time, Abimelech king of the Philistines looked out of a window and saw Isaac laughing with Rebekah his wife.

⁹ So Abimelech called Isaac and said, "Behold, she is your wife. How then could you say, 'She is my sister'?" Isaac said to him, "Because I thought, 'Lest I die because of her.'"

¹⁰ Abimelech said, "What is this you have done to us? One of the people might easily have lain with your wife,

and you would have brought guilt upon us."

¹¹ So Abimelech warned all the people, saying, "Whoever touches this man or his wife shall surely be put to death."

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

¹³ and the man became rich, and gained more and more until he became very wealthy.

¹⁴ He had possessions of flocks and herds and many servants, so that the Philistines envied him.

¹⁵ (Now the Philistines had stopped and filled with earth all the wells that his father's servants had dug in the days of Abraham his father.)

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

¹⁷ So Isaac departed from there and encamped in the valley of Gerar and settled there.

¹⁸ And Isaac dug again the wells of water that had been dug in the days of Abraham his father, which the Philistines had stopped after the death of Abraham. And he gave them the names that his father had given them.

¹⁹ But when Isaac's servants dug in the valley and found there a well of spring water,

²⁰ 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 contended with him.

²¹ Then they dug another well, and they quarreled over that 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, saying, "For now the LORD has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land."

²³ From there he went up to Beersheba.

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

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

²⁶ When Abimelech went to him from Gerar with Ahuzzath his adviser and Phicol the commander of his army,

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

²⁸ They said, "We see plainly that the LORD has been with you. So we said, let there be a sworn pact between us, between you and us, and let us make a covenant with you,

²⁹ that you will do us no harm, just as we have not touched you and have done to you nothing 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 In the morning they rose early and exchanged oaths. And Isaac sent them on their way, and they departed from him in peace.

³² That same day Isaac's servants came and told him about the well that they had dug and said to him, "We have found water."

³³ He called it Shibah; therefore the name of the city is Beersheba to this day.

³⁴ When Esau was forty years old, he took Judith the daughter of Beerli the Hittite to be his wife, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite,

³⁵ and they made life bitter for Isaac and Rebekah.

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

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

³ Now then, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me,

⁴ and prepare for me delicious food, such as I love, and bring it to me so that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die."

⁵ Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to his son Esau. So when

Esau went to the field to hunt for game and bring it,

⁶ Rebekah said to her son Jacob, "I heard your father speak to your brother Esau,

⁷ 'Bring me game and prepare for me delicious food, that I may eat it and bless you before the LORD before I die.'

⁸ Now therefore, my son, obey my voice as I command you.

⁹ Go to the flock and bring me two good young goats, so that I may prepare from them delicious food for your father, such as he loves.

¹⁰ And you shall bring it to your father to eat, so that he may bless you before he dies."

¹¹ But Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, "Behold, my brother Esau is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man.

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

¹³ His mother said to him, "Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, bring them to me."

¹⁴ So he went and took them and brought them to his mother, and his mother prepared delicious food, such as his father loved.

¹⁵ Then Rebekah took the best garments of Esau her older son, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son.

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

¹⁷ And she put the delicious food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob.

¹⁸ So he went in 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 as you told me; now sit up 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?" He answered, "Because the LORD your God granted me success."

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

²² So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, who 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 He said, "Are you really my son Esau?" He answered, "I am."

²⁵ Then he said, "Bring it near to me, that I may eat of my son's game and 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 and kiss me, my son."

²⁷ So he came near and kissed him. And Isaac smelled the smell of his garments and blessed him and said, "See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field that the LORD has blessed!

²⁸ May God give you of the dew of heaven and of the fatness of the earth and plenty of grain and wine.

²⁹ Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers, and may your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be

everyone who curses you, and blessed be everyone who blesses you!"

³⁰ As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, when Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, Esau his brother came in from his hunting.

³¹ He also prepared delicious food and brought it to his father. And he said to his father, "Let my father arise and eat of his son's game, that you may bless me."

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

³³ Then Isaac trembled very violently and said, "Who was it then that hunted game and brought it to me, and I ate it all before you came, and I have blessed him? Yes, and he shall be blessed."

³⁴ As soon as Esau heard the words of his father, he cried out with an exceedingly great and bitter cry and said

to his father, "Bless me, even me also, O my father!"

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

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

³⁷ Isaac answered and said to Esau, "Behold, I have made him lord over you, and all his brothers I have given to him for servants, and with grain and wine I have sustained him. What then can I do for you, my son?"

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

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

⁴⁰ By your sword you shall live, and you shall serve your brother; but when you grow restless you shall break his yoke from your neck."

⁴¹ Now Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him, and Esau said to himself, "The days of mourning for my father are approaching; then I will kill my brother Jacob."

⁴² But the words of Esau her older son were told to Rebekah. So she sent and called Jacob her younger son and said to him, "Behold, your brother Esau comforts himself about you by planning to kill you.

⁴³ Now therefore, my son, obey my voice. Arise, flee to Laban my brother in Haran

⁴⁴ and stay with him a while, 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 bereft of you both in one day?"

⁴⁶ Then Rebekah said to Isaac, "I loathe my life because of the Hittite women. If Jacob marries one of the Hittite women like these, one of the women of the land, what good will my life be to me?"

28 ¹ Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him and directed him, "You must not take a wife from the Canaanite women.

² Arise, go to Paddan-aram to the house of Bethuel your mother's father, and take as your wife from there one of

the daughters of Laban your mother's brother.

³ God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may become a company of peoples.

⁴ May he give the blessing of Abraham to you and to your offspring with you, that you may take possession of the land of your sojournings that God gave to Abraham!"

⁵ Thus Isaac sent Jacob away. And he went to Paddan-aram, to Laban, the son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, Jacob's and Esau's mother.

⁶ Now Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Paddan-aram to take a wife from there, and that as he blessed him he directed him, "You must not take a wife from the Canaanite women,"

⁷ and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and gone to Paddan-aram.

⁸ So when Esau saw that the Canaanite women did not please Isaac his father,

⁹ Esau went to Ishmael and took as his wife, besides the wives he had, Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son, the sister of Nebaioth.

¹⁰ Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran.

¹¹ And he came to a certain place and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep.

¹² And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it!

¹³ And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring.

¹⁴ Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth 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 promised 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 So early in the morning Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it.

¹⁹ He called the name of that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

²⁰ Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear,

²¹ so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God,

²² and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you."

29 ¹ Then Jacob went on his journey and came to the land of the people of the east.

² As he looked, he saw a well in the field, and behold, three flocks of sheep lying beside it, for out of that well the flocks were watered. The stone on the well's mouth was large,

³ and when all the flocks were gathered there, the shepherds would roll the stone from the mouth of the well and water the sheep, and put the stone back in its place over the mouth of the well.

⁴ Jacob said to them, "My brothers, where do you come from?" They said, "We are from Haran."

⁵ He said to them, "Do you know Laban the son of Nahor?" They said, "We know him."

⁶ He said to them, "Is it well with him?" They said, "It is well; and see, Rachel his daughter is coming with the sheep!"

⁷ He said, "Behold, it is still high day; it is not time for the livestock to be gathered together. Water the sheep and go, pasture them."

⁸ But they said, "We cannot until all the flocks are gathered together and the stone is rolled from the mouth of the well; then we water the sheep."

⁹ While he was still speaking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she was a shepherdess.

¹⁰ Now as soon as Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, Jacob came 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 wept aloud.

¹² And Jacob told Rachel that he was her father's kinsman, and that he was

Rebekah's son, and she ran and told her father.

¹³ As soon as Laban heard the news about Jacob, his sister's son, he ran to meet him and embraced him and kissed him and brought him to his house. Jacob told Laban all these things,

¹⁴ and Laban said to him, "Surely you are my bone and my flesh!" And he stayed with him a month.

¹⁵ Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?"

¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters. The name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel.

¹⁷ Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel was beautiful in form and appearance.

¹⁸ Jacob loved Rachel. And he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel."

¹⁹ Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me."

²⁰ So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

²¹ Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed."

²² So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast.

²³ But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her.

²⁴ (Laban gave his female servant Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her servant.)

²⁵ And in the morning, behold, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?"

²⁶ Laban said, "It is not so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn.

²⁷ Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years."

²⁸ Jacob did so, and completed her week. Then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife.

²⁹ (Laban gave his female servant Bilhah to his daughter Rachel to be her servant.)

³⁰ So Jacob went in to Rachel also, and he loved Rachel more than Leah, and served Laban for another seven years.

³¹ When the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren.

³² And Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben, for she said, "Because the LORD has looked

upon my affliction; for now my husband will love me."

³³ She conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Because the LORD has heard that I am hated, he has given me this son also." And she called his name Simeon.

³⁴ Again she conceived and bore a son, and said, "Now this time my husband will be 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, "This time I will praise the LORD." Therefore she called his name Judah. Then she ceased bearing.

30 ¹ When Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, she envied her sister. She said to Jacob, "Give me children, or I shall die!"

² Jacob's anger was kindled against Rachel, and he said, "Am I in the place

of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?"

³ Then she said, "Here is my servant Bilhah; go in to her, so that she may give birth on my behalf, that even I may have children through her."

⁴ So she gave him her servant Bilhah as a wife, and Jacob went in to her.

⁵ And Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son.

⁶ Then Rachel said, "God has judged me, and has also heard my voice and given me a son." Therefore she called his name Dan.

⁷ Rachel's servant Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a second son.

⁸ Then Rachel said, "With mighty wrestlings I have wrestled with my sister and have prevailed." So she called his name Naphtali.

⁹ When Leah saw that she had ceased bearing children, she took her servant Zilpah and gave her to Jacob as a wife.

¹⁰ Then Leah's servant Zilpah bore Jacob a son.

¹¹ And Leah said, "Good fortune has come!" so she called his name Gad.

¹² Leah's servant Zilpah bore Jacob a second son.

¹³ And Leah said, "Happy am I! For women have called me happy." So she called his name Asher.

¹⁴ In the days of wheat harvest Reuben went 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?" Rachel said, "Then he

may lie with you tonight in exchange for your son's mandrakes."

¹⁶ When Jacob came from the field in the evening, Leah went out to meet him and said, "You must come in to me, for I have hired you with my son's mandrakes." So 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 gave my servant to my husband." So she called his name Issachar.

¹⁹ And Leah conceived again, and she bore Jacob a sixth son.

²⁰ Then Leah said, "God has endowed me with a good endowment; now my husband will honor 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 She conceived and bore a son and said, "God has taken away my reproach."

²⁴ And she called his name Joseph, saying, "May the LORD add to me another son!"

²⁵ As soon as Rachel had borne Joseph, Jacob said to Laban, "Send me away, that I may go to my own home and country.

²⁶ Give me my wives and my children for whom I have served you, that I may go, for you know the service that I have given you."

²⁷ But Laban said to him, "If I have found favor in your sight, I have learned by divination that the LORD has blessed me because of you.

²⁸ Name your wages, and I will give it."

²⁹ Jacob said to him, "You yourself know how I have served you, and how your livestock has fared with me.

³⁰ For you had little before I came, and it has increased abundantly, and the LORD has blessed you wherever I turned. But now when shall I provide for my own household also?"

³¹ He said, "What shall I give you?" Jacob said, "You shall not give me anything. If you will do this for me, I will again pasture your flock and keep it:

³² let me pass through all your flock today, removing from it every speckled and spotted sheep and every black lamb, and the spotted and speckled among the goats, and they shall be my wages.

³³ So my honesty will answer for me later, when you come to look into my wages with you. Every one that is not speckled and spotted among the goats

and black among the lambs, if found with me, shall be counted stolen."

³⁴ Laban said, "Good! Let it be as you have said."

³⁵ But that day Laban removed the male goats that were striped and spotted, and all the female goats that were speckled and spotted, every one that had white on it, and every lamb that was black, and put them in charge of his sons.

³⁶ And he set a distance of three days' journey between himself and Jacob, and Jacob pastured the rest of Laban's flock.

³⁷ Then Jacob took fresh sticks of poplar and almond and plane trees, and peeled white streaks in them, exposing the white of the sticks.

³⁸ He set the sticks that he had peeled in front of the flocks in the troughs, that is, the watering places, where the flocks came to drink. And since they bred when they came to drink,

³⁹ the flocks bred in front of the sticks and so the flocks brought forth striped, speckled, and spotted.

⁴⁰ And Jacob separated the lambs and set the faces of the flocks toward the striped and all the black in the flock of Laban. He put his own droves apart and did not put them with Laban's flock.

⁴¹ Whenever the stronger of the flock were breeding, Jacob would lay the sticks in the troughs before the eyes of the flock, that they might breed among the sticks,

⁴² but for the feebler of the flock he would not lay them there. So the feebler would be Laban's, and the stronger Jacob's.

⁴³ Thus the man increased greatly and had large flocks, female servants and male servants, and camels and donkeys.

31 ¹ Now Jacob heard that the sons of Laban were saying, "Jacob has

taken all that was our father's, and from what was our father's he has gained all this wealth."

² And Jacob saw that Laban did not regard him with favor as before.

³ Then the LORD said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your fathers and to your kindred, and I will be with you."

⁴ So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah into the field where his flock was

⁵ and said to them, "I see that your father does not regard me with favor as he did before. But the God of my father has been with me.

⁶ You know that I have served your father with all my strength,

⁷ yet your father has cheated me and changed my wages ten times. But God did not permit him to harm me.

⁸ If he said, 'The spotted shall be your wages,' then all the flock bore spotted;

and if he said, 'The striped shall be your wages,' then all the flock bore striped.

⁹ Thus God has taken away the livestock of your father and given them to me.

¹⁰ In the breeding season of the flock I lifted up my eyes and saw in a dream that the goats that mated with the flock were striped, spotted, and mottled.

¹¹ Then the angel of God said to me in the dream, 'Jacob,' and I said, 'Here I am!'

¹² And he said, 'Lift up your eyes and see, all the goats that mate with the flock are striped, spotted, and mottled, for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you.

¹³ I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and made a vow to me. Now arise, go out from this land and return to the land of your kindred.'"

¹⁴ Then Rachel and Leah answered and said to him, "Is there any portion

or inheritance left to us in our father's house?

¹⁵ Are we not regarded by him as foreigners? For he has sold us, and he has indeed devoured our money.

¹⁶ All the wealth that God has taken away from our father belongs to us and to our children. Now then, whatever God has said to you, do."

¹⁷ So Jacob arose and set his sons and his wives on camels.

¹⁸ He drove away all his livestock, all his property that he had gained, the livestock in his possession that he had acquired in Paddan-aram, to go to the land of Canaan to his father Isaac.

¹⁹ Laban had gone to shear his sheep, and Rachel stole her father's household gods.

²⁰ And Jacob tricked Laban the Aramean, by not telling him that he intended to flee.

²¹ He fled with all that he had and arose and crossed the Euphrates, and set his face toward the hill country of Gilead.

²² When it was told Laban on the third day that Jacob had fled,

²³ he took his kinsmen with him and pursued him for seven days and followed close after him into the hill country of Gilead.

²⁴ But God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream by night and said to him, "Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad."

²⁵ And Laban overtook Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the hill country, and Laban with his kinsmen pitched tents in the hill country of Gilead.

²⁶ And Laban said to Jacob, "What have you done, that you have tricked me and driven away my daughters like captives of the sword?"

²⁷ Why did you flee secretly and trick me, and did not tell me, so that I might have sent you away with mirth and songs, with tambourine and lyre?

²⁸ And why did you not permit me to kiss my sons and my daughters farewell? Now you have done foolishly.

²⁹ It is in my power to do you harm. But the God of your father spoke to me last night, saying, 'Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad.'

³⁰ And now you have gone away because you longed greatly for your father's house, but why did you steal my gods?"

³¹ Jacob answered and said to Laban, "Because I was afraid, for I thought that you would take your daughters from me by force.

³² Anyone with whom you find your gods shall not live. In the presence of our kinsmen point out what I have that

is yours, and take it." Now Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them.

³³ So Laban went into Jacob's tent and into Leah's tent and into the tent of the two female servants, but he did not find them. And he went out of Leah's tent and entered Rachel's.

³⁴ Now Rachel had taken the household gods and put them in the camel's saddle and sat on them. Laban felt all about the tent, but did not find them.

³⁵ And she said to her father, "Let not my lord be angry that I cannot rise before you, for the way of women is upon me." So he searched but did not find the household gods.

³⁶ Then Jacob became angry and berated Laban. Jacob said to Laban, "What is my offense? What is my sin, that you have hotly pursued me?

³⁷ For you have felt through all my goods; what have you found of all your

household goods? Set it here before my kinsmen and your kinsmen, that they may decide between us two.

³⁸ These twenty years I have been with you. Your ewes and your female goats have not miscarried, and I have not eaten the rams of your flocks.

³⁹ What was torn by wild beasts I did not bring to you. I bore the loss of it myself. From my hand you required it, whether stolen by day or stolen by night.

⁴⁰ There I was: by day the heat consumed me, and the cold by night, and my sleep fled from my eyes.

⁴¹ These twenty years I have been in your house. I served you fourteen years for your two daughters, and six years for your flock, and you have changed my wages ten times.

⁴² If the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had not been on my side, surely now you would

have sent me away empty-handed. God saw my affliction and the labor of my hands and rebuked you last night."

⁴³ Then Laban answered and said to Jacob, "The daughters are my daughters, the children are my children, the flocks are my flocks, and all that you see is mine. But what can I do this day for these my daughters or for their children whom they have borne?"

⁴⁴ Come now, 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 And Jacob said to his kinsmen, "Gather stones." And they took stones and made a heap, and they ate there by the heap.

⁴⁷ Laban called it Jegar-sahadutha, but Jacob called it Galeed.

⁴⁸ Laban said, "This heap is a witness between you and me today." Therefore he named it Galeed,

⁴⁹ and Mizpah, for he said, "The LORD watch between you and me, when we are out of one another's sight.

⁵⁰ If you oppress my daughters, or if you take wives besides my daughters, although no one is with us, see, God is witness between you and me."

⁵¹ Then Laban said to Jacob, "See this heap and the pillar, which I have set between you and me.

⁵² This heap is a witness, and the pillar is a witness, that I will not pass over this heap to you, and you will not pass over this heap and this pillar to me, to do harm.

⁵³ The God of Abraham and the God of Nahor, the God of their father, judge between us." So Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac,

⁵⁴ and Jacob offered a sacrifice in the hill country and called his kinsmen to eat bread. They ate bread and spent the night in the hill country.

⁵⁵ Early in the morning Laban arose and kissed his grandchildren and his daughters and blessed them. Then Laban departed and returned home.

32 ¹ Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him.

² And when Jacob saw them he said, "This is God's camp!" So he called the name of that place Mahanaim.

³ And Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother in the land of Seir, the country of Edom,

⁴ instructing them, "Thus you shall say to my lord Esau: Thus says your servant Jacob, 'I have sojourned with Laban and stayed until now.

⁵ I have oxen, donkeys, flocks, male servants, and female servants. I have

sent to tell my lord, in order that I may find favor in your sight."

⁶ And the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, "We came to your brother Esau, and he is coming to meet you, and there are four hundred men with him."

⁷ Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed. He divided the people who were with him, and the flocks and herds and camels, into two camps,

⁸ thinking, "If Esau comes to the one camp and attacks it, then the camp that is left will escape."

⁹ And Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O LORD who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your kindred, that I may do you good,'

¹⁰ I am not worthy of the least of all the deeds of steadfast love and all the faithfulness that you have shown to your servant, for with only my staff I crossed

this Jordan, and now I have become two camps.

¹¹ Please deliver me from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau, for I fear him, that he may come and attack me, the mothers with the children.

¹² But you said, 'I will surely do you good, and make your offspring as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.'"

¹³ So he stayed there that night, and from what he had with him he took a present for his brother Esau,

¹⁴ two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams,

¹⁵ thirty milking camels and their calves, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten male donkeys.

¹⁶ These he handed over to his servants, every drove by itself, and said to his

servants, "Pass on ahead of me and put a space between drove and drove."

¹⁷ He instructed the first, "When Esau my brother meets you and asks you, 'To whom do you belong? Where are you going? And whose are these ahead of you?'

¹⁸ then you shall say, 'They belong to your servant Jacob. They are a present sent to my lord Esau. And moreover, he is behind us.'"

¹⁹ He likewise instructed the second and the third and all who followed the droves, "You shall say the same thing to Esau when you find him,

²⁰ and you shall say, 'Moreover, your servant Jacob is behind us.'" For he thought, "I may appease him with the present that goes ahead of me, and afterward I shall see his face. Perhaps he will accept me."

²¹ So the present passed on ahead of him, and he himself stayed that night in the camp.

²² The same night he arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok.

²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and everything else that he had.

²⁴ And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day.

²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him.

²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day has broken." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

²⁷ And he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob."

²⁸ Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed."

²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him.

³⁰ So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered."

³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

³² Therefore to this day the people of Israel do not eat the sinew of the thigh that is on the hip socket, because he touched the socket of Jacob's hip on the sinew of the thigh.

33 ¹ And Jacob lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, Esau was coming, and four hundred men with

him. So he divided the children among Leah and Rachel and the two female servants.

² And he put the servants with their children in front, then Leah with her children, and Rachel and Joseph last of all.

³ He himself went on before them, bowing 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 when Esau lifted up his eyes and saw the women and children, he said, "Who are these with you?" Jacob said, "The children whom God has graciously given your servant."

⁶ Then the servants drew near, they and their children, and bowed down.

⁷ Leah likewise and her children drew near and bowed down. And last Joseph

and Rachel drew near, and they bowed down.

⁸ Esau said, "What do you mean by all this company that I met?" Jacob answered, "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 Jacob said, "No, please, if I have found favor in your sight, then accept my present from my hand. For I have seen your face, which is like seeing the face of God, and you have accepted me.

¹¹ Please accept my blessing that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough." Thus he urged him, and he took it.

¹² Then Esau said, "Let us journey on our way, and I will go ahead of you."

¹³ But Jacob said to him, "My lord knows that the children are frail, and that the nursing flocks and herds are a care to me. If they are driven hard for one day, all the flocks will die.

¹⁴ Let my lord pass on ahead of his servant, and I will lead on slowly, at the pace of the livestock that are ahead of me and at the pace of the children, until I come to my lord in Seir."

¹⁵ So Esau said, "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 But Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built himself a house and made booths for his livestock. Therefore the name of the place is called Succoth.

¹⁸ And Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan,

on his way from Paddan-aram, and he camped before the city.

¹⁹ And from the sons of Hamor, Shechem's father, he bought for a hundred pieces of money the piece of land on which he had pitched his tent.

²⁰ There he erected an altar 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 women of the land.

² And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the land, saw her, he seized her and lay with her and humiliated her.

³ And his soul was drawn to Dinah the daughter of Jacob. He loved the young woman and spoke tenderly to her.

⁴ So Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, "Get me this girl for my wife."

⁵ Now Jacob heard that he had defiled his daughter Dinah. But his sons were with his livestock in the field, so Jacob held his peace until they came.

⁶ And Hamor the father of Shechem went out to Jacob to speak with him.

⁷ The sons of Jacob had come in from the field as soon as they heard of it, and the men were indignant and very angry, because he had done an outrageous thing in Israel by lying with Jacob's daughter, for such a thing must not be done.

⁸ But Hamor spoke with them, saying, "The soul of my son Shechem longs for your daughter. Please give her to him to be his wife.

⁹ Make marriages with us. Give your daughters to us, and take our daughters for yourselves.

¹⁰ You shall dwell with us, and the land shall be open to you. Dwell and trade in it, and get property in it."

¹¹ Shechem also said to her father and to her brothers, "Let me find favor in your eyes, and whatever you say to me I will give.

¹² Ask me for as great a bride price and gift as you will, and I will give whatever you say to me. Only give me the young woman to be my wife."

¹³ The sons of Jacob answered Shechem and his father Hamor deceitfully, because he had defiled their sister Dinah.

¹⁴ They said to them, "We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one who is uncircumcised, for that would be a disgrace to us.

¹⁵ Only on this condition will we agree with you--that you will become as we

are by every male among you being circumcised.

¹⁶ Then we will give our daughters to you, and we will take your daughters to ourselves, and we will dwell with you and become one people.

¹⁷ But if you will not listen to us and be circumcised, then we will take our daughter, and we will be gone."

¹⁸ Their words pleased Hamor and Hamor's son Shechem.

¹⁹ And the young man did not delay to do the thing, because he delighted in Jacob's daughter. Now he was the most honored of all his father's house.

²⁰ So Hamor and his son Shechem came to the gate of their city and spoke to the men of their city, saying,

²¹ "These men are at peace with us; let them dwell in the land and trade in it, for behold, the land is large enough for them. Let us take their daughters

as wives, and let us give them our daughters.

²² Only on this condition will the men agree to dwell with us to become one people--when every male among us is circumcised as they are circumcised.

²³ Will not their livestock, their property and all their beasts be ours? Only let us agree with them, and they will dwell with us."

²⁴ And all who went out of the gate of his city listened to Hamor and his son Shechem, and every male was circumcised, all who went out of the gate of his city.

²⁵ On the third day, when they were sore, two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, took their swords and came against the city while it felt secure and killed all the males.

²⁶ They killed Hamor and his son Shechem with the sword and took Dinah out of Shechem's house and went away.

²⁷ The sons of Jacob came upon the slain and plundered the city, because they had defiled their sister.

²⁸ They took their flocks and their herds, their donkeys, and whatever was in the city and in the field.

²⁹ All their wealth, all their little ones and their wives, all that was in the houses, they captured and plundered.

³⁰ Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You have brought trouble on me by making me stink to the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites and the Perizzites. My numbers are few, and if they gather themselves against me and attack me, I shall be destroyed, both I and my household."

³¹ But they said, "Should he treat our sister like a prostitute?"

35 ¹ God said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there. Make an altar there to the God who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau."

² So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Put away the foreign gods that are among you and purify yourselves and change your garments."

³ Then let us arise and go up to Bethel, so that I may make there an altar to the God who answers me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone."

⁴ So they gave to Jacob all the foreign gods that they had, and the rings that were in their ears. Jacob hid them under the terebinth tree that was near Shechem.

⁵ And as they journeyed, a terror from God fell upon the cities that were around

them, so that they did not pursue the sons of Jacob.

⁶ And 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 there he built an altar and called the place El-bethel, because there God had revealed himself to him when he fled from his brother.

⁸ And Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died, and she was buried under an oak below Bethel. So he called its name Allon-bacuth.

⁹ God appeared to Jacob again, when he came from Paddan-aram, and blessed him.

¹⁰ And God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name." So he called his name Israel.

¹¹ And God said to him, "I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply. A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come from your own body.

¹² The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will give the land to your offspring after you."

¹³ Then God went up from him in the place where he had spoken with him.

¹⁴ And Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he had spoken with him, a pillar of stone. He poured out a drink offering on it and poured oil on it.

¹⁵ So Jacob called the name of the place where God had spoken with him Bethel.

¹⁶ Then they journeyed from Bethel. When they were still some distance from Ephrath, Rachel went into labor, and she had hard labor.

¹⁷ And when her labor was at its hardest, the midwife said to her, "Do not fear, for you have another son."

¹⁸ And as her soul was departing (for she was dying), she called his name Ben-oni; but his father called him Benjamin.

¹⁹ So Rachel died, and she was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem),

²⁰ and Jacob set up a pillar over her tomb. It is the pillar of Rachel's tomb, which is there to this day.

²¹ Israel journeyed on and pitched his tent beyond the tower of Eder.

²² While Israel lived in that land, Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine. And Israel heard of it. Now the sons of Jacob were twelve.

²³ The sons of Leah: Reuben (Jacob's firstborn), Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun.

²⁴ The sons of Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin.

²⁵ The sons of Bilhah, Rachel's servant: Dan and Naphtali.

²⁶ The sons of Zilpah, Leah's servant: Gad and Asher. These were the sons of Jacob who were born to him in Paddan-aram.

²⁷ And Jacob came to his father Isaac at Mamre, or Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron), where Abraham and Isaac had sojourned.

²⁸ Now the days of Isaac were 180 years.

²⁹ And Isaac breathed his last, and he died and was gathered to his people, old and full of days. And his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

36 ¹ These are the generations of Esau (that is, Edom).

² Esau took his wives from the Canaanites: Adah the daughter of Elon

the Hittite, Oholibamah the daughter of Anah the daughter of Zibeon the Hivite,
³ and Basemath, Ishmael's daughter, the sister of Nebaioth.

⁴ And Adah bore to Esau, Eliphaz; Basemath bore Reuel;

⁵ and Oholibamah bore Jeush, Jalam, and Korah. These are 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 members of his household, his livestock, all his beasts, and all his property that he had acquired in the land of Canaan. He went into a land away from his brother Jacob.

⁷ For their possessions were too great for them to dwell together. The land of their sojournings could not support them because of their livestock.

⁸ So Esau settled in the hill country of Seir. (Esau is Edom.)

⁹ These are the generations of Esau the father of the Edomites in the hill country of Seir.

¹⁰ These are the names of Esau's sons: Eliphaz the son of Adah the wife of Esau, Reuel the son of Basemath the wife of Esau.

¹¹ The sons of Eliphaz were Teman, Omar, Zepho, Gatam, and Kenaz.

¹² (Timna was a concubine of Eliphaz, Esau's son; she bore Amalek to Eliphaz.) These are the sons of Adah, Esau's wife.

¹³ These are the sons of Reuel: Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah. These are the sons of Basemath, Esau's wife.

¹⁴ These are the sons of Oholibamah the daughter of Anah the daughter of Zibeon, Esau's wife: she bore to Esau Jeush, Jalam, and Korah.

¹⁵ These are the chiefs of the sons of Esau. The sons of Eliphaz the firstborn

of Esau: the chiefs Teman, Omar, Zepho, Kenaz,

¹⁶ Korah, Gatam, and Amalek; these are the chiefs of Eliphaz in the land of Edom; these are the sons of Adah.

¹⁷ These are the sons of Reuel, Esau's son: the chiefs Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah; these are the chiefs of Reuel in the land of Edom; these are the sons of Basemath, Esau's wife.

¹⁸ These are the sons of Oholibamah, Esau's wife: the chiefs Jeush, Jalam, and Korah; these are the chiefs born of Oholibamah the daughter of Anah, Esau's wife.

¹⁹ These are the sons of Esau (that is, Edom), and these are their chiefs.

²⁰ These are the sons of Seir the Horite, the inhabitants of the land: Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah,

²¹ Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan; these are the chiefs of the Horites, the sons of Seir in the land of Edom.

²² The sons of Lotan were Hori and Hemam; and Lotan's sister was Timna.

²³ These are the sons of Shobal: Alvan, Manahath, Ebal, Shepho, and Onam.

²⁴ These are the sons of Zibeon: Aiah and Anah; he is the Anah who found the hot springs in the wilderness, as he pastured the donkeys of Zibeon his father.

²⁵ These are the children of Anah: Dishon and Oholibamah the daughter of Anah.

²⁶ These are the sons of Dishon: Hemdan, Eshban, Ithran, and Cheran.

²⁷ These are the sons of Ezer: Bilhan, Zaavan, and Akan.

²⁸ These are the sons of Dishan: Uz and Aran.

²⁹ These are the chiefs of the Horites: the chiefs Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah,

³⁰ Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan; these are the chiefs of the Horites, chief by chief in the land of Seir.

³¹ These are the kings who reigned in the land of Edom, before any king reigned over the Israelites.

³² Bela the son of Beor reigned in Edom, the name of his city being Dinhabah.

³³ Bela died, and Jobab the son of Zerah of Bozrah reigned in his place.

³⁴ Jobab died, and Husham of the land of the Temanites reigned in his place.

³⁵ Husham died, and Hadad the son of Bedad, who defeated Midian in the country of Moab, reigned in his place, the name of his city being Avith.

³⁶ Hadad died, and Samlah of Masrekah reigned in his place.

³⁷ Samlah died, and Shaul of Rehoboth on the Euphrates reigned in his place.

³⁸ Shaul died, and Baal-hanan the son of Achbor reigned in his place.

³⁹ Baal-hanan the son of Achbor died, and Hadar reigned in his place, the name of his city being Pau; his wife's name was Mehetabel, the daughter of Matred, daughter of Mezahab.

⁴⁰ These are the names of the chiefs of Esau, according to their clans and their dwelling places, by their names: the chiefs Timna, Alvah, Jetheth,

⁴¹ Oholibamah, Elah, Pinon,

⁴² Kenaz, Teman, Mibzar,

⁴³ Magdiel, and Iram; these are the chiefs of Edom (that is, Esau, the father of Edom), according to their dwelling places in the land of their possession.

37 ¹ Jacob lived in the land of his father's sojournings, in the land of Canaan.

² These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was

pasturing the flock with his brothers. He was a boy with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father.

³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe 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 peacefully to him.

⁵ Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more.

⁶ He said to them, "Hear this dream that I have dreamed:

⁷ Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your

sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf."

⁸ His brothers said to him, "Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to rule over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.

⁹ Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said, "Behold, I have dreamed another dream. Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me."

¹⁰ But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?"

¹¹ And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind.

¹² Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem.

¹³ And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." And he said to him, "Here I am."

¹⁴ So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring me word." So he sent him from the Valley of Hebron, and he came to Shechem.

¹⁵ And a man found him wandering in the fields. And the man asked him, "What are you seeking?"

¹⁶ "I am seeking my brothers," he said. "Tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock."

¹⁷ And the man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan.

¹⁸ They saw him from afar, and before he came near to them they conspired against him to kill him.

¹⁹ They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer.

²⁰ Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits. Then we will say that a fierce animal has devoured him, and we will see what will become of his dreams."

²¹ But when Reuben heard it, he rescued him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life."

²² And Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; cast him into this pit here in the wilderness, but do not lay a hand on him"--that he might rescue him out of their hand to restore him to his father.

²³ So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the robe of many colors that he wore.

²⁴ And they took him and cast him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

²⁵ Then they sat down to eat. And looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing gum, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry it down to Egypt.

²⁶ Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood?

²⁷ Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers listened to him.

²⁸ Then Midianite traders passed by. And they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. They took Joseph to Egypt.

²⁹ When Reuben returned to the pit and saw that Joseph was not in the pit, he tore his clothes

³⁰ and returned to his brothers and said, "The boy is gone, and I, where shall I go?"

³¹ Then they took Joseph's robe and slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood.

³² And they sent the robe of many colors and brought it to their father and said, "This we have found; please identify whether it is your son's robe or not."

³³ And he identified it and said, "It is my son's robe. A fierce animal has devoured him. Joseph is without doubt torn to pieces."

³⁴ Then Jacob tore his garments and put sackcloth on his loins and mourned for his son many days.

³⁵ All his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted and said, "No, I shall go down to Sheol to my son, mourning." Thus his father wept for him.

³⁶ Meanwhile the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard.

38 ¹ It happened at that time that Judah went down from his brothers and turned aside to a certain Adullamite, whose name was Hirah.

² There Judah saw the daughter of a certain Canaanite whose name was Shua. He took her and went in to her,

³ and 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 Yet again she bore a son, and she called his name Shelah. Judah was in Chezib when she bore him.

⁶ And 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 put him to death.

⁸ Then Judah said to Onan, "Go in to your brother's wife and perform the duty of a brother-in-law to her, and raise up offspring for your brother."

⁹ But Onan knew that the offspring would not be his. So whenever he went in to his brother's wife he would waste the semen on the ground, so as not to give offspring to his brother.

¹⁰ And what he did was wicked in the sight of the LORD, and he put him to death also.

¹¹ Then Judah said to Tamar his daughter-in-law, "Remain a widow in your father's house, till Shelah my son grows up"--for he feared that he would

die, like his brothers. So Tamar went and remained in her father's house.

¹² In course of time the wife of Judah, Shua's daughter, died. When Judah was comforted, he went up to Timnah to his sheepshearers, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite.

¹³ And when Tamar was told, "Your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep,"

¹⁴ she took off her widow's garments and covered herself with a veil, wrapping herself up, and sat at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah. For she saw that Shelah was grown up, and she had not been given to him in marriage.

¹⁵ When Judah saw her, he thought she was a prostitute, for she had covered her face.

¹⁶ He turned to her at the roadside and said, "Come, let me come in to you,"

for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. She said, "What will you give me, that you may come in to me?"

¹⁷ He answered, "I will send you a young goat from the flock." And she said, "If you give me a pledge, until you send it--"

¹⁸ He said, "What pledge shall I give you?" She replied, "Your signet and your cord and your staff that is in your hand." So he gave them to her and went in to her, and she conceived by him.

¹⁹ Then she arose and went away, and taking off her veil she put on the garments of her widowhood.

²⁰ When Judah sent the young goat by his friend the Adullamite to take back the pledge from the woman's hand, he did not find her.

²¹ And he asked the men of the place, "Where is the cult prostitute who was at

Enaim at the roadside?" And they said, "No cult prostitute has been here."

²² So he returned to Judah and said, "I have not found her. Also, the men of the place said, 'No cult prostitute has been here.'"

²³ And Judah replied, "Let her keep the things as her own, or we shall be laughed at. You see, I sent this young goat, and you did not find her."

²⁴ About three months later Judah was told, "Tamar your daughter-in-law has been immoral. Moreover, she is pregnant by immorality." And Judah said, "Bring her out, and let her be burned."

²⁵ As she was being brought out, she sent word to her father-in-law, "By the man to whom these belong, I am pregnant." And she said, "Please identify whose these are, the signet and the cord and the staff."

²⁶ Then Judah identified them and said, "She is more righteous than I, since I did not give her to my son Shelah." And he did not know her again.

²⁷ When the time of her labor came, there were twins in her womb.

²⁸ And when she was in labor, one put out a hand, and the midwife took and tied a scarlet thread on his hand, saying, "This one came out first."

²⁹ But as he drew back his hand, behold, his brother came out. And she said, "What a breach you have made for yourself!" Therefore his name was called Perez.

³⁰ Afterward his brother came out with the scarlet thread on his hand, and his name was called Zerah.

39 ¹ Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, had bought him from

the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there.

² The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master.

³ His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands.

⁴ So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had.

⁵ From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had, in house and field.

⁶ So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he

ate. Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance.

⁷ And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me."

⁸ But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge.

⁹ He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except yourself, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?"

¹⁰ And as she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her.

¹¹ But one day, when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was there in the house,

¹² she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house.

¹³ And as soon as she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled out of the house,

¹⁴ she called to the men of her household and said to them, "See, he has brought among us a Hebrew to laugh at us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice.

¹⁵ And as soon as he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried out, he left his garment beside me and fled and got out of the house."

¹⁶ Then she laid up his garment by her until his master came home,

¹⁷ and she told him the same story, saying, "The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought among us, came in to me to laugh at me.

¹⁸ But as soon as I lifted up my voice and cried, he left his garment beside me and fled out of the house."

¹⁹ As soon as his master heard the words that his wife spoke to him, "This is the way your servant treated me," his anger was kindled.

²⁰ And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison.

²¹ But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

²² And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it.

²³ The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the LORD was

with him. And whatever he did, the LORD made it succeed.

40 ¹ Some time after this, the cupbearer of the king of Egypt and his baker committed an offense against their lord the king of Egypt.

² And Pharaoh was angry with his two officers, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker,

³ and he put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the prison where Joseph was confined.

⁴ The captain of the guard appointed Joseph to be with them, and he attended them. They continued for some time in custody.

⁵ And one night they both dreamed--the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison--each his own dream, and each dream with its own interpretation.

⁶ When Joseph came to them in the morning, he saw that they were troubled.

⁷ So he asked Pharaoh's officers who were with him in custody in his master's house, "Why are your faces downcast today?"

⁸ They said to him, "We have had dreams, and there is no one to interpret them." And Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Please tell them to me."

⁹ So the chief cupbearer told his dream to Joseph and said to him, "In my dream there was a vine before me,

¹⁰ and on the vine there were three branches. As soon as it budded, its blossoms shot forth, and the clusters ripened into grapes.

¹¹ 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 Then Joseph said to him, "This is its interpretation: the three branches are three days.

¹³ In three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your office, and you shall place Pharaoh's cup in his hand as formerly, when you were his cupbearer.

¹⁴ Only remember me, when it is well with you, and please do me the kindness to mention me to Pharaoh, and so get me out of this house.

¹⁵ For I was indeed stolen out of the land of the Hebrews, and here also I have done nothing that they should put me into the pit."

¹⁶ When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was favorable, he said to Joseph, "I also had a dream: there were three cake baskets on my head,

¹⁷ and in the uppermost basket there were all sorts of baked food for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating it out of the basket on my head."

¹⁸ And Joseph answered and said, "This is its interpretation: the three baskets are three days.

¹⁹ In three days Pharaoh will lift up your head--from you!--and hang you on a tree. And the birds will eat the flesh from you."

²⁰ On the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, he made a feast for all his servants and lifted up the head of the chief cupbearer and the head of the chief baker among his servants.

²¹ He restored the chief cupbearer to his position, 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 cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.

41 ¹ After two whole years, Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing by the Nile,

² and behold, there came up out of the Nile seven cows attractive and plump, and they fed in the reed grass.

³ And behold, seven other cows, ugly and thin, came up out of the Nile after them, and stood by the other cows on the bank of the Nile.

⁴ And the ugly, thin cows ate up the seven attractive, plump cows. And Pharaoh awoke.

⁵ And he fell asleep and dreamed a second time. And behold, seven ears of grain, plump and good, were growing on one stalk.

⁶ And behold, after them sprouted seven ears, thin and blighted by the east wind.

⁷ And the thin ears swallowed up the seven plump, full ears. And Pharaoh awoke, and behold, it was a dream.

⁸ So in the morning his spirit was troubled, and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was none who could interpret them to Pharaoh.

⁹ Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, "I remember my offenses today.

¹⁰ When Pharaoh was angry with his servants and put me and the chief baker in custody in the house of the captain of the guard,

¹¹ we dreamed on the same night, he and I, each having a dream with its own interpretation.

¹² A young Hebrew was there with us, a servant of the captain of the guard. When we told him, he interpreted our

dreams to us, giving an interpretation to each man according to his dream.

¹³ And as he interpreted to us, so it came about. I was restored to my office, and the baker was hanged."

¹⁴ Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they quickly brought him out of the pit. And when he had shaved himself and changed his clothes, he came in before Pharaoh.

¹⁵ And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it."

¹⁶ Joseph answered Pharaoh, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer."

¹⁷ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Behold, in my dream I was standing on the banks of the Nile.

¹⁸ Seven cows, plump and attractive, came up out of the Nile and fed in the reed grass.

¹⁹ Seven other cows came up after them, poor and very ugly and thin, such as I had never seen in all the land of Egypt.

²⁰ And the thin, ugly cows ate up the first seven plump cows,

²¹ but when they had eaten them no one would have known that they had eaten them, for they were still as ugly as at the beginning. Then I awoke.

²² I also saw in my dream seven ears growing on one stalk, full and good.

²³ Seven ears, withered, thin, and blighted by the east wind, sprouted after them,

²⁴ and the thin ears swallowed up the seven good ears. And I told it 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 revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do.

²⁶ The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good ears are seven years; the dreams are one.

²⁷ The seven lean and ugly cows that came up after them are seven years, and the seven empty ears blighted by the east wind are also seven years of famine.

²⁸ It is as I told Pharaoh; God has shown to Pharaoh what he is about to do.

²⁹ There will come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt,

³⁰ but after them there will arise seven years of famine, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt. The famine will consume the land,

³¹ and the plenty will be unknown in the land by reason of the famine that will follow, for it will be very severe.

³² And the doubling of Pharaoh's dream means that the thing is fixed by God, and God will shortly bring it about.

³³ Now therefore let Pharaoh select a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt.

³⁴ Let Pharaoh proceed to appoint overseers over the land and take one-fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt during the seven plentiful years.

³⁵ And let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming and store up grain under the authority of Pharaoh for food in the cities, and let them keep it.

³⁶ That food shall be a reserve for the land against the seven years of famine that are to occur in the land of Egypt, so that the land may not perish through the famine."

³⁷ This proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants.

³⁸ And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?"

³⁹ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are.

⁴⁰ You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command. Only as regards 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 from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain about his neck.

⁴³ And he made him ride in his second chariot. And they called out before him, "Bow the knee!" Thus he set him over all the land of Egypt.

⁴⁴ Moreover, Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, and without your consent no one shall lift up hand or foot in all the land of Egypt."

⁴⁵ And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphenath-paneah. And he gave him in marriage Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On. So Joseph went out over the land of Egypt.

⁴⁶ Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh and went through all the land of Egypt.

⁴⁷ During the seven plentiful years the earth produced abundantly,

⁴⁸ and he gathered up all the food of these seven years, which occurred in the land of Egypt, and put the food in the cities. He put in every city the food from the fields around it.

⁴⁹ And Joseph stored up grain in great abundance, like the sand of the sea, until he ceased to measure it, for it could not be measured.

⁵⁰ Before the year of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph. Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On, bore them to him.

⁵¹ Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh. "For," he said, "God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father's house."

⁵² The name of the second he called Ephraim, "For God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction."

⁵³ The seven years of plenty that occurred in the land of Egypt came to an end,

⁵⁴ and the seven years of famine began to come, as Joseph had said. There was famine in all lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread.

⁵⁵ When all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread. Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph. What he says to you, do."

⁵⁶ So when the famine had spread over all the land, Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe in the land of Egypt.

⁵⁷ Moreover, all the earth came to Egypt to Joseph to buy grain, because the famine was severe over all the earth.

42 ¹ When Jacob learned that there was grain for sale in Egypt, he said to his sons, "Why do you look at one another?"

² And he said, "Behold, I have heard that there is grain for sale in Egypt. Go down and buy grain for us there, that we may live and not die."

³ So ten of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain in Egypt.

⁴ But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's brother, with his brothers, for he feared that harm might happen to him.

⁵ Thus the sons of Israel came to buy among the others who came, for the famine was in the land of Canaan.

⁶ Now Joseph was governor over the land. He was the one who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed themselves before him with their faces to the ground.

⁷ Joseph saw his brothers and recognized them, but he treated them like strangers and spoke roughly to them. "Where do you come from?" he said. They said, "From the land of Canaan, to buy food."

⁸ And Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him.

⁹ And Joseph remembered the dreams that he had dreamed of them. And he said to them, "You are spies; you have come to see the nakedness of the land."

¹⁰ They said to him, "No, my lord, your servants have come to buy food.

¹¹ We are all sons of one man. We are honest men. Your servants have never been spies."

¹² He said to them, "No, it is the nakedness of the land that you have come to see."

¹³ And they said, "We, your servants, are twelve brothers, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan, and behold, the youngest is this day with our father, and one is no more."

¹⁴ But Joseph said to them, "It is as I said to you. You are spies.

¹⁵ By this you shall be tested: by the life of Pharaoh, you shall not go from this place unless your youngest brother comes here.

¹⁶ Send one of you, and let him bring your brother, while you remain confined, that your words may be tested, whether there is truth in you. Or else, by the life of Pharaoh, surely you are spies."

¹⁷ And he put them all together in custody for three days.

¹⁸ On the third day Joseph said to them, "Do this and you will live, for I fear God:

¹⁹ if you are honest men, let one of your brothers remain confined where you are in custody, and let the rest go and carry grain for the famine of your households,

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, "In truth we are guilty concerning our

brother, in that we saw the distress of his soul, when he begged us and we did not listen. That is why this distress has come upon us."

²² And Reuben answered them, "Did I not tell you not to sin against the boy? But you did not listen. So now there comes a reckoning for his blood."

²³ They did not know that Joseph understood them, for there was an interpreter between them.

²⁴ Then he turned away from them and wept. And he returned to them and spoke to them. And he took Simeon from them and bound him before their eyes.

²⁵ And Joseph gave orders to fill their bags with grain, and to replace every man's money in his sack, and to give them provisions for the journey. This was done for them.

²⁶ Then they loaded their donkeys with their grain and departed.

²⁷ And as one of them opened his sack to give his donkey fodder at the lodging place, he saw his money in the mouth of his sack.

²⁸ He said to his brothers, "My money has been put back; here it is in the mouth of my sack!" At this their hearts failed them, and they turned trembling to one another, saying, "What is this that God has done to us?"

²⁹ When they came to Jacob their father in the land of Canaan, they told him all that had happened to them, saying,

³⁰ "The man, the lord of the land, spoke roughly to us and took us to be spies of the land.

³¹ But we said to him, 'We are honest men; we have never been spies.

³² We are twelve brothers, sons of our father. One is no more, and the youngest is this day with our father in the land of Canaan.'

³³ Then the man, the lord of the land, said to us, 'By this I shall know that you are honest men: leave one of your brothers with me, and take grain for the famine of your households, and go your way.

³⁴ Bring your youngest brother to me. Then I shall know that you are not spies but honest men, and I will deliver your brother to you, and you shall trade in the land.'"

³⁵ As they emptied their sacks, behold, every man's bundle of money was in his sack. And when they and their father saw their bundles of money, they were afraid.

³⁶ And Jacob their father said to them, "You have bereaved me of my children: Joseph is no more, and Simeon is no more, and now you would take Benjamin. All this has come against me."

³⁷ Then Reuben said to his father, "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 the only one left. If harm should happen to him on the journey that you are to make, you would bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to Sheol."

43 ¹ Now the famine was severe in the land.

² And when they had eaten the grain that they had brought from Egypt, their father said to them, "Go again, buy us a little food."

³ But Judah said to him, "The man solemnly warned us, saying, 'You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.'"

⁴ If you will 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 Israel said, "Why did you treat me so badly as to tell the man that you had another brother?"

⁷ They replied, "The man questioned us carefully about ourselves and our kindred, saying, 'Is your father still alive? Do you have another brother?' What we told him was in answer to these questions. Could we in any way know that he would say, 'Bring your brother down'?"

⁸ And Judah said to Israel his father, "Send the boy 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 will be a pledge of his safety. 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 If we had not delayed, we would now have returned twice."

¹¹ Then their father Israel said to them, "If it must be so, then do this: take some of the choice fruits of the land in your bags, and carry a present down to the man, a little balm and a little honey, gum, myrrh, pistachio nuts, and almonds.

¹² Take double the money with you. Carry back with you the money that was returned in the mouth of your sacks. Perhaps it was an oversight.

¹³ Take also your brother, and arise, go again to the man.

¹⁴ May God Almighty grant you mercy before the man, and may he send back your other brother and Benjamin. And as for me, if I am bereaved of my children, I am bereaved."

¹⁵ So the men took this present, and they took double the money with them, and Benjamin. They arose and went down to Egypt and stood before Joseph.

¹⁶ When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the steward of his house, "Bring the men into the house, and slaughter an animal and make ready, for the men are to dine with me at noon."

¹⁷ The man did as Joseph told him and brought the men to Joseph's house.

¹⁸ And the men were afraid because they were brought to Joseph's house, and they said, "It is because of the money, which was replaced in our sacks the first time, that we are brought in, so that he may assault us and fall upon us to make us servants and seize our donkeys."

¹⁹ So they went up to the steward of Joseph's house and spoke with him at the door of the house,

²⁰ and said, "Oh, my lord, we came down the first time to buy food.

²¹ And when we came to the lodging place we opened our sacks, and there was each man's money in the mouth of his sack, our money in full weight. So we have brought it again with us,

²² and we have brought other money down with us to buy food. We do not know who put our money in our sacks."

²³ He replied, "Peace to you, do not be afraid. Your God and the God of your father has put treasure in your sacks for you. I received your money." Then he brought Simeon out to them.

²⁴ And when the man had brought the men into Joseph's house and given them water, and they had washed their feet,

and when he had given their donkeys fodder,

²⁵ they prepared the present for Joseph's coming at noon, for they heard that they should eat bread there.

²⁶ When Joseph came home, they brought into the house to him the present that they had with them and bowed down to him to the ground.

²⁷ And he inquired about their welfare and said, "Is your father well, the old man of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?"

²⁸ They said, "Your servant our father is well; he is still alive." And they bowed their heads and prostrated themselves.

²⁹ And he lifted up his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, and said, "Is this your youngest brother, of whom you spoke to me? God be gracious to you, my son!"

³⁰ Then Joseph hurried out, for his compassion grew warm for his brother, and he sought a place to weep. And he entered his chamber and wept there.

³¹ Then he washed his face and came out. And controlling himself he said, "Serve the food."

³² They served him by himself, and them by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves, because the Egyptians could not eat 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 at one another in amazement.

³⁴ Portions were taken to them from Joseph's table, but Benjamin's portion was five times as much as any of theirs.

And they drank and were merry with him.

44 ¹ Then he commanded the steward of his house, "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 and put my cup, the silver cup, in the mouth of the sack of the youngest, with his money for the grain." And he did as Joseph told him.

³ As soon as the morning was light, the men were sent away with their donkeys.

⁴ They had gone only a short distance from the city. Now Joseph said to his steward, "Up, follow after the men, and when you overtake them, say to them, 'Why have you repaid evil for good?'

⁵ Is it not from this that my lord drinks, and by this that he practices divination? You have done evil in doing this.'"

⁶ When he overtook them, he spoke to them these words.

⁷ They said to him, "Why does my lord speak such words as these? Far be it from your servants to do such a thing!

⁸ Behold, the money that we found in the mouths of our sacks we brought back to you from the land of Canaan. How then could we steal silver or gold from your lord's house?

⁹ Whichever of your servants is found with it shall die, and we also will be my lord's servants."

¹⁰ He said, "Let it be as you say: he who is found with it shall be my servant, and the rest of you shall be innocent."

¹¹ Then each man quickly lowered his sack to the ground, and each man opened his sack.

¹² And he searched, beginning with the eldest and ending with the youngest.

And the cup was found in Benjamin's sack.

¹³ Then they tore their clothes, and every man loaded his donkey, and they returned to the city.

¹⁴ When Judah and his brothers came to Joseph's house, he was still there. They fell before him to the ground.

¹⁵ Joseph said to them, "What deed is this that you have done? Do you not know that a man like me can indeed practice divination?"

¹⁶ And Judah said, "What shall we say to my lord? What shall we speak? Or how can we clear ourselves? God has found out the guilt of your servants; behold, we are my lord's servants, both we and he also in whose hand the cup has been found."

¹⁷ But he said, "Far be it from me that I should do so! Only the man in whose hand the cup was found shall be my

servant. But as for you, go up in peace to your father."

¹⁸ Then Judah went up to him and said, "O my lord, please let your servant speak a word in my lord's ears, and let not your anger burn against your servant, for you are like Pharaoh himself.

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 young brother, the child of his old age. 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 We said to my lord, 'The boy cannot leave his father, for if he should leave his father, his father would die.'

²³ Then you said to your servants, 'Unless your youngest brother comes

down with you, you shall not see my face again.'

²⁴ "When we went back to your servant my father, we told him the words of my lord.

²⁵ And when our father said, 'Go again, buy us a little food,'

²⁶ we said, 'We cannot go down. If our youngest brother goes with us, then we will go down. For we cannot 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 One left me, and I said, Surely he has been torn to pieces, and I have never seen him since.

²⁹ If you take this one also from me, and harm happens to him, you will bring down my gray hairs in evil to Sheol.'

³⁰ "Now therefore, as soon as I come to your servant my father, and the boy is not with us, then, as his life is bound up in the boy's life,

³¹ as soon as he sees that the boy is not with us, he will die, and your servants will bring down the gray hairs of your servant our father with sorrow to Sheol.

³² For your servant became a pledge of safety for the boy to my father, saying, 'If I do not bring him back to you, then I shall bear the blame before my father all my life.'

³³ Now therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the boy as a servant to my lord, and let the boy go back with his brothers.

³⁴ For how can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? I fear to see the evil that would find my father."

45 ¹ Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who

stood by him. He cried, "Make everyone go out from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers.

² And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it.

³ And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.

⁴ So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt.

⁵ And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.

⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five

years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest.

⁷ And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors.

⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over 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 me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have.

¹¹ There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.'

¹² And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you.

¹³ You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here."

¹⁴ Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck.

¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

¹⁶ When the report was heard in Pharaoh's house, "Joseph's brothers have come," it pleased Pharaoh and his servants.

¹⁷ And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Say to your brothers, 'Do this: load your beasts and go back to the land of Canaan,

¹⁸ and take your father and your households, and come to me, and I will

give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you shall eat the fat of the land.'

¹⁹ And you, Joseph, are commanded to say, 'Do this: take wagons from the land of Egypt for your little ones and for your wives, and bring your father, and come.

²⁰ Have no concern for your goods, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.'"

²¹ The sons of Israel did so: and Joseph gave them wagons, according to the command of Pharaoh, and gave them provisions for the journey.

²² To each and all of them he gave a change of clothes, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred shekels of silver and five changes of clothes.

²³ To his father he sent as follows: ten donkeys loaded with the good things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain, bread, and provision for his father on the journey.

²⁴ Then he sent his brothers away, and as they departed, he said to them, "Do not quarrel on the way."

²⁵ So they went up out of Egypt and came to the land of Canaan to their father Jacob.

²⁶ And they told him, "Joseph is still alive, and he is ruler over all the land of Egypt." And his heart became numb, for he did not believe them.

²⁷ But when they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said to them, and when he saw the wagons that Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of their father Jacob revived.

²⁸ And 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 And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, "Jacob, Jacob." And he said, "Here am I."

³ Then he said, "I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make you into a great nation.

⁴ I myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you up again, and Joseph's hand shall close your eyes."

⁵ Then Jacob set out from Beersheba. The sons of Israel carried Jacob their father, their little ones, and their wives, in the wagons that Pharaoh had sent to carry him.

⁶ They also took their livestock and their goods, which they had gained in the land of Canaan, and came into Egypt, Jacob and all his offspring with him,

⁷ his sons, and his sons' sons with him, his daughters, and his sons' daughters.

All his offspring he brought with him into Egypt.

⁸ Now these are the names of the descendants of Israel, who came into Egypt, Jacob and his sons. Reuben, Jacob's firstborn,

⁹ and the sons of Reuben: Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi.

¹⁰ The sons of Simeon: Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar, and Shaul, the son of a Canaanite woman.

¹¹ The sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

¹² The sons of Judah: Er, Onan, Shelah, Perez, and Zerah (but Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan); and the sons of Perez were Hezron and Hamul.

¹³ The sons of Issachar: Tola, Puvah, Yob, and Shimron.

¹⁴ The sons of Zebulun: Sered, Elon, and Jahleel.

¹⁵ These are the sons of Leah, whom she bore to Jacob in Paddan-aram, together with his daughter Dinah; altogether his sons and his daughters numbered thirty-three.

¹⁶ The sons of Gad: Ziphion, Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon, Eri, Arodi, and Areli.

¹⁷ The sons of Asher: Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi, Beriah, with Serah their sister. And the sons of Beriah: Heber and Malchiel.

¹⁸ These are 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: Joseph and Benjamin.

²⁰ And to Joseph in the land of Egypt were born Manasseh and Ephraim, whom Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera the priest of On, bore to him.

²¹ And the sons of Benjamin: Bela, Becher, Ashbel, Gera, Naaman, Ehi, Rosh, Muppim, Huppim, and Ard.

²² These are the sons of Rachel, who were born to Jacob--fourteen persons in all.

²³ The sons of Dan: Hushim.

²⁴ The sons of Naphtali: Jahzeel, Guni, Jezer, and Shillem.

²⁵ These are the sons of Bilhah, whom Laban gave to Rachel his daughter, and these she bore to Jacob--seven persons in all.

²⁶ All the persons belonging to Jacob who came into Egypt, who were his own descendants, not including 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. All the persons of the house of Jacob who came into Egypt were seventy.

²⁸ He had sent Judah ahead of him to Joseph to show the way before him in Goshen, and they came into the land of Goshen.

²⁹ Then Joseph prepared his chariot and went up to meet Israel his father in Goshen. He presented himself to him and fell on his neck and wept on his neck a good while.

³⁰ Israel said to Joseph, "Now let me die, since I have seen your face and know that you are still alive."

³¹ Joseph said to his brothers and to his father's household, "I will go up and tell Pharaoh and will say to him, 'My brothers and my father's household, who were in the land of Canaan, have come to me.

³² And the men are shepherds, for they have been keepers of livestock, and they have brought their flocks and their herds and all that they have.'

³³ When Pharaoh calls you and says, 'What is your occupation?'

³⁴ you shall say, 'Your servants have been keepers of livestock from our youth even until now, both we and our fathers,' in order that you may dwell in the land of Goshen, for every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians."

47 ¹ So Joseph went in and told Pharaoh, "My father and my brothers, with their flocks and herds and all that they possess, have come from the land of Canaan. They are now in the land of Goshen."

² And from among his brothers he took five men and presented them to Pharaoh.

³ Pharaoh said to his brothers, "What is your occupation?" And they said to Pharaoh, "Your servants are shepherds, as our fathers were."

⁴ They said to Pharaoh, "We have come to sojourn in the land, for there is no pasture for your servants' flocks, for the famine is severe in the land of Canaan. And now, please let your servants dwell in the land of Goshen."

⁵ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Your father and your brothers have come to you."

⁶ The land of Egypt is before you. Settle your father and your brothers in the best of the land. Let them settle in the land of Goshen, and if you know any able men among them, put them in charge of my livestock."

⁷ Then Joseph brought in Jacob his father and stood him before Pharaoh, and Jacob blessed Pharaoh.

⁸ And Pharaoh said to Jacob, "How many are the days of the years of your life?"

⁹ And Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The days of the years of my sojourning are 130 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 sojourning."

¹⁰ And Jacob blessed Pharaoh and went out from the presence of Pharaoh.

¹¹ Then Joseph settled 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 And Joseph provided his father, his brothers, and all his father's household with food, according to the number of their dependents.

¹³ Now there was no food in all the land, for the famine was very severe, so that the land of Egypt and the land

of Canaan languished by reason 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, in exchange for the grain that they bought. And Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house.

¹⁵ And when the money was all spent in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came to Joseph and said, "Give us food. Why should we die before your eyes? For our money is gone."

¹⁶ And Joseph answered, "Give your livestock, and I will give you food in exchange for your livestock, if your money is gone."

¹⁷ So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph gave them food in exchange for the horses, the flocks, the herds, and the donkeys. He supplied

them with food in exchange for all their livestock that year.

¹⁸ And when that year was ended, they came to him the following year and said to him, "We will not hide from my lord that our money is all spent. The herds of livestock are my lord's. There is nothing left in the sight of my lord but our bodies and our land.

¹⁹ Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land for food, and we with our land will be servants to Pharaoh. And give us seed that we may live and not die, and that the land may not be desolate."

²⁰ So Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh, for all the Egyptians sold their fields, because the famine was severe on them. The land became Pharaoh's.

²¹ As for the people, he made servants of them from one end of Egypt to the other.

²² Only the land of the priests he did not buy, for the priests had a fixed allowance from Pharaoh and lived on the allowance that Pharaoh gave them; therefore they did not sell their land.

²³ Then Joseph said to the people, "Behold, I have this day bought you and your land for Pharaoh. Now here is seed for you, and you shall sow the land.

²⁴ And at the harvests you shall give a fifth to Pharaoh, and four fifths shall be your own, as seed for the field and as food for yourselves and your households, and as food for your little ones."

²⁵ And they said, "You have saved our lives; may it please my lord, we will be servants to Pharaoh."

²⁶ So Joseph made it a statute concerning the land of Egypt, and it stands to this day, that Pharaoh should have the fifth; the land of the priests alone did not become Pharaoh's.

²⁷ Thus Israel settled in the land of Egypt, in the land of Goshen. And they gained possessions in it, and were fruitful and multiplied greatly.

²⁸ And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years. So the days of Jacob, the years of his life, were 147 years.

²⁹ And when the time drew near that Israel must die, he called his son Joseph and said to him, "If now I have found favor in your sight, put your hand under my thigh and promise to deal kindly and truly with me. Do not bury me in Egypt,

³⁰ but let me lie with my fathers. Carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burying place." He answered, "I will do as you have said."

³¹ And he said, "Swear to me"; and he swore to him. Then Israel bowed himself upon the head of his bed.

48 ¹ After this, Joseph was told, "Behold, your father is ill." So he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.

² And it was told to Jacob, "Your son Joseph has come to you." Then Israel summoned his strength and sat up in bed.

³ And 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 company of peoples and will give this land to your offspring after you for an everlasting possession.'

⁵ And now your two sons, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; Ephraim

and Manasseh shall be mine, as Reuben and Simeon are.

⁶ And the children that you fathered after them shall be yours. They shall be called by the name of their brothers in their inheritance.

⁷ As for me, when I came from Paddan, to my sorrow Rachel died in the land of Canaan on the way, when there was still some distance to go to Ephrath, and I buried her there on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem)."

⁸ When Israel saw Joseph's sons, he said, "Who are these?"

⁹ Joseph said to his father, "They are my sons, whom God has given me here." And he said, "Bring them to me, please, that I may bless them."

¹⁰ Now the eyes of Israel were dim with age, so that he could not see. So Joseph brought them near him, and he kissed them and embraced them.

¹¹ And Israel said to Joseph, "I never expected to see your face; and behold, God has let me see your offspring also."

¹² Then Joseph removed them from his knees, and he bowed himself with his face to the earth.

¹³ And Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near him.

¹⁴ And Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on the head of Ephraim, who was the younger, and his left hand on the head of Manasseh, crossing his hands (for Manasseh was the firstborn).

¹⁵ And he blessed Joseph and said, "The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life long to this day,

¹⁶ the angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the boys; and in them

let my name be carried on, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth."

¹⁷ When Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him, and he took his father's hand to move it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head.

¹⁸ And Joseph said to his father, "Not this way, my father; since 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. Nevertheless, his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his offspring shall become a multitude of nations."

²⁰ So he blessed them that day, saying, "By you Israel will pronounce blessings,

saying, 'God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh.'" Thus he put Ephraim before Manasseh.

²¹ Then Israel said to Joseph, "Behold, I am about to die, but God will be with you and will bring you again to the land of your fathers.

²² Moreover, I have given to you rather than to your brothers one mountain slope that I took from the hand of the Amorites with my sword and with my bow."

49 ¹ Then Jacob called his sons and said, "Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you what shall happen to you in days to come.

² "Assemble and listen, O sons of Jacob, listen to Israel your father.

³ "Reuben, you are my firstborn, my might, and the firstfruits of my strength, preeminent in dignity and preeminent in power.

⁴ Unstable as water, you shall not have preeminence, 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; weapons of violence are their swords.

⁶ Let my soul come not into their council; O my glory, be not joined to their company. For in their anger they killed men, and in their willfulness they hamstrung oxen.

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, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you.

⁹ Judah is a lion's cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped

down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him?

¹⁰ The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

¹¹ Binding his foal to the vine and his donkey's colt to the choice vine, he has washed his garments in wine and his vesture in the blood of grapes.

¹² His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth whiter than milk.

¹³ "Zebulun shall dwell at the shore of the sea; he shall become a haven for ships, and his border shall be at Sidon.

¹⁴ "Issachar is a strong donkey, crouching between the sheepfolds.

¹⁵ He saw that a resting place was good, and that the land was pleasant, so he bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a servant at forced labor.

¹⁶ "Dan shall judge his people as one of the tribes of Israel.

¹⁷ Dan shall be a serpent in the way, a viper by the path, that bites the horse's heels so that his rider falls backward.

¹⁸ I wait for your salvation, O LORD.

¹⁹ "Raiders shall raid Gad, but he shall raid at their heels.

²⁰ "Asher's food shall be rich, and he shall yield royal delicacies.

²¹ "Naphtali is a doe let loose that bears beautiful fawns.

²² "Joseph is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a spring; his branches run over the wall.

²³ The archers bitterly attacked him, shot at him, and harassed him severely,

²⁴ yet his bow remained unmoved; his arms were made agile by the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob (from there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel),

²⁵ by the God of your father who will help you, by the Almighty who will bless you with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that crouches beneath, blessings of the breasts and of the womb.

²⁶ The blessings of your father are mighty beyond the blessings of my parents, up to the bounties of the everlasting hills. May they be on the head of Joseph, and on the brow of him who was set apart from his brothers.

²⁷ "Benjamin is a ravenous wolf, in the morning devouring the prey and at evening dividing the spoil."

²⁸ All these are the twelve tribes of Israel. This is what their father said to them as he blessed them, blessing each with the blessing suitable to him.

²⁹ Then he commanded 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 at Machpelah, to the east of Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite to possess as a burying 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 in it were bought from the Hittites."

³³ When Jacob finished commanding his sons, he drew up his feet 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 it, for that is how many are required for embalming. And the Egyptians wept for him seventy days.

⁴ And when the days of weeping for him were past, Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh, saying, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, please speak in the ears of Pharaoh, saying,

⁵ My father made me swear, saying, 'I am about to die: in my tomb that I hewed out for myself in the land of Canaan, there shall you bury me.' Now therefore, let me please go up and bury my father. Then I will return."

⁶ And Pharaoh answered, "Go up, and bury your father, as he made you swear."

⁷ So Joseph went up to bury his father. With him went up all the servants of

Pharaoh, the elders of his household, and all the elders of the land of Egypt,⁸ as well as all the household of Joseph, his brothers, and his father's household. Only their children, their flocks, and their herds were left in the land of Goshen.

⁹ And there went up with him both chariots and horsemen. It was a very great company.

¹⁰ When they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, they lamented there with a very great and grievous lamentation, and he made a mourning for his father seven days.

¹¹ When the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the mourning on the threshing floor of Atad, they said, "This is a grievous mourning by the Egyptians." Therefore the place was named Abel-mizraim; it is beyond the Jordan.

¹² Thus his sons did for him 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 at Machpelah, to the east of Mamre, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite to possess as a burying place.

¹⁴ After he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt with his brothers and all who had gone up with him to bury his father.

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him."

¹⁶ So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died,

¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And

now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

¹⁸ His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants."

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God?

²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

²¹ So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

²² So Joseph remained in Egypt, he and his father's house. Joseph lived 110 years.

²³ And Joseph saw Ephraim's children of the third generation. The children also of Machir the son of Manasseh were counted as Joseph's own.

²⁴ And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die, but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

²⁵ Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here."

²⁶ So Joseph died, being 110 years old. They embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

Exodus

1 ¹ These are the names of the sons of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each with his household:

² Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah,

³ Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin,

⁴ Dan and Naphtali, Gad and Asher.

⁵ All the descendants of Jacob were seventy persons; Joseph was already in Egypt.

⁶ Then Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation.

⁷ But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that 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, "Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us.

¹⁰ Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land."

¹¹ Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens. They built for Pharaoh store cities, Pithom and Raamses.

¹² But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. And the Egyptians were in dread of the people of Israel.

¹³ So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves

¹⁴ and made their lives bitter with hard service, in mortar and brick, and in all kinds of work in the field. In all their

work they ruthlessly made them work as slaves.

¹⁵ Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah,

¹⁶ "When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live."

¹⁷ But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live.

¹⁸ So the king of Egypt called the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and let the male children live?"

¹⁹ The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them."

²⁰ So God dealt well with the midwives. And the people multiplied and grew very strong.

²¹ And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families.

²² Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall cast into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live."

2 ¹ Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman.

² The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months.

³ When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank.

⁴ And his sister stood at a distance to know what would be done to him.

⁵ Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her young women walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her servant woman, and she took it.

⁶ When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby was crying. She took pity 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 you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?"

⁸ And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the girl went and called the child's mother.

⁹ And 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 When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "Because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

¹¹ One day, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and looked on their burdens, and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people.

¹² He looked this way and that, and seeing no one, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.

¹³ When he went out the next day, behold, two Hebrews were struggling together. And he said to the man in the wrong, "Why do you strike your companion?"

¹⁴ He answered, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?"

Then Moses was afraid, and thought, "Surely the thing is known."

¹⁵ When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh and stayed 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 filled the troughs to water their father's flock.

¹⁷ The shepherds came and drove them away, but Moses stood up and saved them, and watered their flock.

¹⁸ When they came home to their father Reuel, he said, "How is it that you have come home so soon today?"

¹⁹ They said, "An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds and even drew water for us and watered the flock."

²⁰ He said to his daughters, "Then where is he? Why have you left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread."

²¹ And Moses was content to dwell with the man, and he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah.

²² She gave birth to a son, and he called his name Gershom, for he said, "I have been a sojourner in a foreign land."

²³ During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God.

²⁴ And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.

²⁵ God saw the people of Israel--and God knew.

3¹ Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the

west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

² And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed.

³ And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned."

⁴ When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."

⁵ Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."

⁶ And 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 at God.

⁷ Then the LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings,

⁸ and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

⁹ And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them.

¹⁰ Come, 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 bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"

¹² He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for 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, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?"

¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

¹⁵ God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name

forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.

¹⁶ Go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, "I have observed you and what has been done to you in Egypt,

¹⁷ and I promise that I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, a land flowing with milk and honey.'"

¹⁸ And they will listen to your voice, and you and the elders of Israel shall go to the king of Egypt and say to him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us; and now, please let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.'

¹⁹ But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless compelled by a mighty hand.

²⁰ So I will stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all the wonders that I will do in it; after that he will let you go.

²¹ And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and when you go, you shall not go empty,

²² but each woman shall ask of her neighbor, and any woman who lives in her house, for silver and gold jewelry, and for clothing. You shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians."

4 ¹ Then Moses answered, "But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice, for they will say, 'The LORD did not appear to you.'"

² The LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?" He said, "A staff."

³ And he said, "Throw it on the ground." So he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent, and Moses ran from it.

⁴ But the LORD said to Moses, "Put out your hand and catch it by the tail"--so he put out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand--

⁵ "that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you."

⁶ Again, the LORD said to him, "Put your hand inside your cloak." And he put his hand inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous like snow.

⁷ Then God said, "Put your hand back inside your cloak." So he put his hand back inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, it was restored like the rest of his flesh.

⁸ "If they will not believe you," God said, "or listen to the first sign, they may believe the latter sign.

⁹ If they will not believe even these two signs or listen to your voice, you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground, and the water that you shall take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground."

¹⁰ But Moses said to the LORD, "Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue."

¹¹ Then the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?

¹² Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak."

¹³ But he said, "Oh, my Lord, please send someone else."

¹⁴ Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses and he said, "Is there not Aaron, your brother, the Levite? I know that he can speak well. Behold, he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart.

¹⁵ You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth, and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth and will teach you both what to do.

¹⁶ He shall speak for you to the people, and he shall be your mouth, and you shall be as God to him.

¹⁷ And take in your hand this staff, with which you shall do the signs."

¹⁸ Moses went back to Jethro his father-in-law and said to him, "Please let me go back to my brothers in Egypt

to see whether they are still alive." And Jethro said to Moses, "Go in peace."

¹⁹ And the LORD said to Moses in Midian, "Go back to Egypt, for all the men who were seeking your life are dead."

²⁰ So Moses took his wife and his sons and had them ride on a donkey, and went back to the land of Egypt. And Moses took the staff of God in his hand.

²¹ And the LORD said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt, see that you do before Pharaoh all the miracles that I have put in your power. 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 firstborn son,

²³ and I say to you, "Let my son go that he may serve me." If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son.'"

²⁴ At a lodging place on the way the LORD met him and sought to put him to death.

²⁵ Then Zipporah took a flint and cut off her son's foreskin and touched Moses' feet with it and said, "Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me!"

²⁶ So he let him alone. It was then that she said, "A bridegroom of blood," because of the circumcision.

²⁷ The LORD said to Aaron, "Go into the wilderness to meet Moses." So he went and met him at the mountain of God and kissed him.

²⁸ And Moses told Aaron all the words of the LORD with which he had sent him to speak, and all the signs that he had commanded him to do.

²⁹ Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the people of Israel.

³⁰ Aaron spoke all the words that the LORD had spoken to Moses and did the signs in the sight of the people.

³¹ And the people believed; and when they heard that the LORD had visited the people of Israel and that he had seen their affliction, they bowed their heads and worshiped.

5 ¹ Afterward Moses and Aaron went and said to Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness.'"

² But Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and moreover, I will not let Israel go."

³ Then they said, "The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Please let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness that we may sacrifice to the

LORD our God, lest he fall upon us with pestilence or with the sword."

⁴ But the king of Egypt said to them, "Moses and Aaron, why do you take the people away from their work? Get back to your burdens."

⁵ And Pharaoh said, "Behold, the people of the land are now many, and you make them rest from their burdens!"

⁶ The same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people and their foremen,

⁷ "You shall no longer give the people straw to make bricks, as in the past; let them go and gather straw for themselves.

⁸ But the number of bricks that they made in the past you shall impose on them, you shall by no means reduce it, for they are idle. Therefore they cry, 'Let us go and offer sacrifice to our God.'

⁹ Let heavier work be laid on the men that they may labor at it and pay no regard to lying words."

¹⁰ So the taskmasters and the foremen of the people went out and said to the people, "Thus says Pharaoh, 'I will not give you straw.

¹¹ Go and get your straw yourselves wherever you can find it, but your work will not be reduced in the least.'"

¹² So the people were scattered throughout all the land of Egypt to gather stubble for straw.

¹³ The taskmasters were urgent, saying, "Complete your work, your daily task each day, as when there was straw."

¹⁴ And the foremen of the people of Israel, whom Pharaoh's taskmasters had set over them, were beaten and were asked, "Why have you not done all your task of making bricks today and yesterday, as in the past?"

¹⁵ Then the foremen of the people of Israel came and cried to Pharaoh, "Why do you treat your servants like this?"

¹⁶ No straw is given to your servants, yet they say to us, 'Make bricks!' And behold, your servants are beaten; but the fault is in your own people."

¹⁷ But he said, "You are idle, you are idle; that is why you say, 'Let us go and sacrifice to the LORD.'"

¹⁸ Go now and work. No straw will be given you, but you must still deliver the same number of bricks."

¹⁹ The foremen of the people of Israel saw that they were in trouble when they said, "You shall by no means reduce your number of bricks, your daily task each day."

²⁰ They met Moses and Aaron, who were waiting for them, as they came out from Pharaoh;

²¹ and they said to them, "The LORD look on you and judge, because you have made us stink in the sight of Pharaoh and his servants, and have put a sword in their hand to kill us."

²² Then Moses turned to the LORD and said, "O LORD, why have you done evil to this people? Why did you ever send me?"

²³ For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has done evil to this people, and you have not delivered your people at all."

6 ¹ But the LORD said to Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh; for with a strong hand he will send them out, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land."

² 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 the LORD I did not make myself known to them.

⁴ I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners.

⁵ Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant.

⁶ Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment.

⁷ I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

⁸ I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the LORD."

⁹ Moses spoke thus to the people of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery.

¹⁰ So the LORD said to Moses,

¹¹ "Go in, tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the people of Israel go out of his land."

¹² But Moses said to the LORD, "Behold, the people of Israel have not listened to me. How then shall Pharaoh listen to me, for I am of uncircumcised lips?"

¹³ But the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron and gave them a charge about the people of Israel and about Pharaoh king of Egypt: to bring the people 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: Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi; these are the clans of Reuben.

¹⁵ The sons of Simeon: Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar, and Shaul, the son of a Canaanite woman; these are the clans of Simeon.

¹⁶ These are the names of the sons of Levi according to their generations: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari, the years of the life of Levi being 137 years.

¹⁷ The sons of Gershon: Libni and Shimei, by their clans.

¹⁸ The sons of Kohath: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel, the years of the life of Kohath being 133 years.

¹⁹ The sons of Merari: Mahli and Mushi. These are the clans of the Levites according to their generations.

²⁰ Amram took as his wife Jochebed his father's sister, and she bore him

Aaron and Moses, the years of the life of Amram being 137 years.

²¹ The sons of Izhar: Korah, Nepheg, and Zichri.

²² The sons of Uzziel: Mishael, Elzaphan, and Sithri.

²³ Aaron took as his wife Elisheba, the daughter of Amminadab and the sister of Nahshon, and she bore him Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

²⁴ The sons of Korah: Assir, Elkanah, and Abiasaph; these are the clans of the Korahites.

²⁵ Eleazar, Aaron's son, took as his wife one of the daughters of Putiel, and she bore him Phinehas. These are the heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites by their clans.

²⁶ These are the Aaron and Moses to whom the LORD said: "Bring out the people of Israel from the land of Egypt by their hosts."

²⁷ It was they who spoke to Pharaoh king of Egypt about bringing out the people of Israel from Egypt, this Moses and this Aaron.

²⁸ On the day when the LORD spoke to Moses in the land of Egypt,

²⁹ the LORD said to Moses, "I am the LORD; tell Pharaoh king of Egypt all that I say to you."

³⁰ But Moses said to the LORD, "Behold, I am of uncircumcised lips. How will Pharaoh listen to me?"

7 ¹ And the LORD said to Moses, "See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron shall be your prophet.

² You shall speak all that I command you, and your brother Aaron shall tell Pharaoh to let the people of Israel go out of his land.

³ But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in the land of Egypt,

⁴ Pharaoh will not listen to you. Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and bring my hosts, my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great acts of judgment.

⁵ The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring out the people of Israel from among them."

⁶ Moses and Aaron did so; they did just as the LORD commanded them.

⁷ Now Moses was eighty years old, and Aaron eighty-three years old, when they spoke to Pharaoh.

⁸ Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron,

⁹ "When Pharaoh says to you, 'Prove yourselves by working a miracle,' then you shall say to Aaron, 'Take your staff

and cast it down before Pharaoh, that it may become a serpent.'"

¹⁰ So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did just as the LORD commanded. Aaron cast down his staff before Pharaoh and his servants, and it became a serpent.

¹¹ Then Pharaoh summoned the wise men and the sorcerers, and they, the magicians of Egypt, also did the same by their secret arts.

¹² For each man cast down his staff, and they became serpents. But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs.

¹³ Still Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said.

¹⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Pharaoh's heart is hardened; he refuses to let the people go.

¹⁵ Go to Pharaoh in the morning, as he is going out to the water. Stand on the

bank of the Nile to meet him, and take in your hand the staff that turned into a serpent.

¹⁶ And you shall say to him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, sent me to you, saying, "Let my people go, that they may serve me in the wilderness. But so far, you have not obeyed."

¹⁷ Thus says the LORD, "By this you shall know that I am the LORD: behold, with the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water that is in the Nile, and it shall turn into blood.

¹⁸ The fish in the Nile shall die, and the Nile will stink, and the Egyptians will grow weary of drinking water from the Nile."'''

¹⁹ And the LORD said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their rivers, their canals, and their ponds, and all their pools of water, so

that they may become blood, and there shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, even in vessels of wood and in vessels of stone.'"

²⁰ Moses and Aaron did as the LORD commanded. In the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants he lifted up the staff and struck the water in the Nile, and all the water in the Nile turned into blood.

²¹ And the fish in the Nile died, and the Nile stank, so that the Egyptians could not drink water from the Nile. There was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.

²² But the magicians of Egypt did the same by their secret arts. So Pharaoh's heart remained hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said.

²³ Pharaoh turned and went into his house, and he did not take even this to heart.

²⁴ And all the Egyptians dug along the Nile for water to drink, for they could not drink the water of the Nile.

²⁵ Seven full days passed after the LORD had struck the Nile.

8 ¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go in 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 plague all your country with frogs.

³ The Nile shall swarm with frogs that shall come up into your house and into your bedroom and on your bed and into the houses of your servants and your people, and into your ovens and your kneading bowls.

⁴ The frogs shall come up on you and on your people and on all your servants.'""

⁵ And the LORD said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your hand with your

staff over the rivers, over the canals and over the pools, and make frogs 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 But the magicians did the same by their secret arts and made frogs come up on the land of Egypt.

⁸ Then Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron and said, "Plead with the LORD to take away the frogs from me and from my people, and I will let the people go to sacrifice to the LORD."

⁹ Moses said to Pharaoh, "Be pleased to command me when I am to plead for you and for your servants and for your people, that the frogs be cut off from you and your houses and be left only in the Nile."

¹⁰ And he said, "Tomorrow." Moses said, "Be it as you say, so that you may

know that there is no one like the LORD our God.

¹¹ The frogs shall go away from you and your houses and your servants and your people. They shall be left only in the Nile."

¹² So Moses and Aaron went out from Pharaoh, and Moses cried to the LORD about the frogs, as he had agreed with Pharaoh.

¹³ And the LORD did according to the word of Moses. The frogs died out in the houses, the courtyards, and the fields.

¹⁴ And they gathered them together in heaps, and the land stank.

¹⁵ But when Pharaoh saw that there was a respite, he hardened his heart and would not listen to them, as the LORD had said.

¹⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your staff and strike

the dust of the earth, so that it may become gnats in all the land of Egypt."

¹⁷ And they did so. Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff and struck the dust of the earth, and there were gnats on man and beast. All the dust of the earth became gnats in all the land of Egypt.

¹⁸ The magicians tried by their secret arts to produce gnats, but they could not. So there were gnats on man and beast.

¹⁹ Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said.

²⁰ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Rise up early in the morning and present yourself to Pharaoh, as he goes out to the water, and 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 and your people, and into your houses. And the houses of the Egyptians shall be filled with swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they stand.

²² But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where my people dwell, so that no swarms of flies shall be there, that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth.

²³ Thus I will put a division between my people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall happen."""

²⁴ And the LORD did so. There came great swarms of flies into the house of Pharaoh and into his servants' houses. Throughout all the land of Egypt the land was ruined by the swarms of flies.

²⁵ Then Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron and said, "Go, sacrifice to your God within the land."

²⁶ But Moses said, "It would not be right to do so, for the offerings we shall sacrifice to the LORD our God are an abomination to the Egyptians. If we sacrifice offerings abominable to the Egyptians before their eyes, will they not stone us?"

²⁷ We must go three days' journey into the wilderness and sacrifice to the LORD our God as he tells us."

²⁸ So Pharaoh said, "I will let you go to sacrifice to the LORD your God in the wilderness; only you must not go very far away. Plead for me."

²⁹ Then Moses said, "Behold, I am going out from you and I will plead with the LORD that the swarms of flies may depart from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people, tomorrow. Only let

not Pharaoh cheat again by not letting the people go to sacrifice to the LORD."

³⁰ So Moses went out from Pharaoh and prayed to the LORD.

³¹ And the LORD did as Moses asked, and removed the swarms of flies from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people; not one remained.

³² But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also, and did not let the people go.

9¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go in to Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD, the 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 fall with a very severe plague upon your livestock that are in the field, the horses, the donkeys, the camels, the herds, and the flocks.

⁴ But the LORD will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt, so that nothing of all that belongs to the people of Israel shall die."""

⁵ And the LORD set a time, saying, "Tomorrow the LORD will do this thing in the land."

⁶ And the next day the LORD did this thing. All the livestock of the Egyptians died, but not one of the livestock of the people of Israel died.

⁷ And Pharaoh sent, and behold, not one of the livestock of Israel was dead. But the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people go.

⁸ And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Take handfuls of soot from the kiln, and let Moses throw them in the air in the sight of Pharaoh.

⁹ It shall become fine dust over all the land of Egypt, and become boils

breaking out in sores on man and beast throughout all the land of Egypt."

¹⁰ So they took soot from the kiln and stood before Pharaoh. And Moses threw it in the air, and it became boils breaking out in sores on man and beast.

¹¹ And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils, for the boils came upon the magicians and upon all the Egyptians.

¹² But the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and he did not listen to them, as the LORD had spoken to Moses.

¹³ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Rise up early in the morning and present yourself before Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, "Let my people go, that they may serve me.

¹⁴ For this time I will send all my plagues on you yourself, and on your servants

and your people, so that you may know that there is none like me in all the earth.

¹⁵ For by now I could have put out my hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, and you would have been cut off from the earth.

¹⁶ But for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth.

¹⁷ You are still exalting yourself against my people and will not let them go.

¹⁸ Behold, about this time tomorrow I will cause very heavy hail to fall, such as never has been in Egypt from the day it was founded until now.

¹⁹ Now therefore send, get your livestock and all that you have in the field into safe shelter, for every man and beast that is in the field and is not brought home will die when the hail falls on them."'''

²⁰ Then whoever feared the word of the LORD among the servants of Pharaoh hurried his slaves and his livestock into the houses,

²¹ but whoever did not pay attention to the word of the LORD left his slaves and his livestock in the field.

²² Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, so that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt, on man and beast and every plant of the field, in the land of Egypt."

²³ Then Moses stretched out his staff toward heaven, and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and fire ran down to the earth. And the LORD rained hail upon the land of Egypt.

²⁴ There was hail and fire flashing continually in the midst of the hail, very heavy hail, such as had never been in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation.

²⁵ The hail struck down everything that was in the field in all the land of Egypt, both man and beast. And the hail struck down every plant of the field and broke every tree of the field.

²⁶ Only in the land of Goshen, where the people of Israel were, was there no hail.

²⁷ Then Pharaoh sent and called Moses and Aaron and said to them, "This time I have sinned; the LORD is in the right, and I and my people are in the wrong.

²⁸ Plead with the LORD, for there has been enough of God's thunder and hail. I will let you go, and you shall stay no longer."

²⁹ Moses said to him, "As soon as I have gone out of the city, I will stretch out my hands to the LORD. The thunder will cease, and there will be no more hail, so that you may know that the earth is the LORD's.

³⁰ But as for you and your servants, I know that you do not yet fear the LORD God."

³¹ (The flax and the barley were struck down, for the barley was in the ear and the flax was in bud.

³² But the wheat and the emmer were not struck down, for they are late in coming up.)

³³ So Moses went out of the city from Pharaoh and stretched out his hands to the LORD, and the thunder and the hail ceased, and the rain no longer poured upon the earth.

³⁴ But when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunder had ceased, he sinned yet again and hardened his heart, he and his servants.

³⁵ So the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people of Israel go, just as the LORD had spoken through Moses.

10 ¹ Then the LORD said to Moses,
"Go in to Pharaoh, for I have
hardened his heart and the heart of his
servants, that I may show these signs of
mine among them,

² and that you may tell in the hearing
of your son and of your grandson how
I have dealt harshly with the Egyptians
and what signs I have done among them,
that you may know that I am the LORD."

³ So Moses and Aaron went in to
Pharaoh and said to him, "Thus says the
LORD, the God of the Hebrews, 'How
long will you refuse to humble yourself
before me? Let my people go, that they
may serve me.

⁴ For if you refuse to let my people go,
behold, tomorrow I will bring locusts
into your country,

⁵ and they shall cover the face of the
land, so that no one can see the land.
And they shall eat what is left to you

after the hail, and they shall eat every tree of yours that grows in the field,

⁶ and they shall fill your houses and the houses of all your servants and of all the Egyptians, as neither your fathers nor your grandfathers have seen, from the day they came on earth to this day."

Then 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 understand that Egypt is ruined?"

⁸ So Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh. And he said to them, "Go, serve the LORD your God. But which ones are to go?"

⁹ Moses said, "We will go with our young and our old. We will go with our sons and daughters and with our flocks

and herds, for we must hold a feast to the LORD."

¹⁰ But he said to them, "The LORD be with you, if ever I let you and your little ones go! Look, you have some evil purpose in mind.

¹¹ No! Go, the men among you, and serve the LORD, for that is what you are asking." 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, so that they may come upon the land of Egypt and eat every plant in the land, all that the hail has left."

¹³ So Moses stretched out his staff over the land of Egypt, and the LORD brought an east wind upon the land all that day and all that night. When it was morning, the east wind had brought the locusts.

¹⁴ The locusts came up over all the land of Egypt and settled on the whole country of Egypt, such a dense swarm of locusts as had never been before, nor ever will be again.

¹⁵ They covered the face of the whole land, so that the land was darkened, and they ate all the plants in the land and all the fruit of the trees that the hail had left. Not a green thing remained, neither tree nor plant of the field, through all the land of Egypt.

¹⁶ Then Pharaoh hastily called Moses and Aaron and said, "I have sinned against the LORD your God, and against you.

¹⁷ Now therefore, forgive my sin, please, only this once, and plead with the LORD your God only to remove this death from me."

¹⁸ So he went out from Pharaoh and pleaded with the LORD.

¹⁹ And the LORD turned the wind into a very strong west wind, which lifted the locusts and drove them into the Red Sea. Not a single locust was left in all the country of Egypt.

²⁰ But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the people 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, a darkness to be felt."

²² So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was pitch 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 people of Israel had light where they lived.

²⁴ Then Pharaoh called Moses and said, "Go, serve the LORD; your little ones also

may go with you; only let your flocks and your herds remain behind."

²⁵ But Moses said, "You must also let us have sacrifices and burnt offerings, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.

²⁶ Our livestock also must go with us; not a hoof shall be left behind, for we must take of them to serve the LORD our God, and 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 care never to see my face again, for on the day you see my face you shall die."

²⁹ Moses said, "As you say! I will not see your face again."

11 ¹ The LORD said to Moses, "Yet one plague more I will bring upon Pharaoh and upon Egypt. Afterward

he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will drive you away completely.

² Speak now in the hearing of the people, that they ask, every man of his neighbor and every woman of her neighbor, for silver and gold jewelry."

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 So Moses said, "Thus says the LORD: About midnight I will go out in the midst of Egypt,

⁵ and every firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the slave girl who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the cattle.

⁶ There shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there has never been, nor ever will be again.

⁷ But not a dog shall growl against any of the people of Israel, either man or beast, that you may know that the LORD makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.

⁸ And all these your servants shall come down to me and bow down to me, saying, 'Get out, you and all the people who follow you.' And after that I will go out." And he went out from Pharaoh in hot anger.

⁹ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Pharaoh will not listen to you, that my wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt."

¹⁰ Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh, and the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did

not let the people of Israel go out of his land.

12 ¹ The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt,

² "This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you.

³ Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household.

⁴ And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb.

⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats,

⁶ and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the

whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

⁷ "Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it.

⁸ They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it.

⁹ Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts.

¹⁰ And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn.

¹¹ In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover.

¹² For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the

firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD.

¹³ 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 no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ "This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast.

¹⁵ Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven out of your houses, for if anyone eats what is leavened, from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel.

¹⁶ On the first day you shall hold a holy assembly, and on the seventh day a holy assembly. No work shall be done on

those days. But what everyone needs to eat, that alone may be prepared by you.

¹⁷ And you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day, throughout your generations, as a statute forever.

¹⁸ In the first month, from 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 is to be found in your houses. If anyone eats what is leavened, that person will be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he is a sojourner or a native of the land.

²⁰ You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwelling places you shall eat unleavened bread."

²¹ Then Moses called all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go and select lambs for yourselves according to your clans, and kill the Passover lamb.

²² Take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. None of you shall go out of the door of his house until the 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 will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you.

²⁴ You shall observe this rite as a statute for you and for your sons forever.

²⁵ And when you come to the land that the LORD will give you, as he has promised, you shall keep this service.

²⁶ And when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?'

²⁷ you shall say, 'It is the sacrifice of the LORD's Passover, for he passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when he struck the Egyptians but spared our houses.'" And the people bowed their heads and worshiped.

²⁸ Then the people of Israel went and did so; as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.

²⁹ At midnight the LORD struck down 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 the livestock.

³⁰ And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians. And there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where someone was not dead.

³¹ Then he summoned Moses and Aaron by night and said, "Up, go out from among my people, both you and the people of Israel; and go, serve the LORD, as you have said.

³² Take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone, and bless me also!"

³³ The Egyptians were urgent with the people to 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, their kneading bowls being bound up in their cloaks on their shoulders.

³⁵ The people of Israel had also done as Moses told them, for they had asked the Egyptians for silver and gold jewelry and for clothing.

³⁶ And the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so

that they let them have what they asked. Thus they plundered the Egyptians.

³⁷ And the people of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children.

³⁸ A mixed multitude also went up with them, and very much livestock, both flocks and herds.

³⁹ And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough that they had brought out of Egypt, for it was not leavened, because they were thrust out of Egypt and could not wait, nor had they prepared any provisions for themselves.

⁴⁰ The time that the people of Israel lived in Egypt was 430 years.

⁴¹ At the end of 430 years, on that very day, all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.

⁴² It was a night of watching by the LORD, to bring them out of the land

of Egypt; so this same night is a night of watching kept to the LORD by all the people of Israel throughout their generations.

⁴³ And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "This is the statute of the Passover: no foreigner shall eat of it,

⁴⁴ but every slave that is bought for money may eat of it after you have circumcised him.

⁴⁵ No foreigner or hired servant may eat of it.

⁴⁶ It shall be eaten in one house; you shall not take any of the flesh outside the house, and you shall not break any of its bones.

⁴⁷ All the congregation of Israel shall keep it.

⁴⁸ If a stranger shall sojourn with you and would keep the Passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised. Then he may come near and keep it; he

shall be as a native of the land. But no uncircumcised person shall eat of it.

⁴⁹ There shall be one law for the native and for the stranger who sojourns among you."

⁵⁰ All the people of Israel did just as the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron.

⁵¹ And on that very day the LORD brought the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their hosts.

13 ¹ The LORD said to Moses,
² "Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine."

³ Then Moses said to the people, "Remember this day in which you came out from Egypt, out of the house of slavery, for by a strong hand the LORD brought you out from this place. No leavened bread shall be eaten.

⁴ Today, in the month of Abib, you are going out.

⁵ And when the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, which he swore to your fathers to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, 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 for seven days; no leavened bread shall be seen with you, and no leaven shall be seen with you in all your territory.

⁸ You shall tell your son on that day, 'It is because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt.'

⁹ And it shall be to you as a sign on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the law of the LORD may be in

your mouth. For with a strong hand the LORD has brought you out of Egypt.

¹⁰ You shall therefore keep this statute at its appointed time from year to year.

¹¹ "When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you,

¹² you shall set apart to the LORD all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the LORD's.

¹³ Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem.

¹⁴ And when in time to come your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' you shall say to him, 'By a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery.'

¹⁵ For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.'

¹⁶ It shall be as a mark on your hand or frontlets between your eyes, for by a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt."

¹⁷ When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near. For God said, "Lest the people change their minds when they see war and return to Egypt."

¹⁸ But God led the people around by the way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea. And the people of Israel went

up out of the land of Egypt equipped for battle.

¹⁹ Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for Joseph had made the sons of Israel solemnly swear, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones with you from here."

²⁰ And they moved on from Succoth and encamped at Etham, on the edge of the wilderness.

²¹ And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night.

²² The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.

14 ¹ Then the LORD said to Moses,
² "Tell the people of Israel to turn back and encamp in front of Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, in front of

Baal-zephon; you shall encamp facing it, by the sea.

³ For Pharaoh will say of the people of Israel, 'They are wandering in the land; the wilderness has shut them in.'

⁴ And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, and the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD." And they did so.

⁵ When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, the mind of Pharaoh and his servants was changed toward the people, and they said, "What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us?"

⁶ So he made ready his chariot and took his army with him,

⁷ and took six hundred chosen chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them.

⁸ And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the people of Israel while the people of Israel were going out defiantly.

⁹ The Egyptians pursued them, all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and his horsemen and his army, and overtook them encamped at the sea, by Pi-hahiroth, in front of Baal-zephon.

¹⁰ When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD.

¹¹ They said to Moses, "Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt?"

¹² Is not this what we said to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been

better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness."

¹³ And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again.

¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent."

¹⁵ The LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward.

¹⁶ Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground.

¹⁷ And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen.

¹⁸ And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen."

¹⁹ Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them,

²⁰ coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.

²² And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the

waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

²³ The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.

²⁴ And in the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic,

²⁵ clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, "Let us flee from before 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 water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen."

²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to

its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the LORD threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea.

²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained.

²⁹ But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

³⁰ Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.

³¹ Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

15 ¹ Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying, "I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.

² The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.

³ The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is his name.

⁴ "Pharaoh's chariots and his host he cast into the sea, and his chosen officers were sunk in the Red Sea.

⁵ The floods covered them; they went down into the depths like a stone.

⁶ Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power, your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.

⁷ In the greatness of your majesty you overthrow your adversaries; you send

out your fury; it consumes them like stubble.

⁸ At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up; the floods stood up in a heap; the deeps 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 have its fill of 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, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?

¹² You stretched out your right hand; the earth swallowed them.

¹³ "You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed;

you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode.

¹⁴ The peoples have heard; they tremble; pangs have seized the inhabitants of Philistia.

¹⁵ Now are the chiefs of Edom dismayed; trembling seizes the leaders of Moab; all the inhabitants of Canaan have melted away.

¹⁶ Terror and dread fall upon them; because of the greatness of your arm, they are still as a stone, till your people, O LORD, pass by, till the people pass by whom you have purchased.

¹⁷ You will bring them in and plant them on your own mountain, the place, O LORD, which you have made for your abode, the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have established.

¹⁸ The LORD will reign forever and ever."

¹⁹ For when the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought back the waters of the sea upon them, but the people of Israel walked on dry ground in the midst of the sea.

²⁰ Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and dancing.

²¹ And Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea."

²² Then Moses made Israel set out from the Red Sea, and they went into the wilderness of Shur. They went three days in the wilderness and found no water.

²³ When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter; therefore it was named Marah.

²⁴ And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?"

²⁵ And he cried to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a log, and he threw it into the water, and the water became sweet. There the LORD made for them a statute and a rule, and there he tested them,

²⁶ saying, "If you will diligently listen to the voice of the LORD your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, your healer."

²⁷ Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees, and they encamped there by the water.

16 ¹ They set out from Elim, and all the congregation of the people

of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt.

² And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness,

³ and the people of Israel said to them, "Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and 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 am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not.

⁵ On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily."

⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, "At evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt,

⁷ and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against the LORD. For what are we, that you grumble against us?"

⁸ And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the LORD has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him--what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the LORD."

⁹ Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the people of

Israel, 'Come near before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.'"

¹⁰ And as soon as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.

¹¹ And the LORD said to Moses,

¹² "I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'"

¹³ In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp.

¹⁴ And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground.

¹⁵ When the people 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, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.

¹⁶ This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer, according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent.'"

¹⁷ And the people of Israel did so. They gathered, some more, some less.

¹⁸ But when they measured it with an omer, whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack. Each of them gathered as much as he could eat.

¹⁹ And Moses said to them, "Let no one leave any of it over till the morning."

²⁰ But they did not listen to Moses. Some left part of it till the morning, and

it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them.

²¹ Morning by morning they gathered it, each as much as he could eat; but when the sun grew hot, it melted.

²² On the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers each. And when all the leaders of the congregation came and told Moses,

²³ he said to them, "This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Tomorrow is a day of solemn rest, a holy Sabbath to the LORD; bake what you will bake and boil what you will boil, and all that is left over lay aside to be kept till the morning.'"

²⁴ So they laid it aside till the morning, as Moses commanded them, and it did not stink, and there were no worms in it.

²⁵ Moses said, "Eat it 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 a Sabbath, there will be none."

²⁷ On the seventh day some of the people went out to gather, but they found none.

²⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, "How long will you refuse to keep my commandments and my laws?

²⁹ See! The LORD has given you the Sabbath; therefore on the sixth day he gives you bread for two days. Remain each of you in his place; let no one go out of his place on the seventh day."

³⁰ So the people rested on the seventh day.

³¹ Now the house of Israel called its name manna. It was like coriander seed, white, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.

³² Moses said, "This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Let an omer of it

be kept throughout your generations, so 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 jar, and put an omer of manna in it, and place it before the LORD to be kept throughout your generations."

³⁴ As the LORD commanded Moses, so Aaron placed it before the testimony to be kept.

³⁵ The people of Israel ate the manna forty years, till they came to a habitable land. They ate the manna till they came to the border of the land of Canaan.

³⁶ (An omer is the tenth part of an ephah.)

17 ¹ All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but

there was no water for the people to drink.

² Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?"

³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?"

⁴ So Moses cried to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me."

⁵ And the LORD said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go.

⁶ Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike

the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

⁷ And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

⁸ Then Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim.

⁹ So Moses said to Joshua, "Choose for us men, and go out and fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand."

¹⁰ So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

¹¹ Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed, and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed.

¹² But Moses' hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.

¹³ And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword.

¹⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this as a memorial in a book and recite it in the ears of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven."

¹⁵ And Moses built an altar and called the name of it, The LORD is my banner,

¹⁶ saying, "A hand upon the throne of the LORD! The LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation."

18 ¹ Jethro, the priest of Midian, Moses' father-in-law, heard of all that God had done for Moses and

for Israel his people, how the LORD had brought Israel out of Egypt.

² Now Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, had taken Zipporah, Moses' wife, after he had sent her home,

³ along with her two sons. The name of the one was Gershom (for he said, "I have been a sojourner in a foreign land"),

⁴ and the name of the other, Eliezer (for he said, "The God of my father was my help, and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh").

⁵ 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 And when he sent word to Moses, "I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you with your wife and her two sons with her,"

⁷ Moses went out to meet his father-in-law and bowed down and kissed him. And they asked each other of their welfare and went into the tent.

⁸ Then 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 in the way, and how the LORD had delivered them.

⁹ And Jethro rejoiced for all the good that the LORD had done to Israel, in that he had delivered them out of the hand of the Egyptians.

¹⁰ 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 has delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians.

¹¹ Now I know that the LORD is greater than all gods, because in this affair they dealt arrogantly with the people."

¹² And Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, brought a burnt offering and sacrifices to God; and Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat bread with Moses' father-in-law before God.

¹³ The next day Moses sat to judge the people, and the people stood around Moses from morning till evening.

¹⁴ When Moses' father-in-law saw all that he was doing for the people, he said, "What is this that you are doing for the people? Why do you sit alone, and all the people stand around you from morning till 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 dispute, they come to me and I decide between one person and another, and I make them know the statutes of God and his laws."

¹⁷ Moses' father-in-law said to him, "What you are doing is not good.

¹⁸ You and the people with you will certainly wear yourselves out, for the thing is too heavy for you. You are not able to do it alone.

¹⁹ Now obey my voice; I will give you advice, and God be with you! You shall represent the people before God and bring their cases to God,

²⁰ and you shall warn them about the statutes and the laws, and make them know the way in which they must walk and what they must do.

²¹ Moreover, look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens.

²² And let them judge the people at all times. Every great matter they shall

bring to you, but any small matter they shall decide themselves. So it will be easier for you, and they will bear the burden with you.

²³ If you do this, God will direct you, you will be able to endure, and all this people also will go to their place in peace."

²⁴ So Moses listened to the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said.

²⁵ Moses chose able men out of all Israel and made them heads over the people, chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens.

²⁶ And they judged the people at all times. Any hard case they brought to Moses, but any small matter they decided themselves.

²⁷ Then Moses let his father-in-law depart, and he went away to his own country.

19 ¹ On the third new moon after the people of Israel had gone out of

the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai.

² They set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, and they encamped in the wilderness. There Israel encamped before the mountain,

³ while Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel:

⁴ You yourselves 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, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, 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 that you shall speak to the people of Israel."

⁷ So Moses came and called the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him.

⁸ All the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do." And Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD.

⁹ And the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I am coming to you in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and may also believe you forever." When Moses told the words of the people to the LORD,

¹⁰ the LORD said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments

¹¹ and be ready for the third day. For on the third day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.

¹² And you shall set limits for the people all around, saying, 'Take care not to go up into the mountain or touch the edge of it. Whoever touches the mountain shall be put to death.

¹³ No hand shall touch him, but he shall be stoned or shot; whether beast or man, he shall not live.' When the trumpet sounds a long blast, they shall come up to the mountain."

¹⁴ So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and consecrated the people; and they washed their garments.

¹⁵ And he said to the people, "Be ready for the third day; do not go near a woman."

¹⁶ On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled.

¹⁷ Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain.

¹⁸ Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the LORD had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly.

¹⁹ And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder.

²⁰ The LORD came down on Mount Sinai, to 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 the LORD to look and many of them perish.

²² Also let the priests who come near to the LORD consecrate themselves, lest the LORD break out against them."

²³ And Moses said to the LORD, "The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai, for you yourself warned us, saying, 'Set limits around the mountain and consecrate it.'"

²⁴ And the LORD said to him, "Go down, and come up bringing 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 told 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 slavery.

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 or 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 the fourth generation of those who hate me,

⁶ but showing steadfast love to thousands of 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 a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your

daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates.

¹¹ For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹² "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that 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, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

¹⁸ Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off

¹⁹ and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die."

²⁰ Moses said to the people, "Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin."

²¹ The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

²² And the LORD said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the people of Israel: 'You have seen for yourselves that I have talked with you from heaven.

²³ You shall not make gods of silver to be with me, nor shall you make for yourselves gods of gold.

²⁴ An altar of earth you shall make for me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen. In every place where I cause my name to be remembered I will come to you and bless you.

²⁵ If you make me an altar of stone, you shall not build it of hewn stones, for if you wield your tool on it you profane it.

²⁶ And you shall not go up by steps to my altar, that your nakedness be not exposed on it.'

21 ¹ "Now these are the rules that you shall set before them.

² When you buy a Hebrew slave, he shall serve six years, and in the seventh he shall go out free, for nothing.

³ If he comes in single, he shall go out single; if he comes in married, then his wife shall go out with him.

⁴ If his master gives him a wife and she bears him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out alone.

⁵ But if the slave 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 God, and he shall bring him to the door or the doorpost. And his master shall bore his ear through with an awl, and he shall be his slave forever.

⁷ "When a man sells his daughter as a slave, she shall not go out as the male slaves do.

⁸ If she does not please her master, who has designated her for himself, then he shall let her be redeemed. He shall have

no right to sell her to a foreign people, since he has broken faith with her.

⁹ If he designates her for his son, he shall deal with her as with a daughter.

¹⁰ If he takes another wife to himself, he shall not diminish her food, her clothing, or her marital rights.

¹¹ And if he does not do these three things for her, she shall go out for nothing, without payment of money.

¹² "Whoever strikes a man so that he dies shall be put to death.

¹³ But if he did not lie in wait for him, but God let him fall into his hand, then I will appoint for you a place to which he may flee.

¹⁴ But if a man willfully attacks another to kill him by cunning, you shall take him from my altar, that he may die.

¹⁵ "Whoever strikes his father or his mother shall be put to death.

¹⁶ "Whoever steals a man and sells him, and anyone found in possession of him, shall be put to death.

¹⁷ "Whoever curses his father or his mother shall be put to death.

¹⁸ "When men quarrel and one strikes the other with a stone or with his fist and the man does not die but takes to his bed,

¹⁹ then if the man rises again and walks outdoors with his staff, he who struck him shall be clear; only he shall pay for the loss of his time, and shall have him thoroughly healed.

²⁰ "When a man strikes his slave, male or female, with a rod and the slave dies under his hand, he shall be avenged.

²¹ But if the slave survives a day or two, he is not to be avenged, for the slave is his money.

²² "When men strive together and hit a pregnant woman, so that her children

come out, but there is no harm, the one who hit her shall surely be fined, as the woman's husband shall impose on him, and he shall pay as the judges determine.

²³ But if there is harm, then you shall pay 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 "When a man strikes the eye of his slave, male or female, and destroys it, he shall let the slave go free because of his eye.

²⁷ If he knocks out the tooth of his slave, male or female, he shall let the slave go free because of his tooth.

²⁸ "When an ox gores a man or a woman to death, the ox shall be stoned, and its flesh shall not be eaten, but the owner of the ox shall not be liable.

²⁹ But if the ox has been accustomed to gore in the past, and its owner has been warned but has not kept it in, and it kills a man or a woman, the ox shall be stoned, and its owner also shall be put to death.

³⁰ If a ransom is imposed on him, then he shall give for the redemption of his life whatever is imposed on him.

³¹ If it gores a man's son or daughter, he shall be dealt with according to this same rule.

³² If the ox gores a slave, male or female, the owner shall give to their master thirty shekels of silver, and the ox shall be stoned.

³³ "When a man opens a pit, or when a man digs a pit and does not cover it, and an ox or a donkey falls into it,

³⁴ the owner of the pit shall make restoration. He shall give money to its owner, and the dead beast shall be his.

³⁵ "When one man's ox butts another's, so that it dies, then they shall sell the live ox and share its price, and the dead beast also they shall share.

³⁶ Or if it is known that the ox has been accustomed to gore in the past, and its owner has not kept it in, he shall repay ox for ox, and the dead beast shall be his.

22 ¹ "If a man steals an ox or a sheep, and kills it or sells it, he shall repay five oxen for an ox, and four sheep for a sheep.

² "If a thief is found breaking in and is struck so that he dies, there shall be no bloodguilt for him,

³ but if the sun has risen on him, there shall be bloodguilt for him. He shall surely pay. If he has nothing, then he shall be sold for his theft.

⁴ If the stolen beast is found alive in his possession, whether it is an ox or a donkey or a sheep, he shall pay double.

⁵ "If a man causes a field or vineyard to be grazed over, or lets his beast loose and it feeds in another man's field, he shall make restitution from the best in his own field and in his own vineyard.

⁶ "If fire breaks out and catches in thorns so that the stacked grain or the standing grain or the field is consumed, he who started the fire shall make full restitution.

⁷ "If a man gives to his neighbor money or goods to keep safe, and it is stolen from the man's house, then, if the thief is found, he shall pay double.

⁸ If the thief is not found, the owner of the house shall come near to God to show whether or not he has put his hand to his neighbor's property.

⁹ For every breach of trust, whether it is for an ox, for a donkey, for a sheep, for a cloak, or for any kind of lost thing, of which one says, 'This is it,' the case of both parties shall come before God. The one whom God condemns shall pay double to his neighbor.

¹⁰ "If a man gives to his neighbor a donkey or an ox or a sheep or any beast to keep safe, and it dies or is injured or is driven away, without anyone seeing it,

¹¹ an oath by the LORD shall be between them both to see whether or not he has put his hand to his neighbor's property. The owner shall accept the oath, and he shall not make restitution.

¹² But if it is stolen from him, he shall make restitution to its owner.

¹³ If it is torn by beasts, let him bring it as evidence. He shall not make restitution for what has been torn.

¹⁴ "If a man borrows anything of his neighbor, and it is injured or dies, the owner not being with it, he shall make full restitution.

¹⁵ If the owner was with it, he shall not make restitution; if it was hired, it came for its hiring fee.

¹⁶ "If a man seduces a virgin who is not engaged to be married and lies with her, he shall give the bride-price for her and make her his wife.

¹⁷ If her father utterly refuses to give her to him, he shall pay money equal to the bride-price for virgins.

¹⁸ "You shall not permit a sorceress to live.

¹⁹ "Whoever lies with an animal shall be put to death.

²⁰ "Whoever sacrifices to any god, other than the LORD alone, shall be devoted to destruction.

²¹ "You shall not wrong a sojourner or oppress him, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

²² You shall not mistreat any widow or fatherless child.

²³ If you do mistreat them, and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry,

²⁴ and my wrath will burn, and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives shall become widows and your children fatherless.

²⁵ "If you lend money to any of my people with you who is poor, you shall not be like a moneylender to him, and you shall not exact interest from him.

²⁶ If ever you take your neighbor's cloak in pledge, you shall return it to him before the sun goes down,

²⁷ for that is his only covering, and it is his cloak for his body; in what else shall he sleep? And if he cries to me, I will hear, for I am compassionate.

²⁸ "You shall not revile God, nor curse a ruler of your people.

²⁹ "You shall not delay to offer from the fullness of your harvest and from the outflow of your presses. The firstborn of your sons you shall give to me.

³⁰ You shall do the same with your oxen and with your sheep: seven days it shall be with its mother; on the eighth day you shall give it to me.

³¹ "You shall be consecrated to me. Therefore you shall not eat any flesh that is torn by beasts in the field; you shall throw it to the dogs.

23 ¹ "You shall not spread a false report. You shall not join hands with a wicked man to be a malicious witness.

² You shall not fall in with the many to do evil, nor shall you bear witness in a lawsuit, siding with the many, so as to pervert justice,

³ nor shall you be partial to a poor man in his lawsuit.

⁴ "If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey going astray, you shall bring it back to him.

⁵ If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying down under its burden, you shall refrain from leaving him with it; you shall rescue it with him.

⁶ "You shall not pervert the justice due to your poor in his lawsuit.

⁷ Keep far from a false charge, and do not kill the innocent and righteous, for I will not acquit the wicked.

⁸ And you shall take no bribe, for a bribe blinds the clear-sighted and subverts the cause of those who are in the right.

⁹ "You shall not oppress a sojourner. You know the heart of a sojourner, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

¹⁰ "For six years you shall sow your land and gather in its yield,

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. You shall do likewise with your vineyard, and with your olive orchard.

¹² "Six days you shall do your work, but on the seventh day you shall rest; that your ox and your donkey may have rest, and the son of your servant woman, and the alien, may be refreshed.

¹³ "Pay attention to all that I have said to you, and make no mention of the names of other gods, nor let it be heard on your lips.

¹⁴ "Three times in the year you shall keep a feast to me.

¹⁵ You shall keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread. As I commanded you, you shall eat unleavened bread for seven days at the appointed time in the month of Abib, for in it you came out

of Egypt. None shall appear before me empty-handed.

¹⁶ You shall keep the Feast of Harvest, of the firstfruits of your labor, of what you sow in the field. You shall keep the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in from the field the fruit of your labor.

¹⁷ Three times in the year shall all your males appear before the Lord GOD.

¹⁸ "You shall not offer the blood of my sacrifice with anything leavened, or let the fat of my feast remain until the morning.

¹⁹ "The best of the firstfruits of your ground 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 guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared.

²¹ Pay careful attention to him and obey his voice; do not rebel against him, for he will not pardon your transgression, for my name is in him.

²² "But if you carefully obey his voice and do all that I say, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.

²³ "When my angel goes before you and brings you to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, and I blot them out,

²⁴ you shall not bow down to their gods nor serve them, nor do as they do, but you shall utterly overthrow them and break their pillars in pieces.

²⁵ You shall serve the LORD your God, and he will bless your bread and your water, and I will take sickness away from among you.

²⁶ None shall miscarry or be barren in your land; I will fulfill the number of your days.

²⁷ I will send my terror before you and will throw into confusion all the people against whom you shall come, and I will make all your enemies turn their backs to you.

²⁸ And I will send hornets before you, which shall drive out the Hivites, the Canaanites, and the Hittites from before you.

²⁹ I will not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become desolate and the wild beasts multiply against you.

³⁰ Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have increased and possess the land.

³¹ And I will set your border from the Red Sea to the Sea of the Philistines, and from the wilderness to the Euphrates,

for I will give the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you shall drive them out before you.

³² You shall make no covenant with them and 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 Then 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 Moses alone shall come near to the LORD, but the others shall not come near, and the people shall not come up with him."

³ Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the rules. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do."

⁴ And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. 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 And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD.

⁶ And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar.

⁷ Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient."

⁸ And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."

⁹ Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up,

¹⁰ and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness.

¹¹ And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

¹² The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction."

¹³ So Moses rose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God.

¹⁴ And he said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you.

Whoever has a dispute, let him go to them."

¹⁵ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain.

¹⁶ The glory of the LORD dwelt 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 Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel.

¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

25 ¹ The LORD said to Moses,
² "Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for me a contribution. From every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for me.

³ And this is the contribution that you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze,

⁴ blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, goats' hair,

⁵ tanned rams' skins, goatskins, acacia wood,

⁶ oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense,

⁷ onyx stones, and stones for setting, for the ephod and for the breastpiece.

⁸ And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.

⁹ Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.

¹⁰ "They shall make an ark of acacia wood. Two cubits and a half shall be its length, a cubit and a half its breadth, and a cubit and a half its height.

¹¹ You shall overlay it with pure gold, inside and outside shall you overlay it, and you shall make on it a molding of gold around it.

¹² You shall cast four rings of gold for it and put them on its four feet, two rings on the one side of it, and two rings on the other side of it.

¹³ You shall make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold.

¹⁴ And you shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry the ark by them.

¹⁵ The poles shall remain in the rings of the ark; they shall not be taken from it.

¹⁶ And you shall put into the ark the testimony that I shall give you.

¹⁷ "You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold. Two cubits and a half shall be its length, and a cubit and a half its breadth.

¹⁸ And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work shall you make

them, on the two ends of the mercy seat.

¹⁹ Make one cherub on the one end, and one cherub on the other end. Of one piece with the mercy seat shall you make the cherubim on its two ends.

²⁰ The cherubim shall spread out their wings above, overshadowing the mercy seat with their wings, their faces one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubim be.

²¹ And you shall put the mercy seat on the top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the testimony that I shall give you.

²² There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the testimony, I will speak with you about all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel.

²³ "You shall make a table of acacia wood. Two cubits shall be its length, a cubit its breadth, and a cubit and a half its height.

²⁴ You shall overlay it with pure gold and make a molding of gold around it.

²⁵ And you shall make a rim around it a handbreadth wide, and a molding of gold around the rim.

²⁶ And you shall make for it four rings of gold, and fasten the rings to the four corners at its four legs.

²⁷ Close to the frame the rings shall lie, as holders for the poles to carry the table.

²⁸ You shall make the poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold, and the table shall be carried with these.

²⁹ And you shall make its plates and dishes for incense, and its flagons and bowls with which to pour drink offerings; you shall make them of pure gold.

³⁰ And you shall set the bread of the Presence on the table before me regularly.

³¹ "You shall make a lampstand of pure gold. The lampstand shall be made of hammered work: its base, its stem, its cups, its calyxes, and its flowers shall be of one piece with it.

³² And there shall be six branches going out of its sides, three branches of the lampstand out of one side of it and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side of it;

³³ three cups made like almond blossoms, each with calyx and flower, on one branch, and three cups made like almond blossoms, each with calyx and flower, on the other branch--so for the six branches going out of the lampstand.

³⁴ And on the lampstand itself there shall be four cups made like almond blossoms, with their calyxes and flowers,

³⁵ and a calyx of one piece with it under each pair of the six branches going out from the lampstand.

³⁶ Their calyxes and their branches shall be of one piece with it, the whole of it a single piece of hammered work of pure gold.

³⁷ You shall make seven lamps for it. And the lamps shall be set up so as to give light on the space in front of it.

³⁸ Its tongs and their trays shall be of pure gold.

³⁹ It shall be made, with all these utensils, out of a talent of pure gold.

⁴⁰ And see that you make them after the pattern for them, which is being shown you on the mountain.

26 ¹ "Moreover, you shall make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine twined linen and blue and purple and scarlet yarns; you shall make them

with cherubim skillfully worked into them.

² The length of each curtain shall be twenty-eight cubits, and the breadth of each curtain four cubits; all the curtains shall be the same size.

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 on the edge of the outermost curtain in the first set. Likewise you shall make loops on the edge of the outermost curtain in the second set.

⁵ Fifty loops you shall make on the one curtain, and fifty loops you shall make on the edge of the curtain that is in the second set; the loops shall be opposite one another.

⁶ And you shall make fifty clasps of gold, and couple the curtains one to the other

with the clasps, so that the tabernacle may be a single whole.

⁷ "You shall also make curtains of goats' hair for a tent over the tabernacle; eleven curtains shall you make.

⁸ The length of each curtain shall be thirty cubits, and the breadth of each curtain four cubits. The eleven curtains shall be the same size.

⁹ You shall couple five curtains by themselves, and six curtains by themselves, and the sixth curtain you shall double over at the front 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 that is outermost in the second set.

¹¹ "You shall make fifty clasps of bronze, and put the clasps into the loops, and couple the tent together that it may be a single whole.

¹² And the part that remains of the curtains of the tent, the half curtain that remains, shall hang over the back of the tabernacle.

¹³ And the extra that remains in the length of the curtains, the cubit on the one side, and the cubit on the other side, shall hang over the sides of the tabernacle, on this side and that side, to cover it.

¹⁴ And you shall make for the tent a covering of tanned rams' skins and a covering of goatskins on top.

¹⁵ "You shall make upright frames for the tabernacle of acacia wood.

¹⁶ Ten cubits shall be the length of a frame, and a cubit and a half the breadth of each frame.

¹⁷ There shall be two tenons in each frame, for fitting together. So shall you do for all the frames of the tabernacle.

¹⁸ You shall make the frames for the tabernacle: twenty frames for the south side;

¹⁹ and forty bases of silver you shall make under the twenty frames, two bases under one frame for its two tenons, and two bases under the next frame for its two tenons;

²⁰ and for the second side of the tabernacle, on the north side twenty frames,

²¹ and their forty bases of silver, two bases under one frame, and two bases under the next frame.

²² And for the rear of the tabernacle westward you shall make six frames.

²³ And you shall make two frames for corners of the tabernacle in the rear;

²⁴ they shall be separate beneath, but joined at the top, at the first ring. Thus shall it be with both of them; they shall form the two corners.

²⁵ And there shall be eight frames, with their bases of silver, sixteen bases; two bases under one frame, and two bases under another frame.

²⁶ "You shall make bars of acacia wood, five for the frames of the one side of the tabernacle,

²⁷ and five bars for the frames of the other side of the tabernacle, and five bars for the frames of the side of the tabernacle at the rear westward.

²⁸ The middle bar, halfway up the frames, shall run from end to end.

²⁹ You shall overlay the frames with gold and shall make their rings of gold for holders for the bars, and you shall overlay the bars with gold.

³⁰ Then you shall erect the tabernacle according to the plan for it that you were shown on the mountain.

³¹ "And you shall make a veil of blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine

twined linen. It shall be made with cherubim skillfully worked into it.

³² And you shall hang it on four pillars of acacia overlaid with gold, with hooks of gold, on four bases of silver.

³³ And you shall hang the veil from the clasps, and bring the ark of the testimony in there within the veil. And the veil shall separate for you the Holy Place from the Most Holy.

³⁴ You shall put the mercy seat on the ark of the testimony in the Most Holy Place.

³⁵ And you shall set the table outside the veil, and the lampstand on the south side of the tabernacle opposite the table, and you shall put the table on the north side.

³⁶ "You shall make a screen for the entrance of the tent, of blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, embroidered with needlework.

³⁷ And you shall make for the screen five pillars of acacia, and overlay them with gold. Their hooks shall be of gold, and you shall cast five bases of bronze for them.

27 ¹ "You shall make the altar of acacia wood, five cubits long and five cubits broad. The altar shall be square, and its height shall be three cubits.

² And you shall make horns for it on its four corners; its horns shall be of one piece with it, and you shall overlay it with bronze.

³ You shall make pots for it to receive its ashes, and shovels and basins and forks and fire pans. You shall make all its utensils of bronze.

⁴ You shall also make for it a grating, a network of bronze, and on the net you shall make four bronze rings at its four corners.

⁵ And you shall set it under the ledge of the altar so that the net extends halfway down the altar.

⁶ And you shall make poles for the altar, poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with bronze.

⁷ And the poles shall be put through the rings, so that the poles are on the two sides of the altar when it is carried.

⁸ You shall make it hollow, with boards. As it has been shown you on the mountain, so shall it be made.

⁹ "You shall make the court of the tabernacle. On the south side the court shall have hangings of fine twined linen a hundred cubits long for one side.

¹⁰ Its twenty pillars and their twenty bases shall be of bronze, but the hooks of the pillars and their fillets shall be of silver.

¹¹ And likewise for its length on the north side there shall be hangings a

hundred cubits long, its pillars twenty and their bases twenty, of bronze, but the hooks of the pillars and their fillets shall be of silver.

¹² And for the breadth of the court on the west side there shall be hangings for fifty cubits, with ten pillars and ten bases.

¹³ The breadth of the court on the front to the east shall be fifty cubits.

¹⁴ The hangings for the one side of the gate shall be fifteen cubits, with their three pillars and three bases.

¹⁵ On the other side the hangings shall be fifteen cubits, with their three pillars and three bases.

¹⁶ For the gate of the court there shall be a screen twenty cubits long, of blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, embroidered with needlework. It shall have four pillars and with them four bases.

¹⁷ All the pillars around the court shall be filleted with silver. Their hooks shall be of silver, and their bases of bronze.

¹⁸ The length of the court shall be a hundred cubits, the breadth fifty, and the height five cubits, with hangings of fine twined linen and bases of bronze.

¹⁹ All the utensils of the tabernacle for every use, and all its pegs and all the pegs of the court, shall be of bronze.

²⁰ "You shall command the people of Israel that they bring to you pure beaten olive oil for the light, that a lamp may regularly be set up to burn.

²¹ In the tent of meeting, outside the veil that is before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall tend it from evening to morning before the LORD. It shall be a statute forever to be observed throughout their generations by the people of Israel.

28 ¹ "Then bring near to you Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the people of Israel, to serve me as priests--Aaron and Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.

² And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty.

³ You shall speak to all the skillful, whom I have filled with a spirit of skill, that they make Aaron's garments to consecrate him for my priesthood.

⁴ These are the garments that they shall make: a breastpiece, an ephod, a robe, a coat of checker work, a turban, and a sash. They shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother and his sons to serve me as priests.

⁵ They shall receive gold, blue and purple and scarlet yarns, and fine twined linen.

⁶ "And they shall make the ephod of gold, of blue and purple and scarlet yarns, and of fine twined linen, skillfully worked.

⁷ It shall have two shoulder pieces attached to its two edges, so that it may be joined together.

⁸ And the skillfully woven band on it shall be made like it and be of one piece with it, of gold, blue and purple and scarlet yarns, and fine twined linen.

⁹ You shall take two onyx stones, and engrave on them the names of the sons of Israel,

¹⁰ six of their names on the one stone, and the names of the remaining six on the other stone, in the order of their birth.

¹¹ As a jeweler engraves signets, so shall you engrave the two stones with the names of the sons of Israel. You shall enclose them in settings of gold filigree.

¹² And you shall set the two stones on the shoulder pieces of the ephod, as stones of remembrance for the sons of Israel. And Aaron shall bear their names before the LORD on his two shoulders for remembrance.

¹³ You shall make settings of gold filigree,

¹⁴ and two chains of pure gold, twisted like cords; and you shall attach the corded chains to the settings.

¹⁵ "You shall make a breastpiece of judgment, in skilled work. In the style of the ephod you shall make it--of gold, blue and purple and scarlet yarns, and fine twined linen shall you make it.

¹⁶ It shall be square and doubled, a span its length and a span its breadth.

¹⁷ You shall set in it four rows of stones. A row of sardius, topaz, and carbuncle shall be the first row;

¹⁸ and the second row an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond;

¹⁹ and 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 filigree.

²¹ There shall be twelve stones with their names according to the names of the sons of Israel. They shall be like signets, each engraved with its name, for the twelve tribes.

²² You shall make for the breastpiece twisted chains like cords, of pure gold.

²³ And you shall make for the breastpiece two rings of gold, and put the two rings on the two edges of the breastpiece.

²⁴ And you shall put the two cords of gold in the two rings at the edges of the breastpiece.

²⁵ The two ends of the two cords you shall attach to the two settings of filigree, and so attach it in front to the shoulder pieces of the ephod.

²⁶ You shall make two rings of gold, and put them at the two ends of the breastpiece, on its inside edge next to the ephod.

²⁷ And you shall make two rings of gold, and attach them in front to the lower part of the two shoulder pieces of the ephod, at its seam above the skillfully woven band of the ephod.

²⁸ And they shall bind the breastpiece by its rings to the rings of the ephod with a lace of blue, so that it may lie on the skillfully woven band of the ephod, so that the breastpiece shall not come loose from the ephod.

²⁹ So Aaron shall bear the names of the sons of Israel in the breastpiece of judgment on his heart, when he goes

into the Holy Place, to bring them to regular remembrance before the LORD.

³⁰ And in the breastpiece of judgment you shall put the Urim and the Thummim, and they shall be on Aaron's heart, when he goes in before the LORD. Thus Aaron shall bear the judgment of the people of Israel on his heart before the LORD regularly.

³¹ "You shall make the robe of the ephod all of blue.

³² It shall have an opening for the head in the middle of it, with a woven binding around the opening, like the opening in a garment, so that it may not tear.

³³ On its hem you shall make pomegranates of blue and purple and scarlet yarns, around its hem, with bells of gold between them,

³⁴ a golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate, around the hem of the robe.

³⁵ And it shall be on Aaron when he ministers, and its sound shall be heard when he goes into the Holy Place before the LORD, and when he comes out, so that he does not die.

³⁶ "You shall make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it, like the engraving of a signet, 'Holy to the LORD.'

³⁷ And you shall fasten it on the turban by a cord of blue. It shall be on the front of the turban.

³⁸ It shall be on Aaron's forehead, and Aaron shall bear any guilt from the holy things that the people of Israel consecrate as their holy gifts. It shall regularly be on his forehead, that they may be accepted before the LORD.

³⁹ "You shall weave the coat in checker work of fine linen, and you shall make a turban of fine linen, and you shall make a sash embroidered with needlework.

⁴⁰ "For Aaron's sons you shall make coats and sashes and caps. You shall make them for glory and beauty.

⁴¹ And you shall put them on Aaron your brother, and on his sons with him, and shall anoint them and ordain them and consecrate them, that they may serve me as priests.

⁴² You shall make for them linen undergarments to cover their naked flesh. They shall reach from the hips to the thighs;

⁴³ and they shall be on Aaron and on his sons when they go into the tent of meeting or when they come near the altar to minister in the Holy Place, lest they bear guilt and die. This shall be a statute forever for him and for his offspring after him.

29 ¹ "Now this is what you shall do to them to consecrate them, that they may serve me as priests. Take one

bull of the herd and two rams without blemish,

² and unleavened bread, unleavened cakes mixed with oil, and unleavened wafers smeared with oil. You shall make them of fine wheat flour.

³ You shall put them in one basket and bring them in the basket, and bring the bull and the two rams.

⁴ You shall bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance of the tent of meeting and wash them with water.

⁵ Then you shall take the garments, and put on Aaron the coat and the robe of the ephod, and the ephod, and the breastpiece, and gird him with the skillfully woven band of the ephod.

⁶ And you shall set the turban on his head and put the holy crown on the turban.

⁷ You shall take the anointing oil and pour it on his head and anoint him.

⁸ Then you shall bring his sons and put coats on them,

⁹ and you shall gird Aaron and his sons with sashes and bind caps on them.

And the priesthood shall be theirs by a statute forever. Thus you shall ordain Aaron and his sons.

¹⁰ "Then you shall bring the bull before the tent of meeting. Aaron and his sons shall lay their hands on the head of the bull.

¹¹ Then you shall kill the bull before the LORD at the entrance of the tent of meeting,

¹² and shall take part of the blood of the bull and put it on the horns of the altar with your finger, and the rest of the blood you shall pour out at the base of the altar.

¹³ And you shall take all the fat that covers the entrails, and the long lobe of the liver, and the two kidneys with the

fat that is on them, and burn them on the altar.

¹⁴ But the flesh of the bull and its skin and its dung you shall burn with fire outside the camp; it is a sin offering.

¹⁵ "Then you shall take one of the rams, and Aaron and his sons shall lay their hands on the head of the ram,

¹⁶ and you shall kill the ram and shall take its blood and throw it against the sides of the altar.

¹⁷ Then you shall cut the ram into pieces, and wash its entrails and its legs, and put them with its pieces and its head,

¹⁸ and burn the whole ram on the altar. It is a burnt offering to the LORD. It is a pleasing aroma, a food offering to the LORD.

¹⁹ "You shall take the other ram, and Aaron and his sons shall lay their hands on the head of the ram,

²⁰ and you shall kill the ram and take part of its blood and put it on the tip of the right ear of Aaron and on the tips of the right ears of his sons, and on the thumbs of their right hands and on the great toes of their right feet, and throw the rest of the blood against the sides of the altar.

²¹ Then you shall take part of the blood that is on the altar, and of the anointing oil, and sprinkle it on Aaron and his garments, and on his sons and his sons' garments with him. He and his garments shall be holy, and his sons and his sons' garments with him.

²² "You shall also take the fat from the ram and the fat tail and the fat that covers the entrails, and the long lobe of the liver and the two kidneys with the fat that is on them, and the right thigh (for it is a ram of ordination),

²³ and one loaf of bread and one cake of bread made with oil, and one wafer out of the basket of unleavened bread that is before the LORD.

²⁴ You shall put all these on the palms of Aaron and on the palms of his sons, and wave them for a wave offering before the LORD.

²⁵ Then you shall take them from their hands and burn them on the altar on top of the burnt offering, as a pleasing aroma before the LORD. It is a food offering to the LORD.

²⁶ "You shall take the breast of the ram of Aaron's ordination and wave it for a wave offering before the LORD, and it shall be your portion.

²⁷ And you shall consecrate the breast of the wave offering that is waved and the thigh of the priests' portion that is contributed from the ram of ordination, from what was Aaron's and his sons.

²⁸ It shall be for Aaron and his sons as a perpetual due from the people of Israel, for it is a contribution. It shall be a contribution from the people of Israel from their peace offerings, their contribution to the LORD.

²⁹ "The holy garments of Aaron shall be for his sons after him; they shall be anointed in them and ordained in them.

³⁰ The son who succeeds him as priest, who comes into the tent of meeting to minister in the Holy Place, shall wear them seven days.

³¹ "You shall take the ram of ordination and boil its flesh in a holy place.

³² And Aaron and his sons shall eat the flesh of the ram and the bread that is in the basket in the entrance of the tent of meeting.

³³ They shall eat those things with which atonement was made at their ordination and consecration, but an

outsider shall not eat of them, because they are holy.

³⁴ And if any of the flesh for the ordination or of the bread remain 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 to his sons, according to all that I have commanded you. Through seven days shall you ordain them,

³⁶ and every day you shall offer a bull as a sin offering for atonement. Also you shall purify the altar, when you make atonement for it, and shall anoint it to consecrate it.

³⁷ Seven days you shall make atonement for the altar and consecrate it, and the altar shall be most holy. Whatever touches the altar shall become holy.

³⁸ "Now this is what you shall offer on the altar: two lambs a year old day by day regularly.

³⁹ One lamb you shall offer in the morning, and the other lamb you shall offer at twilight.

⁴⁰ And with the first lamb a tenth seah of fine flour mingled with a fourth of a hin of beaten oil, and a fourth of a hin of wine for a drink offering.

⁴¹ The other lamb you shall offer at twilight, and shall offer with it a grain offering and its drink offering, as in the morning, for a pleasing aroma, a food offering to the LORD.

⁴² It shall be a regular burnt offering throughout your generations at the entrance of the tent of meeting before the LORD, where I will meet with you, to speak to you there.

⁴³ There I will meet with the people of Israel, and it shall be sanctified by my glory.

⁴⁴ I will consecrate the tent of meeting and the altar. Aaron also and his sons I will consecrate to serve me as priests.

⁴⁵ I will dwell among the people of Israel and will be their God.

⁴⁶ And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt that I might dwell among them. I am the LORD their God.

30 ¹ "You shall make an altar on which to burn incense; you shall make it of acacia wood.

² A cubit shall be its length, and a cubit its breadth. It shall be square, and two cubits shall be its height. Its horns shall be of one piece with it.

³ You shall overlay it with pure gold, its top and around its sides and its horns.

And you shall make a molding of gold around it.

⁴ And you shall make two golden rings for it. Under its molding on two opposite sides of it you shall make them, and they shall be holders for poles with which to carry it.

⁵ You shall make the poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold.

⁶ And you shall put it in front of the veil that is above the ark of the testimony, in front of the mercy seat that is above the testimony, where I will meet with you.

⁷ And Aaron shall burn fragrant incense on it. Every morning when he dresses the lamps he shall burn it,

⁸ and when Aaron sets up the lamps at twilight, he shall burn it, a regular incense offering before the LORD throughout your generations.

⁹ You shall not offer unauthorized incense on it, or a burnt offering, or a

grain offering, and you shall not pour a drink offering on it.

¹⁰ Aaron shall make atonement on its horns once a year. With the blood of the sin offering of atonement he shall make atonement for it once in the year throughout your generations. It is most holy to the LORD."

¹¹ The LORD said to Moses,

¹² "When you take the census of the people of Israel, then each shall give a ransom for his life to the LORD when you number them, that there be no plague among them when you number them.

¹³ Each one who is numbered in the census shall give this: half a shekel according to the shekel of the sanctuary (the shekel is twenty gerahs), half a shekel as an offering to the LORD.

¹⁴ Everyone who is numbered in the census, from twenty years old and upward, shall give the LORD's offering.

¹⁵ The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less, than the half shekel, when you give the LORD's offering to make atonement for your lives.

¹⁶ You shall take the atonement money from the people of Israel and shall give it for the service of the tent of meeting, that it may bring the people of Israel to remembrance before the LORD, so as to make atonement for your lives."

¹⁷ The LORD said to Moses,

¹⁸ "You shall also make a basin of bronze, with its stand of bronze, for washing. You shall put it between the tent of meeting and the altar, and you shall put water in it,

¹⁹ with which Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet.

²⁰ When they go into the tent of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister, to burn a food offering

to the LORD, they shall wash with water, so that they may not die.

²¹ They shall wash their hands and their feet, so that they may not die. It shall be a statute forever to them, even to him and to his offspring throughout their generations."

²² The LORD said to Moses,

²³ "Take the finest spices: of liquid myrrh 500 shekels, and of sweet-smelling cinnamon half as much, that is, 250, and 250 of aromatic cane,

²⁴ and 500 of cassia, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, and a hin of olive oil.

²⁵ And you shall make of these a sacred anointing oil blended as by the perfumer; it shall be a holy anointing oil.

²⁶ With it you shall anoint the tent of meeting and the ark of the testimony,

²⁷ and the table and all its utensils, and the lampstand and its utensils, and the altar of incense,

²⁸ and the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils and the basin and its stand.

²⁹ You shall consecrate them, that they may be most holy. Whatever touches them will become holy.

³⁰ You shall anoint Aaron and his sons, and consecrate them, that they may serve me as priests.

³¹ And you shall say to the people of Israel, 'This shall be my holy anointing oil throughout your generations.

³² It shall not be poured on the body of an ordinary person, and you shall make no other like it in 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 The LORD said to Moses, "Take sweet spices, stacte, and onycha, and galbanum, sweet spices with pure frankincense (of each shall there be an equal part),

³⁵ and make an incense blended as by the perfumer, seasoned with salt, pure and holy.

³⁶ You shall beat some of it very small, and put part of it before the testimony in the tent of meeting where I shall meet with you. It shall be most holy for you.

³⁷ And the incense that you shall make according to its composition, you shall not make for yourselves. It shall be for you holy to the LORD.

³⁸ Whoever makes any like it to use as perfume shall be cut off from his people."

31 ¹ The LORD said to Moses,
² "See, I have called by name
Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the
tribe of Judah,
³ and I have filled him with the Spirit of
God, with ability and intelligence, with
knowledge and all craftsmanship,
⁴ to devise artistic designs, to work in
gold, silver, and bronze,
⁵ in cutting stones for setting, and in
carving wood, to work in every craft.
⁶ And behold, I have appointed with
him Oholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of
the tribe of Dan. And I have given to all
able men ability, that they may make all
that I have commanded you:
⁷ the tent of meeting, and the ark of the
testimony, and the mercy seat that is on
it, and all the furnishings of the tent,
⁸ the table and its utensils, and the pure
lampstand with all its utensils, and the
altar of incense,

⁹ and the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the basin and its stand,

¹⁰ and the finely worked garments, the holy garments for Aaron the priest and the garments of his sons, for their service as priests,

¹¹ and the anointing oil and the fragrant incense for the Holy Place. According to all that I have commanded you, they shall do."

¹² And the LORD said to Moses,

¹³ "You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, 'Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, the LORD, sanctify you.

¹⁴ You shall keep the Sabbath, because it is holy for you. Everyone who profanes it shall be put to death. Whoever does any work on it, that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

¹⁵ Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day shall be put to death.

¹⁶ Therefore the people of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, observing the Sabbath throughout their generations, as a covenant forever.

¹⁷ It is a sign forever between me and the people of Israel that in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.'"

¹⁸ And he gave to Moses, when he had finished speaking with him on Mount Sinai, the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.

32 ¹ When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered

themselves together to Aaron and said to him, "Up, make us gods who shall go before us. 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 So Aaron said to them, "Take off the rings of gold that are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me."

³ So all the people took off the rings of gold that were in their ears and brought them to Aaron.

⁴ And he received the gold from their hand and fashioned it with a graving tool and made a golden calf. And they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!"

⁵ When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made proclamation

and said, "Tomorrow shall be a feast to the LORD."

⁶ And they rose up early the next day and 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 down, for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves.

⁸ They have turned aside quickly out of the way that I commanded them. They have made for themselves a golden calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'"

⁹ And the LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, 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, in order that I may make a great nation of you."

¹¹ But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, "O 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 say, 'With evil intent did he bring them out, to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your burning anger and relent from this disaster against 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 offspring as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have

promised I will give to your offspring, and they shall inherit it forever."

¹⁴ And the LORD relented from the disaster that he had spoken of bringing on his people.

¹⁵ Then Moses turned and went down from the mountain with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand, tablets that were written on both sides; on the front and on the back they were written.

¹⁶ The tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets.

¹⁷ 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 sound of shouting for victory, or the sound of the cry of defeat, but the sound of singing that I hear."

¹⁹ And as soon as he came near the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, Moses' anger burned hot, and he threw the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain.

²⁰ He took the calf that they had made and burned it with fire and ground it to powder and scattered it on the water and made the people of Israel drink it.

²¹ And Moses said to Aaron, "What did this people do to you that you have brought such a great sin upon them?"

²² And Aaron said, "Let not the anger of my lord burn hot. You know the people, that they are set on evil.

²³ For they said to me, 'Make us gods who shall go before us. 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.'

²⁴ So I said to them, 'Let any who have gold take it off.' So they gave it to me,

and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf."

²⁵ And when Moses saw that the people had broken loose (for Aaron had let them break loose, to the derision of their enemies),

²⁶ then Moses stood in the gate of the camp and said, "Who is on the LORD's side? Come to me." And all the sons of Levi gathered around him.

²⁷ And he said to them, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel, 'Put your sword on your side each of you, and go to and fro from gate to gate throughout the camp, and each of you kill his brother and his companion and his neighbor.'"

²⁸ And the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And that day about three thousand men of the people fell.

²⁹ And Moses said, "Today you have been ordained for the service of the LORD, each one at the cost of his son and

of his brother, so that he might bestow a blessing upon you this day."

³⁰ The next day Moses said to the people, "You have sinned a great sin. And now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin."

³¹ So Moses returned to the LORD and said, "Alas, this people have sinned a great sin. They have made for themselves gods of gold.

³² But now, if you will forgive their sin--but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written."

³³ But the LORD said to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against me, I will blot out of my book.

³⁴ But now go, lead the people to the place about which I have spoken to you; behold, my angel shall go before you. Nevertheless, in the day when I visit, I will visit their sin upon them."

³⁵ Then the LORD sent a plague on the people, because they made the calf, the one that Aaron made.

33 ¹ The LORD said to Moses, "Depart; go up from here, you and the people whom you have brought up out of the land of Egypt, to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'To your offspring I will give it.'"

² I will send an angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanites, the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

³ Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; but I will not go up among you, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people."

⁴ When the people heard this disastrous word, they mourned, and no one put on his ornaments.

⁵ For the LORD had said to Moses, "Say to the people of Israel, 'You are a stiff-necked people; if for a single moment I should go up among you, I would consume you. So now take off your ornaments, that I may know what to do with you.'"

⁶ Therefore the people of Israel stripped themselves of their ornaments, from Mount Horeb onward.

⁷ Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp.

⁸ Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise up, and each would stand at his tent door, and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent.

⁹ When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the LORD would speak with Moses.

¹⁰ And when all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise up and worship, each at his tent door.

¹¹ Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses turned again into the camp, his assistant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent.

¹² 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 favor in my sight.'

¹³ Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your

ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people."

¹⁴ And he said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

¹⁵ And he said to him, "If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here.

¹⁶ For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?"

¹⁷ And the LORD said to Moses, "This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name."

¹⁸ Moses said, "Please show me your glory."

¹⁹ And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will

proclaim before you my name 'The LORD.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.

²⁰ But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live."

²¹ And the LORD said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock,

²² and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by.

²³ Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen."

34 ¹ The LORD said to Moses, "Cut for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke.

² Be ready by the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself there to me on the top of the mountain.

³ No one shall come up with you, and let no one be seen throughout all the mountain. Let no flocks or herds graze opposite that mountain."

⁴ So Moses cut two tablets of stone like the first. And he rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and took in his hand two tablets of stone.

⁵ The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD.

⁶ The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,

⁷ keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

⁸ And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped.

⁹ And he said, "If now I have found favor in your sight, O Lord, please let the Lord go in the midst of us, for it is a stiff-necked people, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance."

¹⁰ And he said, "Behold, I am making a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels, such as have not been created in all the earth or 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 will drive out before you the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

¹² Take care, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land to which you go, lest it become a snare in your midst.

¹³ You shall tear down their altars and break their pillars and cut down their Asherim

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 when they whore after their gods and sacrifice to their gods and you are invited, you eat of his sacrifice,

¹⁶ and you take of their daughters for your sons, and their daughters whore

after their gods and make your sons
whore after their gods.

¹⁷ "You shall not make for yourself any
gods of cast metal.

¹⁸ "You shall keep the Feast of
Unleavened Bread. Seven days you shall
eat unleavened bread, as I commanded
you, at the time appointed in the month
Abib, for in the month Abib you came
out from Egypt.

¹⁹ All that open the womb are mine, all
your male livestock, the firstborn of cow
and sheep.

²⁰ The firstborn of a donkey you shall
redeem with a lamb, or if you will not
redeem it you shall break its 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 You shall observe the Feast of Weeks, the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the year's end.

²³ Three times in the year shall all your males appear before the LORD God, the God of Israel.

²⁴ For I will cast out nations before you and enlarge your borders; no one shall 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 anything leavened, or let the sacrifice of the Feast of the Passover remain until the morning.

²⁶ The best of the firstfruits of your ground you shall bring to the house of the LORD your God. You shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk."

²⁷ And the LORD said to Moses, "Write these words, for in accordance with

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 When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God.

³⁰ Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, and behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him.

³¹ But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses talked with them.

³² Afterward all the people of Israel came near, and he commanded them all that the LORD had spoken with him in Mount Sinai.

³³ And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face.

³⁴ Whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would remove the veil, until he came out. And when he came out and told the people of Israel what he was commanded,

³⁵ the people of Israel would see the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face was shining. And Moses would put the veil over his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

35 ¹ Moses assembled all the congregation of the people of Israel and said to them, "These are the things that the LORD has commanded you to do.

² Six days work shall be done, but on the seventh day you shall have a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on it shall be put to death.

³ You shall kindle no fire in all your dwelling places on the Sabbath day."

⁴ Moses said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, "This is the thing that the LORD has commanded.

⁵ Take from among you a contribution to the LORD. Whoever is of a generous heart, let him bring the LORD's contribution: gold, silver, and bronze;

⁶ blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen; goats' hair,

⁷ tanned rams' skins, and goatskins; acacia wood,

⁸ oil for the light, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense,

⁹ and onyx stones and stones for setting, for the ephod and for the breastpiece.

¹⁰ "Let every skillful craftsman among you come and make all that the LORD has commanded:

¹¹ the tabernacle, its tent and its covering, its hooks and its frames, its bars, its pillars, and its bases;

¹² the ark with its poles, the mercy seat, and the veil of the screen;

¹³ the table with its poles and all its utensils, and the bread of the Presence;

¹⁴ the lampstand also for the light, with its utensils and its lamps, and the oil for the light;

¹⁵ and the altar of incense, with its poles, and the anointing oil and the fragrant incense, and the screen for the door, at the door of the tabernacle;

¹⁶ the altar of burnt offering, with its grating of bronze, its poles, and all its utensils, the basin and its stand;

¹⁷ the hangings of the court, its pillars and its bases, and the screen for the gate of the court;

¹⁸ the pegs of the tabernacle and the pegs of the court, and their cords;

¹⁹ the finely worked garments for ministering in the Holy Place, the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons, for their service as priests."

²⁰ Then all the congregation of the people of Israel departed from the presence of Moses.

²¹ And they came, everyone whose heart stirred him, and everyone whose spirit moved him, and brought the LORD's contribution to be used for the tent of meeting, and for all its service, and for the holy garments.

²² So they came, both men and women. All who were of a willing heart brought brooches and earrings and signet rings

and armlets, all sorts of gold objects, every man dedicating an offering of gold to the LORD.

²³ And every one who possessed blue or purple or scarlet yarns or fine linen or goats' hair or tanned rams' skins or goatskins brought them.

²⁴ Everyone who could make a contribution of silver or bronze brought it as the LORD's contribution. And every one who possessed acacia wood of any use in the work brought it.

²⁵ And every skillful woman spun with her hands, and they all brought what they had spun in blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen.

²⁶ All the women whose hearts stirred them to use their skill spun the goats' hair.

²⁷ And the leaders brought onyx stones and stones to be set, for the ephod and for the breastpiece,

²⁸ and spices and oil for the light, and for the anointing oil, and for the fragrant incense.

²⁹ All the men and women, the people of Israel, whose heart moved them to bring anything for the work that the LORD had commanded by Moses to be done brought it as a freewill offering to the LORD.

³⁰ Then Moses said to the people of Israel, "See, the LORD has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah;

³¹ and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship,

³² to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze,

³³ in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft.

³⁴ And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan.

³⁵ He has filled them with skill to do every sort of work done by an engraver or by a designer or by an embroiderer in blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, or by a weaver--by any sort of workman or skilled designer.

36 ¹ "Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whom the LORD has put skill and intelligence to know how to do any work in the construction of the sanctuary shall work in accordance with all that the LORD has commanded."

² And Moses called Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whose mind the LORD had put skill, everyone whose heart stirred him up to come to do the work.

³ And they received from Moses all the contribution that the people of Israel

had brought for doing the work on the sanctuary. They still kept bringing him freewill offerings every morning,

⁴ so that all the craftsmen who were doing every sort of task on the sanctuary came, each from the task that he was doing,

⁵ and said to Moses, "The people bring much more than enough for doing the work that the LORD has commanded us to do."

⁶ So Moses gave command, and word was proclaimed throughout the camp, "Let no man or woman do anything more for the contribution for the sanctuary." So the people were restrained from bringing,

⁷ for the material they had was sufficient to do all the work, and more.

⁸ And all the craftsmen among the workmen made the tabernacle with ten curtains. They were made of fine twined

linen and blue and purple and scarlet yarns, with cherubim skillfully worked.

⁹ The length of each curtain was twenty-eight cubits, and the breadth of each curtain four cubits. All the curtains were the same size.

¹⁰ He coupled five curtains to one another, and the other five curtains he coupled to one another.

¹¹ He made loops of blue on the edge of the outermost curtain of the first set. Likewise he made them on the edge of the outermost curtain of the second set.

¹² He made fifty loops on the one curtain, and he made fifty loops on the edge of the curtain that was in the second set. The loops were opposite one another.

¹³ And he made fifty clasps of gold, and coupled the curtains one to the other with clasps. So the tabernacle was a single whole.

¹⁴ He also made curtains of goats' hair for a tent over the tabernacle. He made eleven curtains.

¹⁵ The length of each curtain was thirty cubits, and the breadth 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 outermost curtain of the one set, and fifty loops on the edge of the other connecting curtain.

¹⁸ And he made fifty clasps of bronze to couple the tent together that it might be a single whole.

¹⁹ And he made for the tent a covering of tanned rams' skins and goatskins.

²⁰ Then he made the upright frames for the tabernacle of acacia wood.

²¹ Ten cubits was the length of a frame, and a cubit and a half the breadth of each frame.

²² Each frame had two tenons for fitting together. He did this for all the frames of the tabernacle.

²³ The frames for the tabernacle he made thus: twenty frames for the south side.

²⁴ And he made forty bases of silver under the twenty frames, two bases under one frame for its two tenons, and two bases under the next frame for its two tenons.

²⁵ For the second side of the tabernacle, on the north side, he made twenty frames

²⁶ and their forty bases of silver, two bases under one frame and two bases under the next frame.

²⁷ For the rear of the tabernacle westward he made six frames.

²⁸ He made two frames for corners of the tabernacle in the rear.

²⁹ And they were separate beneath but joined at the top, at the first ring. He made two of them this way for the two corners.

³⁰ There were eight frames with their bases of silver: sixteen bases, under every frame two bases.

³¹ He made bars of acacia wood, five for the frames of the one side of the tabernacle,

³² and five bars for the frames of the other side of the tabernacle, and five bars for the frames of the tabernacle at the rear westward.

³³ And he made the middle bar to run from end to end halfway up the frames.

³⁴ And he overlaid the frames with gold, and made their rings of gold for holders for the bars, and overlaid the bars with gold.

³⁵ He made the veil of blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen; with cherubim skillfully worked into it he made it.

³⁶ And for it he made four pillars of acacia and overlaid them with gold. Their hooks were of gold, and he cast for them four bases of silver.

³⁷ He also made a screen for the entrance of the tent, of blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, embroidered with needlework,

³⁸ and its five pillars with their hooks. He overlaid their capitals, and their fillets were of gold, but their five bases were of bronze.

37¹ Bezalel made the ark of acacia wood. Two cubits and a half was its length, a cubit and a half its breadth, and a cubit and a half its height.

² And he overlaid it with pure gold inside and outside, and made a molding of gold around it.

³ And he cast for it four rings of gold for its four feet, two rings on its one side and two rings on its other side.

⁴ And he made poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold

⁵ and put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry the ark.

⁶ And he made a mercy seat of pure gold. Two cubits and a half was its length, and a cubit and a half its breadth.

⁷ And he made two cherubim of gold. He made them of hammered work on the two ends of the mercy seat,

⁸ one cherub on the one end, and one cherub on the other end. Of one piece with the mercy seat he made the cherubim on its two ends.

⁹ The cherubim spread out their wings above, overshadowing the mercy seat

with their wings, with their faces one to another; toward the mercy seat were the faces of the cherubim.

¹⁰ He also made the table of acacia wood. Two cubits was its length, a cubit its breadth, and a cubit and a half its height.

¹¹ And he overlaid it with pure gold, and made a molding of gold around it.

¹² And he made a rim around it a handbreadth wide, and made a molding of gold around the rim.

¹³ He cast for it four rings of gold and fastened the rings to the four corners at its four legs.

¹⁴ Close to the frame were the rings, as holders for the poles to carry the table.

¹⁵ He made the poles of acacia wood to carry the table, and overlaid them with gold.

¹⁶ And he made the vessels of pure gold that were to be on the table, its plates

and dishes for incense, and its bowls and flagons with which to pour drink offerings.

¹⁷ He also made the lampstand of pure gold. He made the lampstand of hammered work. Its base, its stem, its cups, its calyxes, and its flowers were of one piece with it.

¹⁸ And there were six branches going out of its sides, three branches of the lampstand out of one side of it and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side of it;

¹⁹ three cups made like almond blossoms, each with calyx and flower, on one branch, and three cups made like almond blossoms, each with calyx and flower, on the other branch--so for the six branches going out of the lampstand.

²⁰ And on the lampstand itself were four cups made like almond blossoms, with their calyxes and flowers,

²¹ and a calyx of one piece with it under each pair of the six branches going out of it.

²² Their calyxes and their branches were of one piece with it. The whole of it was a single piece of hammered work of pure gold.

²³ And he made its seven lamps and its tongs and its trays of pure gold.

²⁴ He made it and all its utensils out of a talent of pure gold.

²⁵ He made the altar of incense of acacia wood. Its length was a cubit, and its breadth was a cubit. It was square, and two cubits was its height. Its horns were of one piece with it.

²⁶ He overlaid it with pure gold, its top and around its sides and its horns. And he made a molding of gold around it,

²⁷ and made two rings of gold on it under its molding, on two opposite sides

of it, as holders for the poles with which to carry it.

²⁸ And he made the poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold.

²⁹ He made the holy anointing oil also, and the pure fragrant incense, blended as by the perfumer.

38 ¹ He made the altar of burnt offering of acacia wood. Five cubits was its length, and five cubits its breadth. It was square, and three cubits was its height.

² He made horns for it on its four corners. Its horns were of one piece with it, and he overlaid it with bronze.

³ And he made all the utensils of the altar, the pots, the shovels, the basins, the forks, and the fire pans. He made all its utensils of bronze.

⁴ And he made for the altar a grating, a network of bronze, under its ledge, extending halfway down.

⁵ He cast four rings on the four corners of the bronze grating as holders for the poles.

⁶ He made the poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with bronze.

⁷ And he put the poles through the rings on the sides of the altar to carry it with them. He made it hollow, with boards.

⁸ He made the basin of bronze and its stand of bronze, from the mirrors of the ministering women who ministered in the entrance of the tent of meeting.

⁹ And he made the court. For the south side the hangings of the court were of fine twined linen, a hundred cubits;

¹⁰ their twenty pillars and their twenty bases were of bronze, but the hooks of the pillars and their fillets were of silver.

¹¹ And for the north side there were hangings of a hundred cubits, their twenty pillars, their twenty bases were

of bronze, but the hooks of the pillars and their fillets were of silver.

¹² And for the west side were hangings of fifty cubits, their ten pillars, and their ten bases; the hooks of the pillars and their fillets were of silver.

¹³ And for the front to the east, fifty cubits.

¹⁴ The hangings for one side of the gate were fifteen cubits, with their three pillars and three bases.

¹⁵ And so for the other side. On both sides of the gate of the court were hangings of fifteen cubits, with their three pillars and their three bases.

¹⁶ All the hangings around the court were of fine twined linen.

¹⁷ And the bases for the pillars were of bronze, but the hooks of the pillars and their fillets were of silver. The overlaying of their capitals was also of silver, and all

the pillars of the court were filleted with silver.

¹⁸ And the screen for the gate of the court was embroidered with needlework in blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen. It was twenty cubits long and five cubits high in its breadth, corresponding to the hangings of the court.

¹⁹ And their pillars were four in number. Their four bases were of bronze, their hooks of silver, and the overlaying of their capitals and their fillets of silver.

²⁰ And all the pegs for the tabernacle and for the court all around were of bronze.

²¹ These are the records of the tabernacle, the tabernacle of the testimony, as they were recorded at the commandment of Moses, the responsibility of the Levites under the

direction of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.

²² Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, made all that the LORD commanded Moses;

²³ and with him was Oholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, an engraver and designer and embroiderer in blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen.

²⁴ All the gold that was used for the work, in all the construction of the sanctuary, the gold from the offering, was twenty-nine talents and 730 shekels, by the shekel of the sanctuary.

²⁵ The silver from those of the congregation who were recorded was a hundred talents and 1,775 shekels, by the shekel of the sanctuary:

²⁶ a beka a head (that is, half a shekel, by the shekel of the sanctuary), for everyone who was listed in the records,

from twenty years old and upward, for 603,550 men.

²⁷ The hundred talents of silver were for casting the bases of the sanctuary and the bases of the veil; a hundred bases for the hundred talents, a talent a base.

²⁸ And of the 1,775 shekels he made hooks for the pillars and overlaid their capitals and made fillets for them.

²⁹ The bronze that was offered was seventy talents and 2,400 shekels;

³⁰ with it he made the bases for the entrance of the tent of meeting, the bronze altar and the bronze grating for it and all the utensils of the altar,

³¹ the bases around the court, and the bases of the gate of the court, all the pegs of the tabernacle, and all the pegs around the court.

39 ¹ From the blue and purple and scarlet yarns they made finely woven garments, for ministering in

the Holy Place. They made the holy garments for Aaron, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

² He made the ephod of gold, blue and purple and scarlet yarns, and fine twined linen.

³ And they hammered out gold leaf, and he cut it into threads to work into the blue and purple and the scarlet yarns, and into the fine twined linen, in skilled design.

⁴ They made for the ephod attaching shoulder pieces, joined to it at its two edges.

⁵ And the skillfully woven band on it was of one piece with it and made like it, of gold, blue and purple and scarlet yarns, and fine twined linen, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

⁶ They made the onyx stones, enclosed in settings of gold filigree, and engraved

like the engravings of a signet, according to the names of the sons of Israel.

⁷ And he set them on the shoulder pieces of the ephod to be stones of remembrance for the sons of Israel, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

⁸ He made the breastpiece, in skilled work, in the style of the ephod, of gold, blue and purple and scarlet yarns, and fine twined linen.

⁹ It was square. They made the breastpiece doubled, a span its length and a span its breadth when doubled.

¹⁰ And they set in it four rows of stones. A row of sardius, topaz, and carbuncle was the first row;

¹¹ and the second row, an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond;

¹² and the third row, a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst;

¹³ and the fourth row, a beryl, an onyx, and a jasper. They were enclosed in settings of gold filigree.

¹⁴ There were twelve stones with their names according to the names of the sons of Israel. They were like signets, each engraved with its name, for the twelve tribes.

¹⁵ And they made on the breastpiece twisted chains like cords, of pure gold.

¹⁶ And they made two settings of gold filigree and two gold rings, and put the two rings on the two edges of the breastpiece.

¹⁷ And they put the two cords of gold in the two rings at the edges of the breastpiece.

¹⁸ They attached the two ends of the two cords to the two settings of filigree. Thus they attached it in front to the shoulder pieces of the ephod.

¹⁹ Then they made two rings of gold, and put them at the two ends of the breastpiece, on its inside edge next to the ephod.

²⁰ And they made two rings of gold, and attached them in front to the lower part of the two shoulder pieces of the ephod, at its seam above the skillfully woven band of the ephod.

²¹ And they bound the breastpiece by its rings to the rings of the ephod with a lace of blue, so that it should lie on the skillfully woven band of the ephod, and that the breastpiece should not come loose from the ephod, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

²² He also made the robe of the ephod woven all of blue,

²³ and the opening of the robe in it was like the opening in a garment, with a binding around the opening, so that it might not tear.

²⁴ On the hem of the robe they made pomegranates of blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen.

²⁵ They also made bells of pure gold, and put the bells between the pomegranates all around the hem of the robe, between the pomegranates--

²⁶ a bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate around the hem of the robe for ministering, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

²⁷ They also made the coats, woven of fine linen, for Aaron and his sons,

²⁸ and the turban of fine linen, and the caps of fine linen, and the linen undergarments of fine twined linen,

²⁹ and the sash of fine twined linen and of blue and purple and scarlet yarns, embroidered with needlework, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

³⁰ They made the plate of the holy crown of pure gold, and wrote on it an

inscription, like the engraving of a signet,
"Holy to the LORD."

³¹ And they tied to it a cord of blue to fasten it on the turban above, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

³² Thus all the work of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting was finished, and the people of Israel did according to all that the LORD had commanded Moses; so they did.

³³ Then they brought the tabernacle to Moses, the tent and all its utensils, its hooks, its frames, its bars, its pillars, and its bases;

³⁴ the covering of tanned rams' skins and goatskins, and the veil of the screen;

³⁵ the ark of the testimony with its poles and the mercy seat;

³⁶ the table with all its utensils, and the bread of the Presence;

³⁷ the lampstand of pure gold and its lamps with the lamps set and all its utensils, and the oil for the light;

³⁸ the golden altar, the anointing oil and the fragrant incense, and the screen for the entrance of the tent;

³⁹ the bronze altar, and its grating of bronze, its poles, and all its utensils; the basin and its stand;

⁴⁰ the hangings of the court, its pillars, and its bases, and the screen for the gate of the court, its cords, and its pegs; and all the utensils for the service of the tabernacle, for the tent of meeting;

⁴¹ the finely worked garments for ministering in the Holy Place, the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons for their service as priests.

⁴² According to all that the LORD had commanded Moses, so the people of Israel had done all the work.

⁴³ And Moses saw all the work, and behold, they had done it; as the LORD had commanded, so had they done it. Then Moses blessed them.

40 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

² "On the first day of the first month you shall erect the tabernacle of the tent of meeting.

³ And you shall put in it the ark of the testimony, and you shall screen the ark with the veil.

⁴ And you shall bring in the table and arrange it, and you shall bring in the lampstand and set up its lamps.

⁵ And you shall put the golden altar for incense before the ark of the testimony, and set up the screen for the door of the tabernacle.

⁶ You shall set the altar of burnt offering before the door of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting,

⁷ and place the basin between the tent of meeting and the altar, and put water in it.

⁸ And you shall set up the court all around, and hang up the screen for the gate of the court.

⁹ "Then you shall take the anointing oil and anoint the tabernacle and all that is in it, and consecrate it and all its furniture, so that it may become holy.

¹⁰ You shall also anoint the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, and consecrate the altar, so that the altar may become most holy.

¹¹ You shall also anoint the basin and its stand, and consecrate it.

¹² Then you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance of the tent of meeting and shall wash them with water

¹³ and put on Aaron the holy garments. And you shall anoint him and consecrate him, that he may serve me as priest.

¹⁴ You shall bring his sons also and put coats on them,

¹⁵ and anoint them, as you anointed their father, that they may serve me as priests. And their anointing shall admit them to a perpetual priesthood throughout their generations."

¹⁶ This Moses did; according to all that the LORD commanded him, so he did.

¹⁷ In the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was erected.

¹⁸ Moses erected the tabernacle. He laid its bases, and set up its frames, and put in its poles, and raised up its pillars.

¹⁹ And he spread the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering of the tent over it, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

²⁰ He took the testimony and put it into the ark, and put the poles on the ark and set the mercy seat above on the ark.

²¹ And he brought the ark into the tabernacle and set up the veil of the screen, and screened the ark of the testimony, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

²² He put the table in the tent of meeting, on the north side of the tabernacle, outside the veil,

²³ and arranged the bread on it before the LORD, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

²⁴ He put the lampstand in the tent of meeting, opposite the table on the south side of the tabernacle,

²⁵ and set up the lamps before the LORD, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

²⁶ He put the golden altar in the tent of meeting before the veil,

²⁷ and burned fragrant incense on it, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

²⁸ He put in place the screen for the door of the tabernacle.

²⁹ And he set the altar of burnt offering at the entrance of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting, and offered on it the burnt offering and the grain offering, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

³⁰ He set the basin between the tent of meeting and the altar, and put water in it for washing,

³¹ with which Moses and Aaron and his sons washed their hands and their feet.

³² When they went into the tent of meeting, and when they approached the altar, they washed, as the LORD commanded Moses.

³³ And he erected the court around the tabernacle and the altar, and set up the screen of the gate of the court. So Moses finished the work.

³⁴ Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

³⁵ And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

³⁶ Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out.

³⁷ But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up.

³⁸ For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.

Leviticus

1 ¹ The LORD called Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting, saying,

² "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When any one of you brings an offering to the LORD, you shall bring your offering of livestock from the herd or from the flock.

³ "If his offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he shall offer a male without blemish. He shall bring it to the entrance of the tent of meeting, that he may be accepted before the LORD.

⁴ He shall lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him.

⁵ Then he shall kill the bull before the LORD, and Aaron's sons the priests shall bring the blood and throw the blood against the sides of the altar that is at the entrance of the tent of meeting.

⁶ Then he shall flay the burnt offering and cut it into pieces,

⁷ and the sons of Aaron the priest shall put fire on the altar and arrange wood on the fire.

⁸ And Aaron's sons the priests shall arrange the pieces, the head, and the fat, on the wood that is on the fire on the altar;

⁹ but its entrails and its legs he shall wash with water. And the priest shall burn all of it on the altar, as a burnt offering, a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

¹⁰ "If his gift for a burnt offering is from the flock, from the sheep or goats, he shall bring a male without blemish,

¹¹ and he shall kill it on the north side of the altar before the LORD, and Aaron's sons the priests shall throw its blood against the sides of the altar.

¹² And he shall cut it into pieces, with its head and its fat, and the priest shall arrange them on the wood that is on the fire on the altar,

¹³ but the entrails and the legs he shall wash with water. And the priest shall offer all of it and burn it on the altar; it is a burnt offering, a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

¹⁴ "If his offering to the LORD is a burnt offering of birds, then he shall bring his offering of turtledoves or pigeons.

¹⁵ And the priest shall bring it to the altar and wring off its head and burn it on the altar. Its blood shall be drained out on the side of the altar.

¹⁶ He shall remove its crop with its contents and cast it beside the altar on the east side, in the place for ashes.

¹⁷ He shall tear it open by its wings, but shall not sever it completely. And the priest shall burn it on the altar, on the wood that is on the fire. It is a burnt offering, a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

2¹ "When anyone brings a grain offering as an offering to the LORD, his offering shall be of fine flour. He shall pour oil on it and put frankincense on it

² and bring it to Aaron's sons the priests. And he shall take from it a handful of the fine flour and oil, with all of its frankincense, and the priest shall burn this as its memorial portion on the altar, a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

³ But the rest of the grain offering shall be for Aaron and his sons; it is a most holy part of the LORD's food offerings.

⁴ "When you bring a grain offering baked in the oven as an offering, it shall be unleavened loaves of fine flour mixed with oil or unleavened wafers smeared with oil.

⁵ And if your offering is a grain offering baked on a griddle, 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 And if your offering is a grain offering cooked in a pan, it shall be made of fine flour with oil.

⁸ And 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 And the priest shall take from the grain offering its memorial portion and

burn this on the altar, a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

¹⁰ But the rest of the grain offering shall be for Aaron and his sons; it is a most holy part of the LORD's food offerings.

¹¹ "No grain offering that you bring to the LORD shall be made with leaven, for you shall burn no leaven nor any honey as a food offering to the LORD.

¹² As an offering of firstfruits you may bring them to the LORD, but they shall not be offered on the altar for a pleasing aroma.

¹³ You shall season all your grain offerings with salt. You shall not let the salt of the covenant with your God be missing from your grain offering; with all your offerings you shall offer salt.

¹⁴ "If you offer a grain offering of firstfruits to the LORD, you shall offer for the grain offering of your firstfruits

fresh ears, roasted with fire, crushed new grain.

¹⁵ And you shall put oil on it and lay frankincense on it; it is a grain offering.

¹⁶ And the priest shall burn as its memorial portion some of the crushed grain and some of the oil with all of its frankincense; it is a food offering to the LORD.

3 ¹ "If his offering is a sacrifice of peace offering, if he offers an animal from the herd, 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 entrance of the tent of meeting, and Aaron's sons the priests shall throw the blood against the sides of the altar.

³ And from the sacrifice of the peace offering, as a food offering to the LORD, he shall offer the fat covering the entrails and all the fat that is on the entrails,

⁴ and the two kidneys with the fat that is on them at the loins, and the long lobe of the liver that he shall remove with the kidneys.

⁵ Then Aaron's sons shall burn it on the altar on top of the burnt offering, which is on the wood on the fire; it is a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

⁶ "If his offering for a sacrifice of peace offering to the LORD is an animal from the flock, male or female, he shall offer it without blemish.

⁷ If he offers a lamb for his offering, then he shall offer it before the LORD,

⁸ lay his hand on the head of his offering, and kill it in front of the tent of meeting; and Aaron's sons shall throw its blood against the sides of the altar.

⁹ Then from the sacrifice of the peace offering he shall offer as a food offering to the LORD its fat; he shall remove

the whole fat tail, cut off close to the backbone, and the fat that covers the entrails and all the fat that is on the entrails

¹⁰ and the two kidneys with the fat that is on them at the loins and the long lobe of the liver that he shall remove with the kidneys.

¹¹ And the priest shall burn it on the altar as a food offering to the LORD.

¹² "If his offering is a goat, then he shall offer it before the LORD

¹³ and lay his hand on its head and kill it in front of the tent of meeting, and the sons of Aaron shall throw its blood against the sides of the altar.

¹⁴ Then he shall offer from it, as his offering for a food offering to the LORD, the fat covering the entrails and all the fat that is on the entrails

¹⁵ and the two kidneys with the fat that is on them at the loins and the long lobe

of the liver that he shall remove with the kidneys.

¹⁶ And the priest shall burn them on the altar as a food offering with a pleasing aroma. All fat is the LORD's.

¹⁷ It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations, in all your dwelling places, that you eat neither fat nor blood."

4 ¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

² "Speak to the people of Israel, saying, If anyone sins unintentionally in any of the LORD's commandments about things not to be done, and does any one of them,

³ if it is the anointed priest who sins, thus bringing guilt on the people, then he shall offer for the sin that he has committed a bull from the herd without blemish to the LORD for a sin offering.

⁴ He shall bring the bull to the entrance of the tent of meeting before the LORD and lay his hand on the head of the bull and kill the bull before the LORD.

⁵ And the anointed priest shall take some of the blood of the bull and bring it into the tent of meeting,

⁶ and the priest shall dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle part 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 fragrant incense before the LORD that is in the tent of meeting, and all the rest of the blood of the bull he shall pour out at the base of the altar of burnt offering that is at the entrance of the tent of meeting.

⁸ And all the fat of the bull of the sin offering he shall remove from it, the fat

that covers the entrails and all the fat that is on the entrails

⁹ and the two kidneys with the fat that is on them at the loins and the long lobe of the liver that he shall remove with the kidneys

¹⁰ (just as these are taken from the ox of the sacrifice of the peace offerings); and the priest shall burn them on the altar of burnt offering.

¹¹ But the skin of the bull and all its flesh, with its head, its legs, its entrails, and its dung--

¹² all the rest of the bull--he shall carry outside the camp to a clean place, to the ash heap, and shall burn it up on a fire of wood. On the ash heap it shall be burned up.

¹³ "If the whole congregation of Israel sins unintentionally and the thing is hidden from the eyes of the assembly, and they do any one of the things that by

the LORD's commandments ought not to be done, and they realize their guilt,

¹⁴ when the sin which they have committed becomes known, the assembly shall offer a bull from the herd for a sin offering and bring it in front of the tent of meeting.

¹⁵ And the elders of the congregation shall lay their hands on the head of the bull before the LORD, and the bull shall be killed before the LORD.

¹⁶ Then the anointed priest shall bring some of the blood of the bull into the tent of meeting,

¹⁷ and 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 that is in the tent of meeting before the LORD, and the rest of the blood he shall pour out at the base of the altar of burnt offering

that is at the entrance of the tent of meeting.

¹⁹ And all its fat he shall take from it and burn on the altar.

²⁰ Thus shall he do with the bull. As he did with the bull of the sin offering, so shall he do with this. And the priest shall make atonement for them, and they shall be forgiven.

²¹ And he shall carry the bull outside the camp and burn it up as he burned the first bull; it is the sin offering for the assembly.

²² "When a leader sins, doing unintentionally any one of all the things that by the commandments of the LORD his God ought not to be done, and realizes his guilt,

²³ or the sin which he has committed is made known to him, he shall bring as his offering a goat, a male without blemish,

²⁴ and shall lay his hand on the head of the goat and kill it in the place where they kill the burnt offering before the LORD; it is a sin offering.

²⁵ Then the priest shall take some of the blood of the sin offering with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering and pour out the rest of its blood at the base of the altar of burnt offering.

²⁶ And all its fat he shall burn on the altar, like the fat of the sacrifice of peace offerings. So the priest shall make atonement for him for his sin, and he shall be forgiven.

²⁷ "If anyone of the common people sins unintentionally in doing any one of the things that by the LORD's commandments ought not to be done, and realizes his guilt,

²⁸ or the sin which he has committed is made known to him, he shall bring

for his offering a goat, 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 in the place of burnt offering.

³⁰ And the priest shall take some of its blood with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering and pour out all the rest of its blood at the base of the altar.

³¹ And all its fat he shall remove, as the fat is removed from the peace offerings, and the priest shall burn it on the altar for a pleasing aroma to the LORD. And the priest shall make atonement for him, and he shall be forgiven.

³² "If he brings a lamb as his offering for a sin offering, he shall bring a female without blemish

³³ and lay his hand on the head of the sin offering and kill it for a sin offering

in the place where they kill the burnt offering.

³⁴ Then the priest shall take some of the blood of the sin offering with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering and pour out all the rest of its blood at the base of the altar.

³⁵ And all its fat he shall remove as the fat of the lamb is removed from the sacrifice of peace offerings, and the priest shall burn it on the altar, on top of the LORD's food offerings. And the priest shall make atonement for him for the sin which he has committed, and he shall be forgiven.

5 ¹ "If anyone sins in that he hears a public adjuration to testify, and though he is a witness, whether he has seen or come to know the matter, yet does not speak, he shall bear his iniquity;

² or if anyone touches an unclean thing, whether a carcass of an unclean wild

animal or a carcass of unclean livestock or a carcass of unclean swarming things, and it is hidden from him and he has become unclean, and he realizes his guilt;

³ or if he touches human uncleanness, of whatever sort the uncleanness may be with which one becomes unclean, and it is hidden from him, when he comes to know it, and realizes his guilt;

⁴ or if anyone utters with his lips a rash oath to do evil or to do good, any sort of rash oath that people swear, and it is hidden from him, when he comes to know it, and he realizes his guilt in any of these;

⁵ when he realizes his guilt in any of these and confesses the sin he has committed,

⁶ he shall bring to the LORD as his compensation for the sin that he has committed, a female from the flock, a

lamb or a goat, for a sin offering. And the priest shall make atonement for him for his sin.

⁷ "But if he cannot afford a lamb, then he shall bring to the LORD as his compensation for the sin that he has committed two turtledoves or two pigeons, one for a sin offering and the other for a burnt offering.

⁸ He shall bring them to the priest, who shall offer first the one for the sin offering. He shall wring its head from its neck but shall not sever it completely,

⁹ and he shall sprinkle some of the blood of the sin offering on the side of the altar, while the rest of the blood shall be drained out at the base of the altar; it is a sin offering.

¹⁰ Then he shall offer the second for a burnt offering according to the rule. And the priest shall make atonement for him

for the sin that he has committed, and he shall be forgiven.

¹¹ "But if he cannot afford two turtledoves or two pigeons, then he shall bring as his offering for the sin that he has committed a tenth of an ephah of fine flour for a sin offering. He shall put no oil on it and shall put no frankincense on it, for it is a sin offering.

¹² And he shall bring it to the priest, and the priest shall take a handful of it as its memorial portion and burn this on the altar, on the LORD's food offerings; it is a sin offering.

¹³ Thus the priest shall make atonement for him for the sin which he has committed in any one of these things, and he shall be forgiven. And the remainder shall be for the priest, as in the grain offering."

¹⁴ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

¹⁵ "If anyone commits a breach of faith and sins unintentionally in any of the holy things of the LORD, he shall bring to the LORD as his compensation, a ram without blemish out of the flock, valued in silver shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, for a guilt offering.

¹⁶ He shall also make restitution for what he has done amiss in the holy thing and shall add a fifth to it and give it to the priest. And the priest shall make atonement for him with the ram of the guilt offering, and he shall be forgiven.

¹⁷ "If anyone sins, doing any of the things that by the LORD's commandments ought not to be done, though he did not know it, then realizes his guilt, he shall bear his iniquity.

¹⁸ He shall bring to the priest a ram without blemish out of the flock, or its equivalent for a guilt offering, and the priest shall make atonement for

him for the mistake that he made unintentionally, and he shall be forgiven.

¹⁹ It is a guilt offering; he has indeed incurred guilt before the LORD."

6 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,
² "If anyone sins and commits a breach of faith against the LORD by deceiving his neighbor in a matter of deposit or security, or through robbery, or if he has oppressed his neighbor

³ or has found something lost and lied about it, swearing falsely--in any of all the things that people do and sin thereby--

⁴ if he has sinned and has realized his guilt and will restore what he took by robbery or what he got by oppression or the deposit that was committed to him or the lost thing that he found

⁵ or anything about which he has sworn falsely, he shall restore it in full and shall add a fifth to it, and give it to him to

whom it belongs on the day he realizes his guilt.

⁶ And he shall bring to the priest as his compensation to the LORD a ram without blemish out of the flock, or its equivalent for a guilt offering.

⁷ And the priest shall make atonement for him before the LORD, and he shall be forgiven for any of the things that one may do and thereby become guilty."

⁸ 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 on the altar all night until the morning, and the fire of the altar shall be kept burning on it.

¹⁰ And the priest shall put on his linen garment and put his linen undergarment on his body, and he shall take up the ashes to which the fire has reduced the

burnt offering on the altar and put them beside the altar.

¹¹ Then he shall take off his garments and put on other garments and carry the ashes outside the camp to a clean place.

¹² The fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it; it shall not go out. The priest shall burn wood on it every morning, and he shall arrange the burnt offering on it and shall burn on it the fat of the peace offerings.

¹³ Fire shall be kept burning on the altar continually; it shall not go out.

¹⁴ "And this is the law of the grain offering. The sons of Aaron shall offer it before the LORD in front of the altar.

¹⁵ And one shall take from it a handful of the fine flour of the grain offering and its oil and all the frankincense that is on the grain offering and burn this as its memorial portion on the altar, a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

¹⁶ And the rest of it Aaron and his sons shall eat. It shall be eaten unleavened in a holy place. In the court of the tent of meeting they shall eat it.

¹⁷ It shall not be baked with leaven. I have given it as their portion of my food offerings. It is a thing most holy, like the sin offering and the guilt offering.

¹⁸ Every male among the children of Aaron may eat of it, as decreed forever throughout your generations, from the LORD's food offerings. Whatever touches them shall become holy."

¹⁹ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

²⁰ "This is the offering that Aaron and his sons shall offer to the LORD on the day when he is anointed: a tenth of an ephah of fine flour as a regular grain offering, half of it in the morning and half in the evening.

²¹ It shall be made with oil on a griddle. You shall bring it well mixed, in baked

pieces like a grain offering, and offer it for a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

²² The priest from among Aaron's sons, who is anointed to succeed him, shall offer it to the LORD as decreed forever. The whole of it shall be burned.

²³ Every grain offering of a priest shall be wholly burned. It shall not be eaten."

²⁴ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

²⁵ "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, This is the law of the sin offering. In the place where the burnt offering is killed shall the sin offering 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 tent of meeting.

²⁷ Whatever touches its flesh shall be holy, and when any of its blood is splashed on a garment, you shall wash that on which it was splashed in a holy place.

²⁸ And the earthenware vessel in which it is boiled shall be broken. But if it is boiled in a bronze vessel, that shall be scoured and rinsed in water.

²⁹ Every male among the priests may eat of it; it is most holy.

³⁰ But no sin offering shall be eaten from which any blood is brought into the tent of meeting to make atonement in the Holy Place; it shall be burned up with fire.

7 ¹ "This is the law of the guilt offering. It is most holy.

² In the place where they kill the burnt offering they shall kill the guilt offering, and its blood shall be thrown against the sides of the altar.

³ And all its fat shall be offered, the fat tail, the fat that covers the entrails,

⁴ the two kidneys with the fat that is on them at the loins, and the long lobe of

the liver that he shall remove with the kidneys.

⁵ The priest shall burn them on the altar as a food offering to the LORD; it is a guilt offering.

⁶ Every male among the priests may eat of it. It shall be eaten in a holy place. It is most holy.

⁷ The guilt offering is just like the sin offering; there is one law for them. The priest who makes atonement with it shall have it.

⁸ And the priest who offers any man's burnt offering shall have for himself the skin of the burnt offering that he has offered.

⁹ And every grain offering baked in the oven and all that is prepared on a pan or a griddle shall belong to the priest who offers it.

¹⁰ And every grain offering, mixed with oil or dry, shall be shared equally among all the sons of Aaron.

¹¹ "And this is the law of the sacrifice of peace offerings that one may offer to the LORD.

¹² If he offers it for a thanksgiving, then he shall offer with the thanksgiving sacrifice unleavened loaves mixed with oil, unleavened wafers smeared with oil, and loaves of fine flour well mixed with oil.

¹³ With the sacrifice of his peace offerings for thanksgiving he shall bring his offering with loaves of leavened bread.

¹⁴ And from it he shall offer one loaf from each offering, as a gift to the LORD. It shall belong to the priest who throws the blood of the peace offerings.

¹⁵ And the flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offerings for thanksgiving shall be

eaten on the day of his offering. He shall not leave any of it until the morning.

¹⁶ But if the sacrifice of his offering is a vow offering or a freewill offering, it shall be eaten on the day that he offers his sacrifice, and on the next day what remains of it shall be eaten.

¹⁷ But what remains of the flesh of the sacrifice on the third day shall be burned up with fire.

¹⁸ If any of the flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offering is eaten on the third day, he who offers it shall not be accepted, neither shall it be credited to him. It is tainted, and he who eats of it shall bear his iniquity.

¹⁹ "Flesh that touches any unclean thing shall not be eaten. It shall be burned up with fire. All who are clean may eat flesh,

²⁰ but the person who eats of the flesh of the sacrifice of the LORD's peace offerings while an uncleanness is on

him, that person shall be cut off from his people.

²¹ And if anyone touches an unclean thing, whether human uncleanness or an unclean beast or any unclean detestable creature, and then eats some flesh from the sacrifice of the LORD's peace offerings, that person shall be cut off from his people."

²² The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

²³ "Speak to the people of Israel, saying, You shall eat no fat, of ox or sheep or goat.

²⁴ The fat of an animal that dies of itself and the fat of one that is torn by beasts may be put to any other use, but on no account shall you eat it.

²⁵ For every person who eats of the fat of an animal of which a food offering may be made to the LORD shall be cut off from his people.

²⁶ Moreover, you shall eat no blood whatever, whether of fowl or of animal, in any of your dwelling places.

²⁷ Whoever eats any blood, that person shall be cut off from his people."

²⁸ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

²⁹ "Speak to the people of Israel, saying, Whoever offers the sacrifice of his peace offerings to the LORD shall bring his offering to the LORD from the sacrifice of his peace offerings.

³⁰ His own hands shall bring the LORD's food offerings. He shall bring the fat with the breast, that the breast may be waved as a wave offering before the LORD.

³¹ The priest shall burn the fat on the altar, but the breast shall be for Aaron and his sons.

³² And the right thigh you shall give to the priest as a contribution from the sacrifice of your peace offerings.

³³ Whoever among the sons of Aaron offers the blood of the peace offerings and the fat shall have the right thigh for a portion.

³⁴ For the breast that is waved and the thigh that is contributed I have taken from the people of Israel, out of the sacrifices of their peace offerings, and have given them to Aaron the priest and to his sons, as a perpetual due from the people of Israel.

³⁵ This is the portion of Aaron and of his sons from the LORD's food offerings, from the day they were presented to serve as priests of the LORD.

³⁶ The LORD commanded this to be given them by the people of Israel, from the day that he anointed them. It is a perpetual due throughout their generations."

³⁷ This is the law of the burnt offering, of the grain offering, of the sin offering,

of the guilt offering, of the ordination offering, and of the peace offering,

³⁸ which the LORD commanded Moses on Mount Sinai, on the day that he commanded the people of Israel to bring their offerings to the LORD, in the wilderness of Sinai.

8 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,
² "Take Aaron and his sons with him, and the garments and the anointing oil and the bull of the sin offering and the two rams and the basket of unleavened bread.

³ And assemble all the congregation at the entrance of the tent of meeting."

⁴ And Moses did as the LORD commanded him, and the congregation was assembled at the entrance of the tent of meeting.

⁵ And Moses said to the congregation, "This is the thing that the LORD has commanded to be done."

⁶ And Moses brought Aaron and his sons and washed them with water.

⁷ And he put the coat on him and tied the sash around his waist and clothed him with the robe and put the ephod on him and tied the skillfully woven band of the ephod around him, binding it to him with the band.

⁸ And he placed the breastpiece on him, and in the breastpiece he put the Urim and the Thummim.

⁹ And he set the turban on his head, and on the turban, in front, he set the golden plate, the holy crown, as the LORD commanded Moses.

¹⁰ Then Moses took the anointing oil and anointed the tabernacle and all that was in it, and consecrated them.

¹¹ And he sprinkled some of it on the altar seven times, and anointed the altar and all its utensils and the basin and its stand, to consecrate them.

¹² And he poured some of the anointing oil on Aaron's head and anointed him to consecrate him.

¹³ And Moses brought Aaron's sons and clothed them with coats and tied sashes around their waists and bound caps on them, as the LORD commanded Moses.

¹⁴ Then he brought the bull of the sin offering, and Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the bull of the sin offering.

¹⁵ And he killed it, and Moses took the blood, and with his finger put it on the horns of the altar around it and purified the altar and poured out the blood at the base of the altar and consecrated it to make atonement for it.

¹⁶ And he took all the fat that was on the entrails and the long lobe of the liver and the two kidneys with their fat, and Moses burned them on the altar.

¹⁷ But the bull and its skin and its flesh and its dung he burned up with fire outside the camp, as the LORD commanded Moses.

¹⁸ Then he presented the ram of the burnt offering, and Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the ram.

¹⁹ And he killed it, and Moses threw the blood against the sides of the altar.

²⁰ He cut the ram into pieces, and Moses burned the head and the pieces and the fat.

²¹ He washed the entrails and the legs with water, and Moses burned the whole ram on the altar. It was a burnt offering with a pleasing aroma, a food offering for the LORD, as the LORD commanded Moses.

²² Then he presented the other ram, the ram of ordination, and Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the ram.

²³ And he killed it, and Moses took some of its blood and put it on the lobe of Aaron's right ear and on the thumb of his right hand and on the big toe of his right foot.

²⁴ Then he presented Aaron's sons, and Moses put some of the blood on the lobes of their right ears and on the thumbs of their right hands and on the big toes of their right feet. And Moses threw the blood against the sides of the altar.

²⁵ Then he took the fat and the fat tail and all the fat that was on the entrails and the long lobe of the liver and the two kidneys with their fat and the right thigh,

²⁶ and out of the basket of unleavened bread that was before the LORD he took one unleavened loaf and one loaf of bread with oil and one wafer and placed

them on the pieces of fat and on the right thigh.

²⁷ And he put all these in the hands of Aaron and in the hands of his sons and waved them as a wave offering before the LORD.

²⁸ Then Moses took them from their hands and burned them on the altar with the burnt offering. This was an ordination offering with a pleasing aroma, a food offering to the LORD.

²⁹ And Moses took the breast and waved it for a wave offering before the LORD. It was Moses' portion of the ram of ordination, as the LORD commanded Moses.

³⁰ Then Moses took some of the anointing oil and of the blood that was on the altar and sprinkled it on Aaron and his garments, and also on his sons and his sons' garments. So he consecrated Aaron and his garments,

and his sons and his sons' garments with him.

³¹ And Moses said to Aaron and his sons, "Boil the flesh at the entrance of the tent of meeting, and there eat it and the bread that is in the basket of ordination offerings, as I commanded, saying, 'Aaron and his sons shall eat it.'

³² And what remains of the flesh and the bread you shall burn up with fire.

³³ And you shall not go outside the entrance of the tent of meeting for seven days, until the days of your ordination are completed, for it will take seven days to ordain you.

³⁴ As has been done today, the LORD has commanded to be done to make atonement for you.

³⁵ At the entrance of the tent of meeting you shall remain day and night for seven days, performing what the

LORD has charged, so that you do not die, for so I have been commanded."

³⁶ And Aaron and his sons did all the things that the LORD commanded by Moses.

9¹ On the eighth day Moses called Aaron and his sons and the elders of Israel,

² and he said to Aaron, "Take for yourself a bull calf for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering, both without blemish, and offer them before the LORD.

³ And say to the people of Israel, 'Take a male goat for a sin offering, and a calf and a lamb, both a year old without blemish, for a burnt offering,

⁴ and an ox and a ram for peace offerings, to sacrifice before the LORD, and a grain offering mixed with oil, for today the LORD will appear to you.'"

⁵ And they brought what Moses commanded in front of the tent of meeting, and all the congregation drew near and stood before the LORD.

⁶ And Moses said, "This is the thing that the LORD commanded you to do, that the glory of the LORD may appear to you."

⁷ Then Moses said to Aaron, "Draw near to the altar and offer your sin offering and your burnt offering and make atonement for yourself and for the people, and bring the offering of the people and make atonement for them, as the LORD has commanded."

⁸ So Aaron drew near to the altar and killed the calf of the sin offering, which was for himself.

⁹ And the sons of Aaron presented the blood to him, and he dipped his finger in the blood and put it on the horns of the

altar and poured out the blood at the base of the altar.

¹⁰ But the fat and the kidneys and the long lobe of the liver from the sin offering he burned on the altar, as the LORD commanded Moses.

¹¹ The flesh and the skin he burned up with fire outside the camp.

¹² Then he killed the burnt offering, and Aaron's sons handed him the blood, and he threw it against the sides of the altar.

¹³ And they handed the burnt offering to him, piece by piece, and the 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 presented the people's offering and took the goat of the sin offering that was for the people and killed it and offered it as a sin offering, like the first one.

¹⁶ And he presented the burnt offering and offered it according to the rule.

¹⁷ And he presented the grain offering, took a handful of it, and burned it on the altar, besides the burnt offering of the morning.

¹⁸ Then he killed the ox and the ram, the sacrifice of peace offerings for the people. And Aaron's sons handed him the blood, and he threw it against the sides of the altar.

¹⁹ But the fat pieces of the ox and of the ram, the fat tail and that which covers the entrails and the kidneys and the long lobe of the liver--

²⁰ they put the fat pieces on the breasts, and he burned the fat pieces on the altar,

²¹ but the breasts and the right thigh Aaron waved for a wave offering before the LORD, as Moses commanded.

²² Then Aaron lifted up his hands toward the people and blessed them, and he came down from offering the sin offering and the burnt offering and the peace offerings.

²³ And Moses and Aaron went into the tent of meeting, and when they came out they blessed the people, and 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 pieces of fat on the altar, and when all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces.

10 ¹ Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, which he had not commanded them.

² And fire came out from before the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD.

³ Then Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the LORD has said, 'Among those who are near me I will be sanctified, and before all the people I will be glorified.'" And 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 brothers away from the front of the sanctuary and out of the camp."

⁵ So they came near and carried them in their coats out of the camp, as Moses had said.

⁶ And Moses said to Aaron and to Eleazar and Ithamar his sons, "Do not let the hair of your heads hang loose, and do not tear your clothes, lest you die, and wrath come upon all the congregation; but let your brothers, the whole house

of Israel, bewail the burning that the LORD has kindled.

⁷ And do not go outside the entrance of the tent 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 And the LORD spoke to Aaron, saying,
⁹ "Drink no wine or strong drink, you or your sons with you, when you go into the tent of meeting, lest you die. It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations.

¹⁰ You are to distinguish between the holy and the common, and between the unclean and the clean,

¹¹ and you are to teach the people of Israel all the statutes that the LORD has spoken to them by Moses."

¹² Moses spoke to Aaron and to Eleazar and Ithamar, his surviving sons: "Take the grain offering that is left of the LORD's

food offerings, and eat it unleavened 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, from the LORD's food offerings, for so I am commanded.

¹⁴ But the breast that is waved and the thigh that is contributed you shall eat in a clean place, you and your sons and your daughters with you, for they are given as your due and your sons' due from the sacrifices of the peace offerings of the people of Israel.

¹⁵ The thigh that is contributed and the breast that is waved they shall bring with the food offerings of the fat pieces to wave for a wave offering before the LORD, and it shall be yours and your sons' with you as a due forever, as the LORD has commanded."

¹⁶ Now Moses diligently inquired about the goat of the sin offering, and behold,

it was burned up! And he was angry with Eleazar and Ithamar, the surviving sons of Aaron, saying,

¹⁷ "Why have you not eaten the sin offering in the place of the sanctuary, since it is a thing most holy and has been given to you that you may bear the iniquity of the congregation, to make atonement for them before the LORD?

¹⁸ Behold, its blood was not brought into the inner part of the sanctuary. You certainly ought to have eaten it in the sanctuary, as I commanded."

¹⁹ And Aaron said to Moses, "Behold, today they have offered their sin offering and their burnt offering before the LORD, and yet such things as these have happened to me! If I had eaten the sin offering today, would the LORD have approved?"

²⁰ And when Moses heard that, he approved.

11 ¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying to them,

² "Speak to the people of Israel, saying, These are the living things that you may eat among all the animals that are on the earth.

³ Whatever parts the hoof and is cloven-footed and chews the cud, among the animals, you may eat.

⁴ Nevertheless, among those that chew the cud or part the hoof, you shall not eat these: The camel, because it chews the cud but does not part the hoof, is unclean to you.

⁵ And the rock badger, because it chews the cud but does not part the hoof, is unclean to you.

⁶ And the hare, because it chews the cud but does not part the hoof, is unclean to you.

⁷ And the pig, because it parts the hoof and is cloven-footed but does not chew the cud, is unclean to you.

⁸ You shall not eat any of their flesh, and you shall not touch their carcasses; they are unclean to you.

⁹ "These you may eat, of all that are in the waters. Everything in the waters that has fins and scales, whether in the seas or in the rivers, you may eat.

¹⁰ But anything in the seas or the rivers that has not fins and scales, of the swarming creatures in the waters and of the living creatures that are in the waters, is detestable to you.

¹¹ You shall regard them as detestable; you shall not eat any of their flesh, and you shall detest their carcasses.

¹² Everything in the waters that has not fins and scales is detestable to you.

¹³ "And these you shall detest among the birds; they shall not be eaten; they

are detestable: the eagle, the bearded vulture, the black vulture,

¹⁴ the kite, the falcon of any kind,

¹⁵ every raven of any kind,

¹⁶ the ostrich, the nighthawk, the sea gull, the hawk of any kind,

¹⁷ the little owl, the cormorant, the short-eared owl,

¹⁸ the barn owl, the tawny owl, the carrion vulture,

¹⁹ the stork, the heron of any kind, the hoopoe, and the bat.

²⁰ "All winged insects that go on all fours are detestable to you.

²¹ Yet among the winged insects that go on all fours you may eat those that have jointed legs above their feet, with which to hop on the ground.

²² Of them you may eat: the locust of any kind, the bald locust of any kind, the cricket of any kind, and the grasshopper of any kind.

²³ But all other winged insects that have four feet are detestable to you.

²⁴ "And by these you shall become unclean. Whoever touches their carcass shall be unclean until the evening,

²⁵ and whoever carries any part of their carcass shall wash his clothes and be unclean until the evening.

²⁶ Every animal that parts the hoof but is not cloven-footed or does not chew the cud is unclean to you. Everyone who touches them shall be unclean.

²⁷ And all that walk on their paws, among the animals that go on all fours, are unclean to you. Whoever touches their carcass shall be unclean until the evening,

²⁸ and he who carries their carcass shall wash his clothes and be unclean until the evening; they are unclean to you.

²⁹ "And these are unclean to you among the swarming things that swarm on the

ground: the mole rat, the mouse, the great lizard of any kind,

³⁰ the gecko, the monitor lizard, the lizard, the sand lizard, and the chameleon.

³¹ These are unclean to you among all that swarm. Whoever touches them when they are dead shall be unclean until the evening.

³² And anything on which any of them falls when they are dead shall be unclean, whether it is an article of wood or a garment or a skin or a sack, any article that is used for any purpose. It must be put into water, and it shall be unclean until the evening; then it shall be clean.

³³ And if any of them falls into any earthenware vessel, all that is in it shall be unclean, and you shall break it.

³⁴ Any food in it that could be eaten, on which water comes, shall be unclean.

And all drink that could be drunk from every such vessel shall be unclean.

³⁵ And everything on which any part of their carcass falls shall be unclean. Whether oven or stove, it shall be broken in pieces. They are unclean and shall remain unclean for you.

³⁶ Nevertheless, a spring or a cistern holding water shall be clean, but whoever touches a carcass in them shall be unclean.

³⁷ And if any part of their carcass falls upon any seed grain that is to be sown, it is clean,

³⁸ but if water is put on the seed and any part of their carcass falls on it, it is unclean to you.

³⁹ "And if any animal which you may eat dies, whoever touches its carcass shall be unclean until the evening,

⁴⁰ and whoever eats of its carcass shall wash his clothes and be unclean until

the evening. And whoever carries the carcass shall wash his clothes and be unclean until the evening.

⁴¹ "Every swarming thing that swarms on the ground is detestable; it shall not be eaten.

⁴² Whatever goes on its belly, and whatever goes on all fours, or whatever has many feet, any swarming thing that swarms on the ground, you shall not eat, for they are detestable.

⁴³ You shall not make yourselves detestable with any swarming thing that swarms, and you shall not defile yourselves with them, and become unclean through them.

⁴⁴ For I am the LORD your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. You shall not defile yourselves with any swarming thing that crawls on the ground.

⁴⁵ For I am the LORD who brought 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 about beast and bird and every living creature that moves through the waters and every creature that swarms on the ground,

⁴⁷ to make a distinction between the unclean and the clean and between the living creature that may be eaten and the living creature that may not be eaten.

12 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

² "Speak to the people of Israel, saying, 'If a woman conceives and bears a male child, then she shall be unclean seven days. As at the time of her menstruation, she shall be unclean.

³ And on the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised.

⁴ Then she shall continue for thirty-three days in the blood of her purifying. She shall not touch anything holy, nor come into the sanctuary, until the days of her purifying are completed.

⁵ But if she bears a female child, then she shall be unclean two weeks, as in her menstruation. And she shall continue in the blood of her purifying for sixty-six days.

⁶ "And when the days of her purifying are completed, whether for a son or for a daughter, she shall bring to the priest at the entrance of the tent of meeting a lamb a year old for a burnt offering, and a pigeon or a turtledove for a sin offering,

⁷ and he shall offer it before the LORD and make atonement for her. Then she shall be clean from the flow of her blood. This is the law for her who bears a child, either male or female.

⁸ And if she cannot afford a lamb, then she shall take two turtledoves or two pigeons, one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering. And the priest shall make atonement for her, and she shall be clean."

13 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying,

² "When a person has on the skin of his body a swelling or an eruption or a spot, and it turns into a case of leprous disease on the skin of his body, then he shall be brought to Aaron the priest or to one of his sons the priests,

³ and the priest shall examine the diseased area on the skin of his body. And if the hair in the diseased area has turned white and the disease appears to be deeper than the skin of his body, it is a case of leprous disease. When the priest has examined him, he shall pronounce him unclean.

⁴ But if the spot is white in the skin of his body and appears no deeper than the skin, and the hair in it has not turned white, the priest shall shut up the diseased person for seven days.

⁵ And the priest shall examine him on the seventh day, and if in his eyes the disease is checked and the disease has not spread in the skin, then the priest shall shut him up for another seven days.

⁶ And the priest shall examine him again on the seventh day, and if the diseased area has faded and the disease has not spread in the skin, then the priest shall pronounce him clean; it is only an eruption. And he shall wash his clothes and be clean.

⁷ But if the eruption spreads in the skin, after he has shown himself to the priest for his cleansing, he shall appear again before the priest.

⁸ And the priest shall look, and if the eruption has spread in the skin, then the priest shall pronounce him unclean; it is a leprous disease.

⁹ "When a man is afflicted with a leprous disease, he shall be brought to the priest,

¹⁰ and the priest shall look. And if there is a white swelling in the skin that has turned the hair white, and there is raw flesh in the swelling,

¹¹ it is a chronic leprous disease in the skin of his body, and the priest shall pronounce him unclean. He shall not shut him up, for he is unclean.

¹² And if the leprous disease breaks out in the skin, so that the leprous disease covers all the skin of the diseased person from head to foot, so far as the priest can see,

¹³ then the priest shall look, and if the leprous disease has covered all his body,

he shall pronounce him clean of the disease; it has all turned white, and 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 unclean. Raw flesh is unclean, for it is a leprous disease.

¹⁶ But if the raw flesh recovers and turns white again, then he shall come to the priest,

¹⁷ and the priest shall examine him, and if the disease has turned white, then the priest shall pronounce the diseased person clean; he is clean.

¹⁸ "If there is in the skin of one's body a boil and it heals,

¹⁹ and in the place of the boil there comes a white swelling or a reddish-white spot, then it shall be shown to the priest.

²⁰ And the priest shall look, and if it appears deeper than the skin and its hair has turned white, then the priest shall pronounce him unclean. It is a case of leprous disease that has broken out in the boil.

²¹ But if the priest examines it and there is no white hair in it and it is not deeper than the skin, but has faded, then the priest shall shut him up seven days.

²² And if it spreads in the skin, then the priest shall pronounce him unclean; it is a disease.

²³ But if the spot remains in one place and does not spread, it is the scar of the boil, and the priest shall pronounce him clean.

²⁴ "Or, when the body has a burn on its skin and the raw flesh of the burn becomes a spot, reddish-white or white,

²⁵ the priest shall examine it, and if the hair in the spot has turned white and it

appears deeper than the skin, then it is a leprous disease. It has broken out in the burn, and the priest shall pronounce him unclean; it is a case of leprous disease.

²⁶ But if the priest examines it and there is no white hair in the spot and it is no deeper than the skin, but has faded, the priest shall shut him up seven days,

²⁷ and the priest shall examine him the seventh day. If it is spreading in the skin, then the priest shall pronounce him unclean; it is a case of leprous disease.

²⁸ But if the spot remains in one place and does not spread in the skin, but has faded, it is a swelling from the burn, and the priest shall pronounce him clean, for it is the scar of the burn.

²⁹ "When a man or woman has a disease on the head or the beard,

³⁰ the priest shall examine the disease. And if it appears deeper than the skin, and the hair in it is yellow and thin, then

the priest shall pronounce him unclean. It is an itch, a leprous disease of the head or the beard.

³¹ And if the priest examines the itching disease and it appears no deeper than the skin and there is no black hair in it, then the priest shall shut up the person with the itching disease for seven days,

³² and on the seventh day the priest shall examine the disease. If the itch has not spread, and there is in it no yellow hair, and the itch appears to be no deeper than the skin,

³³ then he shall shave himself, but the itch he shall not shave; and the priest shall shut up the person with the itching disease for another seven days.

³⁴ And on the seventh day the priest shall examine the itch, and if the itch has not spread in the skin and it appears to be no deeper than the skin, then the

priest shall pronounce him clean. And he shall wash his clothes and be clean.

³⁵ But if the itch spreads in the skin after his cleansing,

³⁶ then the priest shall examine him, and if the itch has spread in the skin, the priest need not seek for the yellow hair; he is unclean.

³⁷ But if in his eyes the itch is unchanged and black hair has grown in it, the itch is healed and he is clean, and the priest shall pronounce him clean.

³⁸ "When a man or a woman has spots on the skin of the body, white spots,

³⁹ the priest shall look, and if the spots on the skin of the body are of a dull white, it is leukoderma that has broken out in the skin; he is clean.

⁴⁰ "If a man's hair falls out from his head, he is bald; he is clean.

⁴¹ And if a man's hair falls out from his forehead, he has baldness of the forehead; he is clean.

⁴² But if there is on the bald head or the bald forehead a reddish-white diseased area, it is a leprous disease breaking out on his bald head or his bald forehead.

⁴³ Then the priest shall examine him, and if the diseased swelling is reddish-white on his bald head or on his bald forehead, like the appearance of leprous disease in the skin of the body,

⁴⁴ he is a leprous man, he is unclean. The priest must pronounce him unclean; his disease is on his head.

⁴⁵ "The leprous person who has the disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head hang loose, and he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, 'Unclean, unclean.'

⁴⁶ He shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease. He is unclean. He shall

live alone. His dwelling shall be outside the camp.

⁴⁷ "When there is a case of leprous disease in a garment, whether a woolen or a linen garment,

⁴⁸ in warp or woof of linen or wool, or in a skin or in anything made of skin,

⁴⁹ if the disease is greenish or reddish in the garment, or in the skin or in the warp or the woof or in any article made of skin, it is a case of leprous disease, and it shall be shown to the priest.

⁵⁰ And the priest shall examine the disease and shut up that which has the disease for seven days.

⁵¹ Then he shall examine the disease on the seventh day. If the disease has spread in the garment, in the warp or the woof, or in the skin, whatever be the use of the skin, the disease is a persistent leprous disease; it is unclean.

⁵² And he shall burn the garment, or the warp or the woof, the wool or the linen, or any article made of skin that is diseased, for it is a persistent leprous disease. It shall be burned in the fire.

⁵³ "And if the priest examines, and if the disease has not spread in the garment, in the warp or the woof or in any article made of skin,

⁵⁴ then the priest shall command that they wash the thing in which is the disease, and he shall shut it up for another seven days.

⁵⁵ And the priest shall examine the diseased thing after it has been washed. And if the appearance of the diseased area has not changed, though the disease has not spread, it is unclean. You shall burn it in the fire, whether the rot is on the back or on the front.

⁵⁶ "But if the priest examines, and if the diseased area has faded after it has

been washed, he shall tear it out of the garment or the skin or the warp or the woof.

⁵⁷ Then if it appears again in the garment, in the warp or the woof, or in any article made of skin, it is spreading. You shall burn with fire whatever has the disease.

⁵⁸ But the garment, or the warp or the woof, or any article made of skin from which the disease departs when you have washed it, shall then be washed a second time, and be clean."

⁵⁹ This is the law for a case of leprous disease in a garment of wool or linen, either in the warp or the woof, or in any article made of skin, to determine whether it is clean or unclean.

14 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

² "This shall be the law of the leprous person 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 look. Then, if the case of leprous disease is healed in the leprous person,

⁴ the priest shall command them to take for him who is to be cleansed two live clean birds and cedarwood and scarlet yarn and hyssop.

⁵ And the priest shall command them to kill one of the birds in an earthenware vessel over fresh water.

⁶ He shall take the live bird with the cedarwood and the scarlet yarn and the hyssop, and dip them and the live bird in the blood of the bird that was killed over the fresh water.

⁷ And he shall sprinkle it seven times on him who is to be cleansed of the leprous disease. Then he shall pronounce him

clean and shall let the living bird go into the open field.

⁸ And he who is to be cleansed shall wash his clothes and shave off all his hair and bathe himself in water, and he shall be clean. And after that he may come into the camp, but live outside his tent seven days.

⁹ And on the seventh day he shall shave off all his hair from his head, his beard, and his eyebrows. He shall shave off all his hair, and then he shall wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and he shall be clean.

¹⁰ "And on the eighth day he shall take two male lambs without blemish, and one ewe lamb a year old without blemish, and a grain offering of three tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, and one log of oil.

¹¹ And the priest who cleanses him shall set the man who is to be cleansed

and these things before the LORD, at the entrance of the tent of meeting.

¹² And the priest shall take one of the male lambs and offer it for a guilt offering, along with the log of oil, and wave them for a wave offering before the LORD.

¹³ And he shall kill the lamb in the place where they kill the sin offering and the burnt offering, in the place of the sanctuary. For the guilt offering, like the sin offering, belongs to the priest; it is most holy.

¹⁴ The priest shall take some of the blood of the guilt offering, and the priest shall put it on the lobe of the right ear of him who is to be cleansed and on the thumb of his right hand and on the big toe of his right foot.

¹⁵ Then the priest shall take some of the log of oil and pour it into the palm of his own left hand

¹⁶ and dip his right finger in the oil that is in his left hand and sprinkle some oil with his finger seven times before the LORD.

¹⁷ And some of the oil that remains in his hand the priest shall put on the lobe of the right ear of him who is to be cleansed and on the thumb of his right hand and on the big toe of his right foot, on top of the blood of the guilt offering.

¹⁸ And 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. Then the priest shall make atonement for him before the LORD.

¹⁹ The priest shall offer the sin offering, to make atonement for him who is to be cleansed from his uncleanness. And afterward he shall kill the burnt offering.

²⁰ And the priest shall offer the burnt offering and the grain offering on the altar. Thus the priest shall make

atonement for him, and he shall be clean.

²¹ "But if he is poor and cannot afford so much, then he shall take one male lamb for a guilt offering to be waved, to make atonement for him, and a tenth of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering, and a log of oil;

²² also two turtledoves or two pigeons, whichever he can afford. The one shall be a sin offering and the other a burnt offering.

²³ And on the eighth day he shall bring them for his cleansing to the priest, to the entrance of the tent of meeting, before the LORD.

²⁴ And the priest shall take the lamb of the guilt offering and the log of oil, and the priest shall wave them for a wave offering before the LORD.

²⁵ And he shall kill the lamb of the guilt offering. And the priest shall take some

of the blood of the guilt offering and put it on the lobe of the right ear of him who is to be cleansed, and 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 and 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 lobe of the right ear of him who is to be cleansed and on the thumb of his right hand and on the big toe of his right foot, in the place where the blood of the guilt offering was put.

²⁹ And 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, of the turtledoves or pigeons, whichever he can afford,

³¹ one for a sin offering and the other for a burnt offering, along with a grain offering. And the priest shall make atonement before the LORD for him who is being cleansed.

³² This is the law for him in whom is a case of leprous disease, who cannot afford the offerings for his cleansing."

³³ The LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying,

³⁴ "When you come into the land of Canaan, which I give you for a possession, and I put a case of leprous disease in a house in the land of your possession,

³⁵ then he who owns the house shall come and tell the priest, 'There seems to me to be some case of disease in my house.'

³⁶ Then the priest shall command that they empty the house before the priest goes to examine the disease, lest all that is in the house be declared unclean. And afterward the priest shall go in to see the house.

³⁷ And he shall examine the disease. And if the disease is in the walls of the house with greenish or reddish spots, and if it appears to be deeper than the surface,

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. If the disease has spread in the walls of the house,

⁴⁰ then the priest shall command that they take out the stones in which is the disease and throw them into an unclean place outside the city.

⁴¹ And he shall have the inside of the house scraped all around, and the plaster 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 plaster and plaster the house.

⁴³ "If the disease breaks out again in the house, after he has taken out the stones and scraped the house and plastered it,

⁴⁴ then the priest shall go and look. And if the disease has spread in the house, it is a persistent leprous disease in the house; it is unclean.

⁴⁵ And he shall break down the house, its stones and timber and all the plaster of the house, and he shall carry them out of the city to an unclean place.

⁴⁶ Moreover, whoever enters the house while it is shut up shall be unclean until the evening,

⁴⁷ and whoever sleeps in the house shall wash his clothes, and whoever eats in the house shall wash his clothes.

⁴⁸ "But if the priest comes and looks, and if the disease has not spread in the house after the house was plastered, then the priest shall pronounce the house clean, for the disease is healed.

⁴⁹ And for the cleansing of the house he shall take two small birds, with cedarwood and scarlet yarn and hyssop,

⁵⁰ and shall kill one of the birds in an earthenware vessel over fresh water

⁵¹ and shall take the cedarwood and the hyssop and the scarlet yarn, along with the live bird, and dip them in the blood of the bird that was killed and in the fresh water and sprinkle the house seven times.

⁵² Thus he shall cleanse the house with the blood of the bird and with the fresh water and with the live bird and with the cedarwood and hyssop and scarlet yarn.

⁵³ And he shall let the live bird go out of the city into the open country. So he shall make atonement for the house, and it shall be clean."

⁵⁴ This is the law for any case of leprous disease: for an itch,

⁵⁵ for leprous disease in a garment or in a house,

⁵⁶ and for a swelling or an eruption or a spot,

⁵⁷ to show when it is unclean and when it is clean. This is the law for leprous disease.

15 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying,

² "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When any man has a discharge from his body, his discharge is unclean.

³ And this is the law of his uncleanness for a discharge: whether his body runs with his discharge, or his body is blocked up by his discharge, it is his uncleanness.

⁴ Every bed on which the one with the discharge lies shall be unclean, and everything on which he sits shall be unclean.

⁵ And anyone who touches his bed shall wash his clothes and bathe himself in water and be unclean until the evening.

⁶ And whoever sits on anything on which the one with the discharge has sat shall wash his clothes and bathe himself in water and be unclean until the evening.

⁷ And whoever touches the body of the one with the discharge shall wash his clothes and bathe himself in water and be unclean until the evening.

⁸ And if the one with the discharge spits on someone who is clean, then he shall

wash his clothes and bathe himself in water and be unclean until the evening.

⁹ And any saddle on which the one with the discharge rides shall be unclean.

¹⁰ And whoever touches anything that was under him shall be unclean until the evening. And whoever carries such things shall wash his clothes and bathe himself in water and be unclean until the evening.

¹¹ Anyone whom the one with the discharge touches without having rinsed his hands in water shall wash his clothes and bathe himself in water and be unclean until the evening.

¹² And an earthenware vessel that the one with the discharge touches shall be broken, and every vessel of wood shall be rinsed in water.

¹³ "And when the one with a discharge is cleansed of his discharge, then he shall count for himself seven days for his

cleansing, and wash his clothes. And he shall bathe his body in fresh water and shall be clean.

¹⁴ And on the eighth day he shall take two turtledoves or two pigeons and come before the LORD to the entrance of the tent of meeting and give them to the priest.

¹⁵ And the priest shall use them, one for a sin offering and the other for a burnt offering. And the priest shall make atonement for him before the LORD for his discharge.

¹⁶ "If a man has an emission of semen, he shall bathe his whole body in water and be unclean until the evening.

¹⁷ And every garment and every skin on which the semen comes shall be washed with water and be unclean until the evening.

¹⁸ If a man lies with a woman and has an emission of semen, both of them

shall bathe themselves in water and be unclean until the evening.

¹⁹ "When a woman has a discharge, and the discharge in her body is blood, she shall be in her menstrual impurity for seven days, and whoever touches her shall be unclean until the evening.

²⁰ And everything on which she lies during her menstrual impurity shall be unclean. Everything also on which she sits shall be unclean.

²¹ And whoever touches her bed shall wash his clothes and bathe himself in water and be unclean until the evening.

²² And whoever touches anything on which she sits shall wash his clothes and bathe himself in water and be unclean until the evening.

²³ Whether it is the bed or anything on which she sits, when he touches it he shall be unclean until the evening.

²⁴ And if any man lies with her and her menstrual impurity comes upon 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, not at the time of her menstrual impurity, or if she has a discharge beyond the time of her impurity, all the days of the discharge she shall continue in uncleanness. As in the days of her 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 everything on which she sits shall be unclean, as in the uncleanness of her menstrual impurity.

²⁷ And whoever touches these things shall be unclean, and shall wash his clothes and bathe himself in water and be unclean until the evening.

²⁸ But if she is cleansed of her discharge, she shall count for herself seven days, and after that she shall be clean.

²⁹ And on the eighth day she shall take two turtledoves or two pigeons and bring them to the priest, to the entrance of the tent of meeting.

³⁰ And the priest shall use one for a sin offering and the other for a burnt offering. And the priest shall make atonement for her before the LORD for her unclean discharge.

³¹ "Thus you shall keep the people of Israel separate from their uncleanness, lest they die in their uncleanness by defiling my tabernacle that is in their midst."

³² This is the law for him who has a discharge and for him who has an emission of semen, becoming unclean thereby;

³³ also for her who is unwell with her menstrual impurity, that is, for anyone, male or female, who has a discharge, and for the man who lies with a woman who is unclean.

16 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they drew near before the LORD and died,

² and the LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron your brother not to come at any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat that is on the ark, so that he may not die. For I will appear in the cloud over the mercy seat.

³ But in this way Aaron shall come into the Holy Place: with a bull from the herd for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering.

⁴ He shall put on the holy linen coat and shall have the linen undergarment on his body, and he shall tie the linen sash

around his waist, and wear the linen turban; these are the holy garments. He shall bathe his body in water and then put them on.

⁵ And he shall take from the congregation of the people of Israel two male goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering.

⁶ "Aaron shall offer the bull as a sin offering for himself and shall make atonement for himself and for his house.

⁷ Then he shall take the two goats and set them before the LORD at the entrance of the tent of meeting.

⁸ And Aaron shall cast lots over the two goats, one lot for the LORD and the other lot for Azazel.

⁹ And Aaron shall present the goat on which the lot fell for the LORD and use it as a sin offering,

¹⁰ but the goat on which the lot fell for Azazel shall be presented alive before

the LORD to make atonement over it, that it may be sent away into the wilderness to Azazel.

¹¹ "Aaron shall present the bull as a sin offering for himself, and shall make atonement for himself and for his house. He shall kill the bull as a sin offering for himself.

¹² And he shall take a censer full of coals of fire from the altar before the LORD, and two handfuls of sweet incense beaten small, and he shall bring it inside the veil

¹³ and put the incense on the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is over the testimony, so that he does not die.

¹⁴ And he shall take some of the blood of the bull and sprinkle it with his finger on the front of the mercy seat on the east side, and in front of 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 that is for the people and bring its blood inside the veil and do with its blood as he did with the blood of the bull, sprinkling it over the mercy seat and in front of the mercy seat.

¹⁶ Thus he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleannesses of the people of Israel and because of their transgressions, all their sins. And so he shall do for the tent of meeting, which dwells with them in the midst of their uncleannesses.

¹⁷ No one may be in the tent of meeting from the time he enters to make atonement in the Holy Place until he comes out and has made atonement for himself and for his house and for all the assembly of Israel.

¹⁸ Then 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 And he shall sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it and consecrate it from the uncleannesses of the people of Israel.

²⁰ "And when he has made an end of atoning for the Holy Place and the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall present the live goat.

²¹ And Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the people of Israel, and all their transgressions, all their sins. And he shall put them on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who is in readiness.

²² The goat shall bear all their iniquities on itself to a remote area, and he shall let the goat go free in the wilderness.

²³ "Then Aaron shall come into the tent of meeting and shall take off the linen garments that he put on when he went into the Holy Place and shall leave them there.

²⁴ And he shall bathe his body in water in a holy place and put on his garments and come out and offer his burnt offering and the burnt offering of the people and make atonement for himself and for the people.

²⁵ And the fat of the sin offering he shall burn on the altar.

²⁶ And he who lets the goat go to Azazel shall wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and afterward he may come into the camp.

²⁷ And 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. Their skin and their flesh and their dung shall be burned up with fire.

²⁸ And he who burns them shall wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and afterward he may come into the camp.

²⁹ "And it shall be a statute to you forever that in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall afflict yourselves and shall do no work, either the native or the stranger who sojourns among you.

³⁰ For on this day shall atonement be made for you to cleanse you. You shall be clean before the LORD from all your sins.

³¹ It is a Sabbath of solemn rest to you, and you shall afflict yourselves; it is a statute forever.

³² And the priest who is anointed and consecrated as priest in his father's place shall make atonement, wearing the holy linen garments.

³³ He shall make atonement for the holy sanctuary, and he shall make atonement for the tent of meeting and for the altar, and he shall make atonement for the priests and for all the people of the assembly.

³⁴ And this shall be a statute forever for you, that atonement may be made for the people of Israel once in the year because of all their sins." And Moses did as the LORD commanded him.

17 ¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

² "Speak to Aaron and his sons and to all the people of Israel and say to them, This is the thing that the LORD has commanded.

³ If any one of the house of Israel kills an ox or a lamb or a goat in the camp, or kills it outside the camp,

⁴ and does not bring it to the entrance of the tent of meeting to offer it as a gift to the LORD in front of the tabernacle of the LORD, bloodguilt shall be imputed to that man. He has shed blood, and that man shall be cut off from among his people.

⁵ This is to the end that the people of Israel may bring their sacrifices that they sacrifice in the open field, that they may bring them to the LORD, to the priest at the entrance of the tent of meeting, and sacrifice them as sacrifices of peace offerings to the LORD.

⁶ And the priest shall throw the blood on the altar of the LORD at the entrance of the tent of meeting and burn the fat for a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

⁷ So they shall no more sacrifice their sacrifices to goat demons, after whom they whore. This shall be a statute forever for them throughout their generations.

⁸ "And you shall say to them, Any one of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who sojourn among them, who offers a burnt offering or sacrifice

⁹ and does not bring it to the entrance of the tent of meeting to offer it to the LORD, that man shall be cut off from his people.

¹⁰ "If any one of the house of Israel or of the strangers who sojourn among them 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 for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is

the blood that makes atonement by the life.

¹² Therefore I have said to the people of Israel, No person among you shall eat blood, neither shall any stranger who sojourns among you eat blood.

¹³ "Any one also of the people of Israel, or of the strangers who sojourn among them, who takes in hunting any beast or bird that may be eaten shall pour out its blood and cover it with earth.

¹⁴ For the life of every creature is its blood: its blood is its life. Therefore I have said to the people of Israel, You shall not eat the blood of any creature, for the life of every creature is its blood. Whoever eats it shall be cut off.

¹⁵ And every person who eats what dies of itself or what is torn by beasts, whether he is a native or a sojourner, shall wash his clothes and bathe himself

in water and be unclean until the evening; then he shall be clean.

¹⁶ But if he does not wash them or bathe his flesh, he shall bear his iniquity."

18 ¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

² "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, I am the LORD your God.

³ You shall not do as they do in the land of Egypt, where you lived, and you shall not do as they do in the land of Canaan, to which I am bringing you. You shall not walk in their statutes.

⁴ You shall follow my rules and keep my statutes and walk in them. I am the LORD your God.

⁵ You shall therefore keep my statutes and my rules; if a person does them, he shall live by them: I am the LORD.

⁶ "None of you shall approach any one of his close relatives to uncover nakedness. I am the LORD.

⁷ You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father, which is the nakedness of your mother; she is your mother, you shall not uncover her nakedness.

⁸ You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's wife; it is your father's nakedness.

⁹ You shall not uncover the nakedness of your sister, your father's daughter or your mother's daughter, whether brought up in the family or in another home.

¹⁰ You shall not uncover the nakedness of your son's daughter or of your daughter's daughter, for their nakedness is your own nakedness.

¹¹ You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's wife's daughter, brought up in your father's family, since she is your sister.

¹² You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's sister; she is your father's relative.

¹³ You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister, for she is your mother's relative.

¹⁴ You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's brother, that is, 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 of her daughter, and you shall not take her son's daughter or her daughter's daughter to uncover her nakedness; they are relatives; it is depravity.

¹⁸ And you shall not take a woman as a rival wife to her sister, uncovering her nakedness while her sister is still alive.

¹⁹ "You shall not approach a woman to uncover her nakedness while she is in her menstrual uncleanness.

²⁰ And you shall not lie sexually with your neighbor's wife and so make yourself unclean with her.

²¹ You shall not give any of your children to offer them to Molech, and so 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 And you shall not lie with any animal and so make yourself unclean with it, neither shall any woman give herself to an animal to lie with it: it is perversion.

²⁴ "Do not make yourselves unclean by any of these things, for by all these the nations I am driving out before you have become unclean,

²⁵ and the land became unclean, so that I punished its iniquity, and the land vomited out its inhabitants.

²⁶ But you shall keep my statutes and my rules and do none of these abominations, either the native or the stranger who sojourns among you

²⁷ (for the people of the land, who were before you, did all of these abominations, so that the land became unclean),

²⁸ lest the land vomit you out when you make it unclean, as it vomited out the nation that was before you.

²⁹ For everyone who does any of these abominations, the persons who do them shall be cut off from among their people.

³⁰ So keep my charge never to practice any of these abominable customs that were practiced before you, and never to make yourselves unclean 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 people 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 you shall keep my Sabbaths: I am the LORD your God.

⁴ Do not turn to idols or make for yourselves any gods of cast metal: I am the LORD your God.

⁵ "When you offer a sacrifice of peace offerings to the LORD, you shall offer it so that you may be accepted.

⁶ It shall be eaten the same day you offer it or on the day after, and anything left over until the third day shall be burned up with fire.

⁷ If it is eaten at all on the third day, it is tainted; it will not be accepted,

⁸ and everyone who eats it shall bear his iniquity, because he has profaned what is holy to the LORD, and that person shall be cut off from his people.

⁹ "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest.

¹⁰ And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God.

¹¹ "You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another.

¹² You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.

¹³ "You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired servant shall not remain with you all night until the morning.

¹⁴ You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

¹⁵ "You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor.

¹⁶ You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

¹⁷ "You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him.

¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

¹⁹ "You shall keep my statutes. You shall not let your cattle breed with a different kind. You shall not sow your field with

two kinds of seed, nor shall you wear a garment of cloth made of two kinds of material.

²⁰ "If a man lies sexually with a woman who is a slave, assigned to another man and not yet ransomed or given her freedom, a distinction shall be made. They shall not be put to death, because she was not free;

²¹ but he shall bring his compensation to the LORD, to the entrance of the tent of meeting, a ram for a guilt offering.

²² And the priest shall make atonement for him with the ram of the guilt offering before the LORD for his sin that he has committed, and he shall be forgiven for the sin that he has committed.

²³ "When you come into the land and plant any kind of tree for food, then you shall regard its fruit as forbidden. Three years it shall be forbidden to you; it must not be eaten.

²⁴ And in the fourth year all its fruit shall be holy, an offering of praise to the LORD.

²⁵ But in the fifth year you may eat of its fruit, to increase its yield for you: I am the LORD your God.

²⁶ "You shall not eat any flesh with the blood in it. You shall not interpret omens or tell fortunes.

²⁷ You shall not round off the hair on your temples or mar the edges of your beard.

²⁸ You shall not make any cuts on your body for the dead or tattoo yourselves: I am the LORD.

²⁹ "Do not profane your daughter by making her a prostitute, lest the land fall into prostitution and the land become full of depravity.

³⁰ You shall keep my Sabbaths and reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD.

³¹ "Do not turn to mediums or wizards; do not seek them out, and so make yourselves unclean by them: I am the LORD your God.

³² "You shall stand up before the gray head and honor the face of an old man, and you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

³³ "When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong.

³⁴ You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native 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 wrong in judgment, in measures of length or weight or quantity.

³⁶ You shall have just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.

³⁷ And you shall observe all my statutes and all my rules, and do them: I am the LORD."

20 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

² "Say to the people of Israel, Any one of the people of Israel or of the strangers who sojourn in Israel who gives any of his children to Molech shall surely be put to death. The people of the land shall stone him with stones.

³ I myself will set my face against that man and will cut him off from among his people, because he has given one of his children to Molech, to make my sanctuary unclean and to profane my holy name.

⁴ And if the people of the land do at all close their eyes to that man when he gives one of his children to Molech, and do not put him to death,

⁵ then I will set my face against that man and against his clan and will cut them off from among their people, him and all who follow him in whoring after Molech.

⁶ "If a person turns to mediums and wizards, whoring after them, I will set my face against that person and will cut him off from among his people.

⁷ Consecrate yourselves, therefore, and be holy, for I am the LORD your God.

⁸ Keep my statutes and do them; I am the LORD who sanctifies you.

⁹ For anyone who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death; he has cursed his father or his mother; his blood is upon him.

¹⁰ "If a man commits adultery with the wife of his neighbor, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.

¹¹ If a man lies with his father's wife, he has uncovered his father's nakedness; both of them shall surely be put to death; their blood is 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 is upon them.

¹³ If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them.

¹⁴ If a man takes a woman and her mother also, it is depravity; he and they shall be burned with fire, that there may be no depravity among you.

¹⁵ If a man lies with an animal, he shall surely be put to death, and you shall kill the animal.

¹⁶ If a woman approaches any animal and lies 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, a daughter of his father or a daughter of his mother, and sees her nakedness, and she sees his nakedness, it is a disgrace, and they shall be cut off in the sight of the children of their people. He has uncovered his sister's nakedness, and he shall bear his iniquity.

¹⁸ If a man lies with a woman during her menstrual period and uncovers her nakedness, he has made naked her fountain, and she has uncovered the fountain of her blood. Both of them shall be cut off from among their people.

¹⁹ You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister or of your father's sister, for that is to make naked one's relative; they shall bear their iniquity.

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 impurity. He has uncovered his brother's nakedness; they shall be childless.

²² "You shall therefore keep all my statutes and all my rules and do them, that the land where I am bringing you to live may not vomit you out.

²³ And you shall not walk in the customs of the nation that I am driving out before you, for they did all these things, and therefore I detested 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 have separated you from the peoples.

²⁵ You shall therefore separate the clean beast from the unclean, and the unclean bird from the clean. You shall not make yourselves detestable by beast

or by bird or by anything with which the ground crawls, which I have set apart for you to hold unclean.

²⁶ 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 a wizard shall surely be put to death. They shall be stoned 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: No one shall make himself unclean for the dead among his people,

² except for his closest relatives, his mother, his father, his son, his daughter, his brother,

³ or his virgin sister (who is near to him because she has had no husband; for her he may make himself unclean).

⁴ He shall not make himself unclean as a husband among his people and so profane himself.

⁵ They shall not make bald patches on their heads, nor shave off the edges of their beards, nor make any cuts on their body.

⁶ They shall be holy to their God and not profane the name of their God. For they offer the LORD's food offerings, the bread of their God; therefore they shall be holy.

⁷ They shall not marry a prostitute or a woman who has been defiled, neither shall they marry a woman divorced from her husband, for the priest is holy to his God.

⁸ You shall sanctify 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 And the daughter of any priest, if she profanes herself by whoring, profanes her father; she shall be burned with fire.

¹⁰ "The priest who is chief among his brothers, on whose head the anointing oil is poured and who has been consecrated to wear the garments, shall not let the hair of his head hang loose nor tear his clothes.

¹¹ He shall not go in to any dead bodies nor make himself unclean, even for his father or for his mother.

¹² He shall not go out of the sanctuary, lest he profane the sanctuary of his God, for the consecration of the anointing oil of his God is on him: I am the LORD.

¹³ And he shall take a wife in her virginity.

¹⁴ A widow, or a divorced woman, or a woman who has been defiled, or a prostitute, these he shall not marry. But

he shall take as his wife a virgin of his own people,

¹⁵ that he may not profane his offspring among his people, for I am the LORD who sanctifies him."

¹⁶ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

¹⁷ "Speak to Aaron, saying, None of your offspring throughout their generations who has a blemish may approach to offer the bread of his God.

¹⁸ For no one who has a blemish shall draw near, a man blind or lame, or one who has a mutilated face or a limb too long,

¹⁹ or a man who has an injured foot or an injured hand,

²⁰ or a hunchback or a dwarf or a man with a defect in his sight or an itching disease or scabs or crushed testicles.

²¹ No man of the offspring of Aaron the priest who has a blemish shall come near

to offer the LORD's food offerings; since he has a blemish, he shall not come near to offer the bread of his God.

²² He may eat the bread of his God, both of the most holy and of the holy things,

²³ but he shall not go through the veil or approach the altar, because he has a blemish, that he may not profane my sanctuaries, for I am the LORD who sanctifies them."

²⁴ So Moses spoke to Aaron and to his sons and to all the people of Israel.

22 ¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

² "Speak to Aaron and his sons so that they abstain from the holy things of the people of Israel, which they dedicate to me, so that they do not profane my holy name: I am the LORD.

³ Say to them, 'If any one of all your offspring throughout your generations

approaches the holy things that the people of Israel dedicate to the LORD, while he has an uncleanness, that person shall be cut off from my presence: I am the LORD.

⁴ None of the offspring of Aaron who has a leprous disease or a discharge may eat of the holy things until he is clean. Whoever touches anything that is unclean through contact with the dead or a man who has had an emission of semen,

⁵ and whoever touches a swarming thing by which he may be made unclean or a person from whom he may take uncleanness, whatever his uncleanness may be--

⁶ the person who touches such a thing shall be unclean until the evening and shall not eat of the holy things unless he has bathed his body in water.

⁷ When the sun goes down he shall be clean, and afterward he may eat of the holy things, because they are his food.

⁸ He shall not eat what dies of itself or is torn by beasts, and so make himself unclean by it: I am the LORD.'

⁹ They shall therefore keep my charge, lest they bear sin for it and die thereby when they profane it: I am the LORD who sanctifies them.

¹⁰ "A lay person shall not eat of a holy thing; no foreign guest of the priest or hired servant shall eat of a holy thing,

¹¹ but if a priest buys a slave as his property for money, the slave may eat of it, and anyone born in his house may eat of his food.

¹² If a priest's daughter marries a layman, she shall not eat of the contribution of the holy things.

¹³ But if a priest's daughter is widowed or divorced and has no child and returns

to her father's house, as in her youth, she may eat of her father's food; yet no lay person shall eat of it.

¹⁴ And if anyone eats of a holy thing unintentionally, he shall add the fifth of its value to it and give the holy thing to the priest.

¹⁵ They shall not profane the holy things of the people of Israel, which they contribute to the LORD,

¹⁶ and so cause them to bear iniquity and guilt, by eating their holy things: for I am the LORD who sanctifies them."

¹⁷ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

¹⁸ "Speak to Aaron and his sons and all the people of Israel and say to them, When any one of the house of Israel or of the sojourners in Israel presents a burnt offering as his offering, for any of their vows or freewill offerings that they offer to the LORD,

¹⁹ if it is to be accepted for you it shall be a male without blemish, of the bulls or the sheep or the goats.

²⁰ You shall not offer anything that has a blemish, for it will not be acceptable for you.

²¹ And when anyone offers a sacrifice of peace offerings to the LORD to fulfill a vow or as a freewill offering from the herd or from the flock, to be accepted it must be perfect; there shall be no blemish in it.

²² Animals blind or disabled or mutilated or having a discharge or an itch or scabs you shall not offer to the LORD or give them to the LORD as a food offering on the altar.

²³ You may present a bull or a lamb that has a part too long or too short for a freewill offering, but for a vow offering it cannot be accepted.

²⁴ Any animal that has its testicles bruised or crushed or torn or cut you shall not offer to the LORD; you shall not do it within your land,

²⁵ neither shall you offer as the bread of your God any such animals gotten from a foreigner. Since there is a blemish in them, because of their mutilation, they will not be accepted for you."

²⁶ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

²⁷ "When an ox or sheep or goat is born, it shall remain seven days with its mother, and from the eighth day on it shall be acceptable as a food offering to the LORD.

²⁸ But you shall not kill an ox or a sheep and her young in one day.

²⁹ And when you sacrifice a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the LORD, you shall sacrifice it so that you may be accepted.

³⁰ It shall be eaten on the same day; you shall leave none of it until morning: I am the LORD.

³¹ "So you shall keep my commandments and do them: I am the LORD.

³² And you shall not profane my holy name, that I may be sanctified among the people 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 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

² "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, These are the appointed feasts of the LORD that you shall proclaim as holy convocations; they are my appointed feasts.

³ "Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no

work. It is a Sabbath to the LORD in all your dwelling places.

⁴ "These are the appointed feasts of the LORD, the holy convocations, which you shall proclaim at the time appointed for them.

⁵ In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the 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; for seven days you shall eat unleavened bread.

⁷ On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work.

⁸ But you shall present a food offering to the LORD for seven days. On the seventh day is a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work."

⁹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

¹⁰ "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you come into the land that I give you and reap its harvest, you shall bring the sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest,

¹¹ and he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, so that you may be accepted. On the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it.

¹² And on the day when you wave the sheaf, you shall offer a male lamb a year old without blemish as a burnt offering to the LORD.

¹³ And the grain offering with it shall be two tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, a food offering to the LORD with a pleasing aroma, and the drink offering with it shall be of wine, a fourth of a hin.

¹⁴ And you shall eat neither bread nor grain parched or fresh until this same day, until you have brought the offering

of your God: it is a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

¹⁵ "You shall count seven full weeks from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering.

¹⁶ You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath. Then you shall present a grain offering of new grain to the LORD.

¹⁷ You shall bring from your dwelling places two loaves of bread to be waved, made of two tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour, and they shall be baked with leaven, as firstfruits to the LORD.

¹⁸ And you shall present with the bread seven lambs a year old without blemish, and one bull from the herd and two rams. They shall be a burnt offering to the LORD, with their grain offering and

their drink offerings, a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

¹⁹ And you shall offer one male goat for a sin offering, and two male lambs a year old as a sacrifice of peace offerings.

²⁰ And 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 make proclamation on the same day. You shall hold a holy convocation. You shall not do any ordinary work. It is a statute forever in all your dwelling places throughout your generations.

²² "And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, nor shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God."

²³ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

²⁴ "Speak to the people of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall observe a day of solemn rest, a memorial proclaimed with blast of trumpets, a holy convocation.

²⁵ You shall not do any ordinary work, and you shall present a food offering to the LORD."

²⁶ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

²⁷ "Now on the tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. It shall be for you a time of holy convocation, and you shall afflict yourselves and present a food offering to the LORD.

²⁸ And you shall not do any work on that very day, for it is a Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the LORD your God.

²⁹ For whoever is not afflicted on that very day shall be cut off from his people.

³⁰ And whoever does any work on that very day, that person I will destroy from among his people.

³¹ You shall not do any work. It is a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwelling places.

³² It shall be to you a Sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict yourselves. On the ninth day of the month beginning at evening, from evening to evening shall you keep your Sabbath."

³³ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

³⁴ "Speak to the people of Israel, saying, On the fifteenth day of this seventh month and for seven days is the Feast of Booths to the LORD.

³⁵ On the first day shall be a holy convocation; you shall not do any ordinary work.

³⁶ For seven days you shall present food offerings to the LORD. On the eighth day you shall hold a holy convocation and present a food offering to the LORD. It is a solemn assembly; you shall not do any ordinary work.

³⁷ "These are the appointed feasts of the LORD, which you shall proclaim as times of holy convocation, for presenting to the LORD food offerings, burnt offerings and grain offerings, sacrifices and drink offerings, each on its proper day,

³⁸ besides the LORD's Sabbaths and besides your gifts and besides all your vow offerings and besides all your freewill offerings, which you give to the LORD.

³⁹ "On the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the produce of the land, you shall celebrate the feast of the LORD seven days. On the

first day shall be a solemn rest, and on the eighth day shall be a solemn rest.

⁴⁰ And you shall take on the first day the fruit of splendid trees, branches of palm trees and boughs of leafy trees and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days.

⁴¹ You shall celebrate it as a feast to the LORD for seven days in the year. It is a statute forever throughout your generations; you shall celebrate it in the seventh month.

⁴² You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All native Israelites shall dwell in booths,

⁴³ that your generations may know that I made the people of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God."

⁴⁴ Thus Moses declared to the people of Israel the appointed feasts of the LORD.

24 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

² "Command the people of Israel to bring you pure oil from beaten olives for the lamp, that a light may be kept burning regularly.

³ Outside the veil of the testimony, in the tent of meeting, Aaron shall arrange it from evening to morning before the LORD regularly. It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations.

⁴ He shall arrange the lamps on the lampstand of pure gold before the LORD regularly.

⁵ "You shall take fine flour and bake twelve loaves from it; two tenths of an ephah shall be in each loaf.

⁶ And you shall set them in two piles, six in a pile, on the table of pure gold before the LORD.

⁷ And you shall put pure frankincense on each pile, that it may go with the bread as a memorial portion as a food offering to the LORD.

⁸ Every Sabbath day Aaron shall arrange it before the LORD regularly; it is from the people of Israel as a covenant forever.

⁹ And it shall be for Aaron and his sons, and they shall eat it in a holy place, since it is for him a most holy portion out of the LORD's food offerings, a perpetual due."

¹⁰ Now an Israelite woman's son, whose father was an Egyptian, went out among the people of Israel. And the Israelite woman's son and a man of Israel fought in the camp,

¹¹ and the Israelite woman's son blasphemed the Name, and cursed. Then they brought him to Moses. His mother's name was Shelomith, the daughter of Dibri, of the tribe of Dan.

¹² And they put him in custody, till the will of the LORD should be clear to them.

¹³ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

¹⁴ "Bring out of the camp the one who cursed, and let all who heard him lay their hands on his head, and let all the congregation stone him.

¹⁵ And speak to the people of Israel, saying, Whoever curses his God shall bear his sin.

¹⁶ Whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall stone him. The sojourner as well as the native, when he blasphemes the Name, shall be put to death.

¹⁷ "Whoever takes a human life shall surely be put to death.

¹⁸ Whoever takes an animal's life shall make it good, life for life.

¹⁹ If anyone injures his neighbor, as he has done it shall be done to him,

²⁰ fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth; whatever injury he has given a person shall be given to him.

²¹ Whoever kills an animal shall make it good, and whoever kills a person shall be put to death.

²² You shall have the same rule for the sojourner and for the native, for I am the LORD your God."

²³ So Moses spoke to the people of Israel, and they brought out of the camp the one who had cursed and stoned him with stones. Thus the people of Israel did as the LORD commanded Moses.

25 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying,

² "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you come into the land that I give you, the land shall keep a Sabbath to the LORD.

³ For six years you shall sow your field, and for six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in its fruits,

⁴ but in the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a Sabbath to the LORD. You shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard.

⁵ You shall not reap what grows of itself in your harvest, or gather the grapes of your undressed vine. It shall be a year of solemn rest for the land.

⁶ The Sabbath of the land shall provide food for you, for yourself and for your male and female slaves and for your hired servant and the sojourner who lives with you,

⁷ and for your cattle and for the wild animals that are in your land: all its yield shall be for food.

⁸ "You shall count seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, so that the time of the seven weeks of years shall give you forty-nine years.

⁹ Then you shall sound the loud trumpet on the tenth day of the seventh month. On the Day of Atonement you shall sound the trumpet throughout all your land.

¹⁰ And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, when each of you shall return to his property and each of you shall return to his clan.

¹¹ That fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you; in it you shall neither sow nor reap what grows of itself nor gather the grapes from the undressed vines.

¹² For it is a jubilee. It shall be holy to you. You may eat the produce of the field.

¹³ "In this year of jubilee each of you shall return to his property.

¹⁴ And if you make a sale to your neighbor or buy from your neighbor, you shall not wrong one another.

¹⁵ You shall pay your neighbor according to the number of years after the jubilee, and he shall sell to you according to the number of years for crops.

¹⁶ If the years are many, you shall increase the price, and if the years are few, you shall reduce the price, for it is the number of the crops that he is selling to you.

¹⁷ You shall not wrong one another, but you shall fear your God, for I am the LORD your God.

¹⁸ "Therefore you shall do my statutes and keep my rules and perform them,

and then you will dwell in the land securely.

¹⁹ The land will yield its fruit, and you will eat your fill and dwell in it securely.

²⁰ And if you say, 'What shall we eat in the seventh year, if we may not sow or gather in our crop?'

²¹ I will command my blessing on you in the sixth year, so that it will produce a crop sufficient for three years.

²² When you sow in the eighth year, you will be eating some of the old crop; you shall eat the old until the ninth year, when its crop arrives.

²³ "The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine. For you are strangers and sojourners with me.

²⁴ And in all the country you possess, you shall allow a redemption of the land.

²⁵ "If your brother becomes poor and sells part of his property, then his nearest

redeemer shall come and redeem what his brother has sold.

²⁶ If a man has no one to redeem it and then himself becomes prosperous and finds sufficient means to redeem it,

²⁷ let him calculate the years since he sold it and pay back the balance to the man to whom he sold it, and then return to his property.

²⁸ But if he has not sufficient means to recover it, then what he sold shall remain in the hand of the buyer until the year of jubilee. In the jubilee it shall be released, and he shall return to his property.

²⁹ "If a man sells a dwelling house in a walled city, he may redeem it within a year of its sale. For a full year he shall have the right of redemption.

³⁰ If it is not redeemed within a full year, then the house in the walled city shall belong in perpetuity to the buyer,

throughout his generations; it shall not be released in the jubilee.

³¹ But the houses of the villages that have no wall around them shall be classified with the fields of the land. They may be redeemed, and they shall be released in the jubilee.

³² As for the cities of the Levites, the Levites may redeem at any time the houses in the cities they possess.

³³ And if one of the Levites exercises his right of redemption, then the house that was sold in a city they possess shall be released in the jubilee. For the houses in the cities of the Levites are their possession among the people of Israel.

³⁴ But the fields of pastureland belonging to their cities may not be sold, for that is their possession forever.

³⁵ "If your brother becomes poor and cannot maintain himself with you, you shall support him as though he were a

stranger and a sojourner, and he shall live with you.

³⁶ Take no interest from him or profit, but fear your God, that your brother may live beside you.

³⁷ You shall not lend him your money at interest, nor give him your food for profit.

³⁸ I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt to give you the land of Canaan, and to be your God.

³⁹ "If your brother becomes poor beside you and sells himself to you, you shall not make him serve as a slave:

⁴⁰ he shall be with you as a hired servant and as a sojourner. He shall serve with you until the year of the jubilee.

⁴¹ Then he shall go out from you, he and his children with him, and go back to his own clan and 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 ruthlessly but shall fear your God.

⁴⁴ As for your male and female slaves whom you may have: you may buy male and female slaves from among the nations that are around you.

⁴⁵ You may also buy from among the strangers who sojourn with you and their clans that are with you, who have been born in your land, and they may be your property.

⁴⁶ You may bequeath them to your sons after you to inherit as a possession forever. You may make slaves of them, but over your brothers the people of Israel you shall not rule, one over another ruthlessly.

⁴⁷ "If a stranger or sojourner with you becomes rich, and your brother beside

him becomes poor and sells himself to the stranger or sojourner with you or to a member of the stranger's clan,

⁴⁸ then after he is sold he may be redeemed. One of his brothers may redeem him,

⁴⁹ or his uncle or his cousin may redeem him, or a close relative from his clan may redeem him. Or if he grows rich he may redeem himself.

⁵⁰ He shall calculate with his buyer from the year when he sold himself to him until the year of jubilee, and the price of his sale shall vary with the number of years. The time he was with his owner shall be rated as the time of a hired servant.

⁵¹ If there are still many years left, he shall pay proportionately for his redemption some of his sale price.

⁵² If there remain but a few years until the year of jubilee, he shall calculate and

pay for his redemption in proportion to his years of service.

⁵³ He shall treat him as a servant hired year by year. He shall not rule ruthlessly over him in your sight.

⁵⁴ And if he is not redeemed by these means, then he and his children with him shall be released in the year of jubilee.

⁵⁵ For it is to me that the people of Israel are servants. 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 or erect an image or pillar, and you shall not set up a figured 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 observe my commandments and do them,

⁴ then I will give you your rains in their season, and the land shall yield its increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.

⁵ Your threshing shall last to the time of the grape harvest, and the grape harvest shall last to the time for sowing. And you shall eat your bread to the full and dwell in your land securely.

⁶ I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid. And I will remove harmful beasts from the land, and the sword shall not go through your land.

⁷ You shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword.

⁸ Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall chase ten

thousand, and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword.

⁹ I will turn to you and make you fruitful and multiply you and will confirm my covenant with you.

¹⁰ You shall eat old store long kept, and you shall clear out the old to make way for the new.

¹¹ I will make my dwelling among you, and my soul shall not abhor you.

¹² And I will walk among you and will 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. And I have broken the bars of your yoke and made you walk erect.

¹⁴ "But if you will not listen to me and will not do all these commandments,

¹⁵ if you spurn my statutes, and if your soul abhors my rules, so that you will not

do all my commandments, but break my covenant,

¹⁶ then I will do this to you: I will visit you with panic, with wasting disease and fever that consume the eyes and make the heart ache. 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 struck down before your enemies. Those who hate you shall rule over you, and you shall flee when none pursues you.

¹⁸ And if in spite of this you will not listen to me, then I will discipline you again sevenfold for your sins,

¹⁹ and I will break the pride of your power, and 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

increase, and the trees of the land shall not yield their fruit.

²¹ "Then if you walk contrary to me and will not listen to me, I will continue striking you, sevenfold for your sins.

²² And I will let loose the wild beasts against you, which shall bereave you of your children and destroy your livestock and make you few in number, so that your roads shall be deserted.

²³ "And if by this discipline you are not turned to me but walk contrary to me,

²⁴ then I also will walk contrary to you, and I myself will strike you sevenfold for your sins.

²⁵ And I will bring a sword upon you, that shall execute vengeance for the covenant. And if you gather within your cities, I will send pestilence among you, and you shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy.

²⁶ When I break your supply of bread, ten women shall bake your bread in a single oven and shall dole out your bread again by weight, and you shall eat and not be satisfied.

²⁷ "But if in spite of this you will not listen to me, but walk contrary to me,

²⁸ then I will walk contrary to you in fury, and I myself will discipline you sevenfold for your sins.

²⁹ You shall eat the flesh of your sons, and you shall eat the flesh of your daughters.

³⁰ And I will destroy your high places and cut down your incense altars and cast your dead bodies upon the dead bodies of your idols, and my soul will abhor you.

³¹ And I will lay your cities waste and will make your sanctuaries desolate, and I will not smell your pleasing aromas.

³² And I myself will devastate the land, so that your enemies who settle in it shall be appalled at it.

³³ And I will scatter you among the nations, and I will unsheathe the sword after you, and your land shall be a desolation, and your cities shall be a waste.

³⁴ "Then the land shall enjoy its Sabbaths as long as it lies desolate, while you are in your enemies' land; then the land shall rest, and enjoy its Sabbaths.

³⁵ As long as it lies desolate it shall have rest, the rest that it did not have on your Sabbaths when you were dwelling 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 driven leaf shall put them to flight, and they shall flee as one flees from the sword, and they shall fall when none pursues.

³⁷ They shall stumble over one another, as if to escape a sword, though none pursues. And you shall have no power to stand before your enemies.

³⁸ And 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 rot away in your enemies' lands because of their iniquity, and also because of the iniquities of their fathers they shall rot away like them.

⁴⁰ "But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers in their treachery that they committed against me, and also in walking contrary to me,

⁴¹ so that I walked contrary to them and brought them into the land of their enemies--if then their uncircumcised heart is humbled and they make amends for their iniquity,

⁴² then I will remember my covenant with Jacob, and I will remember my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land.

⁴³ But the land shall be abandoned by them and enjoy its Sabbaths while it lies desolate without them, and they shall make amends for their iniquity, because they spurned my rules and their soul abhorred my statutes.

⁴⁴ Yet for all that, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not spurn them, neither will I abhor them so as to destroy them utterly and break my covenant with them, for I am the LORD their God.

⁴⁵ But I will for their sake remember the covenant with their forefathers, 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 rules and laws that the LORD made between him and the people of Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai.

27 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

² "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, If anyone makes a special vow to the LORD involving the valuation of persons,

³ then the valuation of a male from twenty years old up to sixty years old shall be fifty shekels of silver, according to the shekel of the sanctuary.

⁴ If the person is a female, the valuation shall be thirty shekels.

⁵ If the person is from five years old up to twenty years old, the valuation shall be for a male twenty shekels, and for a female ten shekels.

⁶ If the person is from a month old up to five years old, the valuation shall be

for a male five shekels of silver, and for a female the valuation shall be three shekels of silver.

⁷ And if the person is sixty years old or over, then the valuation for a male shall be fifteen shekels, and for a female ten shekels.

⁸ And if someone is too poor to pay the valuation, then he shall be made to stand before the priest, and the priest shall value him; the priest shall value him according to what the vower can afford.

⁹ "If the vow is an animal that may be offered as an offering to the LORD, all of it that he gives to the LORD is holy.

¹⁰ He shall not exchange it or make a substitute for it, good for bad, or bad for good; and if he does in fact substitute one animal for another, then both it and the substitute shall be holy.

¹¹ And if it is any unclean animal that may not be offered as an offering to the

LORD, then he shall stand the animal before the priest,

¹² and the priest shall value it as either good or bad; as the priest values it, so it shall be.

¹³ But if he wishes to redeem it, he shall add a fifth to the valuation.

¹⁴ "When a man dedicates his house as a holy gift to the LORD, the priest shall value it as either good or bad; as the priest values it, so it shall stand.

¹⁵ And if the donor wishes to redeem his house, he shall add a fifth to the valuation price, and it shall be his.

¹⁶ "If a man dedicates to the LORD part of the land that is his possession, then the valuation shall be in proportion to its seed. A homer of barley seed shall be valued at fifty shekels of silver.

¹⁷ If he dedicates his field from the year of jubilee, the valuation shall stand,

¹⁸ but if he dedicates his field after the jubilee, then the priest shall calculate the price according to the years that remain until the year of jubilee, and a deduction shall be made from the valuation.

¹⁹ And if he who dedicates the field wishes to redeem it, then he shall add a fifth to its valuation price, and it shall remain his.

²⁰ But if he does not wish 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 a holy gift to the LORD, like a field that has been devoted. The priest shall be in possession of it.

²² If he dedicates to the LORD a field that he has bought, which is not a part of his possession,

²³ then the priest shall calculate the amount of the valuation for it up to the year of jubilee, and the man shall give the valuation on that day as a holy gift to the LORD.

²⁴ In the year of jubilee the field shall return to him from whom it was bought, to whom the land belongs as a possession.

²⁵ Every valuation shall be according to the shekel of the sanctuary: twenty gerahs shall make a shekel.

²⁶ "But a firstborn of animals, which as a firstborn belongs to the LORD, no man may dedicate; whether ox or sheep, it is the LORD's.

²⁷ And if it is an unclean animal, then he shall buy it back at the valuation, and add a fifth to it; or, if it is not redeemed, it shall be sold at the valuation.

²⁸ "But no devoted thing that a man devotes to the LORD, of anything that

he has, whether man or beast, or of his inherited field, shall be sold or redeemed; every devoted thing is most holy to the LORD.

²⁹ No one devoted, who is to be devoted for destruction from mankind, shall be ransomed; he shall surely be put to death.

³⁰ "Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the LORD's; it is holy to the LORD.

³¹ If a man wishes to redeem some of his tithe, he shall add a fifth to it.

³² And every tithe of herds and flocks, every tenth animal of all that pass under the herdsman's staff, shall be holy to the LORD.

³³ One shall not differentiate between good or bad, neither shall he make a substitute for it; and if he does substitute

for it, then both it and the substitute shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed."

³⁴ These are the commandments that the LORD commanded Moses for the people of Israel on Mount Sinai.

Numbers

1 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tent 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 people of Israel, by clans, by fathers' houses, according to the number of names, every male, head by head.

³ From twenty years old and upward, all in Israel who are able to go to war, you and Aaron shall list them, company by company.

⁴ And there shall be with you a man from each tribe, each man being the head of the house of his fathers.

⁵ And these are the names of the men who shall assist 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, and 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 Ochron;

¹⁴ from Gad, Eliasaph the son of Deuel;

¹⁵ from Naphtali, Ahira the son of Enan."

¹⁶ These were the ones chosen from the congregation, the chiefs of their ancestral tribes, the heads of the clans of Israel.

¹⁷ Moses and Aaron took these men who had been named,

¹⁸ and on the first day of the second month, they assembled the whole congregation together, who registered themselves by clans, by fathers' houses, according to the number of names from twenty years old and upward, head by head,

¹⁹ as the LORD commanded Moses. So he listed them in the wilderness of Sinai.

²⁰ The people of Reuben, Israel's firstborn, their generations, by their clans, by their fathers' houses, according to the number of names, head by head, every male from twenty years old and upward, all who were able to go to war:

²¹ those listed of the tribe of Reuben were 46,500.

²² Of the people of Simeon, their generations, by their clans, by their fathers' houses, those of them who were listed, according to the number of names, head by head, every male from twenty years old and upward, all who were able to go to war:

²³ those listed of the tribe of Simeon were 59,300.

²⁴ Of the people of Gad, their generations, by their clans, by their fathers' houses, according to the number of the names, from twenty years old and upward, all who were able to go to war:

²⁵ those listed of the tribe of Gad were 45,650.

²⁶ Of the people of Judah, their generations, by their clans, by their fathers' houses, according to the number

of names, from twenty years old and upward, every man able to go to war:

²⁷ those listed of the tribe of Judah were 74,600.

²⁸ Of the people of Issachar, their generations, by their clans, by their fathers' houses, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, every man able to go to war:

²⁹ those listed of the tribe of Issachar were 54,400.

³⁰ Of the people of Zebulun, their generations, by their clans, by their fathers' houses, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, every man able to go to war:

³¹ those listed of the tribe of Zebulun were 57,400.

³² Of the people of Joseph, namely, of the people of Ephraim, their generations, by their clans, by their fathers' houses, according to the number of names, from

twenty years old and upward, every man able to go to war:

³³ those listed of the tribe of Ephraim were 40,500.

³⁴ Of the people of Manasseh, their generations, by their clans, by their fathers' houses, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, every man able to go to war:

³⁵ those listed of the tribe of Manasseh were 32,200.

³⁶ Of the people of Benjamin, their generations, by their clans, by their fathers' houses, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, every man able to go to war:

³⁷ those listed of the tribe of Benjamin were 35,400.

³⁸ Of the people of Dan, their generations, by their clans, by their fathers' houses, according to the number

of names, from twenty years old and upward, every man able to go to war:

³⁹ those listed of the tribe of Dan were 62,700.

⁴⁰ Of the people of Asher, their generations, by their clans, by their fathers' houses, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, every man able to go to war:

⁴¹ those listed of the tribe of Asher were 41,500.

⁴² Of the people of Naphtali, their generations, by their clans, by their fathers' houses, according to the number of names, from twenty years old and upward, every man able to go to war:

⁴³ those listed of the tribe of Naphtali were 53,400.

⁴⁴ These are those who were listed, whom Moses and Aaron listed with the help of the chiefs of Israel, twelve men, each representing his fathers' house.

⁴⁵ So all those listed of the people of Israel, by their fathers' houses, from twenty years old and upward, every man able to go to war in Israel--

⁴⁶ all those listed were 603,550.

⁴⁷ But the Levites were not listed along with them by their ancestral tribe.

⁴⁸ For the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

⁴⁹ "Only the tribe of Levi you shall not list, and you shall not take a census of them among the people of Israel.

⁵⁰ But appoint the Levites over the tabernacle of the testimony, and over all its furnishings, and over all that belongs to it. They are to carry the tabernacle and all its furnishings, and they shall take care of it and shall camp around the tabernacle.

⁵¹ When the tabernacle is to set out, the Levites shall take it down, and when the tabernacle is to be pitched, the

Levites shall set it up. And if any outsider comes near, he shall be put to death.

⁵² The people of Israel shall pitch their tents by their companies, each man in his own camp and each man by his own standard.

⁵³ But the Levites shall camp around the tabernacle of the testimony, so that there may be no wrath on the congregation of the people of Israel. And the Levites shall keep guard over the tabernacle of the testimony."

⁵⁴ Thus did the people of Israel; they did according to all that the LORD commanded Moses.

2 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying,

² "The people of Israel shall camp each by his own standard, with the banners of their fathers' houses. They shall camp facing the tent of meeting on every side.

³ Those to camp on the east side toward the sunrise shall be of the standard of the camp of Judah by their companies, the chief of the people of Judah being Nahshon the son of Amminadab,

⁴ his company as listed being 74,600.

⁵ Those to camp next to him shall be the tribe of Issachar, the chief of the people of Issachar being Nethanel the son of Zuar,

⁶ his company as listed being 54,400.

⁷ Then the tribe of Zebulun, the chief of the people of Zebulun being Eliab the son of Helon,

⁸ his company as listed being 57,400.

⁹ All those listed of the camp of Judah, by their companies, were 186,400. They shall set out first on the march.

¹⁰ "On the south side shall be the standard of the camp of Reuben by their companies, the chief of the people of Reuben being Elizur the son of Shedeur,

¹¹ his company as listed being 46,500.

¹² And those to camp next to him shall be the tribe of Simeon, the chief of the people of Simeon being Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai,

¹³ his company as listed being 59,300.

¹⁴ Then the tribe of Gad, the chief of the people of Gad being Eliasaph the son of Reuel,

¹⁵ his company as listed being 45,650.

¹⁶ All those listed of the camp of Reuben, by their companies, were 151,450. They shall set out second.

¹⁷ "Then the tent of meeting shall set out, with the camp of the Levites in the midst of the camps; as they camp, so shall they set out, each in position, standard by standard.

¹⁸ "On the west side shall be the standard of the camp of Ephraim by their companies, the chief of the people

of Ephraim being Elishama the son of Ammihud,

¹⁹ his company as listed being 40,500.

²⁰ And next to him shall be the tribe of Manasseh, the chief of the people of Manasseh being Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur,

²¹ his company as listed being 32,200.

²² Then the tribe of Benjamin, the chief of the people of Benjamin being Abidan the son of Gideoni,

²³ his company as listed being 35,400.

²⁴ All those listed of the camp of Ephraim, by their companies, were 108,100. They shall set out third on the march.

²⁵ "On the north side shall be the standard of the camp of Dan by their companies, the chief of the people of Dan being Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai,

²⁶ his company as listed being 62,700.

²⁷ And those to camp next to him shall be the tribe of Asher, the chief of the people of Asher being Pagiel the son of Ochran,

²⁸ his company as listed being 41,500.

²⁹ Then the tribe of Naphtali, the chief of the people of Naphtali being Ahira the son of Enan,

³⁰ his company as listed being 53,400.

³¹ All those listed of the camp of Dan were 157,600. They shall set out last, standard by standard."

³² These are the people of Israel as listed by their fathers' houses. All those listed in the camps by their companies were 603,550.

³³ But the Levites were not listed among the people of Israel, as the LORD commanded Moses.

³⁴ Thus did the people of Israel. According to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so they camped

by their standards, and so they set out, each one in his clan, according to his fathers' house.

3 ¹ These are the generations of Aaron and Moses at the time when the LORD spoke with Moses on Mount Sinai.

² 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 ordained to serve as priests.

⁴ But Nadab and Abihu died before the LORD when they offered unauthorized fire before the LORD in the wilderness of Sinai, and they had no children. So Eleazar and Ithamar served as priests in the lifetime of Aaron their father.

⁵ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

⁶ "Bring the tribe of Levi near, and set them before Aaron the priest, that they may minister to him.

⁷ They shall keep guard over him and over the whole congregation before the tent of meeting, as they minister at the tabernacle.

⁸ They shall guard all the furnishings of the tent of meeting, and keep guard over the people of Israel as they minister at the tabernacle.

⁹ And you shall give the Levites to Aaron and his sons; they are wholly given to him from among the people of Israel.

¹⁰ And you shall appoint Aaron and his sons, and they shall guard their priesthood. But if any outsider comes near, he shall be put to death."

¹¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

¹² "Behold, I have taken the Levites from among the people of Israel instead of every firstborn who opens the womb among the people of Israel. The Levites shall be mine,

¹³ for all the firstborn are mine. On the day that I struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, I consecrated for my own all the firstborn in Israel, both of man and of beast. They shall be mine: I am the LORD."

¹⁴ And the LORD spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, saying,

¹⁵ "List the sons of Levi, by fathers' houses and by clans; every male from a month old and upward you shall list."

¹⁶ So Moses listed them according to the word of the LORD, as he was commanded.

¹⁷ And these were the sons of Levi by their names: Gershon and Kohath and Merari.

¹⁸ And these are the names of the sons of Gershon by their clans: Libni and Shimei.

¹⁹ And the sons of Kohath by their clans: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel.

²⁰ And the sons of Merari by their clans: Mahli and Mushi. These are the clans of the Levites, by their fathers' houses.

²¹ To Gershon belonged the clan of the Libnites and the clan of the Shimeites; these were the clans of the Gershonites.

²² Their listing according to the number of all the males from a month old and upward was 7,500.

²³ The clans of the Gershonites were to camp behind the tabernacle on the west,

²⁴ with Eliasaph, the son of Lael as chief of the fathers' house of the Gershonites.

²⁵ And the guard duty of the sons of Gershon in the tent of meeting involved the tabernacle, the tent with its covering, the screen for the entrance of the tent of meeting,

²⁶ the hangings of the court, the screen for the door of the court that is around the tabernacle and the altar, and its

cords--all the service connected with these.

²⁷ To Kohath belonged the clan of the Amramites and the clan of the Izharites and the clan of the Hebronites and the clan of the Uzzielites; these are the clans of the Kohathites.

²⁸ According to the number of all the males, from a month old and upward, there were 8,600, keeping guard over the sanctuary.

²⁹ The clans of the sons of Kohath were to camp on the south side of the tabernacle,

³⁰ with Elizaphan the son of Uzziel as chief of the fathers' house of the clans of the Kohathites.

³¹ And their guard duty involved the ark, the table, the lampstand, the altars, the vessels of the sanctuary with which the priests minister, and the screen; all the service connected with these.

³² And Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest was to be chief over the chiefs of the Levites, and to have oversight of those who kept guard over the sanctuary.

³³ To Merari belonged the clan of the Mahlites and the clan of the Mushites: these are the clans of Merari.

³⁴ Their listing according to the number of all the males from a month old and upward was 6,200.

³⁵ And the chief of the fathers' house of the clans of Merari was Zuriel the son of Abihail. They were to camp on the north side of the tabernacle.

³⁶ And the appointed guard duty of the sons of Merari involved the frames of the tabernacle, the bars, the pillars, the bases, and all their accessories; all the service connected with these;

³⁷ also the pillars around the court, with their bases and pegs and cords.

³⁸ Those who were to camp before the tabernacle on the east, before the tent of meeting toward the sunrise, were Moses and Aaron and his sons, guarding the sanctuary itself, to protect the people of Israel. And any outsider who came near was to be put to death.

³⁹ All those listed among the Levites, whom Moses and Aaron listed at the commandment of the LORD, by clans, all the males from a month old and upward, were 22,000.

⁴⁰ And the LORD said to Moses, "List all the firstborn males of the people of Israel, from a month old and upward, taking 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 people of Israel, and the cattle of the Levites instead of all the firstborn among the cattle of the people of Israel."

⁴² So Moses listed all the firstborn among the people of Israel, as the LORD commanded him.

⁴³ And all the firstborn males, according to the number of names, from a month old and upward as listed were 22,273.

⁴⁴ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

⁴⁵ "Take the Levites instead of all the firstborn among the people of Israel, and the cattle of the Levites instead of their cattle. The Levites shall be mine: I am the LORD.

⁴⁶ And as the redemption price for the 273 of the firstborn of the people of Israel, over and above the number of the male Levites,

⁴⁷ you shall take five shekels per head; you shall take them according to the shekel of the sanctuary (the shekel of twenty gerahs),

⁴⁸ and give the money to Aaron and his sons as the redemption price for those who are over."

⁴⁹ So Moses took the redemption money from those who were over and above those redeemed by the Levites.

⁵⁰ From the firstborn of the people of Israel he took the money, 1,365 shekels, by the shekel of the sanctuary.

⁵¹ And Moses gave the redemption money to Aaron and his sons, according to the word of the LORD, as the LORD commanded Moses.

4 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying,

² "Take a census of the sons of Kohath from among the sons of Levi, by their clans and their fathers' houses,

³ from thirty years old up to fifty years old, all who can come on duty, to do the work in the tent of meeting.

⁴ This is the service of the sons of Kohath in the tent of meeting: the most holy things.

⁵ When the camp is to set out, Aaron and his sons shall go in and take down the veil of the screen and cover the ark of the testimony with it.

⁶ Then they shall put on it a covering of goatskin and spread on top of that a cloth all of blue, and shall put in its poles.

⁷ And over the table of the bread of the Presence they shall spread a cloth of blue and put on it the plates, the dishes for incense, the bowls, and the flagons for the drink offering; the regular show bread also shall be on it.

⁸ Then they shall spread over them a cloth of scarlet and cover the same with a covering of goatskin, and shall put in its poles.

⁹ And they shall take a cloth of blue and cover the lampstand for the light, with its lamps, its tongs, its trays, and all the vessels for oil with which it is supplied.

¹⁰ And they shall put it with all its utensils in a covering of goatskin and put it on the carrying frame.

¹¹ And over the golden altar they shall spread a cloth of blue and cover it with a covering of goatskin, and shall put in its poles.

¹² And they shall take all the vessels of the service that are used in the sanctuary and put them in a cloth of blue and cover them with a covering of goatskin and put them on the carrying frame.

¹³ And they shall take away the ashes from the altar and spread a purple cloth over it.

¹⁴ And they shall put on it all the utensils of the altar, which are used

for the service there, the fire pans, the forks, the shovels, and the basins, all the utensils of the altar; and they shall spread on it a covering of goatskin, and shall put in its poles.

¹⁵ And when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, as the camp sets out, after that the sons of Kohath shall come to carry these, but they must not touch the holy things, lest they die. These are the things of the tent of meeting that the sons of Kohath are to carry.

¹⁶ "And Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest shall have charge of the oil for the light, the fragrant incense, the regular grain offering, and the anointing oil, with the oversight of the whole tabernacle and all that is in it, of the sanctuary and its vessels."

¹⁷ The LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying,

¹⁸ "Let not the tribe of the clans of the Kohathites be destroyed from among the Levites,

¹⁹ but deal thus with them, that they may live and not die when they come near to the most holy things: Aaron and his sons shall go in and appoint them each to his task and to his burden,

²⁰ but they shall not go in to look on the holy things even for a moment, lest they die."

²¹ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

²² "Take a census of the sons of Gershon also, by their fathers' houses and by their clans.

²³ From thirty years old up to fifty years old, you shall list them, all who can come to do duty, to do service in the tent of meeting.

²⁴ This is the service of the clans of the Gershonites, in serving and bearing burdens:

²⁵ they shall carry the curtains of the tabernacle and the tent of meeting with its covering and the covering of goatskin that is on top of it and the screen for the entrance of the tent of meeting

²⁶ and the hangings of the court and the screen for the entrance of the gate of the court that is around the tabernacle and the altar, and their cords and all the equipment for their service. And they shall do all that needs to be done with regard to them.

²⁷ All the service of the sons of the Gershonites shall be at the command of Aaron and his sons, in all that they are to carry and in all that they have to do. And you shall assign to their charge all that they are to carry.

²⁸ This is the service of the clans of the sons of the Gershonites in the tent of meeting, and their guard duty is to be under the direction of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.

²⁹ "As for the sons of Merari, you shall list them by their clans and their fathers' houses.

³⁰ From thirty years old up to fifty years old, you shall list them, everyone who can come on duty, to do the service of the tent of meeting.

³¹ And this is what they are charged to carry, as the whole of their service in the tent of meeting: the frames of the tabernacle, with its bars, pillars, and bases,

³² and the pillars around the court with their bases, pegs, and cords, with all their equipment and all their accessories. And you shall list by name

the objects that they are required to carry.

³³ This is the service of the clans of the sons of Merari, the whole of their service in the tent of meeting, under the direction of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest."

³⁴ And Moses and Aaron and the chiefs of the congregation listed the sons of the Kohathites, by their clans and their fathers' houses,

³⁵ from thirty years old up to fifty years old, everyone who could come on duty, for service in the tent of meeting;

³⁶ and those listed by clans were 2,750.

³⁷ This was the list of the clans of the Kohathites, all who served in the tent of meeting, whom Moses and Aaron listed according to the commandment of the LORD by Moses.

³⁸ Those listed of the sons of Gershon, by their clans and their fathers' houses,

³⁹ from thirty years old up to fifty years old, everyone who could come on duty for service in the tent of meeting--

⁴⁰ those listed by their clans and their fathers' houses were 2,630.

⁴¹ This was the list of the clans of the sons of Gershon, all who served in the tent of meeting, whom Moses and Aaron listed according to the commandment of the LORD.

⁴² Those listed of the clans of the sons of Merari, by their clans and their fathers' houses,

⁴³ from thirty years old up to fifty years old, everyone who could come on duty, for service in the tent of meeting--

⁴⁴ those listed by clans were 3,200.

⁴⁵ This was the list of the clans of the sons of Merari, whom Moses and Aaron listed according to the commandment of the LORD by Moses.

⁴⁶ All those who were listed of the Levites, whom Moses and Aaron and the chiefs of Israel listed, by their clans and their fathers' houses,

⁴⁷ from thirty years old up to fifty years old, everyone who could come to do the service of ministry and the service of bearing burdens in the tent of meeting,

⁴⁸ those listed were 8,580.

⁴⁹ According to the commandment of the LORD through Moses they were listed, each one with his task of serving or carrying. Thus they were listed by him, as the LORD commanded Moses.

5 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,
² "Command the people of Israel that they put out of the camp everyone who is leprous or has a discharge and everyone who is unclean through contact with the dead.

³ You shall put out both male and female, putting them outside the camp,

that they may not defile their camp, in the midst of which I dwell."

⁴ And the people of Israel did so, and put them outside the camp; as the LORD said to Moses, so the people of Israel did.

⁵ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

⁶ "Speak to the people of Israel, When a man or woman commits any of the sins that people commit by breaking faith with the LORD, and that person realizes his guilt,

⁷ he shall confess his sin that he has committed. And he shall make full restitution for his wrong, adding a fifth to it and giving it to him to whom he did the wrong.

⁸ But if the man has no next of kin to whom restitution may be made for the wrong, the restitution for wrong shall go to the LORD for the priest, in addition

to the ram of atonement with which atonement is made for him.

⁹ And every contribution, all the holy donations of the people of Israel, which they bring to the priest, shall be his.

¹⁰ Each one shall keep his holy donations: whatever anyone gives to the priest shall be his."

¹¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

¹² "Speak to the people of Israel, If any man's wife goes astray and breaks faith with him,

¹³ if a man lies with her sexually, and it is hidden from the eyes of her husband, and she is undetected though she has defiled herself, and there is no witness against her, since she was not taken in the act,

¹⁴ and if the spirit of jealousy comes over him and he is jealous of his wife who has defiled herself, or if the spirit

of jealousy comes over him and he is jealous of his wife, though she has not defiled herself,

¹⁵ then the man shall bring his wife to the priest and bring the offering required of her, a tenth of an ephah of barley flour. He shall pour no oil on it and put no frankincense on it, for it is a grain offering of jealousy, a grain offering of remembrance, bringing iniquity to remembrance.

¹⁶ "And the priest shall bring her near and set her before the LORD.

¹⁷ And the priest shall take holy water in an earthenware vessel and take some of the dust that is on the floor of the tabernacle and put it into the water.

¹⁸ And the priest shall set the woman before the LORD and unbind the hair of the woman's head and place in her hands the grain offering of remembrance, which is the grain offering of jealousy.

And in his hand the priest shall have the water of bitterness that brings the curse.

¹⁹ Then the priest shall make her take an oath, saying, 'If no man has lain with you, and if you have not turned aside to uncleanness while you were under your husband's authority, be free from this water of bitterness that brings the curse.

²⁰ But if you have gone astray, though you are under your husband's authority, and if you have defiled yourself, and some man other than your husband has lain with you,

²¹ then' (let the priest make the woman take the oath of the curse, and say to the woman) 'the LORD make you a curse and an oath among your people, when the LORD makes your thigh fall away and your body swell.

²² May this water that brings the curse pass into your bowels and make your

womb swell and your thigh fall away.'
And the woman shall say, 'Amen, Amen.'

²³ "Then the priest shall write these curses in a book and wash them off into the water of bitterness.

²⁴ And he shall make the woman drink the water of bitterness that brings the curse, and the water that brings the curse shall enter into her and cause bitter pain.

²⁵ And the priest shall take the grain offering of jealousy out of the woman's hand and shall wave the grain offering before the LORD and bring it to the altar.

²⁶ And the priest shall take a handful of the grain offering, as its memorial portion, and burn it on the altar, and afterward shall make the woman drink the water.

²⁷ And when he has made her drink the water, then, if she has defiled herself and has broken faith with her husband,

the water that brings the curse shall enter into her and cause bitter pain, and her womb shall swell, and her thigh shall fall away, and the woman shall become a curse among her people.

²⁸ But if the woman has not defiled herself and is clean, then she shall be free and shall conceive children.

²⁹ "This is the law in cases of jealousy, when a wife, though under her husband's authority, goes astray and defiles herself,

³⁰ or when the spirit of jealousy comes over a man and he is jealous of his wife. Then he shall set the woman before the LORD, and the priest shall carry out for her all this law.

³¹ The man shall be free from iniquity, but the woman shall bear her iniquity."

6 ¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

² "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When either a man or a woman makes a special vow, the vow of a Nazirite, to separate himself to the LORD,

³ he shall separate himself from wine and strong drink. He shall drink no vinegar made from wine or strong drink and shall not drink any juice of grapes or eat grapes, fresh or dried.

⁴ All the days of his separation he shall eat nothing that is produced by the grapevine, not even the seeds or the skins.

⁵ "All the days of his vow of separation, no razor shall touch his head. Until the time is completed for which he separates himself to the LORD, he shall be holy. He shall let the locks of hair of his head grow long.

⁶ "All the days that he separates himself to the LORD he shall not go near a dead body.

⁷ Not even for his father or for his mother, for brother or sister, if they die, shall he make himself unclean, because his separation to God is on his head.

⁸ All the days of his separation he is holy to the LORD.

⁹ "And if any man 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 On the eighth day he shall bring two turtledoves or two pigeons to the priest to the entrance of the tent of meeting,

¹¹ and the priest shall offer one for a sin offering and the other for a burnt offering, and make atonement for him, because he sinned by reason of the dead

body. And he shall consecrate his head that same day

¹² and separate himself to the LORD for the days of his separation and bring a male lamb a year old for a guilt offering. But the previous period shall be void, because his separation was defiled.

¹³ "And this is the law for the Nazirite, when the time of his separation has been completed: he shall be brought to the entrance of the tent of meeting,

¹⁴ and he shall bring his gift to the LORD, one male lamb a year old without blemish for a burnt offering, and one ewe lamb a year old without blemish as a sin offering, and one ram without blemish as a peace offering,

¹⁵ and a basket of unleavened bread, loaves of fine flour mixed with oil, and unleavened wafers smeared with oil, and their grain offering and their drink offerings.

¹⁶ And 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 offer also its grain offering and its drink offering.

¹⁸ And the Nazirite shall shave his consecrated head at the entrance of the tent of meeting and shall take the hair from his consecrated head and put it on the fire that is under the sacrifice of the peace offering.

¹⁹ And the priest shall take the shoulder of the ram, when it is boiled, and one unleavened loaf out of the basket and one unleavened wafer, and shall put them on the hands of the Nazirite, after he has shaved the hair of his consecration,

²⁰ and the priest shall wave them for a wave offering before the LORD. They are a holy portion for the priest, together with the breast that is waved and the thigh that is contributed. And after that the Nazirite may drink wine.

²¹ "This is the law of the Nazirite. But if he vows an offering to the LORD above his Nazirite vow, as he can afford, in exact accordance with the vow that he takes, then he shall do in addition to the law of the Nazirite."

²² The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

²³ "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,

²⁴ The LORD bless you and keep you;

²⁵ the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

²⁶ the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

²⁷ "So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them."

7 ¹ On the day when Moses had finished setting up the tabernacle and had anointed and consecrated it with all its furnishings and had anointed and consecrated the altar with all its utensils,

² the chiefs of Israel, heads of their fathers' houses, who were the chiefs of the tribes, who were over those who were listed, approached

³ and brought their offerings before the LORD, six wagons and twelve oxen, a wagon for every two of the chiefs, and for each one an ox. They brought them before the tabernacle.

⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses,

⁵ "Accept these from them, that they may be used in the service of the tent of meeting, and give them to the Levites, to each man according to his service."

⁶ So Moses took the wagons and the oxen and gave them to the Levites.

⁷ Two wagons and four oxen he gave to the sons of Gershon, according to their service.

⁸ And four wagons and eight oxen he gave to the sons of Merari, according to their service, under the direction of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.

⁹ But to the sons of Kohath he gave none, because they were charged with the service of the holy things that had to be carried on the shoulder.

¹⁰ And the chiefs offered offerings for the dedication of the altar on the day it was anointed; and the chiefs offered their offering before the altar.

¹¹ And the LORD said to Moses, "They shall offer their offerings, one chief each day, for the dedication of the altar."

¹² He who offered his offering the first day was Nahshon the son of Amminadab, of the tribe of Judah.

¹³ And his offering was one silver plate whose weight was 130 shekels, one silver basin of 70 shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;

¹⁴ one golden dish of 10 shekels, full of incense;

¹⁵ one bull from the herd, one ram, one male lamb a year old, for a burnt offering;

¹⁶ one male goat for a sin offering;

¹⁷ and for the sacrifice of peace offerings, two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs a year old. This was the offering of Nahshon the son of Amminadab.

¹⁸ On the second day Nethanel the son of Zuar, the chief of Issachar, made an offering.

¹⁹ He offered for his offering one silver plate whose weight was 130 shekels, one silver basin of 70 shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;

²⁰ one golden dish of 10 shekels, full of incense;

²¹ one bull from the herd, one ram, one male lamb a year old, for a burnt offering;

²² one male goat for a sin offering;

²³ and for the sacrifice of peace offerings, two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs a year old. This was the offering of Nethanel the son of Zuar.

²⁴ On the third day Eliab the son of Helon, the chief of the people of Zebulun:

²⁵ his offering was one silver plate whose weight was 130 shekels, one silver basin of 70 shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;

²⁶ one golden dish of 10 shekels, full of incense;

²⁷ one bull from the herd, one ram, one male lamb a year old, for a burnt offering;

²⁸ one male goat for a sin offering;

²⁹ and for the sacrifice of peace offerings, two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs a year old. This was the offering of Eliab the son of Helon.

³⁰ On the fourth day Elizur the son of Shedeur, the chief of the people of Reuben:

³¹ his offering was one silver plate whose weight was 130 shekels, one silver basin of 70 shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;

³² one golden dish of 10 shekels, full of incense;

³³ one bull from the herd, one ram, one male lamb a year old, for a burnt offering;

³⁴ one male goat for a sin offering;

³⁵ and for the sacrifice of peace offerings, two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs a year old. This was the offering of Elizur the son of Shedeur.

³⁶ On the fifth day Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai, the chief of the people of Simeon:

³⁷ his offering was one silver plate whose weight was 130 shekels, one silver basin of 70 shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;

³⁸ one golden dish of 10 shekels, full of incense;

³⁹ one bull from the herd, one ram, one male lamb a year old, for a burnt offering;

⁴⁰ one male goat for a sin offering;

⁴¹ and for the sacrifice of peace offerings, two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs a year old. This was the offering of Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai.

⁴² On the sixth day Eliasaph the son of Deuel, the chief of the people of Gad:

⁴³ his offering was one silver plate whose weight was 130 shekels, one silver basin of 70 shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;

⁴⁴ one golden dish of 10 shekels, full of incense;

⁴⁵ one bull from the herd, one ram, one male lamb a year old, for a burnt offering;

⁴⁶ one male goat for a sin offering;

⁴⁷ and for the sacrifice of peace offerings, two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs a year old. This was the offering of Eliasaph the son of Deuel.

⁴⁸ On the seventh day Elishama the son of Ammihud, the chief of the people of Ephraim:

⁴⁹ his offering was one silver plate whose weight was 130 shekels, one

silver basin of 70 shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;

⁵⁰ one golden dish of 10 shekels, full of incense;

⁵¹ one bull from the herd, one ram, one male lamb a year old, for a burnt offering;

⁵² one male goat for a sin offering;

⁵³ and for the sacrifice of peace offerings, two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs a year old. This was the offering of Elishama the son of Ammihud.

⁵⁴ On the eighth day Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur, the chief of the people of Manasseh:

⁵⁵ his offering was one silver plate whose weight was 130 shekels, one silver basin of 70 shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of

them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;

⁵⁶ one golden dish of 10 shekels, full of incense;

⁵⁷ one bull from the herd, one ram, one male lamb a year old, for a burnt offering;

⁵⁸ one male goat for a sin offering;

⁵⁹ and for the sacrifice of peace offerings, two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs a year old. This was the offering of Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur.

⁶⁰ On the ninth day Abidan the son of Gideoni, the chief of the people of Benjamin:

⁶¹ his offering was one silver plate whose weight was 130 shekels, one silver basin of 70 shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;

⁶² one golden dish of 10 shekels, full of incense;

⁶³ one bull from the herd, one ram, one male lamb a year old, for a burnt offering;

⁶⁴ one male goat for a sin offering;

⁶⁵ and for the sacrifice of peace offerings, two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs a year old. This was the offering of Abidan the son of Gideoni.

⁶⁶ On the tenth day Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai, the chief of the people of Dan:

⁶⁷ his offering was one silver plate whose weight was 130 shekels, one silver basin of 70 shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;

⁶⁸ one golden dish of 10 shekels, full of incense;

⁶⁹ one bull from the herd, one ram, one male lamb a year old, for a burnt offering;

⁷⁰ one male goat for a sin offering;

⁷¹ and for the sacrifice of peace offerings, two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs a year old. This was the offering of Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai.

⁷² On the eleventh day Pagiel the son of Ochran, the chief of the people of Asher:

⁷³ his offering was one silver plate whose weight was 130 shekels, one silver basin of 70 shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;

⁷⁴ one golden dish of 10 shekels, full of incense;

⁷⁵ one bull from the herd, one ram, one male lamb a year old, for a burnt offering;

⁷⁶ one male goat for a sin offering;

⁷⁷ and for the sacrifice of peace offerings, two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs a year old. This was the offering of Pagiel the son of Ochran.

⁷⁸ On the twelfth day Ahira the son of Enan, the chief of the people of Naphtali:

⁷⁹ his offering was one silver plate whose weight was 130 shekels, one silver basin of 70 shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering;

⁸⁰ one golden dish of 10 shekels, full of incense;

⁸¹ one bull from the herd, one ram, one male lamb a year old, for a burnt offering;

⁸² one male goat for a sin offering;

⁸³ and for the sacrifice of peace offerings, two oxen, five rams, five male

goats, and five male lambs a year old. This was the offering of Ahira the son of Enan.

⁸⁴ This was the dedication offering for the altar on the day when it was anointed, from the chiefs of Israel: twelve silver plates, twelve silver basins, twelve golden dishes,

⁸⁵ each silver plate weighing 130 shekels and each basin 70, all the silver of the vessels 2,400 shekels according to the shekel of the sanctuary,

⁸⁶ the twelve golden dishes, full of incense, weighing 10 shekels apiece according to the shekel of the sanctuary, all the gold of the dishes being 120 shekels;

⁸⁷ all the cattle for the burnt offering twelve bulls, twelve rams, twelve male lambs a year old, with their grain offering; and twelve male goats for a sin offering;

⁸⁸ and all the cattle for the sacrifice of peace offerings twenty-four bulls, the rams sixty, the male goats sixty, the male lambs a year old sixty. This was the dedication offering for the altar after it was anointed.

⁸⁹ And when Moses went into the tent of meeting to speak with the LORD, he heard the voice speaking to him from above the mercy seat that was on the ark of the testimony, from between the two cherubim; and it spoke to him.

8 ¹ Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

² "Speak to Aaron and say to him, When you set up the lamps, the seven lamps shall give light in front of the lampstand."

³ And Aaron did so: he set up its lamps in front of the lampstand, as the LORD commanded Moses.

⁴ And this was the workmanship of the lampstand, hammered work of

gold. From its base to its flowers, it was hammered work; according to the pattern that the LORD had shown Moses, so he made the lampstand.

⁵ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

⁶ "Take the Levites from among the people of Israel and cleanse them.

⁷ Thus you shall do to them to cleanse them: sprinkle the water of purification upon them, and let them go with a razor over all their body, and wash their clothes and cleanse themselves.

⁸ Then let them take a bull from the herd and its grain offering of fine flour mixed with oil, and you shall take another bull from the herd for a sin offering.

⁹ And you shall bring the Levites before the tent of meeting and assemble the whole congregation of the people of Israel.

¹⁰ When you bring the Levites before the LORD, the people of Israel shall lay their hands on the Levites,

¹¹ and Aaron shall offer the Levites before the LORD as a wave offering from the people of Israel, that they may do the service of the LORD.

¹² Then the Levites shall lay their hands on the heads of the bulls, and you shall offer the one for a sin offering and the other for a burnt offering to the LORD to make atonement for the Levites.

¹³ And you shall set the Levites before Aaron and his sons, and shall offer them as a wave offering to the LORD.

¹⁴ "Thus you shall separate the Levites from among the people of Israel, and the Levites shall be mine.

¹⁵ And after that the Levites shall go in to serve at the tent of meeting, when you have cleansed them and offered them as a wave offering.

¹⁶ For they are wholly given to me from among the people of Israel. Instead of all who open the womb, the firstborn of all the people of Israel, I have taken them for myself.

¹⁷ For all the firstborn among the people of Israel are mine, both of man and of beast. On the day that I struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt I consecrated them for myself,

¹⁸ and I have taken the Levites instead of all the firstborn among the people of Israel.

¹⁹ And I have given the Levites as a gift to Aaron and his sons from among the people of Israel, to do the service for the people of Israel at the tent of meeting and to make atonement for the people of Israel, that there may be no plague among the people of Israel when the people of Israel come near the sanctuary."

²⁰ Thus did Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the people of Israel to the Levites. According to all that the LORD commanded Moses concerning the Levites, the people of Israel did to them.

²¹ And the Levites purified themselves from sin and washed their clothes, and Aaron offered them as a wave offering before the LORD, and Aaron made atonement for them to cleanse them.

²² And after that the Levites went in to do their service in the tent of meeting before Aaron and his sons; as the LORD had commanded Moses concerning the Levites, so they did to them.

²³ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

²⁴ "This applies to the Levites: from twenty-five years old and upward they shall come to do duty in the service of the tent of meeting.

²⁵ And from the age of fifty years they shall withdraw from the duty of the service and serve no more.

²⁶ They minister to their brothers in the tent of meeting by keeping guard, but they shall do no service. Thus shall you do to the Levites in assigning their duties."

9 ¹ And 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 people 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 statutes and all its rules you shall keep it."

⁴ So Moses told the people of Israel that they should keep the Passover.

⁵ And they kept the Passover in the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, at twilight, in the wilderness of Sinai; according to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so the people of Israel did.

⁶ And there were certain men who were unclean through touching a dead body, so that they could not keep the Passover on that day, and they came before Moses and Aaron on that day.

⁷ And those men said to him, "We are unclean through touching a dead body. Why are we kept from bringing the LORD's offering at its appointed time among the people of Israel?"

⁸ And Moses said to them, "Wait, that I may hear what the LORD will command concerning you."

⁹ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

¹⁰ "Speak to the people of Israel, saying, If any one of you or of your descendants

is unclean through touching a dead body, or is on a long journey, he shall still keep the Passover to the LORD.

¹¹ In the second month on the fourteenth day at twilight they shall keep it. They shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

¹² They shall leave none of it until the morning, nor break any of its bones; according to all the statute for the Passover they shall keep it.

¹³ But if anyone who is clean and is not on a journey fails to keep the Passover, that person shall be cut off from his people because he did not bring the LORD's offering at its appointed time; that man shall bear his sin.

¹⁴ And if a stranger sojourns among you and would keep the Passover to the LORD, according to the statute of the Passover and according to its rule, so shall he do. You shall have one statute,

both for the sojourner and for the native."

¹⁵ On the day that the tabernacle was set up, the cloud covered the tabernacle, the tent of the testimony. And at evening it was over the tabernacle like the appearance of fire until morning.

¹⁶ So it was always: the cloud covered it by day and the appearance of fire by night.

¹⁷ And whenever the cloud lifted from over the tent, after that the people of Israel set out, and in the place where the cloud settled down, there the people of Israel camped.

¹⁸ At the command of the LORD the people of Israel set out, and at the command of the LORD they camped. As long as the cloud rested over the tabernacle, they remained in camp.

¹⁹ Even when the cloud continued over the tabernacle many days, the people of

Israel kept the charge of the LORD and did not set out.

²⁰ Sometimes the cloud was a few days over the tabernacle, and according to the command of the LORD they remained in camp; then according to the command of the LORD they set out.

²¹ And sometimes the cloud remained from evening until morning. And when the cloud lifted in the morning, they set out, or if it continued for a day and a night, when the cloud lifted they set out.

²² Whether it was two days, or a month, or a longer time, that the cloud continued over the tabernacle, abiding there, the people of Israel remained in camp and did not set out, but when it lifted they set out.

²³ At the command of the LORD they camped, and at the command of the LORD they set out. They kept the charge

of the LORD, at the command of the LORD by Moses.

10 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

² "Make two silver trumpets. Of hammered work you shall make them, and you shall use them for summoning the congregation and for breaking camp.

³ And when both are blown, all the congregation shall gather themselves to you at the entrance of the tent of meeting.

⁴ But if they blow only one, then the chiefs, the heads of the tribes of Israel, shall gather themselves to you.

⁵ When you blow an alarm, the camps that are on the east side shall set out.

⁶ And when you blow an alarm the second time, the camps that are on the south side shall set out. An alarm is to be blown whenever they are to set out.

⁷ But when the assembly is to be gathered together, you shall blow a long blast, but you shall not sound an alarm.

⁸ And the sons of Aaron, the priests, shall blow the trumpets. The trumpets shall be to you for a perpetual statute throughout your generations.

⁹ And when you go to war in your land against the adversary who oppresses you, then you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets, that you may be remembered before the LORD your God, and you shall be saved from your enemies.

¹⁰ On the day of your gladness also, and at your appointed feasts and at the beginnings of your months, you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings. They shall be a reminder of you before your God: I am the LORD your God."

¹¹ In the second year, in the second month, on the twentieth day of the month, the cloud lifted from over the tabernacle of the testimony,

¹² and the people of Israel set out by stages from the wilderness of Sinai. And the cloud settled down in the wilderness of Paran.

¹³ They set out for the first time at the command of the LORD by Moses.

¹⁴ The standard of the camp of the people of Judah set out first by their companies, and over their company was Nahshon the son of Amminadab.

¹⁵ And over the company of the tribe of the people of Issachar was Nethanel the son of Zuar.

¹⁶ And over the company of the tribe of the people of Zebulun was Eliab the son of Helon.

¹⁷ And when the tabernacle was taken down, the sons of Gershon and the sons

of Merari, who carried the tabernacle, set out.

¹⁸ And the standard of the camp of Reuben set out by their companies, and over their company was Elizur the son of Shedeur.

¹⁹ And over the company of the tribe of the people of Simeon was Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai.

²⁰ And over the company of the tribe of the people of Gad was Eliasaph the son of Deuel.

²¹ Then the Kohathites set out, carrying the holy things, and the tabernacle was set up before their arrival.

²² And the standard of the camp of the people of Ephraim set out by their companies, and over their company was Elishama the son of Ammihud.

²³ And over the company of the tribe of the people of Manasseh was Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur.

²⁴ And over the company of the tribe of the people of Benjamin was Abidan the son of Gideoni.

²⁵ Then the standard of the camp of the people of Dan, acting as the rear guard of all the camps, set out by their companies, and over their company was Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai.

²⁶ And over the company of the tribe of the people of Asher was Pagiel the son of Ochran.

²⁷ And over the company of the tribe of the people of Naphtali was Ahira the son of Enan.

²⁸ This was the order of march of the people of Israel by their companies, when they set out.

²⁹ And 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 do

good to you, for the LORD has promised good to Israel."

³⁰ But he said to him, "I will not go. I will depart to my own land and to my kindred."

³¹ And he said, "Please do not leave us, for you know where we should camp in the wilderness, and you will serve as eyes for us.

³² And if you do go with us, whatever good the LORD will do to us, the same will we do to you."

³³ So they set out from the mount of the LORD three days' journey. And the ark of the covenant of the LORD went before them three days' journey, to seek out a resting place for them.

³⁴ And the cloud of the LORD was over them by day, whenever they set out from the camp.

³⁵ And whenever the ark set out, Moses said, "Arise, O LORD, and 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 ten thousand thousands of Israel."

11 ¹ And the people complained in the hearing of the LORD about their misfortunes, and when the LORD heard it, his anger was kindled, and the fire of the LORD burned among them and consumed some outlying parts of the camp.

² Then the people cried out to Moses, and Moses prayed to the LORD, and the fire died down.

³ So the name of that place was called Taberah, because the fire of the LORD burned among them.

⁴ Now the rabble that was among them had a strong craving. And the people of Israel also wept again and said, "Oh that we had meat to eat!

⁵ We remember the fish we ate in Egypt that cost nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic.

⁶ But now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at."

⁷ Now the manna was like coriander seed, and its appearance like that of bdellium.

⁸ The people went about and gathered it and ground it in handmills or beat it in mortars and boiled it in pots and made cakes of it. And the taste of it was like the taste of cakes baked with oil.

⁹ When the dew fell upon the camp in the night, the manna fell with it.

¹⁰ Moses heard the people weeping throughout their clans, everyone at the door of his tent. And the anger of the LORD blazed hotly, and Moses was displeased.

¹¹ Moses said to the LORD, "Why have you dealt ill with your servant? And why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me?"

¹² Did I conceive all this people? Did I give them birth, that you should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a nursing child,' to the land that you swore to give their fathers?

¹³ Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they weep before me and say, 'Give us meat, that we may eat.'

¹⁴ I am not able to carry all this people alone; the burden is too heavy for me.

¹⁵ If you will treat me like this, kill me at once, if I find favor in your sight, that I may not see my wretchedness."

¹⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers

over them, and bring them to the tent of meeting, and let them take their stand there with you.

¹⁷ And I will come down and talk with you there. And I will take some of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them, and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, so that you may not bear it yourself alone.

¹⁸ And 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 better for us in Egypt." Therefore the LORD will give you meat, and you shall eat.

¹⁹ You shall not eat just one day, or two days, or five days, or ten days, or twenty days,

²⁰ but a whole month, until it comes out at your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you, because you have rejected the

LORD who is among you and have wept before him, saying, "Why did we come out of Egypt?"

²¹ But Moses said, "The people among whom I am number six hundred thousand on foot, and you have said, 'I will give them meat, that they may eat a whole month!'

²² Shall flocks and herds be slaughtered for them, and be enough for them? Or shall all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, and be enough for them?"

²³ And the LORD said to Moses, "Is the LORD's hand shortened? Now you shall see whether my word will come true for you or not."

²⁴ So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD. And he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tent.

²⁵ Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it.

²⁶ Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the Spirit rested on them. They were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp.

²⁷ And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp."

²⁸ And Joshua the son of Nun, the assistant of Moses from his youth, said, "My lord Moses, stop them."

²⁹ But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD's people were prophets, that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!"

³⁰ And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

³¹ Then a wind from the LORD sprang up, and it brought quail from the sea and let them fall beside the camp, about a day's journey on this side and a day's journey on the other side, around the camp, and about two cubits above the ground.

³² And the people rose all that day and all night and all the next day, and gathered the quail. Those who gathered least gathered ten homers. And they spread them out for themselves all around the camp.

³³ While the meat was yet between their teeth, before it was consumed, the anger of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD struck down the people with a very great plague.

³⁴ Therefore the name of that place was called Kibroth-hattaavah, because

there they buried the people who had the craving.

³⁵ From Kibroth-hattaavah the people journeyed to Hazeroth, and they remained at Hazeroth.

12 ¹ Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married, for he had married a Cushite woman.

² And 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 meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth.

⁴ And suddenly the LORD said to Moses and to Aaron and Miriam, "Come out, you three, to the tent of meeting." And the three of them came out.

⁵ And the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance of the

tent and called Aaron and Miriam, and they both came forward.

⁶ And he said, "Hear my words: If there is a prophet among you, I the LORD make myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream.

⁷ Not so with my servant Moses. He is faithful in all my house.

⁸ With him I speak mouth to mouth, clearly, and not in riddles, and he beholds the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?"

⁹ And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them, and he departed.

¹⁰ When the cloud removed from over the tent, behold, Miriam was leprous, like snow. And Aaron turned toward Miriam, and behold, she was leprous.

¹¹ And Aaron said to Moses, "Oh, my lord, do not punish us because we have done foolishly and have sinned.

¹² Let her not be as one dead, whose flesh is half eaten away when he comes out of his mother's womb."

¹³ And Moses cried to the LORD, "O God, please heal her--please."

¹⁴ But the LORD said to Moses, "If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be shamed seven days? Let her be shut outside the camp seven days, and after that she may be brought in again."

¹⁵ So Miriam was shut outside the camp seven days, and the people did not set out on the march till Miriam was brought in again.

¹⁶ After that the people set out from Hazeroth, and camped in the wilderness of Paran.

13 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

² "Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the people

of Israel. From each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, every one a chief 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 people of Israel.

⁴ And 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 were the names of the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land. And Moses called Hoshea the son of Nun Joshua.

¹⁷ Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan and said to them, "Go up into the Negeb and go up into the hill country,

¹⁸ and see what the land is, and whether the people who dwell in it are

strong or weak, whether they are few or many,

¹⁹ and whether the land that they dwell in is good or bad, and whether the cities that they dwell in are camps or strongholds,

²⁰ and whether the land is rich or poor, and whether there are trees in it 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 to Rehob, near Lebo-hamath.

²² They went up into the Negeb and came to Hebron. Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmi, the descendants of Anak, were there. (Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.)

²³ And they came to the Valley of Eshcol and cut down from there a branch with a single cluster of grapes, and they carried

it on a pole between two of them; they also brought some pomegranates and figs.

²⁴ That place was called the Valley of Eshcol, because of the cluster that the people of Israel cut down from there.

²⁵ At the end of forty days they returned from spying out the land.

²⁶ And they came to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation of the people 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 And they told him, "We came to the land to which you sent us. It flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit.

²⁸ However, the people who dwell in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large. And besides, we saw the descendants of Anak there.

²⁹ The Amalekites dwell in the land of the Negeb. The Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the hill country. And the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and along the Jordan."

³⁰ But Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, "Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it."

³¹ Then 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 are."

³² So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying, "The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height.

³³ And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the

Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them."

14 ¹ Then all the congregation raised a loud cry, and the people wept that night.

² And all the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The whole congregation said to them, "Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness!

³ Why is the LORD bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become a prey. Would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?"

⁴ And they said to one another, "Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

⁵ Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the people of Israel.

⁶ And 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 said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, "The land, which we passed through to spy it out, is an exceedingly good land.

⁸ If the LORD delights in us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land that flows with milk and honey.

⁹ Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their protection is removed from them, and the LORD is with us; do not fear them."

¹⁰ Then all the congregation said to stone them with stones. But the glory of the LORD appeared at the tent of meeting to all the people of Israel.

¹¹ And the LORD said to Moses, "How long will this people despise me? And

how long will they not believe in me, in spite of all the signs that I have done 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 But Moses said to the LORD, "Then the Egyptians will hear of it, for you brought up this people in your might from among them,

¹⁴ and they will tell the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that you, O LORD, are in the midst of this people. For you, O LORD, are seen face to face, and your cloud stands over 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 this people as one man, then the nations who have heard your fame will say,

¹⁶ 'It is because the LORD was not able to bring this people into the land that he swore to give to them that he has killed them in the wilderness.'

¹⁷ And now, please let the power of the Lord be great as you have promised, saying,

¹⁸ 'The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression, but he will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, to the third and the fourth generation.'

¹⁹ Please pardon the iniquity of this people, according to the greatness of your steadfast love, just as you have forgiven this people, from Egypt until now."

²⁰ Then the LORD said, "I have pardoned, according to your word.

²¹ But truly, as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD,

²² none of the men who have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put me to the test these ten times and have not obeyed my voice,

²³ shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers. And none of those who despised me shall see it.

²⁴ But my servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit and has followed me fully, I will bring into the land into which he went, and his descendants shall possess it.

²⁵ Now, since the Amalekites and the Canaanites dwell in the valleys, turn tomorrow and set out for the wilderness by the way to the Red Sea."

²⁶ And the LORD spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying,

²⁷ "How long shall this wicked congregation grumble against me? I have

heard the grumbings of the people of Israel, which they grumble against me.

²⁸ Say to them, 'As I live, declares the LORD, what you have said in my hearing I will do to you:

²⁹ your dead bodies shall fall in this wilderness, and of all your number, listed in the census from twenty years old and upward, who have grumbled against me,

³⁰ not one shall come into the land where I swore that I would make you dwell, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun.

³¹ But your little ones, who you said would become a prey, I will bring in, and they shall know the land that you have rejected.

³² But as for you, your dead bodies shall fall in this wilderness.

³³ And your children shall be shepherds in the wilderness forty years and shall suffer for your faithlessness, until the

last of your dead bodies lies in the wilderness.

³⁴ According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, a year for each day, you shall bear your iniquity forty years, and you shall know my displeasure.'

³⁵ I, the LORD, have spoken. Surely this will I do to all this wicked congregation who are gathered together against me: in this wilderness they shall come to a full end, and there they shall die."

³⁶ And the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land, who returned and made all the congregation grumble against him by bringing up a bad report about the land--

³⁷ the men who brought up a bad report of the land--died by plague before the LORD.

³⁸ Of those men who went to spy out the land, only Joshua the son of Nun and

Caleb the son of Jephunneh remained alive.

³⁹ When Moses told these words to all the people of Israel, the people mourned greatly.

⁴⁰ And they rose early in the morning and went up to the heights of the hill country, saying, "Here we are. We will go up to the place that the LORD has promised, for we have sinned."

⁴¹ But Moses said, "Why now are you transgressing the command of the LORD, when that will not succeed?"

⁴² Do not go up, for the Lord is not among you, lest you be struck down before your enemies.

⁴³ For there the Amalekites and the Canaanites are facing you, and you shall fall by the sword. Because you have turned back from following the LORD, the LORD will not be with you."

⁴⁴ But they presumed to go up to the heights of the hill country, although neither the ark of the covenant of the LORD nor Moses departed out of the camp.

⁴⁵ Then the Amalekites and the Canaanites who lived in that hill country came down and defeated them and pursued them, even to Hormah.

15 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

² "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you come into the land you are to inhabit, which I am giving you,

³ and you offer to the LORD from the herd or from the flock a food offering or a burnt offering or a sacrifice, to fulfill a vow or as a freewill offering or at your appointed feasts, to make a pleasing aroma to the LORD,

⁴ then he who brings his offering shall offer to the LORD a grain offering of a

tenth of an ephah of fine flour, mixed with a quarter of a hin of oil;

⁵ and you shall offer with the burnt offering, or for the sacrifice, a quarter of a hin of wine for the drink offering for each lamb.

⁶ Or for a ram, you shall offer for a grain offering two tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with a third of a hin of oil.

⁷ And for the drink offering you shall offer a third of a hin of wine, a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

⁸ And when you offer a bull as a burnt offering or sacrifice, to fulfill a vow or for peace offerings to the LORD,

⁹ then one shall offer with the bull a grain offering of three tenths of an ephah of fine flour, mixed with half a hin of oil.

¹⁰ And you shall offer for the drink offering half a hin of wine, as a food offering, a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

¹¹ "Thus it shall be done for each bull or ram, or for each lamb or young goat.

¹² As many as you offer, so shall you do with each one, as many as there are.

¹³ Every native Israelite shall do these things in this way, in offering a food offering, with a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

¹⁴ And if a stranger is sojourning with you, or anyone is living permanently among you, and he wishes to offer a food offering, with a pleasing aroma to the LORD, he shall do as you do.

¹⁵ For the assembly, there shall be one statute for you and for the stranger who sojourns with you, a statute forever throughout your generations. You and the sojourner shall be alike before the LORD.

¹⁶ One law and one rule shall be for you and for the stranger who sojourns with you."

¹⁷ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

¹⁸ "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you come into the land to which I bring you

¹⁹ and when you eat of the bread of the land, you shall present a contribution to the LORD.

²⁰ Of the first of your dough you shall present a loaf as a contribution; like a contribution from the threshing floor, so shall you present it.

²¹ Some of the first of your dough you shall give to the LORD as a contribution throughout your generations.

²² "But if you sin unintentionally, and do not observe all these commandments that the LORD has spoken to Moses,

²³ all that the LORD has commanded you by Moses, from the day that the LORD gave commandment, and onward throughout your generations,

²⁴ then if it was done unintentionally without the knowledge of the congregation, all the congregation shall offer one bull from the herd for a burnt offering, a pleasing aroma to the LORD, with its grain offering and its drink offering, according to the rule, and one male goat for a sin offering.

²⁵ And the priest shall make atonement for all the congregation of the people of Israel, and they shall be forgiven, because it was a mistake, and they have brought their offering, a food offering to the LORD, and their sin offering before the LORD for their mistake.

²⁶ And all the congregation of the people of Israel shall be forgiven, and the stranger who sojourns among them, because the whole population was involved in the mistake.

²⁷ "If one person sins unintentionally, he shall offer a female goat a year old for a sin offering.

²⁸ And the priest shall make atonement before the LORD for the person who makes a mistake, when he sins unintentionally, to make atonement for him, and he shall be forgiven.

²⁹ You shall have one law for him who does anything unintentionally, for him who is native among the people of Israel and for the stranger who sojourns among them.

³⁰ But the person who does anything with a high hand, whether he is native or a sojourner, reviles the LORD, and that person 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

utterly cut off; his iniquity shall be on him."

³² While the people 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 in custody, because it had not been made clear what should be done to him.

³⁵ And the LORD said to Moses, "The man shall be put to death; all the congregation shall stone him with stones outside the camp."

³⁶ And all the congregation brought him outside the camp and stoned him to death with stones, as the LORD commanded Moses.

³⁷ The LORD said to Moses,

³⁸ "Speak to the people of Israel, and tell them to make tassels on the corners

of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a cord of blue on the tassel of each corner.

³⁹ And it shall be a tassel for you to look at and remember all the commandments of the LORD, to do them, not to follow after your own heart and your own eyes, which you are inclined to whore after.

⁴⁰ So you shall remember and do all my commandments, and be holy to your God.

⁴¹ I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God: I am the LORD your God."

16 ¹ Now Korah the son of Izhar, son of Kohath, son of Levi, and 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 a number of the people of Israel, 250

chiefs of the congregation, chosen from the assembly, well-known men.

³ They assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron and said to them, "You have gone too far! For all in the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?"

⁴ When Moses heard it, he fell on his face,

⁵ and he said to Korah and all his company, "In the morning the LORD will show who is his, and who is holy, and will bring him near to him. The one whom he chooses he will bring near to him.

⁶ Do this: take censers, Korah and all his company;

⁷ put fire in them and put incense on them before the LORD tomorrow, and the man whom the LORD chooses shall

be the holy one. You have gone too far, sons of Levi!"

⁸ And Moses said to Korah, "Hear now, you sons of Levi:

⁹ is it too small a thing for you that the God of Israel has separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to himself, to do service in the tabernacle of the LORD and to stand before the congregation to minister to them,

¹⁰ and that he has brought you near him, and all your brothers the sons of Levi with you? And would you seek the priesthood also?

¹¹ Therefore it is against the LORD that you and all your company have gathered together. What is Aaron that you grumble against him?"

¹² And Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and 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 must also make yourself 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 And Moses was very angry and said to the LORD, "Do not respect their offering. I have not taken one donkey from them, and I have not harmed one of them."

¹⁶ And Moses said to Korah, "Be present, you and all your company, before the LORD, you and they, and Aaron, tomorrow.

¹⁷ And let every one of you take his censer and put incense on it, and every one of you bring before the LORD his

censer, 250 censers; you also, and Aaron, each his censer."

¹⁸ So every man took his censer and put fire in them and laid incense on them and stood at the entrance of the tent of meeting with Moses and Aaron.

¹⁹ Then Korah assembled all the congregation against them at the entrance of the tent of meeting. And the glory of the LORD appeared to all the congregation.

²⁰ And the LORD spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying,

²¹ "Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment."

²² And they fell on their faces and said, "O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, shall one man sin, and will you be angry with all the congregation?"

²³ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

²⁴ "Say to the congregation, Get away from the dwelling 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, please, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest you be swept away with all their sins."

²⁷ So they got away from the dwelling of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. And Dathan and Abiram came out and stood at the door of their tents, together with their wives, their sons, and their little ones.

²⁸ And Moses said, "Hereby you shall know that the LORD has sent me to do all these works, and that it has not been of my own accord.

²⁹ If these men die as all men die, or if they are visited by the fate of all

mankind, then the LORD has not sent me.

³⁰ But if the LORD creates something new, and the ground opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and they go down alive into Sheol, then you shall know that these men have despised the LORD."

³¹ And as soon as he had finished speaking all these words, the ground under them split apart.

³² And the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the people who belonged to Korah and all their goods.

³³ So they and all that belonged to them went down alive into Sheol, and the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the assembly.

³⁴ And all Israel who were around them fled at their cry, for they said, "Lest the earth swallow us up!"

³⁵ And fire came out from the LORD and consumed the 250 men offering the incense.

³⁶ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

³⁷ "Tell Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest to take up the censers out of the blaze. Then scatter the fire far and wide, for they have become holy.

³⁸ As for the censers of these men who have sinned at the cost of their lives, let them be made into hammered plates as a covering for the altar, for they offered them before the LORD, and they became holy. Thus they shall be a sign to the people of Israel."

³⁹ So Eleazar the priest took the bronze censers, which those who were burned had offered, and they were hammered out as a covering for the altar,

⁴⁰ to be a reminder to the people of Israel, so that no outsider, who is not

of the descendants of Aaron, should draw near to burn incense before the LORD, lest he become like Korah and his company--as the LORD said to him through Moses.

⁴¹ But on the next day all the congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and against Aaron, saying, "You have killed the people of the LORD."

⁴² And when the congregation had assembled against Moses and against Aaron, they turned toward the tent of meeting. And behold, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the LORD appeared.

⁴³ And Moses and Aaron came to the front of the tent of meeting,

⁴⁴ and the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

⁴⁵ "Get away from the midst of this congregation, that I may consume them

in a moment." And they fell on their faces.

⁴⁶ And Moses said to Aaron, "Take your censer, and put fire on it from off the altar and lay incense on it and carry it quickly to the congregation and make atonement for them, for wrath has gone out from the LORD; the plague has begun."

⁴⁷ So Aaron took it as Moses said and ran into the midst of the assembly. And behold, the plague had already begun among the people. And he put on the incense and made atonement for the people.

⁴⁸ And he stood between the dead and the living, and the plague was stopped.

⁴⁹ Now those who died in the plague were 14,700, besides those who died in the affair of Korah.

⁵⁰ And Aaron returned to Moses at the entrance of the tent of meeting, when the plague was stopped.

17 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

² "Speak to the people of Israel, and get from them staffs, one for each fathers' house, from all their chiefs according to their fathers' houses, twelve staffs. Write each man's name on his staff,

³ and write Aaron's name on the staff of Levi. For there shall be one staff for the head of each fathers' house.

⁴ Then you shall deposit them in the tent of meeting before the testimony, where I meet with you.

⁵ And the staff of the man whom I choose shall sprout. Thus I will make to cease from me the grumblings of the people of Israel, which they grumble against you."

⁶ Moses spoke to the people of Israel. And all their chiefs gave him staffs, one for each chief, according to their fathers' houses, twelve staffs. And the staff of Aaron was among their staffs.

⁷ And Moses deposited the staffs before the LORD in the tent of the testimony.

⁸ On the next day Moses went into the tent of the testimony, and behold, the staff of Aaron for the house of Levi had sprouted and put forth buds and produced blossoms, and it bore ripe almonds.

⁹ Then Moses brought out all the staffs from before the LORD to all the people of Israel. And they looked, and each man took his staff.

¹⁰ And the LORD said to Moses, "Put back the staff of Aaron before the testimony, to be kept as a sign for the rebels, that you may make an end of

their grumblings against me, lest they die."

¹¹ Thus did Moses; as the LORD commanded him, so he did.

¹² And the people of Israel said to Moses, "Behold, we perish, we are undone, we are all undone.

¹³ Everyone who comes near, who comes near to the tabernacle of the LORD, shall die. Are we all to perish?"

18 ¹ So the LORD said to Aaron, "You and your sons and your father's house with you shall bear iniquity connected with the sanctuary, and you and your sons with you shall bear iniquity connected with your priesthood.

² And with you bring your brothers also, the tribe of Levi, the tribe of your father, that they may join you and minister to you while you and your sons with you are before the tent of the testimony.

³ They shall keep guard over you and over the whole tent, but shall not come near to the vessels of the sanctuary or to the altar lest they, and you, die.

⁴ They shall join you and keep guard over the tent of meeting for all the service of the tent, and no outsider shall come near you.

⁵ And you shall keep guard over the sanctuary and over the altar, that there may never again be wrath on the people of Israel.

⁶ And behold, I have taken your brothers the Levites from among the people of Israel. They are a gift to you, given to the LORD, to do the service of the tent of meeting.

⁷ And you and your sons with you shall guard your priesthood for all that concerns the altar and that is within the veil; and you shall serve. I give your

priesthood as a gift, and any outsider who comes near shall be put to death."

⁸ Then the LORD spoke to Aaron, "Behold, I have given you charge of the contributions made to me, all the consecrated things of the people of Israel. I have given them to you as a portion and to your sons as a perpetual due.

⁹ This shall be yours of the most holy things, reserved from the fire: every offering of theirs, every grain offering of theirs and every sin offering of theirs and every guilt offering of theirs, which they render to me, shall be most holy to you and to your sons.

¹⁰ In a most holy place shall you eat it. Every male may eat it; it is holy to you.

¹¹ This also is yours: the contribution of their gift, all the wave offerings of the people of Israel. I have given them to you, and to your sons and daughters

with you, as a perpetual due. Everyone who is clean in your house may eat it.

¹² All the best of the oil and all the best of the wine and of the grain, the firstfruits of what they give to the LORD, I give to you.

¹³ The first ripe fruits of all that 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 opens the womb of all flesh, whether man or beast, which they offer to the LORD, shall be yours. Nevertheless, the firstborn of man you shall redeem, and the firstborn of unclean animals you shall redeem.

¹⁶ And their redemption price (at a month old you shall redeem them) you shall fix at five shekels in silver, according

to the shekel of the sanctuary, which is twenty gerahs.

¹⁷ But the firstborn of a cow, or 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 shall burn their fat as a food offering, with a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

¹⁸ But their flesh shall be yours, as the breast that is waved and as the right thigh are yours.

¹⁹ All the holy contributions that the people of Israel present to the LORD I give to you, and to your sons and daughters with you, as a perpetual due. It is a covenant of salt forever before the LORD for you and for your offspring with you."

²⁰ And the LORD said to Aaron, "You shall have no inheritance in their land, neither shall you have any portion

among them. I am your portion and your inheritance among the people of Israel.

²¹ "To the Levites I have given every tithe in Israel for an inheritance, in return for their service that they do, their service in the tent of meeting,

²² so that the people of Israel do not come near the tent of meeting, lest they bear sin and die.

²³ But the Levites shall do the service of the tent of meeting, and they shall bear their iniquity. It shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generations, and among the people of Israel they shall have no inheritance.

²⁴ For the tithe of the people of Israel, which they present as a contribution to the LORD, I have given to the Levites for an inheritance. Therefore I have said of them that they shall have no inheritance among the people of Israel."

²⁵ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

²⁶ "Moreover, you shall speak and say to the Levites, 'When you take from the people of Israel the tithe that I have given you from them for your inheritance, then you shall present a contribution from it to the LORD, a tithe of the tithe.

²⁷ And your contribution shall be counted to you as though it were the grain of the threshing floor, and as the fullness of the winepress.

²⁸ So you shall also present a contribution to the LORD from all your tithes, which you receive from the people of Israel. And from it you shall give the LORD's contribution to Aaron the priest.

²⁹ Out of all the gifts to you, you shall present every contribution due to the

LORD; from each its best part is to be dedicated.'

³⁰ Therefore you shall say to them, 'When you have offered from it the best of it, then the rest shall be counted to the Levites as produce of the threshing floor, and as produce of the winepress.

³¹ And you may eat it in any place, you and your households, for it is your reward in return for your service in the tent of meeting.

³² And you shall bear no sin by reason of it, when you have contributed the best of it. But you shall not profane the holy things of the people of Israel, lest you die.'"

19 ¹ Now the LORD spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying,

² "This is the statute of the law that the LORD has commanded: Tell the people of Israel to bring you a red heifer without

defect, in which there is no blemish, and on which a yoke has never come.

³ And you shall give it to Eleazar the priest, and it shall be taken outside the camp and slaughtered before him.

⁴ And Eleazar the priest shall take some of its blood with his finger, and sprinkle some of its blood toward the front of the tent of meeting seven times.

⁵ And the heifer shall be burned in his sight. Its skin, its flesh, and its blood, with its dung, shall be burned.

⁶ And the priest shall take cedarwood and hyssop and scarlet yarn, and throw them into the fire burning the heifer.

⁷ Then the priest shall wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and afterward he may come into the camp. But the priest shall be unclean until evening.

⁸ The one who burns the heifer shall wash his clothes in water and bathe his

body in water and shall be unclean until evening.

⁹ And a man who is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer and deposit them outside the camp in a clean place. And they shall be kept for the water for impurity for the congregation of the people of Israel; it is a sin offering.

¹⁰ And the one who gathers the ashes of the heifer shall wash his clothes and be unclean until evening. And this shall be a perpetual statute for the people of Israel, and for the stranger who sojourns among them.

¹¹ "Whoever touches the dead body of any person shall be unclean seven days.

¹² He shall cleanse himself with the water on the third day and on the seventh day, and so be clean. But if he does not cleanse himself on the third day and on the seventh day, he will not become clean.

¹³ Whoever touches a dead person, the body of anyone who has died, and does not cleanse himself, defiles the tabernacle of the LORD, and that person shall be cut off from Israel; because the water for impurity was not thrown on him, he shall be unclean. His uncleanness is still on him.

¹⁴ "This is the law when someone dies in a tent: everyone who comes into the tent and everyone who is in the tent shall be unclean seven days.

¹⁵ And every open vessel that has no cover fastened on it is unclean.

¹⁶ Whoever in the open field touches someone who was killed with a sword or who died naturally, or touches a human bone or a grave, shall be unclean seven days.

¹⁷ For the unclean they shall take some ashes of the burnt sin offering, and fresh water shall be added in a vessel.

¹⁸ Then a clean person shall take hyssop and dip it in the water and sprinkle it on the tent and on all the furnishings and on the persons who were there and on whoever touched the bone, or the slain or the dead or the grave.

¹⁹ And the clean person shall sprinkle it on the unclean on the third day and on the seventh day. Thus on the seventh day he shall cleanse him, and he shall wash his clothes and bathe himself in water, and at evening he shall be clean.

²⁰ "If the man who is unclean does not cleanse himself, that person shall be cut off from the midst of the assembly, since he has defiled the sanctuary of the LORD. Because the water for impurity has not been thrown on him, he is unclean.

²¹ And it shall be a statute forever for them. The one who sprinkles the water for impurity shall wash his clothes, and

the one who touches the water for impurity shall be unclean until evening.

²² And whatever the unclean person touches shall be unclean, and anyone who touches it shall be unclean until evening."

20 ¹ And the people 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. And they assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron.

³ And the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Would that we had perished when our brothers perished before the LORD!

⁴ Why have you brought the assembly of the LORD into this wilderness, that we should die here, both we and our cattle?

⁵ And why have you made us come up out of Egypt to bring us to this evil place? It is no place for grain or figs or vines or pomegranates, and there is no water to drink."

⁶ Then Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly to the entrance of the tent of meeting and fell on their faces. And the glory of the LORD appeared to them,

⁷ and the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

⁸ "Take the staff, and assemble the congregation, you and Aaron your brother, and tell the rock before their eyes to yield its water. So you shall bring water out of the rock for them and give drink to the congregation and their cattle."

⁹ And Moses took the staff from before the LORD, as he commanded him.

¹⁰ Then Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and

he said to them, "Hear now, you rebels: shall we bring water for you out of this rock?"

¹¹ And Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock with his staff twice, and water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their livestock.

¹² And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe in me, to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them."

¹³ These are the waters of Meribah, where the people of Israel quarreled with the LORD, and through them he showed himself holy.

¹⁴ Moses sent messengers from Kadesh to the king of Edom: "Thus says your brother Israel: You know all the hardship that we have met:

¹⁵ how our fathers went down to Egypt, and we lived in Egypt a long time. And the Egyptians dealt harshly with us and our fathers.

¹⁶ And when we cried to the LORD, he heard our voice and sent an angel and brought us out of Egypt. And here we are in Kadesh, a city on the edge of your territory.

¹⁷ Please let us pass through your land. We will not pass through field or vineyard, or drink water from a well. 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 But Edom said to him, "You shall not pass through, lest I come out with the sword against you."

¹⁹ And the people of Israel said to him, "We will go up by the highway, and if we drink of your water, I and my livestock,

then I will pay for it. Let me only pass through on foot, nothing more."

²⁰ But he said, "You shall not pass through." And Edom came out against them with a large army and with a strong force.

²¹ Thus Edom refused to give Israel passage through his territory, so Israel turned away from him.

²² And they journeyed from Kadesh, and the people of Israel, the whole congregation, came to Mount Hor.

²³ And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron at Mount Hor, on the border of the land of Edom,

²⁴ "Let Aaron be gathered to his people, for he shall not enter the land that I have given to the people of Israel, because you rebelled against my command at the waters 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. And Aaron shall be gathered to his people and shall die there."

²⁷ Moses did as the LORD commanded. And they went up Mount Hor in the sight of all the congregation.

²⁸ And 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 And when all the congregation saw that Aaron had perished, all the house of Israel wept for Aaron thirty days.

21 ¹ When the Canaanite, the king of Arad, who lived in the Negeb, heard that Israel was coming by the way of Atharim, he fought against Israel, and took some of them captive.

² And Israel vowed a vow to the LORD and said, "If you will indeed give this

people into my hand, then I will devote their cities to destruction."

³ And the LORD obeyed the voice of Israel and gave over the Canaanites, and they devoted them and their cities to destruction. So the name of the place was called Hormah.

⁴ From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient 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 we loathe this worthless food."

⁶ Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died.

⁷ And 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 And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live."

⁹ So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

¹⁰ And the people of Israel set out and camped in Oboth.

¹¹ And they set out from Oboth and camped at Iye-abarim, in the wilderness that is opposite Moab, toward the sunrise.

¹² From there they set out and camped in the Valley of Zered.

¹³ From there they set out 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 Wherefore it is said in the Book of the Wars of the LORD, "Waheb in Suphah, and the valleys of the Arnon,

¹⁵ and the slope of the valleys that extends to the seat of Ar, and leans to the border of Moab."

¹⁶ And from there they continued to Beer; that is the well of which the LORD said to Moses, "Gather the people together, so that I may give them water."

¹⁷ Then Israel sang this song: "Spring up, O well!--Sing to it!--

¹⁸ the well that the princes dug, that the nobles of the people delved, with the scepter and with their staffs." And

from the wilderness they went on to Mattanah,

¹⁹ and from Mattanah to Nahaliel, and from Nahaliel to Bamoth,

²⁰ and from Bamoth to the valley lying in the region of Moab by the top of Pisgah that looks down on the desert.

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 field or vineyard. We will not drink the water of a well. 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. He gathered all his people together and went out against Israel to the wilderness and came to Jahaz and fought against Israel.

²⁴ And Israel defeated him with the edge of the sword and took possession of his land from the Arnon to the Jabbok,

as far as to the Ammonites, for the border of the Ammonites was strong.

²⁵ And Israel took all these cities, and Israel settled in all the cities of the Amorites, in Heshbon, and in all its villages.

²⁶ For Heshbon was the city of Sihon the king of the Amorites, who had fought against the former king of Moab and taken all his land out of his hand, as far as the Arnon.

²⁷ Therefore the ballad singers say, "Come to Heshbon, let it be built; let the city of Sihon be established.

²⁸ For fire came out from Heshbon, flame from the city of Sihon. It devoured Ar of Moab, and swallowed the heights of the Arnon.

²⁹ Woe to you, O Moab! You are undone, O people of Chemosh! He has made his sons fugitives, and his

daughters captives, to an Amorite king, Sihon.

³⁰ So we overthrew them; Heshbon, as far as Dibon, perished; and we laid waste as far as Nophah; fire spread as far as Medeba."

³¹ Thus Israel lived in the land of the Amorites.

³² And Moses sent to spy out Jazer, and they captured its villages and dispossessed the Amorites who were there.

³³ Then they turned and went up by the way to Bashan. And Og the king of Bashan came out against them, he and all his people, to battle at Edrei.

³⁴ But the LORD said to Moses, "Do not fear him, for I have given him into your hand, and all his people, and his land. And you shall do to him as you did to Sihon king of the Amorites, who lived at Heshbon."

³⁵ So they defeated him and his sons and all his people, until he had no survivor left. And they possessed his land.

22 ¹ Then the people of Israel set out and camped in the plains of Moab beyond the Jordan at Jericho.

² And Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites.

³ And Moab was in great dread of the people, because they were many. Moab was overcome with fear of the people of Israel.

⁴ And Moab said to the elders of Midian, "This horde will now lick up all that is around us, as the ox licks up the grass of the field." So Balak the son of Zippor, who was king of Moab at that time,

⁵ sent messengers to Balaam the son of Beor at Pethor, which is near the River in the land of the people of Amaw, to call

him, saying, "Behold, a people has come out of Egypt. They cover the face of the earth, and they are dwelling opposite me.

⁶ Come now, curse this people for me, since they are too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them from 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 fees for divination in their hand. And they came to Balaam and gave him Balak's message.

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 And God came to Balaam and said, "Who are these men with you?"

¹⁰ And Balaam said to God, "Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, has sent to me, saying,

¹¹ 'Behold, a people has come out of Egypt, and it covers the face of the earth. Now come, curse them for me. Perhaps I shall be able to fight against them and drive them out.'"

¹² 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 to your own land, for the LORD has refused to let me go with you."

¹⁴ So the princes of Moab rose and went to Balak and said, "Balaam refuses to come with us."

¹⁵ Once again Balak sent princes, more in number and more honorable than these.

¹⁶ And they came to Balaam and said to him, "Thus says Balak the son of Zippor: 'Let nothing hinder you from coming to me,

¹⁷ for I will surely do you great honor, and whatever you say to me I will do. Come, curse this people for me.'"

¹⁸ But 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 command of the LORD my God to do less or more.

¹⁹ So you, too, please 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 have come to call you, rise, go with them; but only do what I tell you."

²¹ So Balaam rose in the morning and saddled his donkey and went with the princes of Moab.

²² But God's anger was kindled because he went, and the angel of the LORD took his stand in the way as his adversary. Now he was riding on the donkey, and his two servants were with him.

²³ And the donkey saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road, with a drawn sword in his hand. And the donkey turned aside out of the road and went into the field. And Balaam struck the donkey, to turn her into the road.

²⁴ Then the angel of the LORD stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, with a wall on either side.

²⁵ And when the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, she pushed against the wall and pressed Balaam's foot against the wall. So he struck her again.

²⁶ Then the angel of the LORD went ahead and stood in a narrow place, where there was no way to turn either to the right or to the left.

²⁷ When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, she lay down under Balaam. And Balaam's anger was kindled, 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 made a fool of me. I wish I had a sword in my hand, for then I would kill you."

³⁰ And the donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey, on which you have ridden all your life long to this day? Is it my habit to treat you this way?" And he said, "No."

³¹ Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, with his drawn sword in his hand. And he bowed down and fell 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 oppose you because your way is perverse before me.

³³ The donkey saw me and turned aside before me these three times. If she had not turned aside from me, surely just now I would have killed you and let her live."

³⁴ Then Balaam said to the angel of the LORD, "I have sinned, for I did not know that you stood in the road against me. Now therefore, if it is evil in your sight, I will turn back."

³⁵ And the angel of the LORD said to Balaam, "Go with the men, but speak only the word that I tell you." So Balaam went on with the princes of Balak.

³⁶ When Balak heard that Balaam had come, he went out to meet him at the city of Moab, on the border formed

by the Arnon, at the extremity of the border.

³⁷ And Balak said to Balaam, "Did I not send to you to call you? Why did you not come to me? Am I not able to honor you?"

³⁸ Balaam said to Balak, "Behold, I have come to you! Have I now any power of my own to speak anything? The word that God puts in my mouth, that must I speak."

³⁹ Then Balaam went with Balak, and they came to Kiriath-huzoth.

⁴⁰ And Balak sacrificed oxen and sheep, and sent for Balaam and for the princes who were with him.

⁴¹ And in the morning Balak took Balaam and brought him up to Bamoth-baal, and from there he saw a fraction of the people.

23 ¹ And Balaam said to Balak, "Build for me here seven altars, and

prepare for me here seven bulls and seven rams."

² Balak did as Balaam had said. And Balak and Balaam offered on each altar a bull and a ram.

³ And Balaam said to Balak, "Stand beside your burnt offering, and I will go. Perhaps the LORD will come to meet me, and whatever he shows me I will tell you." And he went to a bare height,

⁴ and God met Balaam. And Balaam said to him, "I have arranged the seven altars and I have offered on each altar a bull and a ram."

⁵ And the LORD put a word in Balaam's mouth and said, "Return to Balak, and thus you shall speak."

⁶ And he returned to him, and behold, he and all the princes of Moab were standing beside his burnt offering.

⁷ And Balaam took up his discourse and said, "From Aram Balak has brought

me, the king of Moab from the eastern mountains: 'Come, curse Jacob for me, and come, denounce Israel!'

⁸ How can I curse whom God has not cursed? How can I denounce whom the LORD has not denounced?

⁹ For from the top of the crags I see him, from the hills I behold him; behold, a people dwelling alone, and not counting itself among the nations!

¹⁰ Who can count the dust of Jacob or number the fourth part of Israel? Let me die the death of the upright, and let my end be like his!"

¹¹ And Balak said to Balaam, "What have you done to me? I took you to curse my enemies, and behold, you have done nothing but bless them."

¹² And he answered and said, "Must I not take care to speak what the LORD puts in my mouth?"

¹³ And Balak said to him, "Please come with me to another place, from which you may see them. You shall see only a fraction of them and shall not see them all. Then curse them for me from there."

¹⁴ And he took 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 Balaam said to Balak, "Stand here beside your burnt offering, while I meet the LORD over there."

¹⁶ And the LORD met Balaam and put a word in his mouth and said, "Return to Balak, and thus shall you speak."

¹⁷ And he came to him, and behold, he was standing beside his burnt offering, and the princes of Moab with him. And Balak said to him, "What has the LORD spoken?"

¹⁸ And Balaam took up his discourse and said, "Rise, Balak, and hear; give ear to me, O son of Zippor:

¹⁹ God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?

²⁰ Behold, I received a command to bless: he has blessed, and I cannot revoke it.

²¹ He has not beheld misfortune in Jacob, nor has he seen trouble in Israel. The LORD their God is with them, and the shout of a king is among them.

²² God brings them out of Egypt and is for them like the horns of the wild ox.

²³ For there is no enchantment against Jacob, no divination against Israel; now it shall be said of Jacob and Israel, 'What has God wrought!'

²⁴ Behold, a people! As a lioness it rises up and as a lion it lifts itself; it does not lie down until it has devoured the prey and drunk the blood of the slain."

²⁵ And Balak said to Balaam, "Do not curse them at all, and do not bless them at all."

²⁶ But Balaam answered Balak, "Did I not tell you, 'All that the LORD says, that I must do'?"

²⁷ And Balak said to Balaam, "Come now, 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, which overlooks the desert.

²⁹ And 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 each altar.

24 ¹ When Balaam saw that it pleased the LORD to bless Israel, he did not go, as at other times, to look for omens, but set his face toward the wilderness.

² And Balaam lifted up his eyes and saw Israel camping tribe by tribe. And the Spirit of God came upon him,

³ and he took up his discourse and said, "The oracle of Balaam the son of Beor, the oracle of the man whose eye is opened,

⁴ the oracle of him who hears the words of God, who sees the vision of the Almighty, falling down with his eyes uncovered:

⁵ How lovely are your tents, O Jacob, your encampments, O Israel!

⁶ Like palm groves that stretch afar, like gardens beside a river, like aloes that the LORD has planted, like cedar trees beside the waters.

⁷ Water shall flow 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 and is for him like the horns of the wild ox; he shall eat up the nations, his adversaries, and shall break their bones in pieces and pierce them through with his arrows.

⁹ He crouched, he lay down like a lion and like a lioness; who will rouse him up? Blessed are those who bless you, and cursed are those who curse you."

¹⁰ And Balak's anger was kindled against Balaam, and he struck his hands together. And Balak said to Balaam, "I called you to curse my enemies, and behold, you have blessed them these three times.

¹¹ Therefore now flee to your own place. I said, 'I will certainly honor you,'

but the LORD has held you back from honor."

¹² And Balaam said to Balak, "Did I not tell your messengers whom you sent to me,

¹³ 'If Balak should give me his house full of silver and gold, I would not be able to go beyond the word of the LORD, to do either good or bad of my own will. What the LORD speaks, that will I speak'?

¹⁴ And now, behold, I am going to my people. Come, I will let you know what this people will do to your people in the latter days."

¹⁵ And he took up his discourse and said, "The oracle of Balaam the son of Beor, the oracle of the man whose eye is opened,

¹⁶ the oracle of him who hears the words of God, and knows the knowledge of the Most High, who sees the vision of

the Almighty, falling down with his eyes uncovered:

¹⁷ I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the forehead of Moab and break down all the sons of Sheth.

¹⁸ Edom shall be dispossessed; Seir also, his enemies, shall be dispossessed. Israel is doing valiantly.

¹⁹ And one from Jacob shall exercise dominion and destroy the survivors of cities!"

²⁰ Then he looked on Amalek and took up his discourse and said, "Amalek was the first among the nations, but its end is utter destruction."

²¹ And he looked on the Kenite, and took up his discourse and said, "Enduring is your dwelling place, and your nest is set in the rock.

²² Nevertheless, Kain shall be burned when Asshur takes you away captive."

²³ And he took up his discourse and said, "Alas, who shall live when God does this?

²⁴ But ships shall come from Kittim and shall afflict Asshur and Eber; and he too shall come to utter destruction."

²⁵ Then Balaam rose and went back to his place. And Balak also went his way.

25 ¹ While Israel lived in Shittim, the people began to whore with the daughters of Moab.

² These invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods.

³ So Israel yoked himself to Baal of Peor. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.

⁴ And the LORD said to Moses, "Take all the chiefs of the people and hang them in the sun before the LORD, that the

fierce anger of the LORD may turn away from Israel."

⁵ And Moses said to the judges of Israel, "Each of you kill those of his men who have yoked themselves to Baal of Peor."

⁶ And behold, one of the people of Israel came and brought a Midianite woman to his family, in the sight of Moses and in the sight of the whole congregation of the people of Israel, while they were weeping in the entrance of the tent of meeting.

⁷ When Phinehas the son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose and left the congregation and took a spear in his hand

⁸ and went after the man of Israel into the chamber and pierced both of them, the man of Israel and the woman through her belly. Thus the plague on the people of Israel was stopped.

⁹ Nevertheless, those who died by the plague were twenty-four thousand.

¹⁰ And the LORD said to Moses,

¹¹ "Phinehas the son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, has turned back my wrath from the people of Israel, in that he was jealous with my jealousy among them, so that I did not consume the people of Israel in my jealousy.

¹² Therefore say, 'Behold, I give to him my covenant of peace,

¹³ and it shall be to him and to his descendants after him the covenant of a perpetual priesthood, because he was jealous for his God and made atonement for the people of Israel.'"

¹⁴ The name of the slain man of Israel, who was killed with the Midianite woman, was Zimri the son of Salu, chief of a father's house belonging to the Simeonites.

¹⁵ And the name of the Midianite woman who was killed was Cozbi the daughter of Zur, who was the tribal head of a father's house in Midian.

¹⁶ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

¹⁷ "Harass the Midianites and strike them down,

¹⁸ for they have harassed you with their wives, with which they beguiled you in the matter of Peor, and in the matter of Cozbi, the daughter of the chief of Midian, their sister, who was killed on the day of the plague on account of Peor."

26 ¹ After the plague, the LORD said to Moses and to Eleazar the son of Aaron, the priest,

² "Take a census of all the congregation of the people of Israel, from twenty years old and upward, by their fathers'

houses, all in Israel who are able to go to war."

³ And Moses and Eleazar the priest spoke with them in the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho, saying,

⁴ "Take a census of the people, from twenty years old and upward," as the LORD commanded Moses. The people of Israel who came out of the land of Egypt were:

⁵ Reuben, the firstborn of Israel; the sons of Reuben: of Hanoah, the clan of the Hanoahites; of Pallu, the clan of the Palluities;

⁶ of Hezron, the clan of the Hezronites; of Carmi, the clan of the Carmites.

⁷ These are the clans of the Reubenites, and those listed were 43,730.

⁸ And the sons of Pallu: Eliab.

⁹ The sons of Eliab: Nemuel, Dathan, and Abiram. These are the Dathan and Abiram, chosen from 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 250 men, and they became a warning.

¹¹ But the sons of Korah did not die.

¹² The sons of Simeon according to their clans: of Nemuel, the clan of the Nemuelites; of Jamin, the clan of the Jaminites; of Jachin, the clan of the Jachinites;

¹³ of Zerah, the clan of the Zerahites; of Shaul, the clan of the Shaulites.

¹⁴ These are the clans of the Simeonites, 22,200.

¹⁵ The sons of Gad according to their clans: of Zephon, the clan of the Zephonites; of Haggi, the clan of the

Haggites; of Shuni, the clan of the Shunites;

¹⁶ of Ozni, the clan of the Oznites; of Eri, the clan of the Erites;

¹⁷ of Arod, the clan of the Arodites; of Areli, the clan of the Arelites.

¹⁸ These are the clans of the sons of Gad as they were listed, 40,500.

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 clans were: of Shelah, the clan of the Shelanites; of Perez, the clan of the Perezites; of Zerah, the clan of the Zerahites.

²¹ And the sons of Perez were: of Hezron, the clan of the Hezronites; of Hamul, the clan of the Hamulites.

²² These are the clans of Judah as they were listed, 76,500.

²³ The sons of Issachar according to their clans: of Tola, the clan of the Tolaïtes; of Puvah, the clan of the Punites;

²⁴ of Jashub, the clan of the Jashubites; of Shimron, the clan of the Shimronites.

²⁵ These are the clans of Issachar as they were listed, 64,300.

²⁶ The sons of Zebulun, according to their clans: of Sered, the clan of the Seredites; of Elon, the clan of the Elonites; of Jahleel, the clan of the Jahleelites.

²⁷ These are the clans of the Zebulunites as they were listed, 60,500.

²⁸ The sons of Joseph according to their clans: Manasseh and Ephraim.

²⁹ The sons of Manasseh: of Machir, the clan of the Machirites; and Machir was the father of Gilead; of Gilead, the clan of the Gileadites.

³⁰ These are the sons of Gilead: of Iezer, the clan of the Iezerites; of Helek, the clan of the Helekites;

³¹ and of Asriel, the clan of the Asrielites; and of Shechem, the clan of the Shechemites;

³² and of Shemida, the clan of the Shemidaites; and of Hepher, the clan of the Hepherites.

³³ Now Zelophehad the son of Hepher had no sons, but daughters. And the names of the daughters of Zelophehad were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.

³⁴ These are the clans of Manasseh, and those listed were 52,700.

³⁵ These are the sons of Ephraim according to their clans: of Shuthelah, the clan of the Shuthelahites; of Becher, the clan of the Becherites; of Tahan, the clan of the Tahanites.

³⁶ And these are the sons of Shuthelah: of Eran, the clan of the Eranites.

³⁷ These are the clans of the sons of Ephraim as they were listed, 32,500. These are the sons of Joseph according to their clans.

³⁸ The sons of Benjamin according to their clans: of Bela, the clan of the Belaites; of Ashbel, the clan of the Ashbelites; of Ahiram, the clan of the Ahiramites;

³⁹ of Shephupham, the clan of the Shuphamites; of Hupham, the clan of the Huphamites.

⁴⁰ And the sons of Bela were Ard and Naaman: of Ard, the clan of the Ardites; of Naaman, the clan of the Naamites.

⁴¹ These are the sons of Benjamin according to their clans, and those listed were 45,600.

⁴² These are the sons of Dan according to their clans: of Shuham, the clan of the

Shuhamites. These are the clans of Dan according to their clans.

⁴³ All the clans of the Shuhamites, as they were listed, were 64,400.

⁴⁴ The sons of Asher according to their clans: of Imnah, the clan of the Imnites; of Ishvi, the clan of the Ishvites; of Beriah, the clan of the Beriites.

⁴⁵ Of the sons of Beriah: of Heber, the clan of the Heberites; of Malchiel, the clan of the Malchielites.

⁴⁶ And the name of the daughter of Asher was Serah.

⁴⁷ These are the clans of the sons of Asher as they were listed, 53,400.

⁴⁸ The sons of Naphtali according to their clans: of Jahzeel, the clan of the Jahzeelites; of Guni, the clan of the Gunites;

⁴⁹ of Jezer, the clan of the Jezerites; of Shillem, the clan of the Shillemites.

⁵⁰ These are the clans of Naphtali according to their clans, and those listed were 45,400.

⁵¹ This was the list of the people of Israel, 601,730.

⁵² The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

⁵³ "Among these the land shall be divided for inheritance according to the number of names.

⁵⁴ To a large tribe you shall give a large inheritance, and to a small tribe you shall give a small inheritance; every tribe shall be given its inheritance in proportion to its list.

⁵⁵ But the land shall be divided by lot. According to the names of the tribes of their fathers they shall inherit.

⁵⁶ Their inheritance shall be divided according to lot between the larger and the smaller."

⁵⁷ This was the list of the Levites according to their clans: of Gershon, the

clan of the Gershonites; of Kohath, the clan of the Kohathites; of Merari, the clan of the Merarites.

⁵⁸ These are the clans of Levi: the clan of the Libnites, the clan of the Hebronites, the clan of the Mahlites, the clan of the Mushites, the clan of the Korahites. And Kohath was the father of Amram.

⁵⁹ The name of Amram's wife was Jochebed the daughter of Levi, who was born to Levi in Egypt. And she bore to Amram Aaron and Moses and Miriam their sister.

⁶⁰ And to Aaron were born Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

⁶¹ But Nadab and Abihu died when they offered unauthorized fire before the LORD.

⁶² And those listed were 23,000, every male from a month old and upward. For they were not listed among the

people of Israel, because there was no inheritance given to them among the people of Israel.

⁶³ These were those listed by Moses and Eleazar the priest, who listed the people of Israel in the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho.

⁶⁴ But among these there was not one of those listed by Moses and Aaron the priest, who had listed the people of Israel in the wilderness of Sinai.

⁶⁵ For the LORD had said of them, "They shall die in the wilderness." Not one of them was left, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun.

27 ¹ Then drew near the daughters of Zelophehad the son of Hopher, son of Gilead, son of Machir, son of Manasseh, from the clans of Manasseh the son of Joseph. The names of his daughters were: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.

² And they stood before Moses and before Eleazar the priest and before the chiefs and all the congregation, at the entrance of the tent of meeting, saying,

³ "Our father died in the wilderness. He was not among the company of those who gathered themselves together against the LORD in the company of Korah, but died for his own sin. And he had no sons.

⁴ Why should the name of our father be taken away from his clan because he had no son? Give to us a possession among our father's brothers."

⁵ Moses brought their case before the LORD.

⁶ And the LORD said to Moses,

⁷ "The daughters of Zelophehad are right. You shall give them possession of an inheritance among their father's brothers and transfer the inheritance of their father to them.

⁸ And you shall speak to the people of Israel, saying, 'If a man dies and has no son, then you shall transfer his inheritance to his daughter.

⁹ And if he has no daughter, then you shall give his inheritance to his brothers.

¹⁰ And 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 nearest kinsman of his clan, and he shall possess it. And it shall be for the people of Israel a statute and rule, as the LORD commanded Moses."

¹² The LORD said to Moses, "Go up into this mountain of Abarim and see the land that I have given to the people of Israel.

¹³ When you have seen it, you also shall be gathered to your people, as your brother Aaron was,

¹⁴ because you rebelled against my word in the wilderness of Zin when the congregation quarreled, failing to uphold me as holy at the waters before their eyes." (These are the waters of Meribah of Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin.)

¹⁵ Moses spoke to the LORD, saying,

¹⁶ "Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation

¹⁷ who shall go out before them and come in before them, who shall lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the LORD may not be as sheep that have no shepherd."

¹⁸ So the LORD said to Moses, "Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him.

¹⁹ Make him stand before Eleazar the priest and all the congregation, and you shall commission him in their sight.

²⁰ You shall invest him with some of your authority, that all the congregation of the people of Israel may obey.

²¹ And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire for him by the judgment of the Urim before the LORD. At his word they shall go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he and all the people of Israel with him, the whole congregation."

²² And Moses did as the LORD commanded him. He took Joshua and made him stand before Eleazar the priest and the whole congregation,

²³ and he laid his hands on him and commissioned him as the LORD directed through Moses.

28 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

² "Command the people of Israel and say to them, 'My offering, my food for my food offerings, my pleasing aroma,

you shall be careful to offer to me at its appointed time.'

³ And you shall say to them, This is the food offering that you shall offer to the LORD: two male lambs a year old without blemish, day by day, as a regular offering.

⁴ The one lamb you shall offer in the morning, and the other lamb you shall offer at twilight;

⁵ also a tenth of an ephah of fine flour for a grain offering, mixed with a quarter of a hin of beaten oil.

⁶ It is a regular burnt offering, which was ordained at Mount Sinai for a pleasing aroma, a food offering to the LORD.

⁷ Its drink offering shall be a quarter of a hin for each lamb. In the Holy Place you shall pour out a drink offering of strong drink to the LORD.

⁸ The other lamb you shall offer at twilight. Like the grain offering of the morning, and like its drink offering, you shall offer it as a food offering, with a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

⁹ "On the Sabbath day, two male lambs a year old without blemish, and two tenths of an ephah of fine flour for a grain offering, mixed with oil, and its drink offering:

¹⁰ this is the burnt offering of every Sabbath, besides the regular burnt offering and its drink offering.

¹¹ "At the beginnings of your months, you shall offer a burnt offering to the LORD: two bulls from the herd, one ram, seven male lambs a year old without blemish;

¹² also three tenths of an ephah of fine flour for a grain offering, mixed with oil, for each bull, and two tenths of fine flour

for a grain offering, mixed with oil, for the one ram;

¹³ and a tenth of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering for every lamb; for a burnt offering with a pleasing aroma, a food offering to the LORD.

¹⁴ Their drink offerings shall be half a hin of wine for a bull, a third of a hin for a ram, and a quarter of a hin for a lamb. This is the burnt offering of each month throughout the months of the year.

¹⁵ Also one male goat for a sin offering to the LORD; it shall be offered besides the regular burnt offering and its drink offering.

¹⁶ "On the fourteenth day of the first month is the LORD's Passover,

¹⁷ and on the fifteenth day of this month is a feast. Seven days shall unleavened bread be eaten.

¹⁸ On the first day there shall be a holy convocation. You shall not do any ordinary work,

¹⁹ but offer a food offering, a burnt offering to the LORD: two bulls from the herd, one ram, and seven male lambs a year old; see that they are without blemish;

²⁰ also their grain offering of fine flour mixed with oil; three tenths of an ephah shall you offer for a bull, and two tenths for a ram;

²¹ a tenth shall you offer for each of the seven lambs;

²² also one male goat for 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 the same way you shall offer daily, for seven days, the food of a food offering, with a pleasing 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 not do any ordinary work.

²⁶ "On the day of the firstfruits, when you offer a grain offering of new grain to the LORD at your Feast of Weeks, you shall have a holy convocation. You shall not do any ordinary work,

²⁷ but offer a burnt offering, with a pleasing aroma to the LORD: two bulls from the herd, one ram, seven male lambs a year old;

²⁸ also their grain offering of fine flour mixed with oil, three tenths of an ephah for each bull, two tenths for one ram,

²⁹ a tenth for each of the seven lambs;

³⁰ with one male goat, to make atonement for you.

³¹ Besides the regular burnt offering and its grain offering, you shall offer them and their drink offering. See that they are without blemish.

29 ¹ "On the first day of the seventh month you shall have a holy convocation. You shall not do any ordinary work. It is a day for you to blow the trumpets,

² and you shall offer a burnt offering, for a pleasing aroma to the LORD: one bull from the herd, one ram, seven male lambs a year old without blemish;

³ also their grain offering of 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 with one male goat for a sin offering, to make atonement for you;

⁶ besides the burnt offering of the new moon, and its grain offering,

and the regular burnt offering and its grain offering, and their drink offering, according to the rule for them, for a pleasing aroma, a food offering to the LORD.

⁷ "On the tenth day of this seventh month you shall have a holy convocation and afflict yourselves. You shall do no work,

⁸ but you shall offer a burnt offering to the LORD, a pleasing aroma: one bull from the herd, one ram, seven male lambs a year old: see that they are without blemish.

⁹ And 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 a tenth for each of the seven lambs:

¹¹ also one male goat for a sin offering, besides the sin offering of atonement,

and the regular burnt offering and its grain offering, and their drink offerings.

¹² "On the fifteenth day of the seventh month you shall have a holy convocation. You shall not do any ordinary work, and you shall keep a feast to the LORD seven days.

¹³ And you shall offer a burnt offering, a food offering, with a pleasing aroma to the LORD, thirteen bulls from the herd, two rams, fourteen male lambs a year old; they shall be without blemish;

¹⁴ and their grain offering 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 a tenth for each of the fourteen lambs;

¹⁶ also one male goat for a sin offering, besides the regular burnt offering, its grain offering and its drink offering.

¹⁷ "On the second day twelve bulls from the herd, two rams, fourteen male lambs a year old without blemish,

¹⁸ with the grain offering and the drink offerings for the bulls, for the rams, and for the lambs, in the prescribed quantities;

¹⁹ also one male goat for a sin offering, besides the regular burnt offering and its grain offering, and their drink offerings.

²⁰ "On the third day eleven bulls, two rams, fourteen male lambs a year old without blemish,

²¹ with the grain offering and the drink offerings for the bulls, for the rams, and for the lambs, in the prescribed quantities;

²² also one male goat for a sin offering, besides the regular burnt offering and its grain offering and its drink offering.

²³ "On the fourth day ten bulls, two rams, fourteen male lambs a year old without blemish,

²⁴ with the grain offering and the drink offerings for the bulls, for the rams, and for the lambs, in the prescribed quantities;

²⁵ also one male goat for a sin offering, besides the regular burnt offering, its grain offering and its drink offering.

²⁶ "On the fifth day nine bulls, two rams, fourteen male lambs a year old without blemish,

²⁷ with the grain offering and the drink offerings for the bulls, for the rams, and for the lambs, in the prescribed quantities;

²⁸ also one male goat for a sin offering; besides the regular burnt offering and its grain offering and its drink offering.

²⁹ "On the sixth day eight bulls, two rams, fourteen male lambs a year old without blemish,

³⁰ with the grain offering and the drink offerings for the bulls, for the rams, and for the lambs, in the prescribed quantities;

³¹ also one male goat for a sin offering; besides the regular burnt offering, its grain offering, and its drink offerings.

³² "On the seventh day seven bulls, two rams, fourteen male lambs a year old without blemish,

³³ with the grain offering and the drink offerings for the bulls, for the rams, and for the lambs, in the prescribed quantities;

³⁴ also one male goat for a sin offering; besides the regular burnt offering, its grain offering, and its drink offering.

³⁵ "On the eighth day you shall have a solemn assembly. You shall not do any ordinary work,

³⁶ but you shall offer a burnt offering, a food offering, with a pleasing aroma to the LORD: one bull, one ram, seven male lambs a year old without blemish,

³⁷ and the grain offering and the drink offerings for the bull, for the ram, and for the lambs, in the prescribed quantities;

³⁸ also one male goat for a sin offering; besides the regular burnt offering and its grain offering and its drink offering.

³⁹ "These you shall offer to the LORD at your appointed feasts, in addition to your vow offerings and your freewill offerings, for your burnt offerings, and for your grain offerings, and for your drink offerings, and for your peace offerings."

⁴⁰ So Moses told the people of Israel everything just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

30 ¹ Moses spoke to the heads of the tribes of the people of Israel, saying, "This is what the LORD has commanded.

² If a man vows a vow to the LORD, or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he shall not break his word. He shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.

³ If a woman vows a vow to the LORD and binds herself by a pledge, while within her father's house in her youth,

⁴ and her father hears of her vow and of her pledge by which she has bound herself and says nothing to her, then all her vows shall stand, and every pledge by which she has bound herself shall stand.

⁵ But if her father opposes her on the day that he hears of it, no vow of hers, no pledge by which she has bound herself shall stand. And the LORD will forgive her, because her father opposed her.

⁶ If she marries a husband, while under her vows or any thoughtless utterance of her lips by which she has bound herself,

⁷ and her husband hears of it and says nothing to her on the day that he hears, then her vows shall stand, and her pledges by which she has bound herself shall stand.

⁸ But if, on the day that her husband comes to hear of it, he opposes her, then he makes void her vow that was on her, and the thoughtless utterance of her lips by which she bound herself. And the LORD will forgive her.

⁹ (But any vow of a widow or of a divorced woman, anything by which she

has bound herself, shall stand against her.)

¹⁰ And if she vowed in her husband's house or bound herself by a pledge with an oath,

¹¹ and her husband heard of it and said nothing to her and did not oppose her, then all her vows shall stand, and every pledge by which she bound herself shall stand.

¹² But if her husband makes them null and void on the day that he hears them, then whatever proceeds out of her lips concerning her vows or concerning her pledge of herself shall not stand. Her husband has made them void, and the LORD will forgive her.

¹³ Any vow and any binding oath to afflict herself, her husband may establish, or her husband may make void.

¹⁴ But if her husband says nothing to her from day to day, then he establishes all her vows or all her pledges that are upon her. He has established them, because he said nothing to her on the day that he heard of them.

¹⁵ But if he makes them null and void after he has heard of them, then he shall bear her iniquity."

¹⁶ These are the statutes that the LORD commanded Moses about a man and his wife and about a father and his daughter while she is in her youth within her father's house.

31 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

² "Avenge the people of Israel on the Midianites. Afterward you shall be gathered to your people."

³ So Moses spoke to the people, saying, "Arm men from among you for the war, that they may go against Midian

to execute the LORD's vengeance on Midian.

⁴ You shall send a thousand from each of the tribes of Israel to the war."

⁵ So there were provided, out of the thousands of Israel, a thousand from each tribe, twelve thousand armed for war.

⁶ And Moses sent them to the war, a thousand from each tribe, together with Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, with the vessels of the sanctuary and the trumpets for the alarm in his hand.

⁷ They warred against Midian, as the LORD commanded Moses, and killed every male.

⁸ They killed the kings of Midian with the rest of their slain, Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur, and Reba, the five kings of Midian. And they also killed Balaam the son of Beor with the sword.

⁹ And the people of Israel took captive the women of Midian and their little ones, and they took as plunder all their cattle, their flocks, and all their goods.

¹⁰ All their cities in the places where they lived, and all their encampments, they burned with fire,

¹¹ and took all the spoil and all the plunder, both of man and of beast.

¹² Then they brought the captives and the plunder and the spoil to Moses, and to Eleazar the priest, and to the congregation of the people of Israel, at the camp on the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho.

¹³ Moses and Eleazar the priest and all the chiefs of the congregation went to meet them outside the camp.

¹⁴ And Moses was angry with the officers of the army, the commanders of thousands and the commanders of

hundreds, who had come from service in the war.

¹⁵ Moses said to them, "Have you let all the women live?

¹⁶ Behold, these, on Balaam's advice, caused the people of Israel to act treacherously against the LORD in the incident of Peor, and so the plague came among the congregation of the LORD.

¹⁷ Now therefore, kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman who has known man by lying with him.

¹⁸ But all the young girls who have not known man by lying with him keep alive for yourselves.

¹⁹ Encamp outside the camp seven days. Whoever of you 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 You shall purify every garment, every article of skin, all work of goats' hair, and every article of wood."

²¹ Then Eleazar the priest said to the men in the army who had gone to battle: "This is the statute of the law that the LORD has commanded Moses:

²² only the gold, the silver, the bronze, the iron, the tin, and the lead,

²³ everything that can stand the fire, you shall pass through the fire, and it shall be clean. Nevertheless, it shall also be purified with the water for impurity. And whatever cannot stand the fire, you shall pass through the water.

²⁴ You must wash your clothes on the seventh day, and you shall be clean. And afterward you may come into the camp."

²⁵ The LORD said to Moses,

²⁶ "Take the count of the plunder that was taken, both of man and of beast, you

and Eleazar the priest and the heads of the fathers' houses of the congregation,
²⁷ and divide the plunder into two parts between the warriors who went out to battle and all the congregation.

²⁸ And levy for the LORD a tribute from the men of war who went out to battle, one out of five hundred, of the people and of the oxen and of the donkeys and of the flocks.

²⁹ Take it from their half and give it to Eleazar the priest as a contribution to the LORD.

³⁰ And from the people of Israel's half you shall take one drawn out of every fifty, of the people, of the oxen, of the donkeys, and of the flocks, of all the cattle, and give them to the Levites who keep guard over the tabernacle of the LORD."

³¹ And Moses and Eleazar the priest did as the LORD commanded Moses.

³² Now the plunder remaining of the spoil that the army took was 675,000 sheep,

³³ 72,000 cattle,

³⁴ 61,000 donkeys,

³⁵ and 32,000 persons in all, women who had not known man by lying with him.

³⁶ And the half, the portion of those who had gone out in the army, numbered 337,500 sheep,

³⁷ and the LORD's tribute of sheep was 675.

³⁸ The cattle were 36,000, of which the LORD's tribute was 72.

³⁹ The donkeys were 30,500, of which the LORD's tribute was 61.

⁴⁰ The persons were 16,000, of which the LORD's tribute was 32 persons.

⁴¹ And Moses gave the tribute, which was the contribution for the LORD,

to Eleazar the priest, as the LORD commanded Moses.

⁴² From the people of Israel's half, which Moses separated from that of the men who had served in the army--

⁴³ now the congregation's half was 337,500 sheep,

⁴⁴ 36,000 cattle,

⁴⁵ and 30,500 donkeys,

⁴⁶ and 16,000 persons--

⁴⁷ from the people of Israel's half Moses took one of every 50, both of persons and of beasts, and gave them to the Levites who kept guard over the tabernacle of the LORD, as the LORD commanded Moses.

⁴⁸ Then the officers who were over the thousands of the army, the commanders of thousands and the commanders of hundreds, came near to Moses

⁴⁹ and said to Moses, "Your servants have counted the men of war who are

under our command, and there is not a man missing from us.

⁵⁰ And we have brought the LORD's offering, what each man found, articles of gold, armlets and bracelets, signet rings, earrings, and beads, to make atonement for ourselves before the LORD."

⁵¹ And Moses and Eleazar the priest received from them the gold, all crafted articles.

⁵² And all the gold of the contribution that they presented to the LORD, from the commanders of thousands and the commanders of hundreds, was 16,750 shekels.

⁵³ (The men in the army had each taken plunder for himself.)

⁵⁴ And Moses and Eleazar the priest received the gold from the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, and brought it into the tent of meeting, as a

memorial for the people of Israel before the LORD.

32 ¹ Now the people of Reuben and the people of Gad had a very great number of livestock. And they saw the land of Jazer and the land of Gilead, and behold, the place was a place for livestock.

² So the people of Gad and the people of Reuben came and said to Moses and to Eleazar the priest and to the chiefs of the congregation,

³ "Ataroth, Dibon, Jazer, Nimrah, Heshbon, Elealeh, Sebam, Nebo, and Beon,

⁴ the land that the LORD struck down before the congregation of Israel, is a land for livestock, and your servants have livestock."

⁵ And they said, "If we have found favor in your sight, let this land be given to

your servants for a possession. Do not take us across the Jordan."

⁶ But Moses said to the people of Gad and to the people of Reuben, "Shall your brothers go to the war while you sit here?

⁷ Why will you discourage the heart of the people of Israel from going over into the land that the LORD has given them?

⁸ Your fathers did this, when I sent them 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 people of Israel from going into the land that the LORD had given them.

¹⁰ And the LORD's anger was kindled on that day, and he swore, saying,

¹¹ 'Surely none of the men who came up out of Egypt, from twenty years old and upward, shall see the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and

to Jacob, because they have not wholly followed me,

¹² none except Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite and Joshua the son of Nun, for they have wholly followed the LORD.'

¹³ And the LORD's anger was kindled 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 behold, you have risen in your fathers' 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 again abandon them in the wilderness, and you will destroy all this 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 will take up arms, ready to go before the people of Israel, until we have brought them to their place. And our little ones shall live in the fortified cities because of the inhabitants of the land.

¹⁸ We will not return to our homes until each of the people of Israel has gained his inheritance.

¹⁹ For we will not inherit with them on the other side of the Jordan and beyond, because our inheritance has come to us on this side of the Jordan to the east."

²⁰ So Moses said to them, "If you will do this, if you will take up arms to go before the LORD for the war,

²¹ and every armed man of you will pass 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 after that you shall return and be free of obligation to the LORD

and to Israel, and this land shall be your possession before the LORD.

²³ But if you will not do so, behold, 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 you have promised."

²⁵ And the people of Gad and the people of Reuben said to Moses, "Your servants will do as my lord commands.

²⁶ Our little ones, our wives, our livestock, and all our cattle, shall remain there in the cities of Gilead,

²⁷ but your servants will pass over, every man who is armed for war, before the LORD to battle, as my lord orders."

²⁸ So Moses gave command concerning them to Eleazar the priest and to Joshua the son of Nun and to the heads of the fathers' houses of the tribes of the people of Israel.

²⁹ And Moses said to them, "If the people of Gad and the people of Reuben, every man who is armed to battle before the LORD, will pass with you over the Jordan and the land shall be subdued before you, then you shall give them the land of Gilead for a possession.

³⁰ However, if they will not pass over with you armed, they shall have possessions among you in the land of Canaan."

³¹ And the people of Gad and the people of Reuben answered, "What the LORD has said to your servants, we will do.

³² We will pass over armed before the LORD into the land of Canaan, and the possession of our inheritance shall remain with us beyond the Jordan."

³³ And Moses gave to them, to the people of Gad and to the people of Reuben and to the half-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 and its cities with their territories, the cities of the land throughout the country.

³⁴ And the people of Gad built Dibon, Ataroth, Aroer,

³⁵ Atroth-shopan, Jazer, Jogbehah,

³⁶ Beth-nimrah and Beth-haran, fortified cities, and folds for sheep.

³⁷ And the people of Reuben built Heshbon, Elealeh, Kiriathaim,

³⁸ Nebo, and Baal-meon (their names were changed), and Sibmah. And they gave other names to the cities that they built.

³⁹ And the sons of Machir the son of Manasseh went to Gilead and captured it, and dispossessed the Amorites who were in it.

⁴⁰ And Moses gave Gilead to Machir the son of Manasseh, and he settled in it.

⁴¹ And Jair the son of Manasseh went and captured their villages, and called them Havvoth-jair.

⁴² And Nobah went and captured Kenath and its villages, and called it Nobah, after his own name.

33 ¹ These are the stages of the people of Israel, when they went out of the land of Egypt by their companies under the leadership of Moses and Aaron.

² Moses wrote down their starting places, stage by stage, by command of the LORD, and these are their stages according to their starting places.

³ They set out from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month. On the day after the Passover, the people of Israel went

out triumphantly in the sight of all the Egyptians,

⁴ while the Egyptians were burying all their firstborn, whom the LORD had struck down among them. On their gods also the LORD executed judgments.

⁵ So the people of Israel set out from Rameses and camped at Succoth.

⁶ And they set out from Succoth and camped at Etham, which is on the edge of the wilderness.

⁷ And they set out from Etham and turned back to Pi-hahiroth, which is east of Baal-zephon, and they camped before Migdol.

⁸ And they set out from before Hahiroth and passed through the midst of the sea into the wilderness, and they went a three days' journey in the wilderness of Etham and camped at Marah.

⁹ And they set out from Marah and came to Elim; at Elim there were twelve

springs of water and seventy palm trees, and they camped there.

¹⁰ And they set out from Elim and camped by the Red Sea.

¹¹ And they set out from the Red Sea and camped in the wilderness of Sin.

¹² And they set out from the wilderness of Sin and camped at Dophkah.

¹³ And they set out from Dophkah and camped at Alush.

¹⁴ And they set out from Alush and camped at Rephidim, where there was no water for the people to drink.

¹⁵ And they set out from Rephidim and camped in the wilderness of Sinai.

¹⁶ And they set out from the wilderness of Sinai and camped at Kibroth-hattaavah.

¹⁷ And they set out from Kibroth-hattaavah and camped at Hazeroth.

¹⁸ And they set out from Hazeroth and camped at Rithmah.

¹⁹ And they set out from Rithmah and camped at Rimmon-perez.

²⁰ And they set out from Rimmon-perez and camped at Libnah.

²¹ And they set out from Libnah and camped at Rissah.

²² And they set out from Rissah and camped at Kehelathah.

²³ And they set out from Kehelathah and camped at Mount Shepher.

²⁴ And they set out from Mount Shepher and camped at Haradah.

²⁵ And they set out from Haradah and camped at Makheloth.

²⁶ And they set out from Makheloth and camped at Tahath.

²⁷ And they set out from Tahath and camped at Terah.

²⁸ And they set out from Terah and camped at Mithkah.

²⁹ And they set out from Mithkah and camped at Hashmonah.

³⁰ And they set out from Hashmonah and camped at Moseroth.

³¹ And they set out from Moseroth and camped at Bene-jaakan.

³² And they set out from Bene-jaakan and camped at Hor-haggidgad.

³³ And they set out from Hor-haggidgad and camped at Jotbathah.

³⁴ And they set out from Jotbathah and camped at Abronah.

³⁵ And they set out from Abronah and camped at Ezion-geber.

³⁶ And they set out from Ezion-geber and camped in the wilderness of Zin (that is, Kadesh).

³⁷ And they set out from Kadesh and camped at Mount Hor, on the edge of the land of Edom.

³⁸ And Aaron the priest went up Mount Hor at the command of the LORD and died there, in the fortieth year after the people of Israel had come out of the

land of Egypt, on the first day of the fifth month.

³⁹ And Aaron was 123 years old when he died on Mount Hor.

⁴⁰ And the Canaanite, the king of Arad, who lived in the Negeb in the land of Canaan, heard of the coming of the people of Israel.

⁴¹ And they set out from Mount Hor and camped at Zalmonah.

⁴² And they set out from Zalmonah and camped at Punon.

⁴³ And they set out from Punon and camped at Oboth.

⁴⁴ And they set out from Oboth and camped at Iye-abarim, in the territory of Moab.

⁴⁵ And they set out from Iyim and camped at Dibon-gad.

⁴⁶ And they set out from Dibon-gad and camped at Almon-diblathaim.

⁴⁷ And they set out from Almon-diblathaim and camped in the mountains of Abarim, before Nebo.

⁴⁸ And they set out from the mountains of Abarim and camped in the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho;

⁴⁹ they camped by the Jordan from Beth-jeshimoth as far as Abel-shittim in the plains of Moab.

⁵⁰ And the LORD spoke to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho, saying,

⁵¹ "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you pass over the Jordan into the land of Canaan,

⁵² then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you and destroy all their figured stones and destroy all their metal images and demolish all their high places.

⁵³ And you shall take possession of the land and settle in it, for I have given the land to you to possess it.

⁵⁴ You shall inherit the land by lot according to your clans. To a large tribe you shall give a large inheritance, and to a small tribe you shall give a small inheritance. Wherever the lot falls for anyone, that shall be his. According to the tribes of your fathers you shall inherit.

⁵⁵ But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then those of them whom you let remain shall be as barbs in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall trouble you in the land where you dwell.

⁵⁶ And I will do to you as I thought to do to them."

34 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

² "Command the people of Israel, and say to them, When you enter the land of Canaan (this is the land that shall fall to you for an inheritance, the land of Canaan as defined by its borders),

³ your south side shall be from the wilderness of Zin alongside Edom, and your southern border shall run from the end of the Salt Sea on the east.

⁴ And your border shall turn south of the ascent of Akrabbim, and cross to Zin, and its limit shall be south of Kadesh-barnea. Then it shall go on to Hazar-addar, and pass along to Azmon.

⁵ And the border shall turn from Azmon to the Brook of Egypt, and its limit shall be at the sea.

⁶ "For the western border, you shall have the Great Sea and its coast. This shall be your western border.

⁷ "This shall be your northern border: from the Great Sea you shall draw a line to Mount Hor.

⁸ From Mount Hor you shall draw a line to Lebo-hamath, and the limit of the border shall be at Zedad.

⁹ Then the border shall extend to Ziphron, and its limit shall be at Hazar-enan. This shall be your northern border.

¹⁰ "You shall draw a line for your eastern border from Hazar-enan to Shepham.

¹¹ And the border shall go down from Shepham to Riblah on the east side of Ain. And the border shall go down and reach to the shoulder of the Sea of Chinnereth on the east.

¹² And the border shall go down to the Jordan, and its limit shall be at the Salt Sea. This shall be your land as defined by its borders all around."

¹³ Moses commanded the people of Israel, saying, "This is the land that 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 people of Reuben by fathers' houses and the tribe of the people of Gad by their fathers' houses have received their inheritance, and also the half-tribe of Manasseh.

¹⁵ The two tribes and the half-tribe have received their inheritance beyond the Jordan east of Jericho, toward the sunrise."

¹⁶ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

¹⁷ "These are the names of the men who shall divide the land to you for inheritance: Eleazar the priest and Joshua the son of Nun.

¹⁸ You shall take one chief from every tribe to divide the land for inheritance.

¹⁹ These are the names of the men:
Of the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of
Jephunneh.

²⁰ Of the tribe of the people of Simeon,
Shemuel the son of Ammihud.

²¹ Of the tribe of Benjamin, Elidad the
son of Chislon.

²² Of the tribe of the people of Dan a
chief, Bukki the son of Jogli.

²³ Of the people of Joseph: of the
tribe of the people of Manasseh a chief,
Hanniel the son of Ephod.

²⁴ And of the tribe of the people of
Ephraim a chief, Kemuel the son of
Shiphtan.

²⁵ Of the tribe of the people of Zebulun
a chief, Elizaphan the son of Parnach.

²⁶ Of the tribe of the people of Issachar
a chief, Paltiel the son of Azzan.

²⁷ And of the tribe of the people of
Asher a chief, Ahihud the son of Shelomi.

²⁸ Of the tribe of the people of Naphtali a chief, Pedahel the son of Ammihud.

²⁹ These are the men whom the LORD commanded to divide the inheritance for the people of Israel in the land of Canaan."

35 ¹ The LORD spoke to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho, saying,

² "Command the people of Israel to give to the Levites some of the inheritance of their possession as cities for them to dwell in. And you shall give to the Levites pasturelands around the cities.

³ The cities shall be theirs to dwell in, and their pasturelands shall be for their cattle and for their livestock and for all their beasts.

⁴ The pasturelands of the cities, which you shall give to the Levites, shall reach 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, and on the south side two thousand cubits, and on the west side two thousand cubits, and on the north side two thousand cubits, the city being in the middle. This shall belong to them as pastureland for their cities.

⁶ The cities that you give to the Levites shall be the six cities of refuge, where you shall permit the manslayer to flee, and in addition to them you shall give forty-two cities.

⁷ All the cities that you give to the Levites shall be forty-eight, with their pasturelands.

⁸ And as for the cities that you shall give from the possession of the people of Israel, from the larger tribes you shall take many, and from the smaller tribes you shall take few; each, in proportion to

the inheritance that it inherits, shall give of its cities to the Levites."

⁹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

¹⁰ "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you cross the Jordan into the land of Canaan,

¹¹ then you shall select cities to be cities of refuge for you, that the manslayer who kills any person without intent may flee there.

¹² The cities shall be for you a refuge from the avenger, that the manslayer may not die until he stands before the congregation for judgment.

¹³ And the cities that you give shall be your six cities of refuge.

¹⁴ You shall give three cities beyond the Jordan, and three cities in the land of Canaan, to be cities of refuge.

¹⁵ These six cities shall be for refuge for the people of Israel, and for the stranger and for the sojourner among them, that

anyone who kills any person without intent may flee there.

¹⁶ "But if he struck him down with an iron object, so that he died, he is a murderer. The murderer shall be put to death.

¹⁷ And if he struck him down with a stone tool that could cause death, and he died, he is a murderer. The murderer shall be put to death.

¹⁸ Or if he struck him down with a wooden tool that could cause death, and he died, he is a murderer. The murderer shall be put to death.

¹⁹ The avenger of blood shall himself put the murderer to death; when he meets him, he shall put him to death.

²⁰ And if he pushed him out of hatred or hurled something at him, lying in wait, so that he died,

²¹ or in enmity struck him down with his hand, so that he died, then he who

struck the blow shall be put to death. He is a murderer. The avenger of blood shall put the murderer to death when he meets him.

²² "But if he pushed him suddenly without enmity, or hurled anything on him without lying in wait

²³ or used a stone that could cause death, and without seeing him dropped it on him, so that he died, though he was not his enemy and did not seek his harm,

²⁴ then the congregation shall judge between the manslayer and the avenger of blood, in accordance with these rules.

²⁵ And the congregation shall rescue the manslayer from the hand of the avenger of blood, and the congregation shall restore him to his city of refuge to which he had fled, and he shall live in it until the death of the high priest who was anointed with the holy oil.

²⁶ But if the manslayer shall at any time go beyond the boundaries of his city of refuge to which he fled,

²⁷ and the avenger of blood finds him outside the boundaries of his city of refuge, and the avenger of blood kills the manslayer, he shall not be guilty of blood.

²⁸ For he must remain 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 for a statute and rule for you throughout your generations in all your dwelling places.

³⁰ "If anyone kills a person, the murderer shall be put to death on the evidence of witnesses. But no person shall be put to death on the testimony of one witness.

³¹ Moreover, you shall accept no ransom for the life of a murderer, who is guilty of death, but he shall be put to death.

³² And you shall accept 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 high priest.

³³ You shall not pollute the land in which you live, for blood pollutes the land, and no atonement can be made for the land for the blood that is shed in it, except by the blood of the one who shed it.

³⁴ You shall not defile the land in which you live, in the midst of which I dwell, for I the LORD dwell in the midst of the people of Israel."

36 ¹ The heads of the fathers' houses of the clan of the people of Gilead the son of Machir, son of Manasseh, from the clans of the people of Joseph,

came near and spoke before Moses and before the chiefs, the heads of the fathers' houses of the people of Israel.

² They said, "The LORD commanded my lord to give the land for inheritance by lot to the people of Israel, and my lord was commanded by the LORD to give the inheritance of Zelophehad our brother to his daughters.

³ But if they are married to any of the sons of the other tribes of the people of Israel, then their inheritance will be taken from the inheritance of our fathers and added to the inheritance of the tribe into which they marry. So it will be taken away from the lot of our inheritance.

⁴ And when the jubilee of the people of Israel comes, then their inheritance will be added to the inheritance of the tribe into which they marry, and their inheritance will be taken from the inheritance of the tribe of our fathers."

⁵ And Moses commanded the people of Israel according to the word of the LORD, saying, "The tribe of the people of Joseph is right.

⁶ This is what the LORD commands concerning the daughters of Zelophehad, 'Let them marry whom they think best, only they shall marry within the clan of the tribe of their father.

⁷ The inheritance of the people of Israel shall not be transferred from one tribe to another, for every one of the people of Israel shall hold on to the inheritance of the tribe of his fathers.

⁸ And every daughter who possesses an inheritance in any tribe of the people of Israel shall be wife to one of the clan of the tribe of her father, so that every one of the people of Israel may possess the inheritance of his fathers.

⁹ So no inheritance shall be transferred from one tribe to another, for each of

the tribes of the people of Israel shall hold on to its own inheritance."

¹⁰ The daughters of Zelophehad did as the LORD commanded Moses,

¹¹ for Mahlah, Tirzah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Noah, the daughters of Zelophehad, were married to sons of their father's brothers.

¹² They were married into the clans of the people of Manasseh the son of Joseph, and their inheritance remained in the tribe of their father's clan.

¹³ These are the commandments and the rules that the LORD commanded through Moses to the people of Israel in the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho.

Deuteronomy

1 ¹ These are the words that Moses spoke to all Israel beyond the Jordan in the wilderness, in the Arabah opposite Suph, between Paran and Tophel, Laban, Hazeroth, and Dizahab.

² It is eleven days' journey from Horeb by the way of Mount Seir to Kadesh-barnea.

³ In the fortieth year, on the first day of the eleventh month, Moses spoke to the people of Israel according to all that the LORD had given him in commandment to them,

⁴ after he had defeated Sihon the king of the Amorites, who lived in Heshbon, and Og the king of Bashan, who lived in Ashtaroth and in Edrei.

⁵ Beyond the Jordan, in the land of Moab, Moses undertook to explain this law, saying,

⁶ "The LORD our God said to us in Horeb, 'You have stayed long enough at this mountain.

⁷ Turn and take your journey, and go to the hill country of the Amorites and to all their neighbors in the Arabah, in the hill country and in the lowland and in the Negeb and by the seacoast, the land of the Canaanites, and Lebanon, as far as the great river, the river Euphrates.

⁸ See, I have set the land before you. Go in and take possession of the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give to them and to their offspring after them.'

⁹ "At that time I said to you, 'I am not able to bear you by myself.

¹⁰ The LORD your God has multiplied you, and behold, you are today as numerous as the stars of heaven.

¹¹ May the LORD, the God of your fathers, make you a thousand times as many as you are and bless you, as he has promised you!

¹² How can I bear by myself the weight and burden of you and your strife?

¹³ Choose for your tribes wise, understanding, and experienced men, and I will appoint them as your heads.'

¹⁴ And you answered me, 'The thing that you have spoken is good for us to do.'

¹⁵ So I took the heads of your tribes, wise and experienced men, and set them as heads over you, commanders of thousands, commanders of hundreds, commanders of fifties, commanders of tens, and officers, throughout your tribes.

¹⁶ And I charged your judges at that time, 'Hear the cases between your brothers, and judge righteously between a man and his brother or the alien who is with him.

¹⁷ You shall not be partial in judgment. You shall hear the small and the great alike. You shall not be intimidated by anyone, for the judgment is God's. And the case that is too hard for you, you shall bring to me, and I will hear it.'

¹⁸ And I commanded you at that time all the things that you should do.

¹⁹ "Then we set out from Horeb and went through all that great and terrifying wilderness that you saw, on the way to the hill country of the Amorites, as the LORD our God commanded us. And we came to Kadesh-barnea.

²⁰ And I said to you, 'You have come to the hill country of the Amorites, which the LORD our God is giving us.

²¹ See, the LORD your God has set the land before you. Go up, take possession, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has told you. Do not fear or be dismayed.'

²² Then all of you came near me and said, 'Let us send men before us, that they may explore the land for us and bring us word again of the way by which we must go up and the cities into which we shall come.'

²³ The thing seemed good to me, and I took twelve men from you, one man from each tribe.

²⁴ And they turned and went up into the hill country, and came to the Valley of Eshcol and spied it out.

²⁵ And they took in their hands some of the fruit of the land and brought it down to us, and brought us word again and said, 'It is a good land that the LORD our God is giving us.'

²⁶ "Yet you would not go up, but rebelled against the command of the LORD your God.

²⁷ And you murmured in your tents and said, 'Because the LORD hated us he has brought us out of the land of Egypt, to give us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us.

²⁸ Where are we going up? Our brothers have made our hearts melt, saying, "The people are greater and taller than we. The cities are great and fortified up to heaven. And besides, we have seen the sons of the Anakim there."

²⁹ Then I said to you, 'Do not be in dread or afraid of them.

³⁰ The LORD your God who goes before you will himself fight for you, just as he did for you in Egypt before your eyes,

³¹ and in the wilderness, where you have seen how the LORD your God carried you, as a man carries his son, all

the way that you went until you came to this place.'

³² Yet in spite of this word you did not believe the LORD your God,

³³ who went before you in the way to seek you out a place to pitch your tents, in fire by night and in the cloud by day, to show you by what way you should go.

³⁴ "And the LORD heard your words and was angered, and he swore,

³⁵ 'Not one of these men of this evil generation shall see the good land that I swore to give to your fathers,

³⁶ except Caleb the son of Jephunneh. He shall see it, and to him and to his children I will give the land on which he has trodden, because he has wholly followed the LORD!'

³⁷ Even with me the LORD was angry on your account and said, 'You also shall not go in there.

³⁸ Joshua the son of Nun, who stands before you, he shall enter. Encourage him, for he shall cause Israel to inherit it.

³⁹ And as for your little ones, who you said would become a prey, and your children, who today have no knowledge of good or evil, they shall go in there. And to them I will give it, and they shall possess it.

⁴⁰ But as for you, turn, and journey into the wilderness in the direction of the Red Sea.'

⁴¹ "Then you answered me, 'We have sinned against the LORD. We ourselves will go up and fight, just as the LORD our God commanded us.' And every one of you fastened on his weapons of war and thought it easy to go up into the hill country.

⁴² And the LORD said to me, 'Say to them, Do not go up or fight, for I am

not in your midst, lest you be defeated before your enemies.'

⁴³ So I spoke to you, and you would not listen; but you rebelled against the command of the LORD and presumptuously went up into the hill country.

⁴⁴ Then the Amorites who lived in that hill country came out against you and chased you as bees do and beat you down in Seir as far as Hormah.

⁴⁵ And you returned and wept before the LORD, but the LORD did not listen to your voice or give ear to you.

⁴⁶ So you remained at Kadesh many days, the days that you remained there.

2¹ "Then we turned and journeyed into the wilderness in the direction of the Red Sea, as the LORD told me. And for many days we traveled around Mount Seir.

² Then the LORD said to me,

³ 'You have been traveling around this mountain country long enough. Turn northward

⁴ and command the people, "You are about to pass through the territory of your brothers, the people of Esau, who live in Seir; and they will be afraid of you. So be very careful.

⁵ Do not contend with them, for I will not give you any of their land, no, not so much as for the sole of the foot to tread on, because I have given Mount Seir to Esau as a possession.

⁶ You shall purchase food from them for money, that you may eat, and you shall also buy water of them for money, that you may drink.

⁷ For the LORD your God has blessed you in all the work of your hands. He knows your going through this great wilderness. These forty years the LORD

your God has been with you. You have lacked nothing."

⁸ So we went on, away from our brothers, the people of Esau, who live in Seir, away from the Arabah road from Elath and Ezion-geber. "And we turned and went in the direction of the wilderness of Moab.

⁹ And the LORD said to me, 'Do not harass Moab or contend with them in battle, for I will not give you any of their land for a possession, because I have given Ar to the people of Lot for a possession.'

¹⁰ (The Emim formerly lived there, a people great and many, and tall as the Anakim.

¹¹ Like the Anakim they are also counted as Rephaim, but the Moabites call them Emim.

¹² The Horites also lived in Seir formerly, but the people of Esau dispossessed

them and destroyed them from before them and settled in their place, as Israel did to the land of their possession, which the LORD gave to them.)

¹³ 'Now rise up and go over the brook Zered.' So we went over the brook Zered.

¹⁴ And the time from our leaving Kadesh-barnea until we crossed the brook Zered was thirty-eight years, until the entire generation, that is, the men of war, had perished from the camp, as the LORD had sworn to them.

¹⁵ For indeed the hand of the LORD was against them, to destroy them from the camp, until they had perished.

¹⁶ "So as soon as all the men of war had perished and were dead from among the people,

¹⁷ the LORD said to me,

¹⁸ 'Today you are to cross the border of Moab at Ar.

¹⁹ And when you approach the territory of the people of Ammon, do not harass them or contend 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 sons of Lot for a possession.'

²⁰ (It is also counted as a land of Rephaim. Rephaim formerly lived there--but the Ammonites call them Zamzummim--

²¹ a people great and many, and tall as the Anakim; but the LORD destroyed them before the Ammonites, and they dispossessed them and settled in their place,

²² as he did for the people of Esau, who live in Seir, when he destroyed the Horites before them and they dispossessed them and settled in their place even to this day.

²³ As for the Avvim, who lived in villages as far as Gaza, the Caphtorim, who came from Caphtor, destroyed them and settled in their place.)

²⁴ 'Rise up, set out on your journey and go over the Valley of the Arnon. Behold, I have given into your hand Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land. Begin to take possession, and contend with him in battle.

²⁵ This day I will begin to put the dread and fear of you on the peoples who are under the whole heaven, who shall hear the report of you and shall tremble and be in anguish because of you.'

²⁶ "So I sent messengers from the wilderness of Kedemoth to Sihon the king of Heshbon, with words of peace, saying,

²⁷ 'Let me pass through your land. I will go only by the road; I will turn aside 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 as the sons of Esau who live in Seir and the Moabites who live in Ar did for me, until I go over the Jordan into the land that the LORD our God is giving to us.'

³⁰ But Sihon the king of Heshbon would not let us pass by him, for the LORD your God hardened his spirit and made his heart obstinate, that he might give him into your hand, as he is this day.

³¹ And the LORD said to me, 'Behold, I have begun to give Sihon and his land over to you. Begin to take possession, that you may occupy his land.'

³² Then Sihon came out against us, he and all his people, to battle at Jahaz.

³³ And the LORD our God gave him over to us, and we defeated him and his sons and all his people.

³⁴ And we captured all his cities at that time and devoted to destruction every city, men, women, and children. We left no survivors.

³⁵ Only the livestock we took as spoil for ourselves, with the plunder of the cities that we captured.

³⁶ From Aroer, which is on the edge of the Valley of the Arnon, and from the city that is in the valley, as far as Gilead, there was not a city too high for us. The LORD our God gave all into our hands.

³⁷ Only to the land of the sons of Ammon you did not draw near, that is, to all the banks of the river Jabbok and the cities of the hill country, whatever the LORD our God had forbidden us.

3 ¹ "Then we turned and went up the way to Bashan. And Og the king of

Bashan came out against us, he and all his people, to battle at Edrei.

² But the LORD said to me, 'Do not fear him, for I have given him and all his people and his land into your hand. And you shall do to him as you did to Sihon the king of the Amorites, who lived at Heshbon.'

³ So the LORD our God gave into our hand Og also, the king of Bashan, and all his people, and we struck him down until he had no survivor left.

⁴ And we took all his cities at that time--there was not a city that we did not take from them--sixty cities, the whole region of Argob, the kingdom of Og in Bashan.

⁵ All these were cities fortified with high walls, gates, and bars, besides very many unwallled villages.

⁶ And we devoted them to destruction, as we did to Sihon the king of Heshbon,

devoting to destruction every city, men, women, and children.

⁷ But all the livestock and the spoil of the cities we took as our plunder.

⁸ So we took the land at that time out of the hand of the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, from the Valley of the Arnon to Mount Hermon

⁹ (the Sidonians call Hermon Sirion, while the Amorites call it Senir),

¹⁰ all the cities of the tableland and all Gilead and all Bashan, as far as Salecah and Edrei, cities of the kingdom of Og in Bashan.

¹¹ (For only Og the king of Bashan was left of the remnant of the Rephaim. Behold, his bed was a bed of iron. Is it not in Rabbah of the Ammonites? Nine cubits was its length, and four cubits its breadth, according to the common cubit.)

¹² "When we took possession of this land at that time, I gave to the Reubenites and the Gadites the territory beginning at Aroer, which is on the edge of the Valley of the Arnon, and half the hill country of Gilead with its cities.

¹³ The rest of Gilead, and all Bashan, the kingdom of Og, that is, all the region of Argob, I gave to the half-tribe of Manasseh. (All that portion of Bashan is called the land of Rephaim.

¹⁴ Jair the Manassite took all the region of Argob, that is, Bashan, as far as the border of the Geshurites and the Maacathites, and called the villages after his own name, Havvoth-jair, as it is to this day.)

¹⁵ To Machir I gave Gilead,

¹⁶ and to the Reubenites and the Gadites I gave the territory from Gilead as far as the Valley of the Arnon, with the middle of the valley as a border, as

far over as the river Jabbok, the border of the Ammonites;

¹⁷ the Arabah also, with the Jordan as the border, from Chinnereth as far as the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, under the slopes of Pisgah on the east.

¹⁸ "And I commanded you at that time, saying, 'The LORD your God has given you this land to possess. All your men of valor shall cross over armed before your brothers, the people of Israel.

¹⁹ Only your wives, your little ones, and your livestock (I know that you have much livestock) shall remain in the cities that I have given you,

²⁰ until the LORD gives rest to your brothers, as to you, and they also occupy the land that the LORD your God gives 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, '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 into which you are crossing.

²² You shall not fear them, for it is the LORD your God who fights for you.'

²³ "And I pleaded with the LORD at that time, saying,

²⁴ 'O Lord GOD, you have only begun to show your servant your greatness and your mighty hand. For what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do such works and mighty acts as yours?

²⁵ Please let me go over and see the good land beyond the Jordan, that good hill country and Lebanon.'

²⁶ But the LORD was angry with me because of you and would not listen to me. And the LORD said to me, 'Enough from you; do not speak to me of this matter again.

²⁷ Go up to the top of Pisgah and lift up your eyes westward and northward and southward and eastward, and look at it with your eyes, for you shall not go over this Jordan.

²⁸ But charge Joshua, and encourage and strengthen him, for he shall go over at the head of this people, and he shall put them in possession of the land that you shall see.'

²⁹ So we remained in the valley opposite Beth-peor.

4¹ "And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the rules that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you.

² You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you.

³ Your eyes have seen what the LORD did at Baal-peor, for the LORD your God destroyed from among you all the men who followed the Baal of Peor.

⁴ But you who held fast to the LORD your God are all alive today.

⁵ See, I have taught you statutes and rules, as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should do them in the land that you are entering to take possession of it.

⁶ Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'

⁷ For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him?

⁸ And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?

⁹ "Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children--

¹⁰ how on the day that you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, the LORD said to me, 'Gather the people to me, that I may let them hear my words, so that they may learn to fear me all the days that they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children so.'

¹¹ And you came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, while the mountain burned with fire to the heart of heaven, wrapped in darkness, cloud, and gloom.

¹² Then the LORD spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of words, but saw no form; there was only a voice.

¹³ And he declared to you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, that is, 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 rules, that you might do them in the land that you are going over to possess.

¹⁵ "Therefore watch yourselves very carefully. Since you saw no form on the day that the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire,

¹⁶ beware lest you act corruptly by making a carved image for yourselves, in the form of any figure, the likeness of male or female,

¹⁷ the likeness of any animal that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air,

¹⁸ the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the water under the earth.

¹⁹ And beware lest you raise your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, you be drawn away and bow down to them and serve them, things that the LORD your God has allotted to all the peoples under the whole heaven.

²⁰ But the LORD has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be a people of his own inheritance, as you are this day.

²¹ Furthermore, the LORD was angry with me because of you, and he swore that I should not cross the Jordan, and that I should not enter the good land

that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance.

²² For I must die in this land; I must not go over the Jordan. But you shall go over and take possession of that good land.

²³ Take care, lest you forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which he made with you, and make a carved image, the form of anything that the LORD your God has forbidden you.

²⁴ For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

²⁵ "When you father children and children's children, and have grown old in the land, if you act corruptly by making a carved image in the form of anything, and by doing what is evil in the sight of the LORD your God, so as to provoke him to anger,

²⁶ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that you will soon utterly perish from the land that you are

going over the Jordan to possess. You will not live long 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 of wood and stone, the work of human hands, that 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 search after him with all your heart and with all your soul.

³⁰ When you are in tribulation, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, you will return to the LORD your God and obey his voice.

³¹ For the LORD your God is a merciful God. He will not leave you or destroy

you or forget the covenant with your fathers that he swore to them.

³² "For ask now of 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 such a great thing as this has ever happened or was ever heard of.

³³ Did any people ever hear the voice of a god speaking out of the midst of the fire, as you have heard, and still live?

³⁴ Or has any god ever attempted to go and take a nation for himself from the midst of another nation, by trials, by signs, by wonders, and by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and by great deeds of terror, all of which 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 is God; there is no other besides him.

³⁶ Out of heaven he let you hear his voice, that he might discipline you. And on earth he let you see his great fire, and you heard his words out of the midst of the fire.

³⁷ And because he loved your fathers and chose their offspring after them and brought you out of Egypt with his own presence, by his great power,

³⁸ driving out before you nations greater and mightier than yourselves, to bring you in, to give you their land for an inheritance, as it is this day,

³⁹ know therefore today, and lay it to your heart, that the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other.

⁴⁰ Therefore you shall 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 that the LORD your God is giving you for all time."

⁴¹ Then Moses set apart three cities in the east beyond the Jordan,

⁴² that the manslayer might flee there, anyone who kills his neighbor unintentionally, without being at enmity with him in time past; he may flee to one of these cities and save his life:

⁴³ Bezer in the wilderness on the tableland for the Reubenites, Ramoth in Gilead for the Gadites, and Golan in Bashan for the Manassites.

⁴⁴ This is the law that Moses set before the people of Israel.

⁴⁵ These are the testimonies, the statutes, and the rules, which Moses spoke to the people of Israel when they came out of Egypt,

⁴⁶ beyond the Jordan in the valley opposite Beth-peor, in the land of Sihon the king of the Amorites, who lived at

Heshbon, whom Moses and the people of Israel defeated when they came out of Egypt.

⁴⁷ And they took possession of his land and the land of Og, the king of Bashan, the two kings of the Amorites, who lived to the east beyond the Jordan;

⁴⁸ from Aroer, which is on the edge of the Valley of the Arnon, as far as Mount Sirion (that is, Hermon),

⁴⁹ together with all the Arabah on the east side of the Jordan as far as the Sea of the Arabah, under the slopes of Pisgah.

5 ¹ And Moses summoned all Israel and said to them, "Hear, O Israel, the statutes and the rules that I speak in your hearing today, and you shall learn them and be careful to do them.

² The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb.

³ Not with our fathers did the LORD make this covenant, but with us, who are all of us here alive today.

⁴ The LORD spoke with you face to face at the mountain, out of the midst of the fire,

⁵ while 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 into 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 slavery.

⁷ "'You shall have no other gods before me.

⁸ "'You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

⁹ You shall not bow down to them or 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 generation of those who hate me,

¹⁰ but showing steadfast love to thousands of 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 a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant, or your ox or

your donkey or any of your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you.

¹⁵ You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and 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 commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹⁷ "You shall not murder.

¹⁸ "And you shall not commit adultery.

¹⁹ "And you shall not steal.

²⁰ "And you shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

²¹ "'And you shall not covet your neighbor's wife. And you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field, or his male servant, or his female servant, his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.'

²² "These words the LORD spoke to all your assembly at the mountain out of 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 And as soon as you heard the voice out of the midst of the darkness, while the mountain was burning with fire, you came near to me, all the heads of your tribes, and your elders.

²⁴ And you said, 'Behold, the LORD our God has shown us his glory and greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire. This day we

have seen God speak with man and man still live.

²⁵ Now therefore why should we die? For this great fire will consume us. If we hear the voice of the LORD our God any more, we shall die.

²⁶ For who is there of all flesh, that has heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the midst of fire as we have, and has still lived?

²⁷ Go near and hear all that the LORD our God will say and speak to us all that the LORD our God will speak to you, and we will hear and do it.'

²⁸ "And the LORD heard your words, when you spoke to me. And the LORD said to me, 'I have heard 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 mind as this always, to fear me and to keep all my

commandments, that it might go well with them and with their descendants forever!

³⁰ Go and say to them, "Return to your tents."

³¹ But you, stand here by me, and I will tell you the whole commandment and the statutes and the rules that you shall teach them, that they may do them in the land that I am giving them to possess.'

³² You shall be careful therefore 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 way that the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live, and that it may go well with you, and that you may live long in the land that you shall possess.

6 ¹ "Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the rules that the

LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it,

² that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son's son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long.

³ Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in 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 and with all your soul and with all your might.

⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.

⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

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 "And when the LORD your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you--with great and good cities that you did not build,

¹¹ and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant--and when you eat and are full,

¹² then take care lest you forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

¹³ It is the LORD your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear.

¹⁴ You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you,

¹⁵ for the LORD your God in your midst is a jealous God, lest the anger of the LORD your God be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth.

¹⁶ "You shall not put the LORD your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah.

¹⁷ You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and 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 go well with you, and that you may

go in and take possession of the good land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers

¹⁹ by thrusting out all your enemies from before you, as the LORD has promised.

²⁰ "When your son asks you in time to come, 'What is the meaning of the testimonies and the statutes and the rules that the LORD our God has commanded you?'

²¹ then you shall say to your son, 'We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt. And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand.

²² And the LORD showed signs and wonders, great and grievous, against Egypt and against Pharaoh and all his household, before our eyes.

²³ And he brought us out from there, that he might bring us in and give us the land that he swore to give to our fathers.

²⁴ And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as we are this day.

²⁵ And it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to do all this commandment before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us.'

7 ¹ "When the LORD your God brings you into the land that you are entering to take possession of it, and clears away many nations before you, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations more numerous and mightier than yourselves,

² and when the LORD your God gives them over to you, and you defeat them, then you must devote them to complete destruction. You shall make no covenant with them and show no mercy to them.

³ You shall not intermarry with them, giving your daughters to their sons or taking their daughters for your sons,

⁴ for they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods. Then the anger of the LORD would be kindled against you, and he would destroy you quickly.

⁵ But thus shall you deal with them: you shall break down their altars and dash in pieces their pillars and chop down their Asherim and burn their carved images with fire.

⁶ "For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

⁷ It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the

LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples,
⁸ but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

⁹ Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations,

¹⁰ and repays to their face those who hate him, by destroying them. He will not be slack with one who hates him. He will repay him to his face.

¹¹ You shall therefore be careful to do the commandment and the statutes and the rules that I command you today.

¹² "And because you listen to these rules and keep and do them, the LORD your God will keep with you the covenant and the steadfast love that he swore to your fathers.

¹³ He will love you, bless you, and multiply you. He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, your grain and your wine and your oil, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock, in the land that he swore to your fathers to give you.

¹⁴ You shall be blessed above all peoples. There shall not be male or female barren among you or among your livestock.

¹⁵ And the LORD will take away from you all sickness, and none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which you knew, will he inflict on you, but he will lay them on all who hate you.

¹⁶ And you shall consume all the peoples that the LORD your God will give over to you. Your eye shall not pity them, neither shall you serve their gods, for that would be a snare to you.

¹⁷ "If you 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 what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt,

¹⁹ the great trials that your eyes saw, the signs, the wonders, the mighty hand, and the outstretched arm, by which the LORD your God brought you out. So will the LORD your God do to all the peoples of whom you are afraid.

²⁰ Moreover, the LORD your God will send hornets among them, until those who are left and hide themselves from you are destroyed.

²¹ You shall not be in dread of them, for the LORD your God is in your midst, a great and awesome God.

²² The LORD your God will clear away these nations before you little by little. You may not make an end of them at once, lest the wild beasts grow too numerous for you.

²³ But the LORD your God will give them over to you and throw them into great confusion, until they are destroyed.

²⁴ And he will give their kings into your hand, and you shall make their name perish from under heaven. No one shall be able to stand against you until you have destroyed them.

²⁵ The carved images of their gods you shall burn with fire. You shall not covet the silver or the gold that is on them or take it for yourselves, lest you be ensnared by it, for it is an abomination to the LORD your God.

²⁶ And you shall not bring an abominable thing into your house and become devoted to destruction like it. You shall utterly detest and abhor it, for it is devoted to destruction.

8 ¹ "The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers.

² And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not.

³ And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know

that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

⁴ Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years.

⁵ Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you.

⁶ So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him.

⁷ For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills,

⁸ a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees 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 And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.

¹¹ "Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today,

¹² lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them,

¹³ and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied,

¹⁴ then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery,

¹⁵ who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery

serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock,
¹⁶ who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end.

¹⁷ Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.'

¹⁸ You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

¹⁹ And if you forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish.

²⁰ Like the nations that the LORD makes to perish before you, so shall you perish,

because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God.

9¹ "Hear, O Israel: you are to cross over the Jordan today, to go in to dispossess nations greater and mightier than yourselves, cities great and fortified up to heaven,

² a people great and tall, the sons of the Anakim, whom you know, and of whom you have heard it said, 'Who can stand before the sons of Anak?'

³ Know therefore today that he who goes over before you as a consuming fire is the LORD your God. He will destroy them and subdue them before you. So you shall drive them out and make them perish quickly, as the LORD has promised you.

⁴ "Do not say in your heart, after the LORD your God has thrust them out before you, 'It is because of my righteousness that the LORD has brought

me in to possess this land,' whereas it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD is driving them out before you.

⁵ Not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart are you going in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations the LORD your God is driving them out from before you, and that he may confirm the word that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

⁶ "Know, therefore, that the LORD your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stubborn people.

⁷ Remember and do not forget how you provoked the LORD your God to wrath in the wilderness. From the day you came out of the land of Egypt until you came

to this place, you have been rebellious against the LORD.

⁸ Even at Horeb you provoked the LORD to wrath, and the LORD was so angry with you that he was ready to destroy you.

⁹ When I went up the mountain to receive the tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant that the LORD made with you, I remained on the mountain forty days and forty nights. I neither ate bread nor drank water.

¹⁰ And the LORD gave me the two tablets of stone written with the finger of God, and on them were all the words that the LORD had spoken with you on the mountain out of the midst of the fire on the day of the assembly.

¹¹ And at the end of forty days and forty nights 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 have brought from Egypt have acted corruptly. They have turned aside quickly out of the way that I commanded them; they have made themselves a metal image.'

¹³ "Furthermore, the LORD said to me, 'I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stubborn 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 was burning 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. You had made yourselves a golden calf. You

had turned aside quickly from the way that the LORD had commanded you.

¹⁷ So I took hold of the two tablets and threw them out of my two hands and broke them before your eyes.

¹⁸ Then I lay prostrate before the LORD as before, forty days and forty nights. I neither ate bread nor drank water, because of all the sin that you had committed, in doing what was evil in the sight of the LORD to provoke him to anger.

¹⁹ For I was afraid of the anger and hot displeasure that the LORD bore against you, so that he was ready to destroy you. But the LORD listened to me that time also.

²⁰ And the LORD was so angry with Aaron that he was ready to destroy him. And I prayed for Aaron also at the same time.

²¹ Then I took the sinful thing, the calf that you had made, and burned it with fire and crushed it, grinding it very small, until it was as fine as dust. And I threw the dust of it into the brook that ran down from the mountain.

²² "At Taberah also, and at Massah and at Kibroth-hattaavah you provoked the LORD to wrath.

²³ And when the LORD sent you from Kadesh-barnea, saying, 'Go up and take possession of the land that I have given you,' then you rebelled against the commandment of the LORD your God and did not believe him or obey his voice.

²⁴ You have been rebellious against the LORD from the day that I knew you.

²⁵ "So I lay prostrate before the LORD for these forty days and forty nights, because the LORD had said he would destroy you.

²⁶ And I prayed to the LORD, 'O Lord GOD, destroy not your people and your heritage, 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 regard the stubbornness of this people, or their wickedness or their sin,

²⁸ lest the land from which you brought us say, "Because the LORD was not able to bring them into the land that he promised them, and because he hated them, he has brought them out to put them to death in the wilderness."

²⁹ For they are your people and your heritage, whom you brought out by your great power and by your outstretched arm.'

10 ¹ "At that time the LORD said to me, 'Cut for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and come up to

me on the mountain and make an ark of wood.

² And I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets that you broke, and you shall put them in the ark.'

³ So I made an ark of acacia wood, and cut two tablets of stone like the first, and went up the mountain with the two tablets in my hand.

⁴ And he wrote on the tablets, in the same writing as before, the Ten Commandments that the LORD had spoken to you on the mountain out of the midst of the fire on 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 that I had made. And there they are, as the LORD commanded me."

⁶ (The people of Israel journeyed from Beeroth Bene-jaakan to Moserah. There Aaron died, and there he was buried. And his son Eleazar ministered as priest in his place.

⁷ From there they journeyed to Gudgodah, and from Gudgodah to Jotbathah, a land with brooks of water.

⁸ At that time the LORD set apart the tribe of Levi to carry 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 or inheritance with his brothers. The LORD is his inheritance, as the LORD your God said to him.)

¹⁰ "I myself stayed on the mountain, as at the first time, forty days and forty nights, and the LORD listened to me that time also. The LORD was unwilling to destroy you.

¹¹ And the LORD said to me, 'Arise, go on your journey at the head of the people, so 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, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,

¹³ and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good?

¹⁴ Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it.

¹⁵ Yet the LORD set his heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them, you above all peoples, as you are this day.

¹⁶ Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn.

¹⁷ For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe.

¹⁸ He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing.

¹⁹ Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

²⁰ You shall fear the LORD your God. You shall serve him and hold fast to him, and by his name you shall swear.

²¹ He is your praise. He is your God, who has done for you these great and terrifying things that your eyes have seen.

²² Your fathers went down to Egypt seventy persons, and now the LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars of heaven.

11 ¹ "You shall therefore love the LORD your God and keep his

charge, his statutes, his rules, and his commandments always.

² And consider today (since I am not speaking to your children who have not known or seen it), consider the discipline of the LORD your God, his greatness, his mighty hand and his outstretched arm,

³ his signs and his deeds that he did in Egypt to Pharaoh the king of Egypt and to all his land,

⁴ and what he did to the army of Egypt, to their horses and to their chariots, how he made the water of the Red Sea flow over them as they pursued after you, and how the LORD has destroyed them to this day,

⁵ and what he did to you in the wilderness, until you came to this place,

⁶ and what he did to Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, son of Reuben, how the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households, their

tents, and every living thing that followed them, in the midst of all Israel.

⁷ For your eyes have seen all the great work of the LORD that he did.

⁸ "You shall therefore keep the whole commandment that I command you today, that you may be strong, and go in and take possession of the land that you are going over to possess,

⁹ and that you may live long in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers to give to them and to their offspring, a land flowing with milk and honey.

¹⁰ For the land that you are entering to take possession of it is not like the land of Egypt, from which you have come, where you sowed your seed and irrigated it, like a garden of vegetables.

¹¹ But the land that you are going over to possess is a land of hills and valleys, which drinks water by the rain from heaven,

¹² a land that the LORD your God cares for. The eyes of the LORD your God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year to the end of the year.

¹³ "And if you will indeed obey my commandments that I command you today, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul,

¹⁴ he will give the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the later rain, that you may gather in your grain and your wine and your oil.

¹⁵ And he will give grass in your fields for your livestock, and you shall eat and be full.

¹⁶ Take care lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them;

¹⁷ then the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you, and he will shut up the heavens, so that there will be no

rain, and the land will yield no fruit, and you will perish quickly off the good land that the LORD is giving you.

¹⁸ "You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and you shall 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, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

²⁰ 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 that the LORD swore to your fathers to give them, as long as the heavens are above the earth.

²² For if you will be careful to do all this commandment that I command you to

do, loving the LORD your God, walking in all his ways, and holding fast to him,

²³ then the LORD will drive out all these nations before you, and you will dispossess nations greater and mightier than yourselves.

²⁴ Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours. Your territory shall be from the wilderness to the Lebanon and from the River, the river Euphrates, to the western sea.

²⁵ No one shall be able to stand against you. The LORD your God will lay the fear of you and the dread of you on all the land that you shall tread, as he promised you.

²⁶ "See, I am setting 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 that I am commanding you today, to go after other gods that you have not known.

²⁹ And when the LORD your God brings you into the land that you are entering to take possession of it, you shall set the blessing on Mount Gerizim and the curse on Mount Ebal.

³⁰ Are they not beyond the Jordan, west of the road, toward the going down of the sun, in the land of the Canaanites who live in the Arabah, opposite Gilgal, beside the oak of Moreh?

³¹ For you are to cross over the Jordan to go in to take possession of the land that the LORD your God is giving you. And when you possess it and live in it,

³² you shall be careful to do all the statutes and the rules that I am setting before you today.

12 ¹ "These are the statutes and rules that you shall be careful to do in the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, has given you to possess, all the days that you live on the earth.

² You shall surely destroy all the places where the nations whom you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree.

³ You shall tear down their altars and dash in pieces their pillars and burn their Asherim with fire. You shall chop down the carved images of their gods and destroy their name out of that place.

⁴ You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way.

⁵ But you shall seek the place that the LORD your God will choose out of all your tribes to put his name and make his habitation there. There you shall go,

⁶ and there you shall bring your burnt offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes and the contribution that you present, your vow offerings, your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herd and of your flock.

⁷ And there you shall eat before the LORD your God, and you shall rejoice, you and your households, in all that you undertake, in which the LORD your God has blessed you.

⁸ "You shall not do according to all that we are doing here today, everyone doing whatever is right in his own eyes,

⁹ for you have not as yet come to the rest and to the inheritance that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹⁰ But when you go over the Jordan and live in the land that the LORD your God is giving you to inherit, and when he gives you rest from all your enemies around, so that you live in safety,

¹¹ then to the place that the LORD your God will choose, to make his name dwell there, there you shall bring all that I command you: your burnt offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes and the contribution that you present, and all your finest vow offerings that you vow to the LORD.

¹² And you shall rejoice before the LORD your God, you and your sons and your daughters, your male servants and your female servants, and the Levite that is within your towns, since he has no portion or inheritance with you.

¹³ Take care that you do not offer your burnt offerings at any place that you see,

¹⁴ but at the place that the LORD will choose in one of your tribes, there you shall offer your burnt offerings, and there you shall do all that I am commanding you.

¹⁵ "However, you may slaughter and eat meat within any of your towns, as much as you desire, according to the blessing of the LORD your God that he has given you. The unclean and the clean may eat of it, as of the gazelle and as of the deer.

¹⁶ Only you shall not eat the blood; you shall pour it out on the earth like water.

¹⁷ You may not eat within your towns the tithe of your grain or of your wine or of your oil, or the firstborn of your herd or of your flock, or any of your vow offerings that you vow, or your freewill offerings or the contribution that you present,

¹⁸ but you shall eat them before the LORD your God in the place that the LORD your God will choose, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant, and the Levite who is within your towns. And

you shall rejoice before the LORD your God in all that you undertake.

¹⁹ Take care that you do not neglect the Levite as long as you live in your land.

²⁰ "When the LORD your God enlarges your territory, as he has promised you, and you say, 'I will eat meat,' because you crave meat, you may eat meat whenever you desire.

²¹ If the place that the LORD your God will choose to put his name there is too far from you, then you may kill any of your herd or your flock, which the LORD has given you, as I have commanded you, and you may eat within your towns whenever you desire.

²² Just as the gazelle or the deer is eaten, so you may eat of it. The unclean and the clean alike may eat of it.

²³ Only be sure that you do not eat the blood, for the blood is the life, and you shall not eat the life with the flesh.

²⁴ You shall not eat it; you shall pour it out on the earth like water.

²⁵ You shall not eat it, that all may go well with you and with your children after you, when you do what is right in the sight of the LORD.

²⁶ But the holy things that are due from you, and your vow offerings, you shall take, and you shall go to the place that the LORD will choose,

²⁷ and offer your burnt offerings, the flesh and the blood, on the altar of the LORD your God. The blood of your sacrifices shall be poured out on the altar of the LORD your God, but the flesh you may eat.

²⁸ Be careful to obey all these words that I command you, that it may go well with you and with 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 before you the nations whom you go in to dispossess, and you dispossess them and dwell in their land,

³⁰ take care that you be not ensnared to follow them, after they have been destroyed before you, and that you do not inquire about their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods?--that I also may do the same.'

³¹ You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way, for every abominable thing that the LORD hates they have done for their gods, for they even burn their sons and their daughters in the fire to their gods.

³² "Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to it or take from it.

13 ¹ "If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder,

² and the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, '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 taught rebellion against the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you out of the house of slavery, to make you leave the way in which the LORD your God

commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from your midst.

⁶ "If your brother, the son of your mother, or your son or your daughter or the wife you embrace or your friend who is as your own soul entices you secretly, saying, 'Let us go and serve other gods,' which neither you nor your fathers have known,

⁷ some of the gods of the peoples who are around you, whether near you or far off from you, from the one end of the earth to the other,

⁸ you shall not yield to him or listen to him, nor shall your eye pity him, nor shall you spare him, nor shall you conceal him.

⁹ But you shall kill him. Your hand shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people.

¹⁰ You shall stone him to death with stones, because he sought to draw you

away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

¹¹ And all Israel shall hear and fear and never again do any such wickedness as this among you.

¹² "If you hear in one of your cities, which the LORD your God is giving you to dwell there,

¹³ that certain worthless fellows have gone out among you and have drawn away the inhabitants of their city, saying, 'Let us go and serve other gods,' which you have not known,

¹⁴ then you shall inquire and make search and ask diligently. And behold, if it be true and certain that such an abomination has been done among you,

¹⁵ you shall surely put the inhabitants of that city to the sword, devoting it to destruction, all who are in it and its cattle, with the edge of the sword.

¹⁶ You shall gather all its spoil into the midst of its open square and burn the city and all its spoil with fire, as a whole burnt offering to the LORD your God. It shall be a heap forever. It shall not be built again.

¹⁷ None of the devoted things shall stick to your hand, that the LORD may turn from the fierceness of his anger and show you mercy and have compassion on you and multiply you, as he swore to your fathers,

¹⁸ if you obey the voice of the LORD your God, keeping all his commandments that I am commanding you today, and doing what is right in the sight of the LORD your God.

14 ¹ "You are the sons of the LORD your God. You shall not cut yourselves or make any baldness on your foreheads for the dead.

² For you are a people holy to the LORD your God, and the LORD has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

³ "You shall not eat any abomination.

⁴ These are the animals you may eat: the ox, the sheep, the goat,

⁵ the deer, the gazelle, the roebuck, the wild goat, the ibex, the antelope, and the mountain sheep.

⁶ Every animal that parts the hoof and has the hoof cloven in two and chews the cud, among the animals, you may eat.

⁷ Yet of those that chew the cud or have the hoof cloven you shall not eat these: the camel, the hare, and the rock badger, because they chew the cud but do not part the hoof, are unclean for you.

⁸ And the pig, because it parts the hoof but does not chew the cud, is unclean

for you. Their flesh you shall not eat, and their carcasses you shall not touch.

⁹ "Of all that are in the waters you may eat these: whatever has fins and scales you may eat.

¹⁰ And whatever does not have fins and scales you shall not eat; it is unclean for you.

¹¹ "You may eat all clean birds.

¹² But these are the ones that you shall not eat: the eagle, the bearded vulture, the black vulture,

¹³ the kite, the falcon of any kind;

¹⁴ every raven of any kind;

¹⁵ the ostrich, the nighthawk, the sea gull, the hawk of any kind;

¹⁶ the little owl and the short-eared owl, the barn owl

¹⁷ and the tawny owl, the carrion vulture and the cormorant,

¹⁸ the stork, the heron of any kind; the hoopoe and the bat.

¹⁹ And all winged insects are unclean for you; they shall not be eaten.

²⁰ All clean winged things you may eat.

²¹ "You shall not eat anything that has died naturally. You may give it to the sojourner who is within your towns, that he may eat it, or you may sell it to a foreigner. For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. "You shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk.

²² "You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year.

²³ And before the LORD your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always.

²⁴ And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe,

when the LORD your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the LORD your God chooses, to set his name there,

²⁵ then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the LORD your God chooses

²⁶ and spend the money for whatever you desire--oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before the LORD your God and rejoice, you and your household.

²⁷ And you shall not neglect the Levite who is within your towns, for he has no portion or inheritance with you.

²⁸ "At the end of every three years you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in the same year and lay it up within your towns.

²⁹ And the Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance with you, and the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, who are within your towns, shall come and eat and be filled, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands that you do.

15 ¹ "At the end of every seven years you shall grant a release.

² And this is the manner of the release: every creditor shall release what he has lent to his neighbor. He shall not exact it of his neighbor, his brother, because the LORD's release has been proclaimed.

³ Of a foreigner you may exact it, but whatever of yours is with your brother your hand shall release.

⁴ But there will be no poor among you; for the LORD will bless you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance to possess--

⁵ if only you will strictly obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all this commandment that I command you today.

⁶ For the LORD your God will bless you, as he promised you, and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow, and you shall rule over many nations, but they shall not rule over you.

⁷ "If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother,

⁸ but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be.

⁹ Take care lest there be an unworthy thought in your heart and you say, 'The seventh year, the year of release is near,' and your eye look grudgingly on your

poor brother, and you give him nothing, and he cry to the LORD against you, and you be guilty of sin.

¹⁰ You shall give to him freely, and your heart shall not be grudging when you give to him, because for this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake.

¹¹ For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'

¹² "If your brother, a Hebrew man or a Hebrew woman, is sold to you, he shall serve you six years, and in the seventh year you shall let him go free from you.

¹³ And when you let him go free from you, you shall not let him go empty-handed.

¹⁴ You shall furnish him liberally out of your flock, out of your threshing floor,

and out of your winepress. As the LORD your God has blessed you, 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 today.

¹⁶ But if he says to you, 'I will not go out from you,' because he loves you and your household, since he is well-off with you,

¹⁷ then you shall take an awl, and put it through his ear into the door, and he shall be your slave forever. And to your female slave you shall do the same.

¹⁸ It shall not seem hard to you when you let him go free from you, for at half the cost of a hired servant he has served you six years. So the LORD your God will bless you in all that you do.

¹⁹ "All the firstborn males that are born of your herd and flock you shall dedicate

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 shall eat it, you and your household, before the LORD your God year by year at the place that the LORD will choose.

²¹ But if it has any blemish, if it is lame or blind or has any serious blemish whatever, you shall not sacrifice it to the LORD your God.

²² You shall eat it within your towns. The unclean and the clean alike may eat it, as though it were a gazelle or a deer.

²³ Only you shall not eat its blood; you shall pour it out 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 And you shall offer the Passover sacrifice to the LORD your God, from the flock or the herd, at the place that the LORD will choose, to make his name dwell there.

³ You shall eat no leavened bread with it. Seven days you shall eat it with unleavened bread, the bread of affliction--for you came out of the land of Egypt in haste--that all the days of your life you may remember the day when you came out of the land of Egypt.

⁴ No leaven shall be seen with you in all your territory for seven days, nor shall any of the flesh that you sacrifice on the evening of the first day remain all night until morning.

⁵ You may not offer the Passover sacrifice within any of your towns that the LORD your God is giving you,

⁶ but at the place that the LORD your God will choose, to make his name dwell

in it, there you shall offer the Passover sacrifice, in the evening at sunset, at the time you came out of Egypt.

⁷ And you shall cook it and eat it at the place that the LORD your God will choose. And in the morning you shall turn and go to your tents.

⁸ For six days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a solemn assembly to the LORD your God. You shall do no work on it.

⁹ "You shall count seven weeks. Begin to count the seven weeks from the time the sickle is first put to the standing 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 And 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 towns, the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow who are among you, at the place that the LORD your God will choose, to make his name dwell there.

¹² You shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt; and you shall be careful to observe these statutes.

¹³ "You shall keep the Feast of Booths seven days, when you have gathered in the produce from your threshing floor and your winepress.

¹⁴ You shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant, the Levite, the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow who are within your towns.

¹⁵ For seven days you shall keep the feast to the LORD your God at the place

that the LORD will choose, because the LORD your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you will be altogether joyful.

¹⁶ "Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God at the place that he will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Booths. 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 that he has given you.

¹⁸ "You shall appoint judges and officers in all your towns that the LORD your God is giving you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with righteous judgment.

¹⁹ You shall not pervert justice. You shall not show partiality, and you shall

not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of the righteous.

²⁰ Justice, and only justice, you shall follow, that you may live and inherit the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

²¹ "You shall not plant any tree as an Asherah beside the altar of the LORD your God that you shall make.

²² And you shall not set up a pillar, which the LORD your God hates.

17 ¹ "You shall not sacrifice to the LORD your God an ox or a sheep in which is a blemish, any defect whatever, for that is an abomination to the LORD your God.

² "If there is found among you, within any of your towns that the LORD your God is giving you, a man or woman who does what is evil in the sight of the LORD your God, in transgressing his covenant,

³ and has gone and served other gods and worshiped them, or the sun or the moon or any of the host of heaven, which I have forbidden,

⁴ and it is told you and you hear of it, then you shall inquire diligently, and if it is true and certain that such an abomination has been done in Israel,

⁵ then you shall bring out to your gates that man or woman who has done this evil thing, and you shall stone that man or woman to death with stones.

⁶ On the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses the one who is to die shall be put to death; a person shall not be put to death on the evidence of one witness.

⁷ The hand of the witnesses shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people. So you shall purge the evil from your midst.

⁸ "If any case arises requiring decision between one kind of homicide and another, one kind of legal right and another, or one kind of assault and another, any case within your towns that is too difficult for you, then you shall arise and go up to the place that the LORD your God will choose.

⁹ And you shall come to the Levitical priests and to the judge who is in office in those days, and you shall consult them, and they shall declare to you the decision.

¹⁰ Then you shall do according to what they declare to you from that place that the LORD will choose. And you shall be careful to do according to all that they direct you.

¹¹ According to the instructions that they give you, and according to the decision which they pronounce to you, you shall do. You shall not turn aside

from the verdict that they declare to you, either to the right hand or to the left.

¹² The man who acts presumptuously by not obeying the priest who stands to minister there before the LORD your God, or the judge, that man shall die. So you shall purge the evil from Israel.

¹³ And all the people shall hear and fear and not act presumptuously again.

¹⁴ "When you come to the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you possess it and dwell in it and then say, 'I will set a king over me, like all the nations that are around me,'

¹⁵ you may indeed set a king over you whom the LORD your God will choose. One from among your brothers you shall set as king over you. You may not put a foreigner over you, who is not your brother.

¹⁶ Only he must not acquire many horses for himself or cause the people to return to Egypt in order to acquire many horses, since the LORD has said to you, 'You shall never return that way again.'

¹⁷ And he shall not acquire many wives for himself, lest his heart turn away, nor shall he acquire for himself excessive silver and gold.

¹⁸ "And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests.

¹⁹ And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them,

²⁰ that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers, and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, either to the right hand or to the left,

so that he may continue long in his kingdom, he and his children, in Israel.

18 ¹ "The Levitical priests, all the tribe of Levi, shall have no portion or inheritance with Israel. They shall eat the LORD's food offerings as their inheritance.

² They shall have no inheritance among their brothers; the LORD is their inheritance, as he promised them.

³ And this shall be the priests' due from the people, from those offering a sacrifice, whether an ox or a sheep: they shall give to the priest the shoulder and the two cheeks and the stomach.

⁴ The firstfruits of your grain, of your wine and of your oil, and the first fleece of your sheep, you shall give him.

⁵ For the LORD your God has chosen him out of all your tribes to stand and minister in the name of the LORD, him and his sons for all time.

⁶ "And if a Levite comes from any of your towns out of all Israel, where he lives--and he may come when he desires--to the place that the LORD will choose,

⁷ and ministers in the name of the LORD his God, like all his fellow Levites who stand to minister there before the LORD,

⁸ then he may have equal portions to eat, besides what he receives from the sale of his patrimony.

⁹ "When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominable practices of those nations.

¹⁰ There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer

¹¹ or a charmer or a medium or a wizard or a necromancer,

¹² for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD. And because of these abominations the LORD your God is driving them out before you.

¹³ You shall be blameless before the LORD your God,

¹⁴ for these nations, which you are about to dispossess, listen to fortune-tellers and to diviners. But as for you, the LORD your God has not allowed you to do this.

¹⁵ "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers--it is to him you shall listen--

¹⁶ just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.'

¹⁷ And the LORD said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken.

¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.

¹⁹ And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.

²⁰ But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.'

²¹ And if you say in your heart, 'How may we know the word that the LORD has not spoken?'--

²² when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him.

19 ¹ "When the LORD your God cuts 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 set apart three cities for yourselves in the land that the LORD your God is giving you to possess.

³ You shall measure the distances and divide into three parts the area of the land that the LORD your God gives you as a possession, so that any manslayer can flee to them.

⁴ "This is the provision for the manslayer, who by fleeing there may save his life. If anyone kills his neighbor unintentionally without having hated him in the past--

⁵ as when someone goes into the forest with his neighbor to cut wood, and his hand swings the axe to cut down a tree, and the head slips from the handle and

strikes his neighbor so that he dies--he may flee to one of these cities and live,
⁶ lest the avenger of blood in hot anger pursue the manslayer and overtake him, because the way is long, and strike him fatally, though the man did not deserve to die, since he had not hated his neighbor in the past.

⁷ Therefore I command you, You shall set apart three cities.

⁸ And if the LORD your God enlarges your territory, as he has sworn to your fathers, and gives you all the land that he promised to give to your fathers--

⁹ provided you are careful to keep all this commandment, which I command you today, by loving the LORD your God and by walking ever in his ways--then you shall add three other cities to these three,

¹⁰ lest innocent blood be shed in your land that the LORD your God is giving

you for an inheritance, and so the guilt of bloodshed be upon you.

¹¹ "But if anyone hates his neighbor and lies in wait for him and attacks him and strikes him fatally so that he dies, and he flees into one of these cities,

¹² then the elders of his city shall send and take him from there, and hand him over to the avenger of blood, so that he may die.

¹³ Your eye shall not pity him, but you shall purge the guilt of innocent blood from Israel, so that it may be well with you.

¹⁴ "You shall not move your neighbor's landmark, which the men of old have set, in the inheritance that you will hold in the land that the LORD your God is giving you to possess.

¹⁵ "A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense

that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established.

¹⁶ If a malicious witness arises to accuse a person of wrongdoing,

¹⁷ then both parties to the dispute shall appear before the LORD, before the priests and the judges who are in office in those days.

¹⁸ The judges shall inquire diligently, and if the witness is a false witness and has accused his brother falsely,

¹⁹ then you shall do to him as he had meant to do to his brother. So you shall purge the evil from your midst.

²⁰ And the rest shall hear and fear, and shall never again commit any such evil among you.

²¹ Your eye shall not pity. It shall be life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

20¹ "When you go out to war against your enemies, and see horses and chariots and an army larger than your own, you shall not be afraid of them, for the LORD your God is with you, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.

² And when you draw near to the battle, the priest shall come forward and speak to the people

³ and shall say to them, 'Hear, O Israel, today you are drawing near for battle against your enemies: let not your heart faint. Do not fear or panic or be in dread of them,

⁴ for the LORD your God is he who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies, to give you the victory.'

⁵ Then the officers shall speak to the people, saying, 'Is there any man who has built a new house and has not dedicated it? Let him go back to his

house, lest he die in the battle and another man dedicate it.

⁶ And is there any man who has planted a vineyard and has not enjoyed its fruit? Let him go back to his house, lest he die in the battle and another man enjoy its fruit.

⁷ And is there any man who has betrothed a wife and has not taken her? Let him go back to his house, lest he die in the battle and another man take her.'

⁸ And the officers shall speak further to the people, and say, 'Is there any man who is fearful and fainthearted? Let him go back to his house, lest he make the heart of his fellows melt like his own.'

⁹ And when the officers have finished speaking to the people, then commanders shall be appointed at the head of the people.

¹⁰ "When you draw near to a city to fight against it, offer terms of peace to it.

¹¹ And if it responds to you peaceably and it opens to you, then all the people who are found in it shall do forced labor for you and shall serve you.

¹² But if it makes no peace with you, but makes war against you, then you shall besiege it.

¹³ And when the LORD your God gives it into your hand, you shall put all its males to the sword,

¹⁴ but the women and the little ones, the livestock, and everything else in the city, all its spoil, you shall take as plunder for yourselves. And you shall enjoy the spoil of your enemies, which the LORD your God has given you.

¹⁵ Thus you shall do to all the cities that are very far from you, which are not cities of the nations here.

¹⁶ But in the cities of these peoples that the LORD your God is giving you for an

inheritance, you shall save alive nothing that breathes,

¹⁷ but you shall devote them to complete destruction, the Hittites and the Amorites, the Canaanites and the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, as the LORD your God has commanded,

¹⁸ that they may not teach you to do according to all their abominable practices that they have done for their gods, and so you sin against the LORD your God.

¹⁹ "When you besiege a city for a long time, making war against it in order to take it, you shall not destroy its trees by wielding an axe against them. You may eat from them, but you shall not cut them down. Are the trees in the field human, that they should be besieged by you?

²⁰ Only the trees that you know are not trees for food you may destroy and cut

down, that you may build siegeworks against the city that makes war with you, until it falls.

21 ¹ "If in the land that the LORD your God is giving you to possess someone is found slain, lying in the open country, and it is not known who killed him,

² then your elders and your judges shall come out, and they shall measure the distance to the surrounding cities.

³ And the elders of the city that is nearest to the slain man shall take a heifer that has never been worked and that has not pulled in a yoke.

⁴ And the elders of that city shall bring the heifer down to a valley with running water, which is neither plowed nor sown, and shall break the heifer's neck there in the valley.

⁵ Then the priests, the sons of Levi, shall come forward, for the LORD your God

has chosen them to minister to him and to bless in the name of the LORD, and by their word every dispute 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 and they shall testify, 'Our hands did not shed this blood, nor did our eyes see it shed.

⁸ Accept atonement, O LORD, for your people Israel, whom you have redeemed, and do not set the guilt of innocent blood in the midst of your people Israel, so that their blood guilt be atoned for.'

⁹ So you shall purge the guilt of innocent blood from your midst, 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

gives them into your hand and you take them captive,

¹¹ and you see among the captives a beautiful woman, and you desire to take her to be your wife,

¹² and you bring her home to your house, she shall shave her head and pare her nails.

¹³ And she shall take off the clothes in which she was captured and shall remain in your house and lament 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 But if you no longer delight in her, you shall let her go where she wants. But you shall not sell her for money, nor shall you treat her as a slave, since you have humiliated her.

¹⁵ "If a man has two wives, the one loved and the other unloved, and both the loved and the unloved have borne

him children, and if the firstborn son belongs to the unloved,

¹⁶ then on the day when he assigns his possessions as an inheritance to his sons, he may not treat the son of the loved as the firstborn in preference to the son of the unloved, who is the firstborn,

¹⁷ but he shall acknowledge the firstborn, the son of the unloved, by giving him a double portion of all that he has, for he is the firstfruits 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, though they discipline him, will not listen to them,

¹⁹ then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city at the gate of the place where he lives,

²⁰ and they shall say to the elders of his city, 'This our son is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard.'

²¹ Then all the men of the city shall stone him to death with stones. So you shall purge the evil from your midst, and all Israel shall hear, and fear.

²² "And if a man has committed a crime punishable by death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree,

²³ his body shall not remain all night on the tree, but you shall bury him the same day, for a hanged man is cursed by God. You shall not defile your land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance.

22 ¹ "You shall not see your brother's ox or his sheep going astray and ignore them. You shall take them back to your brother.

² And if he does not live near you and you do not know who he is, you shall bring it home to your house, and it shall stay with you until your brother seeks it. Then you shall restore it to him.

³ And you shall do the same with his donkey or with his garment, or with any lost thing of your brother's, which he loses and you find; you may not ignore it.

⁴ You shall not see your brother's donkey or his ox fallen down by the way and ignore them. You shall help him to lift them up again.

⁵ "A woman shall not wear a man's garment, nor shall a man put on a woman's cloak, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD your God.

⁶ "If you come across a bird's nest in any tree or on the ground, with young ones or eggs and the mother sitting on

the young or on the eggs, you shall not take the mother with the young.

⁷ You shall let the mother go, but the young you may take for yourself, that it may go well with you, and that you may live long.

⁸ "When you build a new house, you shall make a parapet for your roof, that you may not bring the guilt of blood upon your house, if anyone should fall from it.

⁹ "You shall not sow your vineyard with two kinds of seed, lest the whole yield be forfeited, the crop that you have sown and the yield of the vineyard.

¹⁰ You shall not plow with an ox and a donkey together.

¹¹ You shall not wear cloth of wool and linen mixed together.

¹² "You shall make yourself tassels on the four corners of the garment with which you cover yourself.

¹³ "If any man takes a wife and goes in to her and then hates her

¹⁴ and accuses her of misconduct and brings a bad name upon her, saying, 'I took this woman, and when I came near her, I did not find in her evidence of virginity,'

¹⁵ then the father of the young woman and her mother shall take and bring out the evidence of her virginity to the elders of the city in the gate.

¹⁶ And the father of the young woman shall say to the elders, 'I gave my daughter to this man to marry, and he hates her;

¹⁷ and behold, he has accused her of misconduct, saying, "I did not find in your daughter evidence of virginity." And yet this is the evidence of my daughter's virginity.' And they shall spread the cloak before the elders of the city.

¹⁸ Then the elders of that city shall take the man and whip him,

¹⁹ and they shall fine him a hundred shekels of silver and give them to the father of the young woman, because he has brought a bad name upon a virgin of Israel. And she shall be his wife. He may not divorce her all his days.

²⁰ But if the thing is true, that evidence of virginity was not found in 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 an outrageous thing in Israel by whoring in her father's house. So you shall purge the evil from your midst.

²² "If a man is found lying with the wife of another man, both of them shall die, the man who lay with the woman, and

the woman. So you shall purge the evil from Israel.

²³ "If there is a betrothed virgin, and a man meets 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 for help though she was in the city, and the man because he violated his neighbor's wife. So you shall purge the evil from your midst.

²⁵ "But if in the open country a man meets a young woman who is betrothed, and the man seizes 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; she has committed no offense punishable by death. For this case is like

that of a man attacking and murdering his neighbor,

²⁷ because he met her in the open country, and though the betrothed young woman cried for help there was no one to rescue her.

²⁸ "If a man meets a virgin who is not betrothed, and seizes her and lies with her, and they are found,

²⁹ then the man who lay with her shall give to the father of the young woman fifty shekels of silver, and she shall be his wife, because he has violated her. He may not divorce her all his days.

³⁰ "A man shall not take his father's wife, so that he does not uncover his father's nakedness.

23 ¹ "No one whose testicles are crushed or whose male organ is cut off shall enter the assembly of the LORD.

² "No one born of a forbidden union may enter the assembly of the LORD. Even to the tenth generation, none of his descendants may enter the assembly of the LORD.

³ "No Ammonite or Moabite may enter the assembly of the LORD. Even to the tenth generation, none of them may enter the assembly of the LORD forever,

⁴ because they did not meet you with bread and with water on the way, 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 But the LORD your God would not listen to Balaam; instead the LORD your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the LORD your God loved you.

⁶ You shall not seek their peace or 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 a sojourner in his land.

⁸ Children born to them in the third generation may enter the assembly of the LORD.

⁹ "When you are encamped against your enemies, then you shall keep yourself from every evil thing.

¹⁰ "If any man among you becomes unclean because of a nocturnal emission, then he shall go outside the camp. He shall not come inside the camp,

¹¹ but when evening comes, he shall bathe himself in water, and as the sun sets, he may come inside the camp.

¹² "You shall have a place outside the camp, and you shall go out to it.

¹³ And you shall have a trowel with your tools, and when you sit down outside,

you shall dig a hole with it and turn back and cover up your excrement.

¹⁴ Because the LORD your God walks in the midst of your camp, to deliver you and to give up your enemies before you, therefore your camp must be holy, so that he may not see anything indecent among you and turn away from you.

¹⁵ "You shall not give up to his master a slave who has escaped from his master to you.

¹⁶ He shall dwell with you, in your midst, in the place that he shall choose within one of your towns, wherever it suits him. You shall not wrong him.

¹⁷ "None of the daughters of Israel shall be a cult prostitute, and none of the sons of Israel shall be a cult prostitute.

¹⁸ You shall not bring the fee of a prostitute or the wages of a dog into the house of the LORD your God in payment

for any vow, for both of these are an abomination to the LORD your God.

¹⁹ "You shall not charge interest on loans to your brother, interest on money, interest on food, interest on anything that is lent for interest.

²⁰ You may charge a foreigner interest, but you may not charge your brother interest, that the LORD your God may bless you in all that you undertake in the land that you are entering to take possession of it.

²¹ "If you make a vow to the LORD your God, you shall not delay fulfilling it, for the LORD your God will surely require it of you, and you will be guilty of sin.

²² But if you refrain from vowing, you will not be guilty of sin.

²³ You shall be careful to do what has passed your lips, for you have voluntarily vowed to the LORD your God what you have promised with your mouth.

²⁴ "If you go into your neighbor's vineyard, you may eat your fill of grapes, as many as you wish, but you shall not put any in your bag.

²⁵ If you go into your neighbor's standing grain, you may pluck the ears with your hand, but you shall not put a sickle to your neighbor's standing grain.

24 ¹ "When a man takes a wife and marries her, if then she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, and she departs out of his house,

² and if she goes and becomes another man's wife,

³ and the latter man hates her and writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, or if the latter man dies, who took her to be his wife,

⁴ then her former husband, who sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after she has been defiled, for that is an abomination before the LORD. And you shall not bring sin upon the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance.

⁵ "When a man is newly married, he shall not go out with the army or be liable for any other public duty. He shall be free at home one year to be happy with his wife whom he has taken.

⁶ "No one shall take a mill or an upper millstone in pledge, for that would be taking a life in pledge.

⁷ "If a man is found stealing one of his brothers, of the people of Israel, and if he treats him as a slave or sells him, then that thief shall die. So you shall purge the evil from your midst.

⁸ "Take care, in a case of leprous disease, to be very careful to do

according to all that the Levitical priests shall direct you. As I commanded them, so you shall be careful to do.

⁹ Remember what the LORD your God did to Miriam on the way as you came out of Egypt.

¹⁰ "When you make your neighbor a loan of any sort, you shall not go into his house to collect his pledge.

¹¹ You shall stand outside, and the man to whom you make the loan shall bring the pledge out to you.

¹² And if he is a poor man, you shall not sleep in his pledge.

¹³ You shall restore to him the pledge as the sun sets, that he may sleep in his cloak and bless you. And it shall be righteousness for you before the LORD your God.

¹⁴ "You shall not oppress a hired servant who is poor and needy, whether he is one of your brothers or one of the

sojourners who are in your land within your towns.

¹⁵ You shall give him his wages on the same day, before the sun sets (for he is poor and counts on it), lest he cry against you to the LORD, and you be guilty of sin.

¹⁶ "Fathers shall not be put to death because of their children, nor shall children be put to death because of their fathers. Each one shall be put to death for his own sin.

¹⁷ "You shall not pervert the justice due to the sojourner or to the fatherless, or take a widow's garment in 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.

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 sojourner, 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 them again. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow.

²¹ When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you shall not strip it afterward. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow.

²² You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore I command you to do this.

25 ¹ "If there is a dispute between men and they come into court and the judges decide between them, acquitting the innocent and condemning the guilty,

² then if the guilty man deserves to be beaten, the judge shall cause him to lie down and be beaten in his presence with

a number of stripes in proportion to his offense.

³ Forty stripes may be given him, but not more, lest, if one should go on to beat him with more stripes than these, your brother be degraded in your sight.

⁴ "You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain.

⁵ "If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the dead man shall not be married outside the family to a stranger. Her husband's brother shall go in to her and take her as his wife and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her.

⁶ And the first son whom she bears shall succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel.

⁷ And if the man does not wish to take his brother's wife, then his brother's wife shall go up to the gate to the elders

and say, 'My husband's brother refuses to perpetuate his brother's name in Israel; he will not perform the duty of a husband's brother to me.'

⁸ Then the elders of his city shall call him and speak to him, and if he persists, saying, 'I do not wish to take her,'

⁹ then his brother's wife shall go up to him in the presence of the elders and pull his sandal off his foot and spit in his face. And she shall answer and say, 'So shall it be done to the man who does not build up his brother's house.'

¹⁰ And the name of his house shall be called in Israel, 'The house of him who had his sandal pulled off.'

¹¹ "When men fight with one another and the wife of the one draws near to rescue her husband from the hand of him who is beating him and puts out her hand and seizes him by the private parts,

¹² then you shall cut off her hand. Your eye shall have no pity.

¹³ "You shall not have in your bag two kinds of weights, a large and a small.

¹⁴ You shall not have in your house two kinds of measures, a large and a small.

¹⁵ A full and fair weight you shall have, a full and fair measure you shall have, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹⁶ For all who do such things, all who act dishonestly, are an abomination to the LORD your God.

¹⁷ "Remember what Amalek did to you on the way as you came out of Egypt,

¹⁸ how he attacked you on the way when you were faint and weary, and cut off your tail, those who were lagging behind you, and he did not fear God.

¹⁹ Therefore when the LORD your God has given you rest from all your enemies around you, in the land that

the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance to possess, you shall blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven; you shall not forget.

26 ¹ "When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it,

² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place that the LORD your God will choose, to make his name to dwell there.

³ And you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, 'I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our fathers to give us.'

⁴ Then the priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the LORD your God.

⁵ "And you shall make response before the LORD your God, 'A wandering Aramean was my father. And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous.

⁶ And the Egyptians treated us harshly and humiliated us and laid on us hard labor.

⁷ Then we cried to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression.

⁸ And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders.

⁹ And he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey.

¹⁰ And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground, which you, O LORD, have given me.' And you shall set it down before the LORD your God and worship before the LORD your God.

¹¹ And you shall rejoice in all the good that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house, you, and the Levite, and the sojourner who is among you.

¹² "When you have finished paying all the tithe of your produce in the third year, which is the year of tithing, giving it to the Levite, the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, so that they may eat within your towns and be filled,

¹³ then you shall say before the LORD your God, 'I have removed the sacred portion out of my house, and moreover, I have given it to the Levite, the sojourner,

the fatherless, and the widow, according to all your commandment that you have commanded me. I have not transgressed any of your commandments, nor have I forgotten them.

¹⁴ I have not eaten of the tithe while I was mourning, or removed any of it while I was unclean, or offered any of it to the dead. I have obeyed the voice of the LORD my God. I 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 ground that you have given us, as you swore to our fathers, a land flowing with milk and honey.'

¹⁶ "This day the LORD your God commands you to do these statutes and rules. You shall therefore be careful to do them with all your heart and with all your soul.

¹⁷ You have declared today that the LORD is your God, and that you will walk in his ways, and keep his statutes and his commandments and his rules, and will obey his voice.

¹⁸ And the LORD has declared today that you are a people for his treasured possession, as he has promised you, and that you are to keep all his commandments,

¹⁹ and that he will set you in praise and in fame and in honor high above all nations that he has made, and that you shall be a people holy to the LORD your God, as he promised."

27 ¹ Now Moses and the elders of Israel commanded the people, saying, "Keep the whole commandment that I command you today.

² And on the day you cross over the Jordan to the land that the LORD your

God is giving you, you shall set up large stones and plaster them with plaster.

³ And you shall write on them all the words of this law, when you cross over to enter the land that the LORD your God is giving you, a land flowing with milk and honey, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you.

⁴ And when you have crossed over the Jordan, you shall set up these stones, concerning which I command you today, on Mount Ebal, and you shall plaster them with plaster.

⁵ And there you shall build an altar to the LORD your God, an altar of stones. You shall wield no iron tool on them;

⁶ you shall build an altar to the LORD your God of uncut stones. And you shall offer burnt offerings on it to the LORD your God,

⁷ and you shall sacrifice peace offerings and shall eat there, and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God.

⁸ And you shall write on the stones all the words of this law very plainly."

⁹ Then Moses and the Levitical priests said to all Israel, "Keep silence and hear, O Israel: this day you have become the people of the LORD your God.

¹⁰ You shall therefore obey the voice of the LORD your God, keeping his commandments and his statutes, which I command you today."

¹¹ That day Moses charged the people, saying,

¹² "When you have crossed over the Jordan, these shall stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin.

¹³ And these shall stand on Mount Ebal for the curse: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali.

¹⁴ And the Levites shall declare to all the men of Israel in a loud voice:

¹⁵ "'Cursed be the man who makes a carved or cast metal image, an abomination to the LORD, a thing made by the hands of a craftsman, and sets it up in secret.' And all the people shall answer and say, 'Amen.'

¹⁶ "'Cursed be anyone who dishonors his father or his mother.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'

¹⁷ "'Cursed be anyone who moves his neighbor's landmark.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'

¹⁸ "'Cursed be anyone who misleads a blind man on the road.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'

¹⁹ "'Cursed be anyone who perverts the justice due to the sojourner, the

fatherless, and the widow.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'

20 "'Cursed be anyone who lies with his father's wife, because he has uncovered his father's nakedness.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'

21 "'Cursed be anyone who lies with any kind of animal.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'

22 "'Cursed be anyone who lies with his sister, whether the daughter of his father or the daughter of his mother.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'

23 "'Cursed be anyone who lies with his mother-in-law.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'

24 "'Cursed be anyone who strikes down his neighbor in secret.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'

25 "'Cursed be anyone who takes a bribe to shed innocent blood.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'

²⁶ "'Cursed be anyone who does not confirm the words of this law by doing them.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'

28 ¹ "And if you faithfully obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth.

² And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the LORD your God.

³ Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field.

⁴ Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock.

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 you. 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 barns and in all that you undertake. And he will bless you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

⁹ The LORD will establish you as a people holy to himself, as he has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in his ways.

¹⁰ And all the 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 make you abound in prosperity, in the fruit of your womb and in the fruit of your livestock and in the fruit of your ground, within the land that the LORD swore to your fathers to give you.

¹² The LORD will open to you his good treasury, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hands. And you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.

¹³ And the LORD will make you the head and not the tail, and you shall only go up and not down, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, being careful to do them,

¹⁴ and if you do not turn aside from any of the words that I command you today, to the right hand or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

¹⁵ "But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you.

¹⁶ Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the field.

¹⁷ Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.

¹⁸ Cursed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock.

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 curses, confusion, and frustration in all that you undertake to do, until you are destroyed and perish quickly on account of the

evil of your deeds, because you have forsaken me.

²¹ The LORD will make the pestilence stick to you until he has consumed you off the land that you are entering to take possession of it.

²² The LORD will strike you with wasting disease and with fever, inflammation and fiery heat, and with drought and with blight and with mildew. They shall pursue you until you perish.

²³ And the heavens over your head shall be bronze, and the earth under you shall be iron.

²⁴ The LORD will make the rain of your land powder. From heaven dust 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

be a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth.

²⁶ And your dead body shall be food for all birds of the air and for the beasts of the earth, and there shall be no one to frighten them away.

²⁷ The LORD will strike you with the boils of Egypt, and with tumors and scabs and itch, of which you cannot be healed.

²⁸ The LORD will strike you with madness and blindness and confusion of mind,

²⁹ and you shall grope at noonday, as the blind grope in darkness, and you shall not prosper in your ways. And you shall be only oppressed and robbed continually, and there shall be no one to help you.

³⁰ You shall betroth a wife, but another man shall ravish her. You shall build a house, but you shall not dwell in it. You

shall plant a vineyard, but you shall not enjoy its fruit.

³¹ Your ox shall be slaughtered before your eyes, but you shall not eat any of it. Your donkey shall be seized before your face, but shall not be restored to you. Your sheep shall be given to your enemies, but there shall be no one to help you.

³² Your sons and your daughters shall be given to another people, while your eyes look on and fail with longing for them all day long, but you shall be helpless.

³³ A nation that you have not known shall eat up the fruit of your ground and of all your labors, and you shall be only oppressed and crushed continually,

³⁴ so that you are driven mad by the sights that your eyes see.

³⁵ The LORD will strike you on the knees and on the legs with grievous boils of which you cannot be healed, from the

sole of your foot to the crown of your head.

³⁶ "The LORD will bring you and your king whom you set over you to a nation that neither you nor your fathers have known. And there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone.

³⁷ And you shall become a horror, a proverb, and a byword among all the peoples where the LORD will lead you away.

³⁸ You shall carry much seed into the field and shall gather in little, for the locust shall consume it.

³⁹ You shall plant vineyards and dress them, but you shall neither drink of the wine nor gather the grapes, for the worm 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 father sons and daughters, but they shall not be yours, for they shall go into captivity.

⁴² The cricket shall possess all your trees and the fruit of your ground.

⁴³ The sojourner 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, and you shall not lend to him. He shall be the head, and you shall be the tail.

⁴⁵ "All these curses shall come upon you and pursue you and overtake you till you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep his commandments and his statutes that he commanded you.

⁴⁶ They shall be a sign and a wonder against you and your offspring forever.

⁴⁷ Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joyfulness and gladness

of heart, because of the abundance of all things,

⁴⁸ therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger and thirst, in nakedness, and lacking 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 far away, from the end of the earth, swooping down like the eagle, a nation whose language you do not understand,

⁵⁰ a hard-faced nation who shall not respect the old or show mercy to the young.

⁵¹ It shall eat the offspring of your cattle and the fruit of your ground, until you are destroyed; it also shall not leave you grain, wine, or oil, the increase of your herds or the young of your flock, until they have caused you to perish.

⁵² "They shall besiege you in all your towns, until your high and fortified walls, in which you trusted, come down throughout all your land. And they shall besiege you in all your towns throughout all your land, which the LORD your God has given you.

⁵³ And you shall eat the fruit of your womb, the flesh of your sons and daughters, whom the LORD your God has given you, in the siege and in the distress with which your enemies shall distress you.

⁵⁴ The man who is the most tender and refined among you will begrudge food to his brother, to the wife he embraces, and to the last of the children whom he has left,

⁵⁵ so that he will not give to any of them any of the flesh of his children whom he is eating, because he has nothing else left, in the siege and in the distress with

which your enemy shall distress you in all your towns.

⁵⁶ The most tender and refined woman among you, who would not venture to set the sole of her foot on the ground because she is so delicate and tender, will begrudge to the husband she embraces, to her son and to her daughter,

⁵⁷ her afterbirth that comes out from between her feet and her children whom she bears, because lacking everything she will eat them secretly, in the siege and in the distress with which your enemy shall distress you in your towns.

⁵⁸ "If you are not careful to do 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 on you and your offspring extraordinary afflictions,

afflictions severe and lasting, and sicknesses grievous and lasting.

⁶⁰ And he will bring upon you again all the diseases of Egypt, of which you were afraid, and they shall cling to you.

⁶¹ Every sickness also and every affliction that is not recorded in the book of this law, the LORD will bring upon you, until you are destroyed.

⁶² Whereas you were as numerous as the stars of heaven, you shall be left few in number, because you did not obey the voice of the LORD your God.

⁶³ And as the LORD took delight in doing you good and multiplying you, so the LORD will take delight in bringing ruin upon you and destroying you. And you shall be plucked off the land that you are entering to take possession of it.

⁶⁴ "And the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall

serve other gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known.

⁶⁵ And among these nations you shall find no respite, and there shall be no resting place for the sole of your foot, but the LORD will give you there a trembling heart and failing eyes and a languishing soul.

⁶⁶ Your life shall hang in doubt before you. Night and day you shall be in dread and have no assurance of your life.

⁶⁷ In the morning you shall say, 'If only it were evening!' and at evening you shall say, 'If only it were morning!' because of the dread that your heart shall feel, and the sights that your eyes shall see.

⁶⁸ And the LORD will bring you back in ships to Egypt, a journey that I promised that you should never make again; and there you shall offer yourselves for sale

to your enemies as male and female slaves, but there will be no buyer."

29 ¹ These are the words of the covenant that the LORD commanded Moses to make with the people of Israel in the land of Moab, besides the covenant that he had made with them at Horeb.

² And Moses summoned 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 that your eyes saw, the signs, and those great wonders.

⁴ But to this day the LORD has not given you a heart to understand or eyes to see or ears to hear.

⁵ I have led you forty years in the wilderness. Your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandals have not worn off your feet.

⁶ You have not eaten bread, and you have not drunk wine or strong drink, that you may know that I am the LORD your God.

⁷ And when you came to this place, Sihon the king of Heshbon and Og the king of Bashan came out against us to battle, but we defeated them.

⁸ We took their land and gave it for an inheritance to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of the Manassites.

⁹ Therefore keep the words of this covenant and do them, that you may prosper in all that you do.

¹⁰ "You are standing today all of you before the LORD your God: the heads of your tribes, your elders, and your officers, all the men of Israel,

¹¹ your little ones, your wives, and the sojourner who is in your camp, from the

one who chops your wood to the one who draws your water,

¹² so that you may enter into the sworn covenant of the LORD your God, which the LORD your God is making with you today,

¹³ that he may establish you today as his people, and that he may be your God, as he promised you, and as he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

¹⁴ It is not with you alone that I am making this sworn covenant,

¹⁵ but with whoever is standing here with us today before the LORD our God, and with whoever is not here with us today.

¹⁶ "You know how we lived in the land of Egypt, and how we came through the midst of the nations through which you passed.

¹⁷ And you have seen their detestable things, their idols of wood and stone, of silver and gold, which were among them.

¹⁸ Beware lest there be among you a man or woman or clan or tribe whose heart is turning away today from the LORD our God to go and serve the gods of those nations. Beware lest there be among you a root bearing poisonous and bitter fruit,

¹⁹ one who, when he hears the words of this sworn covenant, blesses himself in his heart, saying, 'I shall be safe, though I walk in the stubbornness of my heart.' This will lead to the sweeping away of moist and dry alike.

²⁰ The LORD will not be willing to forgive him, but rather the anger of the LORD and his jealousy will smoke against that man, and the curses written in this book

will settle upon him, and the LORD will blot out his name from under heaven.

²¹ And the LORD will single him out from all the tribes of Israel for calamity, in accordance with all the curses of the covenant written in this Book of the Law.

²² And the next generation, your children who rise up after you, and the foreigner who comes from a far land, will say, when they see the afflictions of that land and the sicknesses with which the LORD has made it sick--

²³ the whole land burned out with brimstone and salt, nothing sown and nothing growing, where no plant can sprout, an overthrow like that of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, which the LORD overthrew in his anger and wrath--

²⁴ all the nations will say, 'Why has the LORD done thus to this land? What caused the heat of this great anger?'

²⁵ Then people will say, 'It is because they abandoned the covenant of the LORD, the God of their fathers, which he made with them when he brought them out of the land of Egypt,

²⁶ and went and served other gods and worshiped them, gods whom they had not known and whom he had not allotted to them.

²⁷ Therefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against this land, bringing upon it all the curses written in this book,

²⁸ and the LORD uprooted them from their land in anger and fury and great wrath, and cast them into another land, as they are this day.'

²⁹ "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

30¹ "And 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 has driven you,

² and return to the LORD your God, you and your children, and obey his voice in all that I command you today, with all your heart and with all your soul,

³ then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you, and he will gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you.

⁴ If your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there he will take you.

⁵ And the LORD your God will bring you into the land that your fathers possessed, that you may possess it. And

he will make you more prosperous and numerous than your fathers.

⁶ And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

⁷ And the LORD your God will put all these curses on your foes and enemies who persecuted you.

⁸ And you shall again obey the voice of the LORD and keep all his commandments that I command you today.

⁹ The LORD your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your womb and in the fruit of your cattle and in the fruit of your ground. For the LORD will again take delight in prospering you, as he took delight in your fathers,

¹⁰ when you obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep his commandments and his statutes that are written in this Book of the Law, when you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

¹¹ "For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off.

¹² It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?'

¹³ Neither 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. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.

¹⁵ "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil.

¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it.

¹⁷ But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them,

¹⁸ I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess.

¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live,

²⁰ loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them."

31 ¹ So Moses continued to speak these words to all Israel.

² And he said to them, "I am 120 years old today. I am no longer able to go out and come in. The LORD has said to me, 'You shall not go over this Jordan.'

³ The LORD your God himself will go over before you. He will destroy these nations before you, so that you shall dispossess them, and Joshua will go over at your head, as the LORD has spoken.

⁴ And the LORD will do to them as he did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites, and to their land, when he destroyed them.

⁵ And the LORD will give them over to you, and you shall do to them according to the whole commandment that I have commanded you.

⁶ Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."

⁷ Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, "Be strong and courageous, for you shall go with this people into the land that the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall put them in possession of it.

⁸ It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."

⁹ Then Moses wrote this law and gave it to the priests, the sons of Levi, who

carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and to all the elders of Israel.

¹⁰ And Moses commanded them, "At the end of every seven years, at the set time in the year of release, at the Feast of Booths,

¹¹ when all Israel comes to appear before the LORD your God at the place that he will choose, you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing.

¹² Assemble the people, men, women, and little ones, and the sojourner within your towns, that they may hear and learn to fear the LORD your God, and be careful to do 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 that you are going over the Jordan to possess."

¹⁴ And the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, the days approach when

you must die. Call Joshua and present yourselves in the tent of meeting, that I may commission him." And Moses and Joshua went and presented themselves in the tent of meeting.

¹⁵ And the LORD appeared in the tent in a pillar of cloud. And the pillar of cloud stood over the entrance of the tent.

¹⁶ And the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, you are about to lie down with your fathers. Then this people will rise and whore after the foreign gods among them in the land that they are entering, and they will forsake me and break my covenant that I have made with them.

¹⁷ Then my anger will be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them and hide my face from them, and they will be devoured. And many evils and troubles will come upon 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 that they have done, because they have turned to other gods.

¹⁹ "Now therefore write this song and teach it to the people of Israel. Put it in their mouths, that this song may be a witness for me against the people of Israel.

²⁰ For when I have brought them into the land flowing with milk and honey, which I swore to give to their fathers, and they have eaten and are full and grown fat, they will turn to other gods and serve them, and despise me and break my covenant.

²¹ And when many evils and troubles have come upon them, this song shall confront them as a witness (for it will live unforgotten in the mouths of their

offspring). For I know what they are inclined to do even today, before I have brought them into the land that I swore to give."

²² So Moses wrote this song the same day and taught it to the people of Israel.

²³ And the LORD commissioned Joshua the son of Nun and said, "Be strong and courageous, for you shall bring the people of Israel into the land that I swore to give them. I will be with you."

²⁴ When Moses had finished writing the words of this law in a book to the very end,

²⁵ Moses commanded the Levites who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD,

²⁶ "Take this Book of the Law and put it by the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a witness against you.

²⁷ For I know how rebellious and stubborn you are. Behold, even today while I am yet alive with you, you have been rebellious against the LORD. How much more after my death!

²⁸ Assemble to me all the elders of your tribes and your officers, that I may speak these words in their ears and call heaven and earth to witness against them.

²⁹ For I know that after my death you will surely act corruptly and turn aside from the way that I have commanded you. And in the days to come evil will befall you, because you will do what is evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking him to anger through the work of your hands."

³⁰ Then Moses spoke the words of this song until they were finished, in the ears of all the assembly of Israel:

32 ¹ "Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak, and let the earth hear the words of my mouth.

² May my teaching drop as the rain, my speech distill as the dew, like gentle rain upon the tender grass, and like showers upon the herb.

³ For I will proclaim the name of the LORD; ascribe greatness to our God!

⁴ "The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.

⁵ They have dealt corruptly with him; they are no longer his children because they are blemished; they are a crooked and twisted generation.

⁶ Do you thus repay the LORD, you foolish and senseless people? Is not he your father, who created you, who 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 gave to the nations their inheritance, when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God.

⁹ But the LORD's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted heritage.

¹⁰ "He found him in a desert land, and in the howling waste of the wilderness; he encircled him, he cared for him, he kept him as the apple of his eye.

¹¹ Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that flutters over its young, spreading out its wings, catching them, bearing them on its pinions,

¹² the LORD alone guided him, no foreign god was with him.

¹³ He made him ride on the high places of the land, and he ate the produce of the field, and he suckled him with honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock.

¹⁴ Curds from the herd, and milk from the flock, with fat of lambs, rams of Bashan and goats, with the very finest of the wheat-- and you drank foaming wine made from the blood of the grape.

¹⁵ "But Jeshurun grew fat, and kicked; you grew fat, stout, and sleek; then he forsook God who made him and scoffed at the Rock of his salvation.

¹⁶ They stirred him to jealousy with strange gods; with abominations they provoked him to anger.

¹⁷ They sacrificed to demons that were no gods, to gods they had never known, to new gods that had come recently, whom your fathers had never dreaded.

¹⁸ You were unmindful of the Rock that bore you, and you forgot the God who gave you birth.

¹⁹ "The LORD saw it and 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 faithfulness.

²¹ They have made me jealous with what is no god; they have provoked me to anger with their idols. So I will make them jealous with those who are no people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation.

²² For a fire is kindled by my anger, and it burns to the depths of Sheol, devours the earth and its increase, and sets on fire the foundations of the mountains.

²³ "And I will heap disasters upon them; I will spend my arrows on them;

²⁴ they shall be wasted with hunger, and devoured by plague and poisonous pestilence; I will send the teeth of beasts against them, with the venom of things that crawl in the dust.

²⁵ Outdoors the sword shall bereave, and indoors terror, for young man and woman alike, the nursing child with the man of gray hairs.

²⁶ I would have said, "I will cut them to pieces; I will wipe them from human memory,"

²⁷ had I not feared provocation by the enemy, lest their adversaries should misunderstand, lest they should say, "Our hand is triumphant, it was not the LORD who did all this."

²⁸ "For they are a nation void of counsel, and there is no understanding in them.

²⁹ If they were wise, they would understand this; they would discern their latter end!

³⁰ How could one have chased a thousand, and two have put ten thousand to flight, unless their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had given them up?

³¹ For their rock is not as our Rock; our enemies are by themselves.

³² For their vine comes from the vine of Sodom and from the fields of Gomorrah; their grapes are grapes of poison; their clusters are bitter;

³³ their wine is the poison of serpents and the cruel venom of asps.

³⁴ "'Is not this laid up in store with me, sealed up in my treasuries?

³⁵ Vengeance is mine, and recompense, for the time when their foot shall slip; for the day of their calamity is at hand, and their doom comes swiftly.'

³⁶ For the LORD will vindicate his people and have compassion on his servants, when he sees that their power is gone

and there is none remaining, bond or free.

³⁷ Then he will say, 'Where are their gods, the rock in which they took refuge, ³⁸ who ate the fat of their sacrifices and drank the wine of their drink offering? Let them rise up and help you; let them be your protection!

³⁹ "'See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god beside me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

⁴⁰ For I lift up my hand to heaven and swear, As I live forever,

⁴¹ if I sharpen my flashing sword and my hand takes hold on judgment, I will take vengeance on my adversaries and will 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 long-haired heads of the enemy.'

⁴³ "Rejoice with him, O heavens; bow down to him, all gods, for he avenges the blood of his children and takes vengeance on his adversaries. He repays those who hate him and cleanses his people's land."

⁴⁴ Moses came and recited all the words of this song in the hearing of the people, he and Joshua the son of Nun.

⁴⁵ And when Moses had finished speaking all these words to all Israel,

⁴⁶ he said to them, "Take to heart all the words by which I am warning you today, that you may command them to your children, that they may be careful to do all the words of this law.

⁴⁷ For it is no empty word for you, but your very life, and by this word you shall live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess."

⁴⁸ That very day the LORD spoke to Moses,

⁴⁹ "Go up this mountain of the Abarim, Mount Nebo, which is in the land of Moab, opposite Jericho, and view the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the people of Israel for a possession.

⁵⁰ And die on the mountain which you go up, and be gathered to your people, as Aaron your brother died in Mount Hor and was gathered to his people,

⁵¹ because you broke faith with me in the midst of the people of Israel at the waters of Meribah-kadesh, in the wilderness of Zin, and because you did not treat me as holy in the midst of the people of Israel.

⁵² For you shall see the land before you, but you shall not go there, into the land that I am giving to the people of Israel."

33 ¹ This is the blessing with which Moses the man of God blessed the people of Israel before his death.

² He said, "The LORD came from Sinai and dawned from Seir upon us; he shone forth from Mount Paran; he came from the ten thousands of holy ones, with flaming fire at his right hand.

³ Yes, he loved his people, all his holy ones were in his hand; so they followed in your steps, receiving direction from you,

⁴ when Moses commanded us a law, as a possession for the assembly of Jacob.

⁵ Thus the LORD became king in Jeshurun, when the heads of the people were gathered, all the tribes of Israel together.

⁶ "Let Reuben live, and not die, but let his men be few."

⁷ And this he said of Judah: "Hear, O LORD, the voice of Judah, and bring

him in to his people. With your hands contend for him, and be a help against his adversaries."

⁸ And of Levi he said, "Give to Levi your Thummim, and your Urim to your godly one, whom you tested at Massah, with whom you quarreled at the waters of Meribah;

⁹ who said of his father and mother, 'I regard them not'; he disowned his brothers and ignored his children. For they observed your word and kept your covenant.

¹⁰ They shall teach Jacob your rules and Israel your law; they shall put incense before you and whole burnt offerings on your altar.

¹¹ Bless, O LORD, his substance, and accept the work of his hands; crush the loins of his adversaries, of those who hate him, that they rise not again."

¹² Of Benjamin he said, "The beloved of the LORD dwells in safety. The High God surrounds him all day long, and dwells between his shoulders."

¹³ And of Joseph he said, "Blessed by the LORD be his land, with the choicest gifts of heaven above, and of the deep that crouches beneath,

¹⁴ with the choicest fruits of the sun and the rich yield of the months,

¹⁵ with the finest produce of the ancient mountains and the abundance of the everlasting hills,

¹⁶ with the best gifts of the earth and its fullness and the favor of him who dwells in the bush. May these rest on the head of Joseph, on the pate of him who is prince among his brothers.

¹⁷ A firstborn bull--he has majesty, and his horns are the horns of a wild ox; with them he shall gore the peoples, all of them, 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 peoples to their mountain; there they offer right sacrifices; for they draw from the abundance of the seas and the hidden treasures of the sand."

²⁰ And of Gad he said, "Blessed be he who enlarges Gad! Gad crouches like a lion; he tears off arm and scalp.

²¹ He chose the best of the land for himself, for there a commander's portion was reserved; and he came with the heads of the people, with Israel he executed the justice of the LORD, and his judgments for Israel."

²² And of Dan he said, "Dan is a lion's cub that leaps from Bashan."

²³ And of Naphtali he said, "O Naphtali, sated with favor, and full of the blessing of the LORD, possess the lake and the south."

²⁴ And of Asher he said, "Most blessed of sons be Asher; let him be the favorite of his brothers, and let him dip his foot in oil.

²⁵ Your bars shall be iron and bronze, and as your days, so shall your strength be.

²⁶ "There is none like God, O Jeshurun, who rides through the heavens to your help, through the skies in his majesty.

²⁷ The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms. And he thrust out the enemy before you and said, Destroy.

²⁸ So Israel lived in safety, Jacob lived alone, in a land of grain and wine, whose heavens drop down 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 triumph! Your enemies shall come fawning to you, and you shall tread upon their backs."

34 ¹ Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho. And the LORD showed him all the land, Gilead as far as Dan,

² all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the western sea,

³ the Negeb, and the Plain, that is, the Valley of Jericho the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar.

⁴ And the LORD said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, 'I will give it to your offspring.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not go 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 the valley in the land of Moab opposite Beth-peor; but no one knows the place of his burial to this day.

⁷ Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eye was undimmed, and his vigor unabated.

⁸ And the people of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days. Then the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended.

⁹ And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. So the people of Israel obeyed him and did as the LORD had commanded Moses.

¹⁰ And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face,

¹¹ none like him for all the signs and the wonders that the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land,

¹² and for all the mighty power and all the great deeds of terror that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

Joshua

1 ¹ After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant,

² "Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel.

³ Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses.

⁴ From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites 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. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you.

⁶ Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them.

⁷ Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go.

⁸ This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful 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 courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

¹⁰ And Joshua commanded the officers of the people,

¹¹ "Pass through the midst of the camp and command the people, 'Prepare your provisions, for within three days you are to pass over this Jordan to go in to take possession of the land that the LORD your God is giving you to possess.'"

¹² And to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh Joshua said,

¹³ "Remember the word that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, 'The LORD your God is providing you a place of rest and will give you this land.'

¹⁴ Your wives, your little ones, and your livestock shall remain in the land that

Moses gave you beyond the Jordan, but all the men of valor among you shall pass over armed before your brothers and shall help them,

¹⁵ until the LORD gives rest to your brothers as he has to you, and they also take possession of the land that the LORD your God is giving them. Then you shall return to the land of your possession and shall possess it, the land that Moses the servant of the LORD gave you beyond the Jordan toward the sunrise."

¹⁶ And they answered Joshua, "All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go.

¹⁷ Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so we will obey you. Only may the LORD your God be with you, as he was with Moses!

¹⁸ Whoever rebels against your commandment and disobeys your

words, whatever you command him, shall be put to death. Only be strong and courageous."

2¹ And Joshua the son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." And they went and came into the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and lodged there.

² And it was told to the king of Jericho, "Behold, men of Israel have come here tonight to search out the land."

³ Then the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, "Bring out the men who have come to you, who entered your house, for they have come to search out all the land."

⁴ But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. And she said, "True, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from.

⁵ And when the gate was about to be closed at dark, the men went out. I do not know where the men went. Pursue them quickly, for you will overtake them."

⁶ But she had brought them up to the roof and hid them with the stalks of flax that she had laid in order on the roof.

⁷ So the men pursued after them on the way to the Jordan as far as the fords. And the gate was shut as soon as the pursuers had gone out.

⁸ Before the men 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, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you.

¹⁰ For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and

what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction.

¹¹ And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the LORD your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.

¹² Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that, as I have dealt kindly with you, you also will deal kindly with my father's house, and give me a sure sign

¹³ that you will save alive my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death."

¹⁴ And the men said to her, "Our life for yours even to death! If you do not tell this business of ours, then when the LORD gives us the land we will deal kindly and faithfully with you."

¹⁵ Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was built into the city wall, so that she lived in the wall.

¹⁶ And she said to them, "Go into the hills, or the pursuers will encounter you, and hide there three days until the pursuers have returned. Then afterward you may go your way."

¹⁷ The men said to her, "We will be guiltless with respect to this oath of yours that you have made us swear.

¹⁸ Behold, when we come into the land, you shall tie this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and you shall gather into your house your father and mother, your brothers, and all your father's household.

¹⁹ Then if anyone goes out of the doors of your house into the street, his blood shall be on his own head, and we shall be guiltless. But if a hand is laid on anyone

who is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head.

²⁰ But if you tell this business of ours, then we shall be guiltless with respect to your oath that you have made us swear."

²¹ And she said, "According to your words, so be it." Then she sent them away, and they departed. And she tied the scarlet cord in the window.

²² They departed and went into the hills and remained there three days until the pursuers returned, and the pursuers searched all along the way and found nothing.

²³ Then the two men returned. They came down from the hills and passed over and came to Joshua the son of Nun, and they told him all that had happened to them.

²⁴ And they said to Joshua, "Truly the LORD has given all the land into our

hands. And also, all the inhabitants of the land melt away because of us."

3 ¹ Then Joshua rose early in the morning and they set out from Shittim. And they came to the Jordan, he and all the people of Israel, and lodged there before they passed over.

² At the end of three days the officers went through the camp

³ and commanded the people, "As soon as you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God being carried by the Levitical priests, then you shall set out from your place and follow it.

⁴ Yet there shall be a distance between you and it, about 2,000 cubits in length. Do not come near it, in order that you may know the way you shall go, for you have not passed this way before."

⁵ Then Joshua said to the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you."

⁶ And Joshua said to the priests, "Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on before the people." So they took up the ark of the covenant and went before the people.

⁷ The LORD said to Joshua, "Today 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 And as for you, command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, 'When you come to the brink of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.'"

⁹ And Joshua said to the people of Israel, "Come here and listen to the words of the LORD your God."

¹⁰ And Joshua said, "Here is how you shall know that the living God is among you and that he will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Hivites, the Perizzites,

the Girgashites, the Amorites, and the Jebusites.

¹¹ Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is passing over before you into the Jordan.

¹² Now therefore take twelve men from the tribes of Israel, from each tribe a man.

¹³ And when the soles of the feet of the priests bearing the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off from flowing, and the waters coming down from above shall stand in one heap."

¹⁴ So when the people set out from their tents to pass over the Jordan with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people,

¹⁵ and as soon as those bearing the ark had come as far as the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark

were dipped in the brink of the water (now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest),

¹⁶ the waters coming down from above stood and rose up in a heap very far away, at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, and those flowing down toward the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, were completely cut off. And the people passed over opposite Jericho.

¹⁷ Now the priests bearing the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firmly on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan, and all Israel was passing over on dry ground until all the nation finished passing over the Jordan.

4 ¹ When all the nation had finished passing over the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua,

² "Take twelve men from the people, from each tribe a man,

³ and command them, saying, 'Take twelve stones from here out of the midst of the Jordan, from the very place where the priests' feet stood firmly, and bring them over with you and lay them down in the place where you lodge tonight.'

⁴ Then Joshua called the twelve men from the people of Israel, whom he had appointed, a man from each tribe.

⁵ And Joshua said to them, "Pass on before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of the Jordan, and take up each of you a stone upon his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel,

⁶ that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, 'What do those stones mean to you?'

⁷ then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it passed over the Jordan, the

waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever."

⁸ And the people of Israel did just as Joshua commanded and took up twelve stones out of the midst of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel, just as the LORD told Joshua. And they carried them over with them to the place where they lodged and laid them down there.

⁹ And Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of the Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests bearing the ark of the covenant had stood; and they are there to this day.

¹⁰ For the priests bearing the ark stood in the midst of the Jordan until everything was finished that the LORD commanded Joshua to tell the people, according to all that Moses had

commanded Joshua. The people passed over in haste.

¹¹ And when all the people had finished passing over, the ark of the LORD and the priests passed over before the people.

¹² The sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh passed over armed before the people of Israel, as Moses had told them.

¹³ About 40,000 ready for war passed 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 stood in awe of him just as they had stood in awe of Moses, all the days of his life.

¹⁵ And the LORD said to Joshua,

¹⁶ "Command the priests bearing the ark of the testimony to come up out of the Jordan."

¹⁷ So Joshua commanded the priests, "Come up out of the Jordan."

¹⁸ And when the priests bearing the ark of the covenant of the LORD came up from the midst of the Jordan, and the soles of the priests' feet were lifted up on dry ground, the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and overflowed all its banks, as before.

¹⁹ The people came up out of the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and they encamped at Gilgal on the east border of Jericho.

²⁰ And those twelve stones, which they took out of the Jordan, Joshua set up at Gilgal.

²¹ And he said to the people of Israel, "When your children ask their fathers in times to come, 'What do these stones mean?'

²² then you shall let your children know, 'Israel passed over this Jordan on dry ground.'

²³ For the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan for you until you passed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea, which he dried up for us until we passed over,

²⁴ so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the LORD is mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever."

5 ¹ As soon as all the kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan to the west, and all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of the Jordan for the people of Israel until they had crossed over, their hearts melted and there was no longer any spirit in them because of the people of Israel.

² At that time the LORD said to Joshua, "Make flint knives and circumcise the sons of Israel a second time."

³ So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the sons of Israel at Gibeath-haaraloth.

⁴ And this is the reason why Joshua circumcised them: all the males of the people who came out of Egypt, all the men of war, had died in the wilderness on the way after they had come out of Egypt.

⁵ Though all the people who came out had been circumcised, yet all the people who were born on the way in the wilderness after they had come out of Egypt had not been circumcised.

⁶ For the people of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, until all the nation, the men of war who came out of Egypt, perished, because they did not obey the voice of the LORD; the LORD swore to them that he would not let them see the land that the LORD had

sworn to their fathers to give to us, a land flowing with milk and honey.

⁷ So it was their children, whom he raised up in their place, that Joshua circumcised. For they were uncircumcised, because they had not been circumcised on the way.

⁸ When the circumcising of the whole nation was finished, they remained in their places in the camp until they were healed.

⁹ And the LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." And so the name of that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰ While the people of Israel were encamped at Gilgal, they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month in the evening on the plains of Jericho.

¹¹ And the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate of the produce of

the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain.

¹² And the manna ceased the day after they ate of the produce of the land. And there was no longer manna for the people of Israel, but they ate of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.

¹³ When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us, or for our adversaries?"

¹⁴ And he said, "No; but I am the commander of the army of the LORD. Now I have 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 And the commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place

where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

6¹ Now Jericho was shut up inside and outside because of the people of Israel. None went out, and none came in.

² And the LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and mighty men of valor.

³ You shall march around the city, all the men of war going around the city once. Thus shall you do for six days.

⁴ Seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. On the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets.

⁵ And when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, when you hear the sound of the trumpet, then all the people shall shout with a great shout, and the wall of the city will fall down flat,

and the people shall go up, everyone straight before him."

⁶ So 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, "Go forward. March around the city and let the armed men pass on before the ark of the LORD."

⁸ And just as Joshua had commanded the people, the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the LORD went forward, blowing the trumpets, with the ark of the covenant of the LORD following them.

⁹ The armed men were walking before the priests who were blowing the trumpets, and the rear guard was walking after the ark, while the trumpets blew continually.

¹⁰ But Joshua commanded the people, "You shall not shout or make your voice heard, neither shall any word go out of your mouth, until the day I tell you to shout. Then you shall shout."

¹¹ So he caused the ark of the LORD to circle the city, going about it once. And they came into the camp and spent the night in the camp.

¹² Then Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD.

¹³ And the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD walked on, and they blew the trumpets continually. And the armed men were walking before them, and the rear guard was walking after the ark of the LORD, while the trumpets blew continually.

¹⁴ And the second day they marched around the city once, and returned into the camp. So they did for six days.

¹⁵ On the seventh day they rose early, at the dawn of day, and marched around the city in the same manner seven times. It was only on that day that they marched around the city seven times.

¹⁶ And at the seventh time, when the priests had blown the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, "Shout, for the LORD has given you the city.

¹⁷ And the city and all that is within it shall be devoted to the LORD for destruction. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall live, because she hid the messengers whom we sent.

¹⁸ But you, keep yourselves from the things devoted to destruction, lest when you have devoted them you take any of the devoted things and make the camp

of Israel a thing for destruction and bring trouble upon it.

¹⁹ But all silver and gold, and every vessel of bronze and iron, are holy to the LORD; they shall go into the treasury of the LORD."

²⁰ So the people shouted, and the trumpets were blown. As soon as the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people shouted a great shout, and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they captured the city.

²¹ Then they devoted all in the city to destruction, both men and women, young and old, oxen, sheep, and donkeys, with the edge of the sword.

²² But to the two men who had spied out the land, Joshua said, "Go into the prostitute's house and bring out from there the woman and all who belong to her, as you swore to her."

²³ So the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab and her father and mother and brothers and all who belonged to her. And they brought all her relatives and put them outside the camp of Israel.

²⁴ And they burned the city with fire, and everything in it. Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD.

²⁵ But Rahab the prostitute and her father's household and all who belonged to her, Joshua saved alive. And she has lived in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

²⁶ Joshua laid an oath on them at that time, saying, "Cursed before the LORD be the man who rises up and rebuilds this city, Jericho. "At the cost of his firstborn shall he lay its foundation, and

at the cost of his youngest son shall he set up its gates."

²⁷ So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame was in all the land.

7 ¹ But the people of Israel broke faith in regard to the devoted things, for Achan the son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of the devoted things. And the anger of the LORD burned against the people of Israel.

² Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth-aven, east of Bethel, and said to them, "Go up and spy out the land." And the men went up and spied out Ai.

³ And they returned to Joshua and said to him, "Do not have all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai. Do not make the whole people toil up there, for they are few."

⁴ So about 3,000 men went up there from the people. And they fled before the men of Ai,

⁵ and the men of Ai killed about thirty-six of their men and chased them before the gate as far as Shebarim and struck them at the descent. And the hearts of the people melted and became as water.

⁶ Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the LORD until the evening, he and the elders of Israel. And they put dust on their heads.

⁷ And Joshua said, "Alas, O Lord GOD, why have you brought this people over the Jordan at all, to give us into the hands of the Amorites, to destroy us? Would that we had been content to dwell beyond the Jordan!

⁸ O Lord, what can I say, when Israel has turned their backs before their enemies!

⁹ For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear of it and will surround us and cut off our name from the earth. And what will you do for your great name?"

¹⁰ The LORD said to Joshua, "Get up! Why have you fallen on your face?"

¹¹ Israel has sinned; they have transgressed my covenant that I commanded them; they have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen and lied and put them among their own belongings.

¹² Therefore the people of Israel cannot stand before their enemies. They turn their backs before their enemies, because they have become devoted for destruction. I will be with you no more, unless you destroy the devoted things from among you.

¹³ Get up! Consecrate the people and say, 'Consecrate yourselves for

tomorrow; for thus says the LORD, God of Israel, "There are devoted things in your midst, O Israel. You cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the devoted things from among you."

¹⁴ In the morning therefore you shall be brought near by your tribes. And the tribe that the LORD takes by lot shall come near by clans. And the clan that the LORD takes shall come near by households. And the household that the LORD takes shall come near man by man.

¹⁵ And he who is taken with the devoted things 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 an outrageous thing in Israel."

¹⁶ So Joshua rose early in the morning and brought Israel near tribe by tribe, and the tribe of Judah was taken.

¹⁷ And he brought near the clans of Judah, and the clan of the Zerahites was taken. And he brought near the clan of the Zerahites man by man, and Zabdi was taken.

¹⁸ And he brought near his household man by man, and Achan the son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken.

¹⁹ Then Joshua said to Achan, "My son, give glory to the LORD God of Israel and give praise to him. And tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me."

²⁰ And Achan answered Joshua, "Truly I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I did:

²¹ when I saw among the spoil a beautiful cloak from Shinar, and 200 shekels of silver, and a bar of gold weighing 50 shekels, then I coveted them and took them. And see, they are

hidden in the earth inside my tent, with the silver underneath."

²² So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent; and behold, it was hidden in his tent with the silver underneath.

²³ And they took them out of the tent and brought them to Joshua and to all the people of Israel. And they laid them down before the LORD.

²⁴ And Joshua and all Israel with him took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver and the cloak and the bar of gold, and his sons and daughters and his oxen and donkeys and sheep and his tent and all that he had. And they brought them up to the Valley of Achor.

²⁵ And Joshua said, "Why did you bring trouble on us? The LORD brings trouble on you today." And all Israel stoned him with stones. They burned them with fire and stoned them with stones.

²⁶ And they raised over him a great heap of stones that remains to this day. Then the LORD turned from his burning anger. Therefore, to this day the name of that place is called the Valley of Achor.

8 ¹ And the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not fear and do not be dismayed. Take all the fighting men with you, and arise, go up to Ai. See, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, and 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 livestock you shall take as plunder for yourselves. Lay an ambush against the city, behind it."

³ So Joshua and all the fighting men arose to go up to Ai. And Joshua chose 30,000 mighty men of valor and sent them out by night.

⁴ And he commanded them, "Behold, you shall lie in ambush against the city,

behind it. Do not go very far from the city, but all of you remain ready.

⁵ And I and all the people who are with me will approach the city. And when they come out against us just as before, we shall flee before them.

⁶ And they will come out after us, until we have drawn them away from the city. For they will say, 'They are fleeing from us, just as before.' So we will flee before them.

⁷ Then you shall rise up from the ambush and seize the city, for the LORD your God will give it into your hand.

⁸ And as soon as you have taken the city, you shall set the city on fire. You shall do according to the word of the Lord. See, I have commanded you."

⁹ So Joshua sent them out. And they went to the place of ambush and lay between Bethel and Ai, to the west of

Ai, but Joshua spent that night among the people.

¹⁰ Joshua arose 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 fighting men who were with him went up and drew near before the city and encamped on the north side of Ai, with a ravine between them and Ai.

¹² He took about 5,000 men and set them in ambush between Bethel and Ai, to the west of the city.

¹³ So they stationed the forces, the main encampment that was north of the city and its rear guard west of the city. But Joshua spent that night in the valley.

¹⁴ And as soon as the king of Ai saw this, he and all his people, the men of the city, hurried and went out early to the appointed place toward the Arabah

to meet Israel in battle. But he did not know that there was an ambush against him behind the city.

¹⁵ And Joshua and all Israel pretended to be beaten before them and fled in the direction of the wilderness.

¹⁶ So all the people who were in the city were called together to pursue them, and as they pursued Joshua they were drawn away from the city.

¹⁷ Not a man was left in Ai or Bethel who did not go out after Israel. They left the city open and pursued Israel.

¹⁸ Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Stretch out the javelin that is in your hand toward Ai, for I will give it into your hand." And Joshua stretched out the javelin that was in his hand toward the city.

¹⁹ And the men in the ambush rose quickly out of their place, and as soon as he had stretched out his hand, they

ran and entered the city and captured it. And they hurried to set the city on fire.

²⁰ So when the men of Ai looked back, behold, the smoke of the city went up to heaven, and they had no power to flee this way or that, for the people who fled to the wilderness turned back against the pursuers.

²¹ And when Joshua and all Israel saw that the ambush had captured the city, and that the smoke of the city went up, then they turned back and struck down the men of Ai.

²² And the others came out from the city against them, so they were in the midst of Israel, some on this side, and some on that side. And Israel struck them down, until there was left none that survived or escaped.

²³ But the king of Ai they took alive, and brought him near to Joshua.

²⁴ When Israel had finished killing all the inhabitants of Ai in the open wilderness where they pursued them, and all of them to the very last had fallen by the edge of the sword, all Israel returned to Ai and struck it down with the edge of the sword.

²⁵ And all who fell that day, both men and women, were 12,000, all the people of Ai.

²⁶ But Joshua did not draw back his hand with which he stretched out the javelin until he had devoted all the inhabitants of Ai to destruction.

²⁷ Only the livestock and the spoil of that city Israel took as their plunder, according to the word of the LORD that he commanded Joshua.

²⁸ So Joshua burned Ai and made it forever a heap of ruins, as it is to this day.

²⁹ And he hanged the king of Ai on a tree until evening. And at sunset Joshua commanded, and they took his body down from the tree and threw it at the entrance of the gate of the city and raised over it a great heap of stones, which stands there to this day.

³⁰ At that time Joshua built an altar to the LORD, the God of Israel, on Mount Ebal,

³¹ just as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded the people of Israel, as it is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, "an altar of uncut stones, upon 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 people of Israel, he wrote on the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he had written.

³³ And all Israel, sojourner as well as native born, with their elders and officers and their judges, stood on opposite sides of the ark before the Levitical priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, half of them in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, just as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded at the first, to bless the people of Israel.

³⁴ And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessing and the curse, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law.

³⁵ There was not a word of all that Moses commanded that Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel, and the women, and the little ones, and the sojourners who lived among them.

9¹ As soon as all the kings who were beyond the Jordan in the hill country and in the lowland all along the coast

of the Great Sea toward Lebanon, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, heard of this,

² they gathered together as one to fight against Joshua and Israel.

³ But when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and to Ai,

⁴ they on their part acted with cunning and went and made ready provisions and took worn-out sacks for their donkeys, and wineskins, worn-out and torn and mended,

⁵ with worn-out, patched sandals on their feet, and worn-out clothes. And all their provisions were dry and crumbly.

⁶ And they went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal and said to him and to the men of Israel, "We have come from a distant country, so now make a covenant with us."

⁷ But the men of Israel said to the Hivites, "Perhaps you live among us; then how can we make a covenant with you?"

⁸ They said to Joshua, "We are your servants." And Joshua said to them, "Who are you? And where do you come from?"

⁹ They said to him, "From a very distant country your servants have come, because of the name of the LORD your God. For we have heard a report of him, 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 the king of Heshbon, and to Og king of Bashan, who lived in Ashtaroth.

¹¹ So our elders and all the inhabitants of our country said to us, 'Take provisions in your hand for the journey and go to meet them and say to them, "We

are your servants. Come now, make a covenant with us."

¹² Here is our bread. It was still warm when we took it from our houses as our food for the journey on the day we set out to come to you, but now, behold, it is dry and crumbly.

¹³ These wineskins were new when we filled them, and behold, they have burst. And these garments and sandals of ours are worn out from the very long journey."

¹⁴ So the men took some of their provisions, but did not ask counsel from the LORD.

¹⁵ And Joshua made peace with them and made a covenant with them, to let them live, and the leaders of the congregation swore to them.

¹⁶ At the end of three days after they had made a covenant with them, they

heard that they were their neighbors and that they lived among them.

¹⁷ And the people of Israel set out and reached their cities on the third day. Now their cities were Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kiriath-jearim.

¹⁸ But the people of Israel did not attack them, because the leaders of the congregation had sworn to them by the LORD, the God of Israel. Then all the congregation murmured against the leaders.

¹⁹ But all the leaders said to all the congregation, "We have sworn to them by the LORD, the God of Israel, and now we may not touch them.

²⁰ This we will do to them: let them live, lest wrath be upon us, because of the oath that we swore to them."

²¹ And the leaders said to them, "Let them live." So they became cutters of wood and drawers of water for all the

congregation, just as the leaders had said of them.

²² Joshua summoned them, and he said to them, "Why did you deceive us, saying, 'We are very far from you,' when you dwell among us?

²³ Now therefore you are cursed, and some of you shall never be anything but servants, cutters of wood and drawers of water for the house of my God."

²⁴ They answered Joshua, "Because it was told to your servants for a certainty that the LORD your God had commanded his servant Moses to give you all the land and to destroy all the inhabitants of the land from before you--so we feared greatly for our lives because of you and did this thing.

²⁵ And now, behold, we are in your hand. Whatever seems good and right in your sight to do to us, do it."

²⁶ So he did this to them and delivered them out of the hand of the people of Israel, and they did not kill them.

²⁷ But Joshua made them that day cutters of wood and drawers of water for the congregation and for the altar of the LORD, to this day, in the place that he should choose.

10 ¹ As soon as Adoni-zedek, king of Jerusalem, heard how Joshua had captured Ai and had devoted it to destruction, doing to Ai and its king as he had done to Jericho and its king, and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were among them,

² he 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 warriors.

³ So Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem sent to Hoham king of Hebron, to Piram king

of Jarmuth, to Japhia king of Lachish, and to Debir king of Eglon, saying,

⁴ "Come up to me and help me, and let us strike Gibeon. For it has made peace with Joshua and with the people of Israel."

⁵ Then 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 their forces and went up with all their armies and encamped against Gibeon and made war against it.

⁶ And the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp in Gilgal, saying, "Do not relax your hand from your servants. Come up to us quickly and save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites who dwell in the hill country are gathered against us."

⁷ So Joshua went up 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 given them into your hands. Not a man of them shall stand before you."

⁹ So Joshua came upon them suddenly, having marched up all night from Gilgal.

¹⁰ And the LORD threw them into a panic before Israel, who struck them with a great blow at Gibeon and chased them by the way of the ascent of Beth-horon and struck them as far as Azekah and Makkedah.

¹¹ And as they fled before Israel, while they were going down the ascent of Beth-horon, the LORD threw down large stones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. There were more who died because of the hailstones than the sons of Israel killed with the sword.

¹² At that time Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD gave the Amorites over to the sons of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, "Sun, stand still at Gibeon, and moon, in the Valley of Aijalon."

¹³ And the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, until the nation took vengeance on their enemies. Is this not written in the Book of Jashar? The sun stopped in the midst of heaven and did not hurry to set for about a whole day.

¹⁴ There has been no day like it before or since, when the LORD obeyed the voice of a man, for the LORD fought for Israel.

¹⁵ So Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.

¹⁶ These five kings fled and hid themselves in the cave at Makkedah.

¹⁷ And it was told to Joshua, "The five kings have been found, hidden in the cave at Makkedah."

¹⁸ And Joshua said, "Roll large stones against the mouth of the cave and set men by it to guard them,

¹⁹ but do not stay there yourselves. Pursue your enemies; attack their rear guard. Do not let them enter their cities, for the LORD your God has given them into your hand."

²⁰ When Joshua and the sons of Israel had finished striking them with a great blow until they were wiped out, and when the remnant that remained of them had entered into the fortified cities,

²¹ then all the people returned safe to Joshua in the camp at Makkedah. Not a man moved his tongue against any of the people of Israel.

²² Then Joshua said, "Open the mouth of the cave and bring those five kings out to me from the cave."

²³ And they did so, and brought those five kings out 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 And when they brought those kings out to Joshua, Joshua summoned all the men of Israel and said to the chiefs of the men of war who had gone with him, "Come near; put your feet on the necks of these kings." Then they came near and put their feet on their necks.

²⁵ And Joshua said to them, "Do not be afraid or dismayed; be strong and courageous. For thus the LORD will do to all your enemies against whom you fight."

²⁶ And afterward Joshua struck them and put them to death, and he hanged

them on five trees. And they hung on the trees until evening.

²⁷ But at the time of the going down of the sun, Joshua commanded, and they took them down from the trees and threw them into the cave where they had hidden themselves, and they set large stones against the mouth of the cave, which remain to this very day.

²⁸ As for Makkedah, Joshua captured it on that day and struck it, and its king, with the edge of the sword. He devoted to destruction every person in it; he left none remaining. And he did to the king of Makkedah just as he had done to the king of Jericho.

²⁹ Then Joshua and all Israel with him passed on from Makkedah to Libnah and fought against Libnah.

³⁰ And the LORD gave it also and its king into the hand of Israel. And he struck it with the edge of the sword, and every

person in it; he left none remaining in it. And he did to its king as he had done to the king of Jericho.

³¹ Then Joshua and all Israel with him passed on from Libnah to Lachish and laid siege to it and fought against it.

³² And the LORD gave Lachish into the hand of Israel, and he captured it on the second day and struck it with the edge of the sword, and every person in it, as 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 none remaining.

³⁴ Then Joshua and all Israel with him passed on from Lachish to Eglon. And they laid siege to it and fought against it.

³⁵ And they captured it on that day, and struck it with the edge of the sword. And he devoted every person in it to destruction that day, as he had done to Lachish.

³⁶ Then Joshua and all Israel with him went up from Eglon to Hebron. And they fought against it

³⁷ and captured it and struck it with the edge of the sword, and its king and its towns, and every person in it. He left none remaining, as he had done to Eglon, and devoted it to destruction and every person in it.

³⁸ Then Joshua and all Israel with him turned back to Debir and fought against it

³⁹ and he captured it with its king and all its towns. And they struck them with the edge of the sword and devoted to destruction every person in it; he left none remaining. Just as he had done to Hebron and to Libnah and its king, so he did to Debir and to its king.

⁴⁰ So Joshua struck the whole land, the hill country and the Negeb and the lowland and the slopes, and all

their kings. He left none remaining, but devoted to destruction all that breathed, just as the LORD God of Israel commanded.

⁴¹ And Joshua struck them from Kadesh-barnea as far as Gaza, and all the country of Goshen, as far as Gibeon.

⁴² And Joshua captured all these kings and their land 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 When Jabin, king of Hazor, heard of this, he sent to Jobab king of Madon, and to the king of Shimron, and to the king of Achshaph,

² and to the kings who were in the northern hill country, and in the Arabah south of Chinneroth, and in the lowland, and in Naphoth-dor on the west,

³ to the Canaanites in the east and the west, the Amorites, the Hittites, the

Perizzites, and the Jebusites in the hill country, and the Hivites under Hermon in the land of Mizpah.

⁴ And they came out with all their troops, a great horde, in number like the sand that is on the seashore, with very many horses and chariots.

⁵ And all these kings joined their forces and came and encamped together at the waters of Merom to fight with Israel.

⁶ And the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid of them, for tomorrow at this time I will give over all of them, slain, to Israel. You shall hamstring their horses and burn their chariots with fire."

⁷ So Joshua and all his warriors came suddenly against them by the waters of Merom and fell upon them.

⁸ And the LORD gave them into the hand of Israel, who struck them and chased them as far as Great Sidon and Misrephoth-maim, and eastward as far

as the Valley of Mizpeh. And they struck them until he left none remaining.

⁹ And Joshua did to them just as the LORD said to him: he hamstrung their horses and burned their chariots with fire.

¹⁰ And Joshua turned back at that time and captured Hazor and struck its king with the sword, for Hazor formerly was the head of all those kingdoms.

¹¹ And they struck with the sword all who were in it, devoting them to destruction; there was none left that breathed. And he burned Hazor with fire.

¹² And all the cities of those kings, and all their kings, Joshua captured, and struck them with the edge of the sword, devoting them to destruction, just as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded.

¹³ But none of the cities that stood on mounds did Israel burn, except Hazor alone; that Joshua burned.

¹⁴ And all the spoil of these cities and the livestock, the people of Israel took for their plunder. But every man they struck with the edge of the sword until they had destroyed them, and they did not leave any who breathed.

¹⁵ Just 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 So Joshua took all that land, the hill country and all the Negeb and all the land of Goshen and the lowland and the Arabah and the hill country of Israel and its lowland

¹⁷ from Mount Halak, which rises toward Seir, as far as Baal-gad in the Valley of Lebanon below Mount Hermon.

And he captured all their kings and struck them and put them to death.

¹⁸ Joshua made war a long time with all those kings.

¹⁹ There was not a city that made peace with the people of Israel except the Hivites, the inhabitants of Gibeon. They took them all in battle.

²⁰ For it was the LORD's doing to harden their hearts that they should come against Israel in battle, in order that they should be devoted to destruction and should receive no mercy but be destroyed, just as the LORD commanded Moses.

²¹ And Joshua came at that time and cut off the Anakim from the hill country, from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab, and from all the hill country of Judah, and from all the hill country of Israel. Joshua devoted them to destruction with their cities.

²² There was none of the Anakim left in the land of the people of Israel. Only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod did some remain.

²³ So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD had spoken to Moses. And Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal allotments. And the land had rest from war.

12 ¹ Now these are the kings of the land whom the people of Israel defeated and took possession of their land beyond the Jordan toward the sunrise, from the Valley of the Arnon to Mount Hermon, with all the Arabah eastward:

² Sihon king of the Amorites who lived at Heshbon and ruled from Aroer, which is on the edge of the Valley of the Arnon, and from the middle of the valley as far

as the river Jabbok, the boundary of the Ammonites, that is, half of Gilead,

³ and the Arabah to the Sea of Chinneroth eastward, and in the direction of Beth-jeshimoth, to the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, southward to the foot of the slopes of Pisgah;

⁴ and Og king of Bashan, one of the remnant of the Rephaim, who lived at Ashtaroth and at Edrei

⁵ and ruled over Mount Hermon and Salecah and all Bashan to the boundary of the Geshurites and the Maacathites, and over half of Gilead to the boundary of Sihon king of Heshbon.

⁶ Moses, the servant of the LORD, and the people of Israel defeated them.

And Moses the servant of the LORD gave their land for a possession to the Reubenites and the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh.

⁷ And these are the kings of the land whom Joshua and the people of Israel defeated on the west side of the Jordan, from Baal-gad in the Valley of Lebanon to Mount Halak, that rises toward Seir (and Joshua gave their land to the tribes of Israel as a possession according to their allotments,

⁸ in the hill country, in the lowland, in the Arabah, in the slopes, in the wilderness, and in the Negeb, the land of 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 Hazer, 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 Naphath-dor, one; the king of Goiim in Galilee, one;

²⁴ the king of Tirzah, one: in all, thirty-one kings.

13 ¹ Now Joshua was old and advanced in years, and the LORD said to him, "You are old and advanced in years, and there remains yet very much land to possess.

² This is the land that yet remains: all the regions of the Philistines, and all those of the Geshurites

³ (from the Shihor, which is east of Egypt, northward to the boundary of Ekron, it is counted as Canaanite; there are five rulers of the Philistines, those of Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gath, and Ekron), and those of the Avvim,

⁴ in the south, all the land of the Canaanites, and Mearah that belongs to the Sidonians, to Aphek, to the boundary of the Amorites,

⁵ and the land of the Gebalites, and all Lebanon, toward the sunrise, from

Baal-gad below Mount Hermon to
Lebo-hamath,

⁶ all the inhabitants of the hill country
from Lebanon to Misrephoth-maim,
even all the Sidonians. I myself will drive
them out from before the people of
Israel. Only allot the land to Israel for an
inheritance, as I have commanded you.

⁷ Now therefore divide this land for an
inheritance to the nine tribes and half
the tribe of Manasseh."

⁸ With the other half of the tribe of
Manasseh the Reubenites and the
Gadites received their inheritance,
which Moses gave them, beyond the
Jordan eastward, as Moses the servant
of the LORD gave them:

⁹ from Aroer, which is on the edge of
the Valley of the Arnon, and the city that
is in the middle of the valley, and all the
tableland of Medeba as far as Dibon;

¹⁰ and all the cities of Sihon king of the Amorites, who reigned in Heshbon, as far as the boundary of the Ammonites;

¹¹ and Gilead, and the region of the Geshurites and Maacathites, and all Mount Hermon, and all Bashan to Salecah;

¹² all the kingdom of Og in Bashan, who reigned in Ashtaroth and in Edrei (he alone was left of the remnant of the Rephaim); these Moses had struck and driven out.

¹³ Yet the people of Israel did not drive out the Geshurites or the Maacathites, but Geshur and Maacath dwell in the midst of Israel to this day.

¹⁴ To the tribe of Levi alone Moses gave no inheritance. The offerings by fire to the LORD God of Israel are their inheritance, as he said to him.

¹⁵ And Moses gave an inheritance to the tribe of the people of Reuben according to their clans.

¹⁶ So their territory was from Aroer, which is on the edge of the Valley of the Arnon, and the city that is in the middle of the valley, and all the tableland by Medeba;

¹⁷ with Heshbon, and all its cities that are in the tableland; Dibon, and Bamoth-baal, and Beth-baal-meon, ¹⁸ and Jahaz, and Kedemoth, and Mephaath,

¹⁹ and Kiriathaim, and Sibmah, and Zereth-shahar on the hill of the valley,

²⁰ and Beth-peor, and the slopes of Pisgah, and Beth-jeshimoth,

²¹ that is, all the cities of the tableland, and all the kingdom of Sihon king of the Amorites, who reigned in Heshbon, whom Moses defeated with the leaders of Midian, Evi and Rekem and Zur and

Hur and Reba, the princes of Sihon, who lived in the land.

²² Balaam also, the son of Beor, the one who practiced divination, was killed with the sword by the people of Israel among the rest of their slain.

²³ And the border of the people of Reuben was the Jordan as a boundary. This was the inheritance of the people of Reuben, according to their clans with their cities and villages.

²⁴ Moses gave an inheritance also to the tribe of Gad, to the people of Gad, according to their clans.

²⁵ Their territory was Jazer, and all the cities of Gilead, and half the land of the Ammonites, to Aroer, which is east of Rabbah,

²⁶ and from Heshbon to Ramath-mizpeh and Betonim, and from Mahanaim to the territory of Debir,

²⁷ and in the valley Beth-haram, Beth-nimrah, Succoth, and Zaphon, the rest of the kingdom of Sihon king of Heshbon, having the Jordan as a boundary, to the lower end of the Sea of Chinnereth, eastward beyond the Jordan.

²⁸ This is the inheritance of the people of Gad according to their clans, with their cities and villages.

²⁹ And Moses gave an inheritance to the half-tribe of Manasseh. It was allotted to the half-tribe of the people of Manasseh according to their clans.

³⁰ Their region extended from Mahanaim, through all Bashan, the whole kingdom of Og king of Bashan, and all the towns of Jair, which are in Bashan, sixty cities,

³¹ and half Gilead, and Ashtaroth, and Edrei, the cities of the kingdom of Og in Bashan. These were allotted to the people of Machir the son of Manasseh

for the half of the people of Machir according to their clans.

³² These are the inheritances that Moses distributed in the plains of Moab, beyond the Jordan east of Jericho.

³³ But to the tribe of Levi Moses gave no inheritance; the LORD God of Israel is their inheritance, just as he said to them.

14 ¹ These are the inheritances that the people of Israel received in the land of Canaan, which Eleazar the priest and Joshua the son of Nun and the heads of the fathers' houses of the tribes of the people of Israel gave them to inherit.

² Their inheritance was by lot, just as the LORD had commanded by the hand of Moses for the nine and one-half tribes.

³ For Moses had given an inheritance to the two and one-half tribes beyond

the Jordan, but to the Levites he gave no inheritance among them.

⁴ For the people of Joseph were two tribes, Manasseh and Ephraim. And no portion was given to the Levites in the land, but only cities to dwell in, with their pasturelands for their livestock and their substance.

⁵ The people of Israel did as the LORD commanded Moses; they allotted the land.

⁶ Then the people of Judah came to Joshua at Gilgal. And Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, "You know what the LORD said to Moses the man of God in Kadesh-barnea concerning you and me.

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 him word again as it was in my heart.

⁸ But my brothers who went up with me made the heart of the people melt; yet I wholly followed the LORD my God.

⁹ And Moses swore on that day, saying, 'Surely the land on which your foot has trodden shall be an inheritance for you and your children forever, because you have wholly followed the LORD my God.'

¹⁰ And now, behold, the LORD has kept me alive, just as he said, these forty-five years since the time that the LORD spoke this word to Moses, while Israel walked in the wilderness. And now, behold, I am this day eighty-five years old.

¹¹ I am still as strong today as I was in the day that Moses sent me; my strength now is as my strength was then, for war and for going and coming.

¹² So now give me this hill country of which the LORD spoke on that day, for you heard on that day how the Anakim were there, with great fortified cities. It

may be that the LORD will be with me, and I shall drive them out just as the LORD said."

¹³ Then Joshua blessed him, and he gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh for an inheritance.

¹⁴ Therefore Hebron became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day, because he wholly followed the LORD, the God of Israel.

¹⁵ Now the name of Hebron formerly was Kiriath-arba. (Arba was the greatest man among the Anakim.) And the land had rest from war.

15 ¹ The allotment for the tribe of the people of Judah according to their clans reached southward to the boundary of Edom, to the wilderness of Zin at the farthest south.

² And their south boundary ran from the end of the Salt Sea, from the bay that faces southward.

³ It goes out southward of the ascent of Akrabbim, passes along to Zin, and goes up south of Kadesh-barnea, along by Hezron, up to Addar, turns about to Karka,

⁴ passes along to Azmon, goes out by the Brook of Egypt, and comes to its end at the sea. This shall be your south boundary.

⁵ And the east boundary is the Salt Sea, to the mouth of the Jordan. And the boundary on the north side runs from the bay of the sea at the mouth of the Jordan.

⁶ And the boundary goes up to Beth-hoglah and passes along north of Beth-arabah. And the boundary goes up to the stone of Bohan the son of Reuben.

⁷ And the boundary goes up to Debir from the Valley of Achor, and so northward, turning toward Gilgal, which is opposite the ascent of Adummim, which is on the south side of the valley. And the boundary passes along to the waters of En-shemesh and ends at En-rogel.

⁸ Then the boundary goes up by the Valley of the Son of Hinnom at the southern shoulder of the Jebusite (that is, Jerusalem). And the boundary goes up to the top of the mountain that lies over against the Valley of Hinnom, on the west, at the northern end of the Valley of Rephaim.

⁹ Then the boundary extends from the top of the mountain to the spring of the waters of Nephtoah, and from there to the cities of Mount Ephron. Then the boundary bends around to Baalah (that is, Kiriath-jearim).

¹⁰ And the boundary circles west of Baalah to Mount Seir, passes along to the northern shoulder of Mount Jearim (that is, Chesalon), and goes down to Beth-shemesh and passes along by Timnah.

¹¹ The boundary goes out to the shoulder of the hill north of Ekron, then the boundary bends around to Shikkeron and passes along to Mount Baalah and goes out to Jabneel. Then the boundary comes to an end at the sea.

¹² And the west boundary was the Great Sea with its coastline. This is the boundary around the people of Judah according to their clans.

¹³ According to the commandment of the LORD to Joshua, he gave to Caleb the son of Jephunneh a portion among the people of Judah, Kiriath-arba, that is, Hebron (Arba was the father of Anak).

¹⁴ And Caleb drove out from there the three sons of Anak, Sheshai and Ahiman and Talmai, the descendants of Anak.

¹⁵ And he went up from there against the inhabitants of Debir. Now the name of Debir formerly was Kiriath-sepher.

¹⁶ And Caleb said, "Whoever strikes Kiriath-sepher and captures it, to him will I give Achsah my daughter as wife."

¹⁷ And Othniel the son of Kenaz, the brother of Caleb, captured it. And he gave him Achsah his daughter as wife.

¹⁸ When she came to him, she urged him to ask her father for a field. And she got off her donkey, and Caleb said to her, "What do you want?"

¹⁹ She said to him, "Give me a blessing. Since you have given me the land of the Negeb, give me also springs of water." And he gave her the upper springs and the lower springs.

²⁰ This is the inheritance of the tribe of the people of Judah according to their clans.

²¹ The cities belonging to the tribe of the people of Judah in the extreme south, toward the boundary of Edom, were Kabzeel, Eder, Jagur,

²² Kinah, Dimonah, Adadah,

²³ Kedesh, Hazor, Ithnan,

²⁴ Ziph, Telem, Bealoth,

²⁵ Hazor-hadattah, Keriath-hezron (that is, Hazor),

²⁶ Amam, Shema, Moladah,

²⁷ Hazar-gaddah, Heshmon, Beth-pelet,

²⁸ Hazar-shual, Beersheba, Biziothiah,

²⁹ Baalah, Iim, Ezem,

³⁰ Eltolad, Chesil, Hormah,

³¹ Ziklag, Madmannah, Sansannah,

³² Lebaoth, Shilhim, Ain, and Rimmon: in all, twenty-nine cities with their villages.

³³ And in the lowland, Eshtaol, Zorah, Ashnah,

³⁴ Zanoah, En-gannim, Tappuah, Enam,

³⁵ Jarmuth, Adullam, Socoh, Azekah,

³⁶ Shaaraim, Adithaim, Gederah, Gederothaim: fourteen cities with their villages.

³⁷ Zenan, Hadashah, Migdal-gad,

³⁸ Dilean, Mizpeh, Joktheel,

³⁹ Lachish, Bozkath, Eglon,

⁴⁰ Cabbon, Lahmam, Chitlish,

⁴¹ Gederoth, Beth-dagon, Naamah, and Makkedah: sixteen cities with their villages.

⁴² Libnah, Ether, Ashan,

⁴³ Iphtah, Ashnah, Nezib,

⁴⁴ Keilah, Achzib, and Mareshah: nine cities with their villages.

⁴⁵ Ekron, with its towns and its villages;

⁴⁶ from Ekron to the sea, all that were by the side of Ashdod, with their villages.

⁴⁷ Ashdod, its towns and its villages; Gaza, its towns and its villages; to the Brook of Egypt, and the Great Sea with its coastline.

⁴⁸ And in the hill country, Shamir, Jattir, Socoh,

⁴⁹ Dannah, Kiriath-sannah (that is, Debir),

⁵⁰ Anab, Eshtemoh, Anim,

⁵¹ Goshen, Holon, and Giloh: eleven cities with their villages.

⁵² Arab, Dumah, Eshan,

⁵³ Janim, Beth-tappuah, Aphekah,

⁵⁴ Humtah, Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron), and Zior: nine cities with their villages.

⁵⁵ Maon, Carmel, Ziph, Juttah,

⁵⁶ Jezreel, Jokdeam, Zanoah,

⁵⁷ Kain, Gibeah, and Timnah: ten cities with their villages.

⁵⁸ Halhul, Beth-zur, Gedor,

⁵⁹ Maarath, Beth-anoth, and Eltekon: six cities with their villages.

⁶⁰ Kiriath-baal (that is, Kiriath-jearim), and Rabbah: two cities with their villages.

⁶¹ In the wilderness, Beth-arabah, Middin, Secacah,

⁶² Nibshan, the City of Salt, and Engedi: six cities with their villages.

⁶³ But the Jebusites, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the people of Judah could not drive out, so the Jebusites dwell with the people of Judah at Jerusalem to this day.

16 ¹ The allotment of the people of Joseph went from the Jordan by Jericho, east of the waters of Jericho, into the wilderness, going up from Jericho into the hill country to Bethel.

² Then going from Bethel to Luz, it passes along to Ataroth, the territory of the Archites.

³ Then it goes down westward to the territory of the Japhletites, as far as the territory of Lower Beth-horon, then to Gezer, and it ends at the sea.

⁴ The people of Joseph, Manasseh and Ephraim, received their inheritance.

⁵ The territory of the people of Ephraim by their clans was as follows: the boundary of their inheritance on the east was Ataroth-addar as far as Upper Beth-horon,

⁶ and the boundary goes from there to the sea. On the north is Michmethath. Then on the east the boundary turns around toward Taanath-shiloh and passes along beyond it on the east to Janoah,

⁷ then it goes down from Janoah to Ataroth and to Naarah, and touches Jericho, ending at the Jordan.

⁸ From Tappuah the boundary goes westward to the brook Kanah and ends

at the sea. Such is the inheritance of the tribe of the people of Ephraim by their clans,

⁹ together with the towns that were set apart for the people of Ephraim within the inheritance of the Manassites, all those towns with their villages.

¹⁰ However, they did not drive out the Canaanites who lived in Gezer, so the Canaanites have lived in the midst of Ephraim to this day but have been made to do forced labor.

17 ¹ Then allotment was made to the people of Manasseh, for he was the firstborn of Joseph. To Machir the firstborn of Manasseh, the father of Gilead, were allotted Gilead and Bashan, because he was a man of war.

² And allotments were made to the rest of the people of Manasseh by their clans, Abiezer, Helek, Asriel, Shechem, Hephher, and Shemida. These were the

male descendants of Manasseh the son of Joseph, by their clans.

³ Now Zelophehad the son of Hepher, son of Gilead, son of Machir, son of Manasseh, had no sons, but only daughters, and these are the names of his daughters: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.

⁴ They approached Eleazar the priest and Joshua the son of Nun and the leaders and said, "The LORD commanded Moses to give us an inheritance along with our brothers." So according to the mouth of the LORD he gave them an inheritance among the brothers of their father.

⁵ Thus there fell to Manasseh ten portions, besides the land of Gilead and Bashan, which is on the other side of the Jordan,

⁶ because the daughters of Manasseh received an inheritance along with his

sons. The land of Gilead was allotted to the rest of the people of Manasseh.

⁷ The territory of Manasseh reached from Asher to Michmethath, which is east of Shechem. Then the boundary goes along southward to the inhabitants of En-tappuah.

⁸ The land of Tappuah belonged to Manasseh, but the town of Tappuah on the boundary of Manasseh belonged to the people of Ephraim.

⁹ Then the boundary went down to the brook Kanah. These cities, to the south of the brook, among the cities of Manasseh, belong to Ephraim. Then the boundary of Manasseh goes on the north side of the brook and ends at the sea,

¹⁰ the land to the south being Ephraim's and that to the north being Manasseh's, with the sea forming its boundary. On

the north Asher is reached, and on the east Issachar.

¹¹ Also in Issachar and in Asher Manasseh had Beth-shean and its villages, and Ibleam and its villages, and the inhabitants of Dor and its villages, and the inhabitants of En-dor and its villages, and the inhabitants of Taanach and its villages, and the inhabitants of Megiddo and its villages; the third is Naphath.

¹² Yet the people of Manasseh could not take possession of those cities, but the Canaanites persisted in dwelling in that land.

¹³ Now when the people of Israel grew strong, they put the Canaanites to forced labor, but did not utterly drive them out.

¹⁴ Then the people of Joseph spoke to Joshua, saying, "Why have you given me but one lot and one portion as an inheritance, although I am a numerous

people, since all along the LORD has blessed me?"

¹⁵ And Joshua said to them, "If you are a numerous people, go up by yourselves to the forest, and there clear ground for yourselves in the land of the Perizzites and the Rephaim, since the hill country of Ephraim is too narrow for you."

¹⁶ The people of Joseph said, "The hill country is not enough for us. Yet all the Canaanites who dwell in the plain have chariots of iron, both those in Beth-shean and its villages and those in the Valley of Jezreel."

¹⁷ Then Joshua said to the house of Joseph, to Ephraim and Manasseh, "You are a numerous people and have great power. You shall not have one allotment only,

¹⁸ but the hill country shall be yours, for though it is a forest, you shall clear it and possess it to its farthest borders. For you

shall drive out the Canaanites, though they have chariots of iron, and though they are strong."

18 ¹ Then the whole congregation of the people of Israel assembled at Shiloh and set up the tent of meeting there. The land lay subdued before them.

² There remained among the people of Israel seven tribes whose inheritance had not yet been apportioned.

³ So Joshua said to the people of Israel, "How long will you put off going in to take possession of the land, which the LORD, the God of your fathers, has given you?"

⁴ Provide three men from each tribe, and I will send them out that they may set out and go up and down the land. They shall write a description of it with a view to their inheritances, and then come to me.

⁵ They shall divide it into seven portions. Judah shall continue in his territory on the south, and the house of Joseph shall continue in their territory on the north.

⁶ And you shall describe the land in seven divisions and bring the description here to me. And I will cast lots for you here before the LORD our God.

⁷ The Levites have no portion among you, for the priesthood of the LORD is their heritage. And Gad and Reuben and half the tribe of Manasseh have received their inheritance beyond the Jordan eastward, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave them."

⁸ So the men arose and went, and Joshua charged those who went to write the description of the land, saying, "Go up and down in the land and write a description and return to me. And I will cast lots for you here before the LORD in Shiloh."

⁹ So the men went and passed up and down in the land and wrote in a book a description of it by towns in seven divisions. Then they came to Joshua to the camp at Shiloh,

¹⁰ and Joshua cast lots for them in Shiloh before the LORD. And there Joshua apportioned the land to the people of Israel, to each his portion.

¹¹ The lot of the tribe of the people of Benjamin according to its clans came up, and the territory allotted to it fell between the people of Judah and the people of Joseph.

¹² On the north side their boundary began at the Jordan. Then the boundary goes up to the shoulder north of Jericho, then up through the hill country westward, and it ends at the wilderness of Beth-aven.

¹³ From there the boundary passes along southward in the direction of

Luz, to the shoulder of Luz (that is, Bethel), then the boundary goes down to Ataroth-addar, on the mountain that lies south of Lower Beth-horon.

¹⁴ Then the boundary goes in another direction, turning on the western side southward from the mountain that lies to the south, opposite Beth-horon, and it ends at Kiriath-baal (that is, Kiriath-jearim), a city belonging to the people of Judah. This forms the western side.

¹⁵ And the southern side begins at the outskirts of Kiriath-jearim. And the boundary goes from there to Ephron, to the spring of the waters of Nephtoah.

¹⁶ Then the boundary goes down to the border of the mountain that overlooks the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, which is at the north end of the Valley of Rephaim. And it then goes down the Valley of Hinnom, south of the shoulder

of the Jebusites, and downward to En-rogel.

¹⁷ Then it bends in a northerly direction going on to En-shemesh, and from there goes to Geliloth, which is opposite the ascent of Adummim. Then it goes down to the stone of Bohan the son of Reuben,
¹⁸ and passing on to the north of the shoulder of Beth-arabah it goes down to the Arabah.

¹⁹ Then the boundary passes on to the north of the shoulder of Beth-hoglah. And the boundary ends at the northern bay of the Salt Sea, at the south end of the Jordan: this is the southern border.

²⁰ The Jordan forms its boundary on the eastern side. This is the inheritance of the people of Benjamin, according to their clans, boundary by boundary all around.

²¹ Now the cities of the tribe of the people of Benjamin according to

their clans were Jericho, Beth-hoglah,
Emek-keziz,

²² Beth-arabah, Zemaraim, Bethel,

²³ Avvim, Parah, Ophrah,

²⁴ Chephar-ammoni, Ophni, Geba--
twelve cities with their villages:

²⁵ Gibeon, Ramah, Beeroth,

²⁶ Mizpeh, Chephirah, Mozah,

²⁷ Rekem, Irpeel, Taralah,

²⁸ Zela, Haeleph, Jebus (that is,
Jerusalem), Gibeah and Kiriath-jearim--
fourteen cities with their villages. This
is the inheritance of the people of
Benjamin according to its clans.

19 ¹ The second lot came out for
Simeon, for the tribe of the
people of Simeon, according to their
clans, and their inheritance was in the
midst of the inheritance of the people of
Judah.

² And they had for their inheritance
Beersheba, Sheba, Moladah,

³ Hazar-shual, Balah, Ezem,

⁴ Eltolad, Bethul, Hormah,

⁵ Ziklag, Beth-marcaboth, Hazar-susah,

⁶ Beth-lebaoth, and Sharuhem--thirteen cities with their villages;

⁷ Ain, Rimmon, Ether, and Ashan--four cities with their villages,

⁸ together with all the villages around these cities as far as Baalath-beer, Ramah of the Negeb. This was the inheritance of the tribe of the people of Simeon according to their clans.

⁹ The inheritance of the people of Simeon formed part of the territory of the people of Judah. Because the portion of the people of Judah was too large for them, the people of Simeon obtained an inheritance in the midst of their inheritance.

¹⁰ The third lot came up for the people of Zebulun, according to their clans. And

the territory of their inheritance reached as far as Sarid.

¹¹ Then their boundary goes up westward and on to Mareal and touches Dabbesheth, then the brook that is east of Jokneam.

¹² From Sarid it goes in the other direction eastward toward the sunrise to the boundary of Chisloth-tabor. From there it goes to Daberath, then up to Japhia.

¹³ From there it passes along on the east toward the sunrise to Gath-hepher, to Eth-kazin, and going on to Rimmon it bends toward Neah,

¹⁴ then on the north the boundary turns about to Hannathon, and it ends at the Valley of Iphtahel;

¹⁵ and Kattath, Nahalal, Shimron, Idalah, and Bethlehem--twelve cities with their villages.

¹⁶ This is the inheritance of the people of Zebulun, according to their clans--these cities with their villages.

¹⁷ The fourth lot came out for Issachar, for the people of Issachar, according to their clans.

¹⁸ Their territory included Jezreel, Chesulloth, Shunem,

¹⁹ Hapharaim, Shion, Anaharath,

²⁰ Rabbith, Kishion, Ebez,

²¹ Remeth, En-gannim, En-haddah, Beth-pazzez.

²² The boundary also touches Tabor, Shahazumah, and Beth-shemesh, and its boundary ends at the Jordan--sixteen cities with their villages.

²³ This is the inheritance of the tribe of the people of Issachar, according to their clans--the cities with their villages.

²⁴ The fifth lot came out for the tribe of the people of Asher according to their clans.

²⁵ Their territory included Helkath, Hali, Beten, Achshaph,

²⁶ Allammelech, Amad, and Mishal. On the west it touches Carmel and Shihor-libnath,

²⁷ then it turns eastward, it goes to Beth-dagon, and touches Zebulun and the Valley of Iphtahel northward to Beth-emek and Neiel. Then it continues in the north to Cabul,

²⁸ Ebron, Rehob, Hammon, Kanah, as far as Sidon the Great.

²⁹ Then the boundary turns to Ramah, reaching to the fortified city of Tyre.

Then the boundary turns to Hosah, and it ends at the sea; Mahalab, Achzib,

³⁰ Ummah, Aphek and Rehob--twenty-two cities with their villages.

³¹ This is the inheritance of the tribe of the people of Asher according to their clans--these cities with their villages.

³² The sixth lot came out for the people of Naphtali, for the people of Naphtali, according to their clans.

³³ And their boundary ran from Heleph, from the oak in Zaanannim, and Adami-nekeb, and Jabneel, as far as Lakkum, and it ended at the Jordan.

³⁴ Then the boundary turns westward to Aznoth-tabor and goes from there to Hukkok, touching Zebulun at the south and Asher on the west and Judah on the east at the Jordan.

³⁵ The fortified cities are Ziddim, Zer, Hammath, Rakkath, Chinnereth,

³⁶ Adamah, Ramah, Hazor,

³⁷ Kedesh, Edrei, En-hazor,

³⁸ Yiron, Migdal-el, Horem, Beth-anath, and Beth-shemesh--nineteen cities with their villages.

³⁹ This is the inheritance of the tribe of the people of Naphtali according to their clans--the cities with their villages.

⁴⁰ The seventh lot came out for the tribe of the people of Dan, according to their clans.

⁴¹ And the territory of its inheritance included Zorah, Eshtaol, Ir-shemesh,

⁴² Shaalabbin, Aijalon, Ithlah,

⁴³ Elon, Timnah, Ekron,

⁴⁴ Eltekeh, Gibbethon, Baalath,

⁴⁵ Jehud, Bene-berak, Gath-rimmon,

⁴⁶ and Me-jarkon and Rakkon with the territory over against Joppa.

⁴⁷ When the territory of the people of Dan was lost to them, the people of Dan went up and fought against Leshem, and after capturing it and striking it with the sword they took possession of it and settled in it, calling Leshem, Dan, after the name of Dan their ancestor.

⁴⁸ This is the inheritance of the tribe of the people of Dan, according to their clans--these cities with their villages.

⁴⁹ When they had finished distributing the several territories of the land as inheritances, the people of Israel gave an inheritance among them to Joshua the son of Nun.

⁵⁰ By command of the LORD they gave him the city that he asked, Timnath-serah in the hill country of Ephraim. And he rebuilt the city and settled in it.

⁵¹ These are the inheritances that Eleazar the priest and Joshua the son of Nun and the heads of the fathers' houses of the tribes of the people of Israel distributed by lot at Shiloh before the LORD, at the entrance of the tent of meeting. So they finished dividing the land.

20 ¹ Then the LORD said to Joshua,
² "Say to the people of Israel,
'Appoint the cities of refuge, of which I
spoke to you through Moses,

³ that the manslayer who strikes any person without intent or unknowingly may flee there. They shall be for you a refuge from the avenger of blood.

⁴ He shall flee to one of these cities and shall stand at the entrance of the gate of the city and explain his case to the elders of that city. Then they shall take him into the city and give him a place, and he shall remain with them.

⁵ And if the avenger of blood pursues him, they shall not give up the manslayer into his hand, because he struck his neighbor unknowingly, and did not hate him in the past.

⁶ And he shall remain in that city until he has stood before the congregation for judgment, until the death of him who is high priest at the time. Then the manslayer may return to his own town and his own home, to the town from which he fled.'"

⁷ So they set apart Kedesh in Galilee in the hill country of Naphtali, and Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim, and Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the hill country of Judah.

⁸ And beyond the Jordan east of Jericho, they appointed Bezer in the wilderness on the tableland, from the tribe of Reuben, and Ramoth in Gilead, from the tribe of Gad, and Golan in Bashan, from the tribe of Manasseh.

⁹ These were the cities designated for all the people of Israel and for the stranger sojourning among them, that anyone who killed a person without intent could flee there, so that he might not die by the hand of the avenger of blood, till he stood before the congregation.

21 ¹ Then the heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites came to Eleazar the priest and to Joshua the son of Nun and to the heads of the fathers'

houses of the tribes of the people of Israel.

² And they said to them at Shiloh in the land of Canaan, "The LORD commanded through Moses that we be given cities to dwell in, along with their pasturelands for our livestock."

³ So by command of the LORD the people of Israel gave to the Levites the following cities and pasturelands out of their inheritance.

⁴ The lot came out for the clans of the Kohathites. So those Levites who were descendants of Aaron the priest received by lot from the tribes of Judah, Simeon, and Benjamin, thirteen cities.

⁵ And the rest of the Kohathites received by lot from the clans of the tribe of Ephraim, from the tribe of Dan and the half-tribe of Manasseh, ten cities.

⁶ The Gershonites received by lot from the clans of the tribe of Issachar, from the tribe of Asher, from the tribe of Naphtali, and from the half-tribe of Manasseh in Bashan, thirteen cities.

⁷ The Merarites according to their clans received from the tribe of Reuben, the tribe of Gad, and the tribe of Zebulun, twelve cities.

⁸ These cities and their pasturelands the people of Israel gave by lot to the Levites, as the LORD had commanded through Moses.

⁹ Out of the tribe of the people of Judah and the tribe of the people of Simeon they gave the following cities mentioned by name,

¹⁰ which went to the descendants of Aaron, one of the clans of the Kohathites who belonged to the people of Levi; since the lot fell to them first.

¹¹ They gave them Kiriath-arba (Arba being the father of Anak), that is Hebron, in the hill country of Judah, along with the pasturelands around it.

¹² But the fields of the city and its villages had been given to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as his possession.

¹³ And to the descendants of Aaron the priest they gave Hebron, the city of refuge for the manslayer, with its pasturelands, Libnah with its pasturelands,

¹⁴ Jattir with its pasturelands, Eshtemoa with its pasturelands,

¹⁵ Holon with its pasturelands, Debir with its pasturelands,

¹⁶ Ain with its pasturelands, Juttah with its pasturelands, Beth-shemesh with its pasturelands--nine cities out of these two tribes;

¹⁷ then out of the tribe of Benjamin, Gibeon with its pasturelands, Geba with its pasturelands,

¹⁸ Anathoth with its pasturelands, and Almon with its pasturelands--four cities.

¹⁹ The cities of the descendants of Aaron, the priests, were in all thirteen cities with their pasturelands.

²⁰ As to the rest of the Kohathites belonging to the Kohathite clans of the Levites, the cities allotted to them were out of the tribe of Ephraim.

²¹ To them were given Shechem, the city of refuge for the manslayer, with its pasturelands in the hill country of Ephraim, Gezer with its pasturelands,

²² Kibzaim with its pasturelands, Beth-horon with its pasturelands--four cities;

²³ and out of the tribe of Dan, Elteke with its pasturelands, Gibbethon with its pasturelands,

²⁴ Aijalon with its pasturelands,
Gath-rimmon with its pasturelands--four
cities;

²⁵ and out of the half-tribe of Manasseh,
Taanach with its pasturelands, and Gath-
rimmon with its pasturelands--two
cities.

²⁶ The cities of the clans of the rest of
the Kohathites were ten in all with their
pasturelands.

²⁷ And to the Gershonites, one of the
clans of the Levites, were given out
of the half-tribe of Manasseh, Golan
in Bashan with its pasturelands, the
city of refuge for the manslayer, and
Beeshterah with its pasturelands--two
cities;

²⁸ and out of the tribe of Issachar,
Kishion with its pasturelands, Daberath
with its pasturelands,

²⁹ Jarmuth with its pasturelands,
En-gannim with its pasturelands--four
cities;

³⁰ and out of the tribe of Asher, Mishal
with its pasturelands, Abdon with its
pasturelands,

³¹ Helkath with its pasturelands, and
Rehob with its pasturelands--four cities;

³² and out of the tribe of Naphtali,
Kedesh in Galilee with its pasturelands,
the city of refuge for the manslayer,
Hammoth-dor with its pasturelands,
and Kartan with its pasturelands--three
cities.

³³ The cities of the several clans of the
Gershonites were in all thirteen cities
with their pasturelands.

³⁴ And to the rest of the Levites,
the Merarite clans, were given out
of the tribe of Zebulun, Jokneam
with its pasturelands, Kartah with its
pasturelands,

³⁵ Dimnah with its pasturelands,
Nahalal with its pasturelands--four
cities;

³⁶ and out of the tribe of Reuben, Bezer
with its pasturelands, Jahaz with its
pasturelands,

³⁷ Kedemoth with its pasturelands, and
Mephaath with its pasturelands--four
cities;

³⁸ and out of the tribe of Gad, Ramoth
in Gilead with its pasturelands, the city
of refuge for the manslayer, Mahanaim
with its pasturelands,

³⁹ Heshbon with its pasturelands, Jazer
with its pasturelands--four cities in all.

⁴⁰ As for the cities of the several
Merarite clans, that is, the remainder of
the clans of the Levites, those allotted to
them were in all twelve cities.

⁴¹ The cities of the Levites in the midst
of the possession of the people of Israel

were in all forty-eight cities with their pasturelands.

⁴² These cities each had its pasturelands around it. So it was with all these cities.

⁴³ Thus the LORD gave to Israel all the land that he swore to give to their fathers. And they took possession of it, and they settled there.

⁴⁴ And the LORD gave them rest on every side just as he had sworn to their fathers. Not one of all their enemies had withstood them, for the LORD had given all their enemies into their hands.

⁴⁵ Not one word of all the good promises that the LORD had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass.

22 ¹ At that time Joshua summoned the Reubenites and the Gadites and the half-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 have commanded you.

³ You have not forsaken your brothers these many days, down to this day, but have been careful to keep the charge of the LORD your God.

⁴ And now the LORD your God has given rest to your brothers, as he promised them. Therefore turn and go to your tents in the land where your possession lies, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave you on the other side of the Jordan.

⁵ Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments and to cling 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 the one half of the tribe of Manasseh Moses had given a possession in Bashan, but to the other half Joshua had given a possession beside their brothers in the land west of the Jordan. And when Joshua sent them away to their homes and blessed them,

⁸ he said to them, "Go back to your tents with much wealth and with very much livestock, with silver, gold, bronze, and iron, and with much clothing. Divide the spoil of your enemies with your brothers."

⁹ So the people of Reuben and the people of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh returned home, parting from the people of Israel at Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan, to go to the land of Gilead, their own land of which they had

possessed themselves by command of the LORD through Moses.

¹⁰ And when they came to the region of the Jordan that is in the land of Canaan, the people of Reuben and the people of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh built there an altar by the Jordan, an altar of imposing size.

¹¹ And the people of Israel heard it said, "Behold, the people of Reuben and the people of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh have built the altar at the frontier of the land of Canaan, in the region about the Jordan, on the side that belongs to the people of Israel."

¹² And when the people of Israel heard of it, the whole assembly of the people of Israel gathered at Shiloh to make war against them.

¹³ Then the people of Israel sent to the people of Reuben and the people of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh, in

the land of Gilead, Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest,

¹⁴ and with him ten chiefs, one from each of the tribal families of Israel, every one of them the head of a family among the clans of Israel.

¹⁵ And they came to the people of Reuben, the people of Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh, in the land of Gilead, and they said to them,

¹⁶ "Thus says the whole congregation of the LORD, 'What is this breach of faith that you have committed against the God of Israel in turning away this day from following the LORD by building yourselves an altar this day in rebellion against the LORD?

¹⁷ Have we not had enough of the sin at Peor from which even yet we have not cleansed ourselves, and for which there came a plague upon the congregation of the LORD,

¹⁸ that you too must turn away this day from following the LORD? And if you too rebel against the LORD today then tomorrow he will be angry with the whole congregation of Israel.

¹⁹ But now, if the land of your possession is unclean, pass over into the LORD's land where the LORD's tabernacle stands, and take for yourselves a possession among us. Only do not rebel against the LORD or make us as rebels by building for yourselves an altar other than the altar of the LORD our God.

²⁰ Did not Achan the son of Zerah break faith in the matter of the devoted things, and wrath fell upon all the congregation of Israel? And he did not perish alone for his iniquity."

²¹ Then the people of Reuben, the people of Gad, and the half-tribe of

Manasseh said in answer to the heads of the families of Israel,

²² "The Mighty One, God, the LORD! The Mighty One, God, the LORD! He knows; and let Israel itself know! If it was in rebellion or in breach of faith against the LORD, do not spare us today

²³ for building an altar to turn away from following the LORD. Or if we did so to offer burnt offerings or grain offerings or peace offerings on it, may the LORD himself take vengeance.

²⁴ No, but we did it from fear that in time to come your children might say to our children, 'What have you to do with the LORD, the God of Israel?

²⁵ For the LORD has made the Jordan a boundary between us and you, you people of Reuben and people of Gad. You have no portion in the LORD.' So your children might make our children cease to worship the LORD.

²⁶ Therefore we said, 'Let us now build an altar, not for burnt offering, nor for sacrifice,

²⁷ but to be a witness between us and you, and between our generations after us, that we do perform the service of the LORD in his presence with our burnt offerings and sacrifices and peace offerings, so your children will not say to our children in time to come, "You have no portion in the LORD."'

²⁸ And we thought, If this should be said to us or to our descendants in time to come, we should say, 'Behold, the copy of the altar of the LORD, which our fathers made, not for burnt offerings, nor for sacrifice, but to be a witness between us and you.'

²⁹ Far be it from us that we should rebel against the LORD and turn away this day from following the LORD by building an altar for burnt offering, grain offering,

or sacrifice, other than the altar of the LORD our God that stands before his tabernacle!"

³⁰ When Phinehas the priest and the chiefs of the congregation, the heads of the families of Israel who were with him, heard the words that the people of Reuben and the people of Gad and the people of Manasseh spoke, it was good in their eyes.

³¹ And Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest said to the people of Reuben and the people of Gad and the people of Manasseh, "Today we know that the LORD is in our midst, because you have not committed this breach of faith against the LORD. Now you have delivered the people of Israel from the hand of the LORD."

³² Then Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, and the chiefs, returned from the people of Reuben and the people

of Gad in the land of Gilead to the land of Canaan, to the people of Israel, and brought back word to them.

³³ And the report was good in the eyes of the people of Israel. And the people of Israel blessed God and spoke no more of making war against them to destroy the land where the people of Reuben and the people of Gad were settled.

³⁴ The people of Reuben and the people of Gad called the altar Witness, "For," they said, "it is a witness between us that the LORD is God."

23 ¹ A long time afterward, when the LORD had given rest to Israel from all their surrounding enemies, and Joshua was old and well advanced in years,

² Joshua summoned all Israel, its elders and heads, its judges and officers, and said to them, "I am now old and well advanced in years.

³ And you have seen all that the LORD your God has done to all these nations for your sake, for it is the LORD your God who has fought for you.

⁴ Behold, I have allotted to you as an inheritance for your tribes those nations that remain, along with all the nations that I have already cut off, from the Jordan to the Great Sea in the west.

⁵ The LORD your God will push them back before you and drive them out of your sight. And you shall possess their land, just as the LORD your God promised you.

⁶ Therefore, be very strong to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, turning aside from it neither to the right hand nor to the left,

⁷ that you may not mix with these nations remaining among you or make mention of the names of their gods or

swear by them or serve them or bow down to them,

⁸ but you shall cling to the LORD your God just as you have done to this day.

⁹ For the LORD has driven out before you great and strong nations. And as for you, no man has been able to stand before you to this day.

¹⁰ One man of you puts to flight a thousand, since it is the LORD your God who fights for you, just as he promised you.

¹¹ Be very careful, therefore, to love the LORD your God.

¹² For if you turn back and cling to the remnant of these nations remaining among you and make marriages with them, so that you associate with them and they with you,

¹³ know for certain that the LORD your God will no longer drive out these nations before you, but they shall be a

snare and a trap for you, a whip on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from off this good ground that the LORD your God has given you.

¹⁴ "And now I am about to go the way of all the earth, and you know in your hearts and souls, all of you, that not one word has failed of all the good things that the LORD your God promised concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one of them has failed.

¹⁵ But just as all the good things that the LORD your God promised concerning you have been fulfilled for you, so the LORD will bring upon you all the evil things, until he has destroyed you from off this good land that the LORD your God has given you,

¹⁶ if you transgress the covenant of the LORD your God, which he commanded you, and go and serve other gods and bow down to them. Then the anger of

the LORD will be kindled against you, and you shall perish quickly from off the good land that he has given to you."

24 ¹ Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel. And they presented themselves before God.

² And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Long ago, your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; and they served other gods.

³ Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan, and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac.

⁴ And to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. And I gave Esau the hill country of Seir to possess, but Jacob and his children went down to Egypt.

⁵ And I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt with what I did in the midst of it, and 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 And when they cried to the LORD, he put darkness between you and the Egyptians and made the sea come upon them and cover them; and your eyes saw what I did in Egypt. And you lived in the wilderness a long time.

⁸ Then I brought you to the land of the Amorites, who lived on the other side of the Jordan. They fought with you, and I gave them into your hand, and you took possession of their land, and I destroyed them before you.

⁹ Then Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose and fought against Israel.

And he sent and invited Balaam the son of Beor to curse you,

¹⁰ but I would not listen to Balaam. Indeed, he blessed you. So I delivered you out of his hand.

¹¹ And you went over the Jordan and came to Jericho, and the leaders of Jericho fought against you, and also the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And I gave them into your hand.

¹² And I sent the hornet before you, which drove them out before you, the two kings of the Amorites; it was not by your sword or by your bow.

¹³ I gave you a land on which you had not labored and cities that you had not built, and you dwell in them. You eat the fruit of vineyards and olive orchards that you did not plant.'

¹⁴ "Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.

¹⁵ And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond 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 Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods,

¹⁷ for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight and preserved us in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed.

¹⁸ And the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

¹⁹ But Joshua said to the people, "You are not able to serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins.

²⁰ If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm and consume you, after having done you good."

²¹ And the people said to Joshua, "No, but we will serve the LORD."

²² Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses."

²³ He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline

your heart to the LORD, the 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 put in place statutes and rules for them at Shechem.

²⁶ And 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 terebinth that was by the sanctuary of the LORD.

²⁷ And Joshua said to all the people, "Behold, this stone shall be a witness against us, for it has heard all the words of the LORD that he spoke to us. Therefore it shall be a witness against you, lest you deal falsely with your God."

²⁸ So Joshua sent the people away, every man to his inheritance.

²⁹ After these things Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being 110 years old.

³⁰ And they buried him in his own inheritance at Timnath-serah, which is in the hill country of Ephraim, north of the mountain of Gaash.

³¹ Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua and had known all the work that the LORD did for Israel.

³² As for the bones of Joseph, which the people of Israel brought up from Egypt, they buried them at Shechem, in the piece of land that Jacob bought from the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for a hundred pieces of money. It became an inheritance of the descendants of Joseph.

³³ And Eleazar the son of Aaron died, and they buried him at Gibeah, the town

of Phinehas his son, which had been given him in the hill country of Ephraim.

Judges

1 ¹ After the death of Joshua, the people of Israel inquired of the LORD, "Who shall go up first for us against the Canaanites, to fight against them?"

² The LORD said, "Judah shall go up; behold, I have given the land into his hand."

³ And Judah said to Simeon his brother, "Come up with me into the territory allotted to me, that we may fight against the Canaanites. And I likewise will go with you into the territory allotted to you." So Simeon went with him.

⁴ Then Judah went up and the LORD gave the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hand, and they defeated 10,000 of them at Bezek.

⁵ They found Adoni-bezek at Bezek and fought against him and defeated the Canaanites and the Perizzites.

⁶ Adoni-bezek fled, but they pursued him and caught him and cut off his thumbs and his big toes.

⁷ And Adoni-bezek said, "Seventy kings with their thumbs and their big toes cut off used to pick up scraps under my table. As I have done, so God has repaid me." And they brought him to Jerusalem, and he died there.

⁸ And the men of Judah fought against Jerusalem and captured it and struck it with the edge of the sword and set the city on fire.

⁹ And afterward the men of Judah went down to fight against the Canaanites who lived in the hill country, in the Negeb, and in the lowland.

¹⁰ And Judah went against the Canaanites who lived in Hebron (now

the name of Hebron was formerly Kiriath-arba), and they defeated Sheshai and Ahiman and Talmai.

¹¹ From there they went against the inhabitants of Debir. The name of Debir was formerly Kiriath-sepher.

¹² And Caleb said, "He who attacks Kiriath-sepher and captures it, I will give him Achsah my daughter for a wife."

¹³ And Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, captured it. And he gave him Achsah his daughter for a wife.

¹⁴ When she came to him, she urged him to ask her father for a field. And she dismounted from her donkey, and Caleb said to her, "What do you want?"

¹⁵ She said to him, "Give me a blessing. Since you have set me in the land of the Negeb, give me also springs of water." And Caleb gave her the upper springs and the lower springs.

¹⁶ And the descendants of the Kenite, Moses' father-in-law, went up with the people of Judah from the city of palms into the wilderness of Judah, which lies in the Negeb near Arad, and they went and settled with the people.

¹⁷ And Judah went with Simeon his brother, and they defeated the Canaanites who inhabited Zephath and devoted it to destruction. So the name of the city was called Hormah.

¹⁸ Judah also captured Gaza with its territory, and Ashkelon with its territory, and Ekron with its territory.

¹⁹ And the LORD was with Judah, and he took possession of the hill country, but he could not drive out the inhabitants of the plain because they had chariots of iron.

²⁰ And Hebron was given to Caleb, as Moses had said. And he drove out from it the three sons of Anak.

²¹ But the people of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who lived in Jerusalem, so the Jebusites have lived with the people of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day.

²² The house of Joseph also went up against Bethel, and the LORD was with them.

²³ And the house of Joseph scouted out Bethel. (Now the name of the city was formerly Luz.)

²⁴ And the spies saw a man coming out of the city, and they said to him, "Please show us the way into the city, and we will deal kindly with you."

²⁵ And he showed them the way into 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 and built a city and called its name Luz. That is its name to this day.

²⁷ 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 persisted in dwelling in that land.

²⁸ When Israel grew strong, they put the Canaanites to forced labor, but did not drive them out completely.

²⁹ And Ephraim did not drive out the Canaanites who lived in Gezer, so the Canaanites lived in Gezer among them.

³⁰ Zebulun did not drive out the inhabitants of Kitron, or the inhabitants of Nahalol, so the Canaanites lived among them, but became subject to forced labor.

³¹ Asher did not drive out the inhabitants of Acco, or the inhabitants

of Sidon or of Ahlab or of Achzib or of Helbah or of Aphik or of Rehob,

³² so the Asherites lived among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land, for they did not drive them out.

³³ Naphtali did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh, or the inhabitants of Beth-anath, so they lived among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land. Nevertheless, the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh and of Beth-anath became subject to forced labor for them.

³⁴ The Amorites pressed the people of Dan back into the hill country, for they did not allow them to come down to the plain.

³⁵ The Amorites persisted in dwelling in Mount Heres, in Aijalon, and in Shaalbim, but the hand of the house of Joseph rested heavily on them, and they became subject to forced labor.

³⁶ And the border of the Amorites ran from the ascent of Akrabbim, from Sela and upward.

2 ¹ Now the angel of the LORD went up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, "I brought you up from Egypt and brought you into the land that I swore to give to your fathers. 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 break down their altars.' But you have not obeyed my voice. What is this you have done?

³ So now I say, I will not drive them out before you, but they shall become thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare to you."

⁴ As soon as the angel of the LORD spoke these words to all the people of Israel, the people lifted up their voices and wept.

⁵ And they called the name of that place Bochim. And they sacrificed there to the LORD.

⁶ When Joshua dismissed the people, the people of Israel went each to his inheritance to take possession of the land.

⁷ And 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 work that the LORD had done for Israel.

⁸ And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died at the age of 110 years.

⁹ And they buried him within the boundaries of his inheritance in Timnath-heres, in the hill country of Ephraim, north of the mountain of Gaash.

¹⁰ And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there

arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD or the work that he had done for Israel.

¹¹ And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals.

¹² And they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the LORD to anger.

¹³ They abandoned the LORD and served the Baals and the Ashtaroth.

¹⁴ So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he gave them over to plunderers, who plundered them. And he sold them into the hand of their surrounding enemies, so that they could no longer withstand their enemies.

¹⁵ Whenever they marched out, the hand of the LORD was against them for harm, as the LORD had warned, and as the LORD had sworn to them. And they were in terrible distress.

¹⁶ Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them.

¹⁷ Yet they did not listen to their judges, for they whored after other gods and bowed down to them. They soon turned aside from the way in which their fathers had walked, who had obeyed the commandments of the LORD, and they did not do so.

¹⁸ Whenever the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge, and he saved them from 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 afflicted and oppressed them.

¹⁹ But whenever the judge died, they turned back and were more corrupt than their fathers, going after other gods, serving them and bowing down to them. They did not drop any of their practices or their stubborn ways.

²⁰ So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he said, "Because this people have transgressed my covenant that I commanded their fathers and have not obeyed my voice,

²¹ I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations that Joshua left when he died,

²² in order to test Israel by them, whether they will take care to walk in the way of the LORD as their fathers did, or not."

²³ So the LORD left those nations, not driving them out quickly, and he did not give them into the hand of Joshua.

3 ¹ Now these are the nations that the LORD left, to test Israel by them, that is, all in Israel who had not experienced all the wars in Canaan.

² It was only in order that the generations of the people of Israel might know war, to teach war to those who had not known it before.

³ These are the nations: the five lords of the Philistines and all the Canaanites and the Sidonians and the Hivites who lived on Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal-hermon as far as Lebo-hamath.

⁴ They were for the testing of Israel, to know whether Israel would obey the commandments of the LORD, which he commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses.

⁵ So the people of Israel lived among the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

⁶ And their daughters they took to themselves for wives, and their own daughters they gave to their sons, and they served their gods.

⁷ And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD. They forgot the LORD their God and served the Baals and the Asheroth.

⁸ Therefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia. And the people of Israel served Cushan-rishathaim eight years.

⁹ But when the people of Israel cried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for the people of Israel, who saved them, Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother.

¹⁰ The Spirit of the LORD was upon him, and he judged Israel. He went out to war, and the LORD gave Cushan-

rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand. And his hand prevailed over Cushan-rishathaim.

¹¹ So the land had rest forty years. Then Othniel the son of Kenaz died.

¹² And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done what was evil in the sight of the LORD.

¹³ He gathered to himself the Ammonites and the Amalekites, and went and defeated Israel. And they took possession of the city of palms.

¹⁴ And the people of Israel served Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years.

¹⁵ Then the people of Israel cried out to the LORD, and the LORD raised up for them a deliverer, Ehud, the son of Gera, the Benjaminite, a left-handed man. The

people of Israel sent tribute by him to Eglon the king of Moab.

¹⁶ And Ehud made for himself a sword with two edges, a cubit in length, and he bound it on his right thigh under his clothes.

¹⁷ And he presented the tribute to Eglon king of Moab. Now Eglon was a very fat man.

¹⁸ And when Ehud had finished presenting the tribute, he sent away the people who carried the tribute.

¹⁹ But he himself turned back at the idols near Gilgal and said, "I have a secret message for you, O king." And he commanded, "Silence." And all his attendants went out from his presence.

²⁰ And Ehud came to him as he was sitting alone in his cool roof chamber. And Ehud said, "I have a message from God for you." And he arose from his seat.

²¹ And Ehud reached with his left hand, took the sword from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly.

²² And the hilt also went in after the blade, and the fat closed over the blade, for he did not pull the sword out of his belly; and the dung came out.

²³ Then Ehud went out into the porch and closed the doors of the roof chamber behind him and locked them.

²⁴ When he had gone, the servants came, and when they saw that the doors of the roof chamber were locked, they thought, "Surely he is relieving himself in the closet of the cool chamber."

²⁵ And they waited till they were embarrassed. But when he still did not open the doors of the roof chamber, they took the key and opened them, and there lay their lord dead on the floor.

²⁶ Ehud escaped while they delayed, and he passed beyond the idols and escaped to Seirah.

²⁷ When he arrived, he sounded the trumpet in the hill country of Ephraim. Then the people of Israel went down with him from the hill country, and he was their leader.

²⁸ And he said to them, "Follow after me, for the LORD has given your enemies the Moabites into your hand." So they went down after him and seized the fords of the Jordan against the Moabites and did not allow anyone to pass over.

²⁹ And they killed at that time about 10,000 of the Moabites, all strong, able-bodied men; 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 600 of the Philistines with an oxgoad, and he also saved Israel.

4 ¹ And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD after Ehud died.

² And the LORD sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-hagoyim.

³ Then the people of Israel cried out to the LORD for help, for he had 900 chariots of iron and he oppressed the people of Israel cruelly for twenty years.

⁴ Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time.

⁵ She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the people of Israel came up to her for judgment.

⁶ She sent and summoned Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh-naphtali and said to him, "Has not the LORD, the God of Israel, commanded you, 'Go, gather your men at Mount Tabor, taking 10,000 from the people of Naphtali and the people of Zebulun.

⁷ And I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the river Kishon with his chariots and his troops, and I will give him into your hand'?"

⁸ Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, I will go, but if you will not go with me, I will not go."

⁹ And she said, "I will surely go with you. Nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, 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 out Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh. And 10,000 men

went up at his heels, and Deborah went up with him.

¹¹ Now Heber the Kenite had separated from the Kenites, the descendants of Hobab the father-in-law of Moses, and had pitched his tent as far away as the oak in Zaanannim, which is near Kedesh.

¹² When Sisera was told that Barak the son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor,

¹³ Sisera called out all his chariots, 900 chariots of iron, and all the men who were with him, from Harosheth-hagoyim to the river Kishon.

¹⁴ And Deborah said to Barak, "Up! For this is the day in which the LORD has given Sisera into your hand. Does not the LORD go out before you?" So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with 10,000 men following him.

¹⁵ And the LORD routed Sisera and all his chariots and all his army before Barak

by the edge of the sword. And Sisera got down from his chariot and fled away on foot.

¹⁶ And Barak pursued the chariots and the army to Harosheth-hagoyim, and all the army of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword; not a man was left.

¹⁷ But Sisera fled away on foot to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, for there was peace between Jabin the king of Hazor and the house of Heber the Kenite.

¹⁸ And Jael came out to meet Sisera and said to him, "Turn aside, my lord; turn aside to me; do not be afraid." So he turned aside to her into the tent, and she covered him with a rug.

¹⁹ And he said to her, "Please give me a little water to drink, for I am thirsty." So she opened a skin of milk and gave him a drink and covered him.

²⁰ And he said to her, "Stand at the opening of the tent, and if any man comes and asks you, 'Is anyone here?' say, 'No.'"

²¹ But Jael the wife of Heber took a tent peg, and took a hammer in her hand. Then she went softly to him and drove the peg into his temple until it went down into the ground while he was lying fast asleep from weariness. So he died.

²² And behold, as Barak was pursuing Sisera, Jael went out to meet him and said to him, "Come, and I will show you the man whom you are seeking." So he went in to her tent, and there lay Sisera dead, with the tent peg in his temple.

²³ So on that day God subdued Jabin the king of Canaan before the people of Israel.

²⁴ And the hand of the people of Israel pressed harder and harder against Jabin

the king of Canaan, until they destroyed Jabin king of Canaan.

5 ¹ Then sang Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam on that day:

² "That the leaders took the lead in Israel, that the people offered themselves willingly, bless the LORD!

³ "Hear, O kings; give ear, O princes; to the LORD I will sing; I will make melody to the LORD, the God of Israel.

⁴ "LORD, when you went out from Seir, when you marched from the region of Edom, the earth trembled and the heavens dropped, yes, the clouds dropped water.

⁵ The mountains quaked before the LORD, even Sinai before the LORD, the God of Israel.

⁶ "In the days of Shamgar, son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the highways were abandoned, and travelers kept to the byways.

⁷ The villagers ceased in Israel; they ceased to be until I arose; I, Deborah, arose as a mother in Israel.

⁸ When new gods were chosen, then war was in the gates. Was shield or spear to be seen among forty thousand in Israel?

⁹ My heart goes out to the commanders of Israel who offered themselves willingly among the people. Bless the LORD.

¹⁰ "Tell of it, you who ride on white donkeys, you who sit on rich carpets and you who walk by the way.

¹¹ To the sound of musicians at the watering places, there they repeat the righteous triumphs of the LORD, the righteous triumphs of his villagers in Israel. "Then down to the gates marched the people of the LORD.

¹² "Awake, awake, Deborah! Awake, awake, break out in a song! Arise,

Barak, lead away your captives, O son of Abinoam.

¹³ Then down marched the remnant of the noble; the people of the LORD marched down for me against the mighty.

¹⁴ From Ephraim their root they marched down into the valley, following you, Benjamin, with your kinsmen; from Machir marched down the commanders, and from Zebulun those who bear the lieutenant's staff;

¹⁵ the princes of Issachar came with Deborah, and Issachar faithful to Barak; into the valley they rushed at his heels. Among the clans of Reuben there were great searchings of heart.

¹⁶ Why did you sit still among the sheepfolds, to hear the whistling for the flocks? Among the clans of Reuben there were great searchings of heart.

¹⁷ Gilead stayed beyond the Jordan;
and Dan, why did he stay with the ships?
Asher sat still at the coast of the sea,
staying by his landings.

¹⁸ Zebulun is a people who risked their
lives to the death; Naphtali, too, on the
heights of the field.

¹⁹ "The kings came, they fought; then
fought the kings of Canaan, at Taanach,
by the waters of Megiddo; they got no
spoils of silver.

²⁰ From heaven the stars fought, from
their courses they fought against Sisera.

²¹ The torrent Kishon swept them away,
the ancient torrent, the torrent Kishon.
March on, my soul, with might!

²² "Then loud beat the horses' hoofs
with the galloping, galloping of his
steeds.

²³ "Curse Meroz, says the angel of the
LORD, curse its inhabitants thoroughly,
because they did not come to the help

of the LORD, to the help of the LORD
against the mighty.

²⁴ "Most blessed of women be Jael, the
wife of Heber the Kenite, of tent-dwelling
women most blessed.

²⁵ He asked water and she gave him
milk; she brought him curds in a noble's
bowl.

²⁶ She sent her hand to the tent peg
and her right hand to the workmen's
mallet; she struck Sisera; she crushed
his head; she shattered and pierced his
temple.

²⁷ Between her feet he sank, he fell, he
lay still; between her feet he sank, he
fell; where he sank, there he fell--dead.

²⁸ "Out of the window she peered, the
mother of Sisera wailed through the
lattice: 'Why is his chariot so long in
coming? Why tarry the hoofbeats of his
chariots?'

²⁹ Her wisest princesses answer,
indeed, she answers herself,

³⁰ 'Have they not found and divided the
spoil?-- A womb or two for every man;
spoil of dyed materials for Sisera, spoil of
dyed materials embroidered, two pieces
of dyed work embroidered for the neck
as spoil?'

³¹ "So may all your enemies perish, O
LORD! But your friends be like the sun as
he rises in his might." And the land had
rest for forty years.

6 ¹ The people of Israel did what was
evil in the sight of the LORD, and the
LORD gave them into the hand of Midian
seven years.

² And the hand of Midian overpowered
Israel, and because of Midian the people
of Israel made for themselves the dens
that are in the mountains and the caves
and the strongholds.

³ For whenever the Israelites planted crops, the Midianites and the Amalekites and the people of the East would come up against them.

⁴ They would encamp against them and devour the produce of the land, as far as Gaza, and leave no sustenance in Israel and no sheep or ox or donkey.

⁵ For they would come up with their livestock and their tents; they would come like locusts in number--both they and their camels could not be counted--so that they laid waste the land as they came in.

⁶ And Israel was brought very low because of Midian. And the people of Israel cried out for help to the LORD.

⁷ When the people of Israel cried out to the LORD on account of the Midianites,

⁸ the LORD sent a prophet to the people of Israel. And he said to them, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: I led you up

from Egypt and brought you out of the house of bondage.

⁹ And I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land.

¹⁰ And I said to you, 'I am the LORD your God; you shall 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 at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress 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, O mighty man of valor."

¹³ And Gideon said to him, "Please, sir, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all

his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian."

¹⁴ And the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?"

¹⁵ And he said to him, "Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house."

¹⁶ And the LORD said to him, "But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man."

¹⁷ And he said to him, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, then show me a sign that it is you who speaks with me."

¹⁸ Please do not depart from here until I come to you and bring out my present

and set it before you." And he said, "I will stay till you return."

¹⁹ So Gideon went into his house and prepared a young goat and unleavened cakes from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and the broth he put in a pot, and brought them to him under the terebinth and presented them.

²⁰ And the angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened cakes, and put them on this rock, and pour the broth over them." And he did so.

²¹ Then the angel of the LORD reached out the tip of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes. And fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. And the angel of the LORD vanished from his sight.

²² Then Gideon perceived that he was the angel of the LORD. And Gideon said,

"Alas, O Lord GOD! For now I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face."

²³ But the LORD said to him, "Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die."

²⁴ Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD and called it, The LORD is Peace. To this day it still stands at Ophrah, which belongs to the Abiezrites.

²⁵ That night the LORD said to him, "Take your father's bull, and the second bull seven years old, and pull down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the Asherah that is beside it

²⁶ and build an altar to the LORD your God on the top of the stronghold here, with stones laid in due order. Then take the second bull and offer it as a burnt offering with the wood of the Asherah that you shall cut down."

²⁷ So Gideon took ten men of his servants and did as the LORD had told him. But because he was too afraid of

his family and the men of the town to do it by day, he did it by night.

²⁸ When the men of the town rose early in the morning, behold, the altar of Baal was broken down, and the Asherah beside it was cut down, and the second bull was offered on the altar that had been built.

²⁹ And they said to one another, "Who has done this thing?" And after they had searched and inquired, they said, "Gideon the son of Joash has done this thing."

³⁰ Then the men of the town said to Joash, "Bring out your son, that he may die, for he has broken down the altar of Baal and cut down the Asherah beside it."

³¹ But Joash said to all who stood against him, "Will you contend for Baal? Or will you save him? Whoever contends for him shall be put to death by

morning. If he is a god, let him contend for himself, because his altar has been broken down."

³² Therefore on that day Gideon was called Jerubbaal, that is to say, "Let Baal contend against him," because he broke down his altar.

³³ Now all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the people of the East came together, and they crossed the Jordan and encamped in the Valley of Jezreel.

³⁴ But the Spirit of the LORD clothed Gideon, and he sounded the trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called out to follow him.

³⁵ And he sent messengers throughout all Manasseh, and they too were called out to follow him. And he sent messengers to Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali, and they went up to meet them.

³⁶ Then Gideon said to God, "If you will save Israel by my hand, as you have said,

³⁷ behold, I am laying a fleece of wool on the threshing floor. If there is dew on the fleece alone, 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 next morning and squeezed the fleece, he wrung enough dew from the fleece to fill a bowl with water.

³⁹ Then Gideon said to God, "Let not your anger burn against me; let me speak just once more. Please let me test just once more with the fleece. Please let it be dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground let there be dew."

⁴⁰ And God did so that night; and it was dry on the fleece only, and on all the ground there was dew.

7¹ Then Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon) and all the people who were with him rose early and encamped beside the spring of Harod. And the camp of Midian was north of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley.

² The LORD said to Gideon, "The people with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel boast over me, saying, 'My own hand has saved me.'"

³ Now therefore proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, 'Whoever is fearful and trembling, let him return home and hurry away from Mount Gilead.'" Then 22,000 of the people returned, and 10,000 remained.

⁴ And the LORD said to Gideon, "The people are still too many. Take them down to the water, and I will test them for you there, and anyone of whom I say to you, 'This one shall go with you,' shall

go with you, and anyone of whom I say to you, 'This one shall not go with you,' shall not go."

⁵ So he brought the people down to the water. And the LORD said to Gideon, "Every one who laps the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set by himself. Likewise, every one who kneels down to drink."

⁶ And the number of those who lapped, putting their hands to their mouths, was 300 men, but all the rest of the people knelt down to drink water.

⁷ And the LORD said to Gideon, "With the 300 men who lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hand, and let all the others go every man to his home."

⁸ So the people took provisions in their hands, and their trumpets. And he sent all the rest of Israel every man to his tent, but retained the 300 men. And the

camp of Midian was below him in the valley.

⁹ That same night the LORD said to him, "Arise, go down against the camp, for I have given 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 outposts of the armed men who were in the camp.

¹² And the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the people of the East lay along the valley like locusts in abundance, and their camels were without number, as the sand that is on the seashore in abundance.

¹³ When Gideon came, behold, a man was telling a dream to his comrade. And

he said, "Behold, I dreamed a dream, and behold, a cake of barley bread tumbled into the camp of Midian and came to the tent and struck it so that it fell and turned it upside down, so that the tent lay flat."

¹⁴ And his comrade answered, "This is no other than the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel; God has given into his hand Midian and all the camp."

¹⁵ As soon as Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, he worshiped. And he returned to the camp of Israel and said, "Arise, for the LORD has given the host of Midian into your hand."

¹⁶ And he divided the 300 men into three companies and put trumpets into the hands of all of them and empty jars, with torches inside the jars.

¹⁷ And he said to them, "Look at me, and do likewise. When I come to the outskirts of the camp, do as I do.

¹⁸ When I blow the trumpet, I and all who are with me, then blow the trumpets also on every side of all the camp and shout, 'For the LORD and for Gideon.'"

¹⁹ So Gideon and the hundred men who were with him came to the outskirts of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, when they had just set the watch. And they blew the trumpets and smashed the jars that were in their hands.

²⁰ Then the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the jars. They held in their left hands the torches, and in their right hands the trumpets to blow. And they cried out, "A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!"

²¹ Every man stood in his place around the camp, and all the army ran. They cried out and fled.

²² When they blew the 300 trumpets, the LORD set every man's sword against his comrade and against all the army. And the army fled as far as Beth-shittah toward Zererah, as far as the border of Abel-meholah, by Tabbath.

²³ And the men of Israel were called out from Naphtali and from Asher and from all Manasseh, and they pursued after Midian.

²⁴ Gideon sent messengers throughout all the hill country of Ephraim, saying, "Come down against the Midianites and capture the waters against them, as far as Beth-barah, and also the Jordan." So all the men of Ephraim were called out, and they captured the waters as far as Beth-barah, and also the Jordan.

²⁵ And they captured the two princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb. They killed Oreb at the rock of Oreb, and Zeeb they killed at the winepress of Zeeb. Then they pursued Midian, and they brought the heads of Oreb and Zeeb to Gideon across the Jordan.

8 ¹ Then the men of Ephraim said to him, "What is this that you have done to us, not to call us when you went to fight with Midian?" And they accused him fiercely.

² And 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 grape harvest of Abiezer?"

³ God has given into your hands the princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb. What have I been able to do in comparison with you?" Then their anger against him subsided when he said this.

⁴ And Gideon came to the Jordan and crossed over, he and the 300 men who were with him, exhausted yet pursuing.

⁵ So 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 after Zebah and Zalmunna, the kings of Midian."

⁶ And the officials of Succoth said, "Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna already in your hand, that we should give bread to your army?"

⁷ So Gideon said, "Well then, when the LORD has given Zebah and Zalmunna into my hand, I will flail your flesh with the thorns of the wilderness and with briers."

⁸ And from there he went up 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 And he said to the men of Penuel, "When I come again in peace, I will break down this tower."

¹⁰ Now Zebah and Zalmunna were in Karkor with their army, about 15,000 men, all who were left of all the army of the people of the East, for there had fallen 120,000 men who drew the sword.

¹¹ And Gideon went up by the way of the tent dwellers east of Nobah and Jogbehah and attacked the army, for the army felt secure.

¹² And Zebah and Zalmunna fled, and he pursued them and captured the two kings of Midian, Zebah and Zalmunna, and he threw all the army into a panic.

¹³ Then Gideon the son of Joash returned from the battle by the ascent of Heres.

¹⁴ And he captured a young man of Succoth and questioned him. And he

wrote down for him the officials and elders of Succoth, seventy-seven men.

¹⁵ And he came to the men of Succoth and said, "Behold Zebah and Zalmunna, about whom you taunted me, saying, 'Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna already in your hand, that we should give bread to your men who are exhausted?'"

¹⁶ And he took the elders of the city, and he took thorns of the wilderness and briers and with them taught the men of Succoth a lesson.

¹⁷ And he broke down the tower of Penuel and killed the men of the city.

¹⁸ Then he said to Zebah and Zalmunna, "Where are the men whom you killed at Tabor?" They answered, "As you are, so were they. Every one of them resembled the son of a king."

¹⁹ And he said, "They were my brothers, the sons of my mother. As the LORD

lives, if you had saved them alive, I would not kill you."

²⁰ So he said to Jether his firstborn, "Rise and kill them!" But the young man did not draw his sword, for he was afraid, because he was still a young man.

²¹ Then Zebah and Zalmunna said, "Rise yourself and fall upon us, for as the man is, so is his strength." And Gideon arose and killed Zebah and Zalmunna, and he took the crescent ornaments that were on the necks of their camels.

²² Then the men of Israel said to Gideon, "Rule over us, you and your son and your grandson also, for you have saved us from the hand of Midian."

²³ Gideon said to them, "I will not rule over you, and my son will not rule over you; the LORD will rule over you."

²⁴ And Gideon said to them, "Let me make a request of you: every one of you give me the earrings from his spoil." (For

they had golden earrings, because they were Ishmaelites.)

²⁵ And they answered, "We will willingly give them." And they spread a cloak, and every man threw in it the earrings of his spoil.

²⁶ And the weight of the golden earrings that he requested was 1,700 shekels of gold, besides the crescent ornaments and the pendants and the purple garments worn by the kings of Midian, and besides the collars that were around the necks of their camels.

²⁷ And Gideon made an ephod of it and put it in his city, in Ophrah. And all Israel whored after it there, and it became a snare to Gideon and to his family.

²⁸ So Midian was subdued before the people of Israel, and they raised their heads no more. And the land had rest forty years in the days of Gideon.

²⁹ Jerubbaal the son of Joash went and lived in his own house.

³⁰ Now Gideon had seventy sons, his own offspring, for he had many wives.

³¹ And his concubine who was in Shechem also bore him a son, and he called his name Abimelech.

³² And Gideon the son of Joash died in a good old age and was buried in the tomb of Joash his father, at Ophrah of the Abiezrites.

³³ As soon as Gideon died, the people of Israel turned again and whored after the Baals and made Baal-berith their god.

³⁴ And the people of Israel did not remember the LORD their God, who had delivered them from the hand of all their enemies on every side,

³⁵ and they did not show steadfast love to the family of Jerubbaal (that is,

Gideon) in return for all the good that he had done to Israel.

9¹ Now Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem to his mother's relatives and said to them and to the whole clan of his mother's family,

² "Say in the ears of all the leaders of Shechem, 'Which is better for you, that all seventy of the sons of Jerubbaal rule over you, or that one rule over you?' Remember also that I am your bone and your flesh."

³ And his mother's relatives spoke all these words on his behalf in the ears of all the leaders of Shechem, and their hearts inclined to follow Abimelech, for they said, "He is our brother."

⁴ And they gave him seventy pieces of silver out of the house of Baal-berith with which Abimelech hired worthless and reckless fellows, who followed him.

⁵ And he went to his father's house at Ophrah and killed his brothers the sons of Jerubbaal, seventy men, on one stone. But Jotham the youngest son of Jerubbaal was left, for he hid himself.

⁶ And all the leaders of Shechem came together, and all Beth-millo, and they went and made Abimelech king, by the oak of the pillar at Shechem.

⁷ When it was told to Jotham, he went and stood on top of Mount Gerizim and cried aloud and said to them, "Listen to me, you leaders of Shechem, that God may listen to you.

⁸ The trees once went out to anoint a king over them, and they said to the olive tree, 'Reign over us.'

⁹ But the olive tree said to them, 'Shall I leave my abundance, by which gods and men are honored, and go hold sway over the trees?'

¹⁰ And the trees said to the fig tree, 'You come and reign over us.'

¹¹ But the fig tree said to them, 'Shall I leave my sweetness and my good fruit and go hold sway over the trees?'

¹² And the trees said to the vine, 'You come and reign over us.'

¹³ But the vine said to them, 'Shall I leave my wine that cheers God and men and go hold sway over the 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 good faith you are anointing me king over you, then come and take refuge in my shade, but if not, let fire come out of the bramble and devour the cedars of Lebanon.'

¹⁶ "Now therefore, if you acted in good faith and integrity when you made Abimelech king, and if you have dealt

well with Jerubbaal and his house and have done to him as his deeds deserved--

¹⁷ for my father fought for you and risked his life and delivered you from the hand of Midian,

¹⁸ and you have risen up against my father's house this day and have killed his sons, seventy men on one stone, and have made Abimelech, the son of his female servant, king over the leaders of Shechem, because he is your relative--

¹⁹ if you then have acted in good faith and integrity 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 out from Abimelech and devour the leaders of Shechem and Beth-millo; and let fire come out from the leaders of Shechem and from Beth-millo and devour Abimelech."

²¹ And Jotham ran away and fled and went to Beer and lived there, because of Abimelech his brother.

²² Abimelech ruled over Israel three years.

²³ And God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the leaders of Shechem, and the leaders of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech,

²⁴ that the violence done to the seventy sons of Jerubbaal might come, and their blood be laid on Abimelech their brother, who killed them, and on the men of Shechem, who strengthened his hands to kill his brothers.

²⁵ And the leaders of Shechem put men in ambush against him on the mountaintops, and they robbed all who passed by them along that way. And it was told to Abimelech.

²⁶ And Gaal the son of Ebed moved into Shechem with his relatives, and the

leaders of Shechem put confidence in him.

²⁷ And they went out into the field and gathered the grapes from their vineyards and trod them and held a festival; and they went into the house of their god and ate and drank and reviled Abimelech.

²⁸ And Gaal the son of Ebed said, "Who is Abimelech, and who are we of 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 Would that this people were under my hand! Then I would remove Abimelech. I would say 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 kindled.

³¹ And he sent messengers to Abimelech secretly, saying, "Behold, Gaal the son of Ebed and his relatives have come to Shechem, and they are stirring up the city against you.

³² Now therefore, go by night, you and the people who are with you, and set an ambush in the field.

³³ Then in the morning, as soon as the sun is up, rise early and rush upon the city. And when he and the people who are with him come out against you, you may do to them as your hand finds to do."

³⁴ So Abimelech and all the men who were with him rose up by night and set an ambush against Shechem in four companies.

³⁵ And Gaal the son of Ebed went out and stood in the entrance of the gate of the city, and Abimelech and the

people who were with him rose from the ambush.

³⁶ And when Gaal saw the people, he said to Zebul, "Look, people are coming down from the mountaintops!" And Zebul said to him, "You mistake the shadow of the mountains for men."

³⁷ Gaal spoke again and said, "Look, people are coming down from the center of the land, and one company is coming from the direction of the Diviners' Oak."

³⁸ Then Zebul said to him, "Where is your mouth now, you who said, 'Who is Abimelech, that we should serve him?' Are not these the people whom you despised? Go out now and fight with them."

³⁹ And Gaal went out at the head of the leaders of Shechem and fought with Abimelech.

⁴⁰ And Abimelech chased him, and he fled before him. And many fell wounded, up to the entrance of the gate.

⁴¹ And Abimelech lived at Arumah, and Zebul drove out Gaal and his relatives, so that they could not dwell at Shechem.

⁴² On the following day, the people went out into the field, and Abimelech was told.

⁴³ He took his people and divided them into three companies and set an ambush in the fields. And he looked and saw the people coming out of the city. So he rose against them and killed them.

⁴⁴ Abimelech and the company that was with him rushed forward and stood at the entrance of the gate of the city, while the two companies rushed upon all who were in the field and killed them.

⁴⁵ And Abimelech fought against the city all that day. He captured the city and

killed the people who were in it, and he razed the city and sowed it with salt.

⁴⁶ When all the leaders of the Tower of Shechem heard of it, they entered the stronghold of the house of El-berith.

⁴⁷ Abimelech was told that all the leaders of the Tower of Shechem were gathered together.

⁴⁸ And Abimelech went up to Mount Zalmon, he and all the people who were with him. And Abimelech took an axe in his hand and cut down a bundle of brushwood and took it up and laid it on his shoulder. And he said to the men who were with him, "What you have seen me do, hurry and do as I have done."

⁴⁹ So every one of the people cut down his bundle and following Abimelech put it against the stronghold, and they set the stronghold on fire over them, so that all the people of the Tower of Shechem also died, about 1,000 men and women.

⁵⁰ Then Abimelech went to Thebez and encamped against Thebez and captured it.

⁵¹ But there was a strong tower within the city, and all the men and women and all the leaders of the city fled to it and shut themselves in, and they went up to the roof of the tower.

⁵² And Abimelech came to the tower and fought against it and drew near to the door of the tower to burn it with fire.

⁵³ And a certain woman threw an upper millstone on Abimelech's head and crushed his skull.

⁵⁴ Then he called quickly to the young man his armor-bearer and said to him, "Draw your sword and kill me, lest they say of me, 'A woman killed him.'" And his young man thrust him through, and he died.

⁵⁵ And when the men of Israel saw that Abimelech was dead, everyone departed to his home.

⁵⁶ Thus God returned the evil of Abimelech, which he committed against his father in killing his seventy brothers.

⁵⁷ And God also made all the evil of the men of Shechem return on their heads, and upon them came the curse of Jotham the son of Jerubbaal.

10 ¹ After Abimelech there arose to save Israel Tola the son of Puah, son of Dodo, a man of Issachar, and he lived at Shamir in the hill country of Ephraim.

² And he judged Israel twenty-three years. Then he died and was buried at Shamir.

³ After him arose Jair the Gileadite, who judged Israel twenty-two years.

⁴ And he had thirty sons who rode on thirty donkeys, and they had thirty cities,

called Havvoth-jair to this day, which are in the land of Gilead.

⁵ And Jair died and was buried in Kamon.

⁶ The people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals and the Ashtaroth, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the Ammonites, and the gods of the Philistines. And they forsook the LORD and did not serve him.

⁷ So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of the Philistines and into the hand of the Ammonites,

⁸ and they crushed and oppressed the people of Israel that year. For eighteen years they oppressed all the people of Israel who were beyond the Jordan in the land of the Amorites, which is in Gilead.

⁹ And the Ammonites crossed the Jordan to fight also against Judah and against Benjamin and against the house of Ephraim, so that Israel was severely distressed.

¹⁰ And the people of Israel cried out to the LORD, saying, "We have sinned against you, because we have forsaken our God and have served the Baals."

¹¹ And the LORD said to the people of Israel, "Did I not save you from the Egyptians and from the Amorites, from the Ammonites and from the Philistines?

¹² The Sidonians also, and the Amalekites and the Maonites oppressed you, and you cried out to me, and I saved you out of their hand.

¹³ Yet you have forsaken me and served other gods; therefore I will save you no more.

¹⁴ Go and cry out to the gods whom you have chosen; let them save you in the time of your distress."

¹⁵ And the people of Israel said to the LORD, "We have sinned; do to us whatever seems good to you. Only please deliver us this day."

¹⁶ So they put away the foreign gods from among them and served the LORD, and he became impatient over the misery of Israel.

¹⁷ Then the Ammonites were called to arms, and they encamped in Gilead. And the people of Israel came together, and they encamped at Mizpah.

¹⁸ And the people, the leaders of Gilead, said one to another, "Who is the man who will begin to fight against the Ammonites? He shall be head over all the inhabitants of Gilead."

11 ¹ Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty warrior, but he was the

son of a prostitute. Gilead was the father of Jephthah.

² And Gilead's wife also bore him sons. And when his wife's sons grew up, they drove Jephthah out and said to him, "You shall not have an inheritance in our father's house, for you are the son of another woman."

³ Then Jephthah fled from his brothers and lived in the land of Tob, and worthless fellows collected around Jephthah and went out with him.

⁴ After a time the Ammonites made war against Israel.

⁵ And when the Ammonites made war against Israel, the elders of Gilead went to bring Jephthah from the land of Tob.

⁶ And they said to Jephthah, "Come and be our leader, that we may fight with the Ammonites."

⁷ But Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, "Did you not hate me and drive

me out of 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 to you now, that you may go with us and fight with the Ammonites and be our head over all the inhabitants of Gilead."

⁹ Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, "If you bring me home again to fight with the Ammonites, and the LORD gives them over to me, I will be your head."

¹⁰ And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, "The LORD will be witness between us, if we do not do as you say."

¹¹ So Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and leader over them. And Jephthah spoke all his words before the LORD at Mizpah.

¹² Then Jephthah sent messengers to the king of the Ammonites and said,

"What do you have against me, that you have come to me to fight against my land?"

¹³ And the king of the Ammonites answered the messengers of Jephthah, "Because Israel on coming up from Egypt took away my land, from the Arnon to the Jabbok and to the Jordan; now therefore restore it peaceably."

¹⁴ Jephthah again sent messengers to the king of the Ammonites

¹⁵ and said to him, "Thus says Jephthah: Israel did not take away the land of Moab or the land of the Ammonites,

¹⁶ but when they came up from Egypt, Israel went through the wilderness to the Red Sea and came to Kadesh.

¹⁷ Israel then sent messengers to the king of Edom, saying, 'Please let us pass through your land,' but the king of Edom would not listen. And they sent also to

the king of Moab, but he would not consent. So Israel remained at Kadesh.

¹⁸ "Then they journeyed through the wilderness and went around the land of Edom and the land of Moab and arrived on the east side of the land of Moab and camped on the other side of the Arnon. But they did not enter the territory of Moab, for the Arnon was the boundary of Moab.

¹⁹ Israel then sent messengers to Sihon king of the Amorites, king of Heshbon, and Israel said to him, 'Please let us pass through your land to our country,'

²⁰ but Sihon did not trust Israel to pass through his territory, so Sihon gathered all his people together and encamped at Jahaz and fought with Israel.

²¹ And the LORD, the God of Israel, gave Sihon and all his people into the hand of Israel, and they defeated them. So Israel

took possession of all the land of the Amorites, who inhabited that country.

²² And they took possession of all the territory of the Amorites from the Arnon to the Jabbok and from the wilderness to the Jordan.

²³ So then the LORD, the God of Israel, dispossessed the Amorites from before his people Israel; and are you to take possession of them?

²⁴ Will you not possess what Chemosh your god gives you to possess? And all that the LORD our God has dispossessed before us, we will possess.

²⁵ Now are you any better than Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab? Did he ever contend against Israel, or did he ever go to war with them?

²⁶ While Israel lived in Heshbon and its villages, and in Aroer and its villages, and in all the cities that are on the banks of

the Arnon, 300 years, why did you not deliver them within that time?

²⁷ I therefore have not sinned against you, and you do me wrong by making war on me. The LORD, the Judge, decide this day between the people of Israel and the people of Ammon."

²⁸ But the king of the Ammonites did not listen to the words of Jephthah that he sent to him.

²⁹ Then the Spirit of the LORD was upon Jephthah, and he passed through Gilead and Manasseh and passed on to Mizpah of Gilead, and from Mizpah of Gilead he passed on to the Ammonites.

³⁰ And Jephthah made a vow to the LORD and said, "If you will give the Ammonites into my hand,

³¹ then whatever comes out from the doors of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the Ammonites

shall be the LORD's, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering."

³² So Jephthah crossed over to the Ammonites to fight against them, and the LORD gave them into his hand.

³³ And he struck them from Aroer to the neighborhood of Minnith, twenty cities, and as far as Abel-keramim, with a great blow. So the Ammonites were subdued before the people of Israel.

³⁴ Then Jephthah came to his home at Mizpah. And behold, his daughter came out to meet him with tambourines and with dances. She was his only child; beside her he had neither son nor daughter.

³⁵ And as soon as he saw her, he tore his clothes and said, "Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low, and you have become the cause of great trouble to me. For I have opened my mouth to

the LORD, and I cannot take back my vow."

³⁶ And she said to him, "My father, you have opened your mouth to the LORD; do to me according to what has gone out of your mouth, now that the LORD has avenged you on your enemies, on the Ammonites."

³⁷ So she said to her father, "Let this thing be done for me: leave me alone two months, that I may go up and down on the mountains and weep for my virginity, I and my companions."

³⁸ So he said, "Go." Then he sent her away for two months, and she departed, she and her companions, and wept for her virginity on the mountains.

³⁹ And at the end of two months, she returned to her father, who did with her according to his vow that he had made. She had never known a man, and it became a custom in Israel

⁴⁰ that the daughters of Israel went year by year to lament the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite four days in the year.

12 ¹ The men of Ephraim were called to arms, and they crossed to Zaphon and said to Jephthah, "Why did you cross over to fight against the Ammonites and did not call us to go with you? We will burn your house over you with fire."

² And Jephthah said to them, "I and my people had a great dispute with the Ammonites, and when I called you, you did not save me from their hand.

³ And when I saw that you would not save me, I took my life in my hand and crossed over against the Ammonites, and the LORD gave them into my hand. Why then have you come up to me this day to fight against me?"

⁴ Then Jephthah gathered all the men of Gilead and fought with Ephraim. And the men of Gilead struck Ephraim, because they said, "You are fugitives of Ephraim, you Gileadites, in the midst of Ephraim and Manasseh."

⁵ And the Gileadites captured the fords of the Jordan against the Ephraimites. And when any of the fugitives of Ephraim said, "Let me go over," the men of Gilead said to him, "Are you an Ephraimite?" When he said, "No,"

⁶ they said to him, "Then say Shibboleth," and he said, "Sibboleth," for he could not pronounce it right. Then they seized him and slaughtered him at the fords of the Jordan. At that time 42,000 of the Ephraimites fell.

⁷ Jephthah judged Israel six years. Then Jephthah the Gileadite died and was buried in his city in Gilead.

⁸ After him Ibzan of Bethlehem judged Israel.

⁹ He had thirty sons, and thirty daughters he gave in marriage outside his clan, and thirty daughters he brought in from outside for his sons. And he judged Israel seven years.

¹⁰ Then Ibzan died and was buried at Bethlehem.

¹¹ After him Elon the Zebulunite judged Israel, and he judged Israel ten years.

¹² Then Elon the Zebulunite died and was buried at Aijalon in the land 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 donkeys, and he judged Israel eight years.

¹⁵ Then Abdon the son of Hillel the Pirathonite died and was buried at

Pirathon in the land of Ephraim, in the hill country of the Amalekites.

13 ¹ And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, so the LORD gave them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years.

² There was a certain man of Zorah, of the tribe 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, "Behold, you are barren and have not borne children, but you shall conceive and bear a son.

⁴ Therefore be careful and drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean,

⁵ for behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite

to God from the womb, and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines."

⁶ Then the woman came and told her husband, "A man of God came to me, and his appearance was like the appearance of the angel of God, very awesome. I did not ask him where he was from, and he did not tell me his name,

⁷ but he said to me, 'Behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. So then drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing 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 Lord, please let the man of God whom you sent come again to us and teach us what we are to do with the child who will be born."

⁹ And God listened to the voice of Manoah, and the angel of God came again to the woman as she sat in the field. But Manoah her husband was not with her.

¹⁰ So the woman ran quickly and told her husband, "Behold, the man who came to me the other day has appeared to me."

¹¹ And Manoah arose and went after his wife and came to the man and said to him, "Are you the man who spoke to this woman?" And he said, "I am."

¹² And Manoah said, "Now when your words come true, what is to be the child's manner of life, and what is his mission?"

¹³ And 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 of anything that comes from the vine, neither let her

drink wine or strong drink, or eat any unclean thing. All that I commanded her let her observe."

¹⁵ Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, "Please let us detain you and prepare a young goat for you."

¹⁶ And the angel of the LORD said to Manoah, "If you detain me, I will not eat of your food. But if you prepare a burnt offering, then offer it to the LORD." (For Manoah did not know that he was the angel of the LORD.)

¹⁷ And Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, "What is your name, so that, when your words come true, 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 on the rock to the LORD, to the one who works

wonders, and Manoah and his wife were watching.

²⁰ And when the flame went up toward heaven from the altar, the angel of the LORD went up in the flame of the altar. Now Manoah and his wife were watching, and they fell on their faces to the ground.

²¹ The angel of the LORD appeared no more to Manoah and to his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was the angel of the LORD.

²² And Manoah said to his wife, "We shall surely die, for we have seen God."

²³ But his wife said to him, "If the LORD had meant to kill us, he would not have accepted a burnt offering and a grain offering at our hands, or shown us all these things, or now announced to us such things as these."

²⁴ And the woman bore a son and called his name Samson. And the young man grew, and the LORD blessed him.

²⁵ And the Spirit of the LORD began to stir him in Mahaneh-dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.

14 ¹ Samson went down to Timnah, and at Timnah he saw one of the daughters of the Philistines.

² Then he came up and told his father and mother, "I saw one of the daughters of the Philistines at Timnah. Now get her for me as my wife."

³ But his father and mother said to him, "Is there not a woman among the daughters of your relatives, or among all our people, that you must go to take a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?" But Samson said to his father, "Get her for me, for she is right in my eyes."

⁴ His father and mother did not know that it was from the LORD, for he was seeking an opportunity against the Philistines. At that time the Philistines ruled over Israel.

⁵ Then Samson went down with his father and mother to Timnah, and they came to the vineyards of Timnah. And behold, a young lion came toward him roaring.

⁶ Then the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him, and although he had nothing in his hand, he tore the lion in pieces as one tears a young goat. 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 was right in Samson's eyes.

⁸ After some days he returned to take her. And he turned aside to see the carcass of the lion, and behold, there

was a swarm of bees in the body of the lion, and honey.

⁹ He scraped it out into his hands and went on, eating as he went. And he came to his father and mother and gave some to them, and they ate. But he did not tell them that he had scraped the honey from the carcass of the lion.

¹⁰ His father went down to the woman, and Samson prepared a feast there, for so the young men used to do.

¹¹ As soon as the people saw him, they brought thirty companions to be with him.

¹² And Samson said to them, "Let me now put a riddle to you. If you can tell me what it is, within the seven days of the feast, and find it out, then I will give you thirty linen garments and thirty changes of clothes,

¹³ but if you cannot tell me what it is, then you shall give me thirty linen

garments and thirty changes of clothes." And they said to him, "Put your riddle, that we may hear it."

¹⁴ And he said to them, "Out of the eater came something to eat. Out of the strong came something sweet." And in three days they could not solve the riddle.

¹⁵ On the fourth day they said to Samson's wife, "Entice your husband to tell us what the riddle is, lest we burn you and your father's house with fire. Have you invited us here to impoverish us?"

¹⁶ And Samson's wife wept over him and said, "You only hate me; you do not love me. You have put a riddle to my people, and you have not told me what it is." And he said to her, "Behold, I have not told my father nor my mother, and shall I tell you?"

¹⁷ She wept before him the seven days that their feast lasted, and on the seventh day he told her, because she pressed him hard. Then she told the riddle to her people.

¹⁸ And the men of the city said to him on the seventh day before the sun went down, "What is sweeter than honey? What is stronger than a lion?" And he said to them, "If you had not plowed with my heifer, you would not have found out my riddle."

¹⁹ And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon and struck down thirty men of the town and took their spoil and gave the garments to those who had told the riddle. In hot anger he went back to his father's house.

²⁰ And Samson's wife was given to his companion, who had been his best man.

15 ¹ After some days, at the time of wheat harvest, Samson went to visit his wife with a young goat. And he said, "I will go in to my wife in the chamber." But her father would not allow him to go in.

² And her father said, "I really thought that you utterly hated her, so I gave her to your companion. Is not her younger sister more beautiful than she? Please take her instead."

³ And Samson said to them, "This time I shall be innocent in regard to the Philistines, when I do them harm."

⁴ So Samson went and caught 300 foxes and took torches. And he turned them tail to tail and put a torch between each pair of tails.

⁵ And when he had set fire to the torches, he let the foxes go into the standing grain of the Philistines and set

fire to the stacked grain and the standing grain, as well as the olive orchards.

⁶ Then the Philistines said, "Who has done this?" And they said, "Samson, the son-in-law of the Timnite, because he has taken his wife and given her to his companion." And the Philistines came up and burned her and her father with fire.

⁷ And Samson said to them, "If this is what you do, I swear I will be avenged on you, and after that I will quit."

⁸ And he struck them hip and thigh with a great blow, and he went down and stayed in the cleft of the rock of Etam.

⁹ Then the Philistines came up and encamped in Judah and made a raid on Lehi.

¹⁰ And the men of Judah said, "Why have you come up against us?" They said, "We have come up to bind Samson, to do to him as he did to us."

¹¹ Then 3,000 men of Judah went down to the cleft of the rock of Etam, and said to Samson, "Do you not know that the Philistines are rulers over us? What then is this that you have done to us?" And he said to them, "As they did to me, so have I done to them."

¹² And they said to him, "We have come down to bind you, that we may give you into the hands of the Philistines." And Samson said to them, "Swear to me that you will not attack me yourselves."

¹³ They said to him, "No; we will only bind you and give you into their hands. We will surely not kill you." So they bound him with two new ropes and brought him up from the rock.

¹⁴ When he came to Lehi, the Philistines came shouting to meet him. Then the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him, and the ropes that were on his arms became

as flax that has caught fire, and his bonds melted off his hands.

¹⁵ And he found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, and put out his hand and took it, and with it he struck 1,000 men.

¹⁶ And Samson said, "With the jawbone of a donkey, heaps upon heaps, with the jawbone of a donkey have I struck down a thousand men."

¹⁷ As soon as he had finished speaking, he threw away the jawbone out of his hand. And that place was called Ramath-lehi.

¹⁸ And he was very thirsty, and he called upon the LORD and said, "You have granted this great salvation by the hand of your servant, and shall I now die of thirst and fall into the hands of the uncircumcised?"

¹⁹ And God split open the hollow place that is at Lehi, and water came out from it. And when he drank, his spirit

returned, and he revived. Therefore the name of it was called En-hakkore; it is at Lehi to this day.

²⁰ And he judged Israel in the days of the Philistines twenty years.

16 ¹ Samson went to Gaza, and there he saw a prostitute, and he went in to her.

² The Gazites were told, "Samson has come here." And they surrounded the place and set an ambush for him all night at the gate of the city. They kept quiet all night, saying, "Let us wait till the light of the morning; then we will kill him."

³ But Samson lay till midnight, and at midnight he arose and took hold of the doors of the gate of the city and the two posts, and pulled them up, bar and all, and put them on his shoulders and carried them to the top of the hill that is in front of Hebron.

⁴ After this 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, "Seduce him, and see where his great strength lies, and by what means we may overpower him, that we may bind him to humble him. And we will each give you 1,100 pieces of silver."

⁶ So Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me where your great strength lies, and how you might be bound, that one could subdue you."

⁷ Samson said to her, "If they bind me with seven fresh bowstrings that have not been dried, then I shall become weak and be like any other man."

⁸ Then the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven fresh bowstrings that had not been dried, and she bound him with them.

⁹ Now she had men lying in ambush in an inner chamber. And she said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" But he snapped the bowstrings, as a thread of flax snaps when it touches the fire. So the secret of his strength was not known.

¹⁰ Then Delilah said to Samson, "Behold, you have mocked me and told me lies. Please tell me how you might be bound."

¹¹ And he said to her, "If they bind me with new ropes that have not been used, then I shall become weak and be like any other man."

¹² So Delilah took new ropes and bound him with them and said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" And the men lying in ambush were in an inner chamber. But he snapped the ropes off his arms like a thread.

¹³ Then Delilah said to Samson, "Until now you have mocked me and told me lies. Tell me how you might be bound." And he said to her, "If you weave the seven locks of my head with the web and fasten it tight with the pin, then I shall become weak and be like any other man."

¹⁴ So while he slept, Delilah took the seven locks of his head and wove them into the web. And she made them tight with the pin and said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" But he awoke from his sleep and pulled away the pin, the loom, and the web.

¹⁵ And 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 you have not told me where your great strength lies."

¹⁶ And when she pressed him hard with her words day after day, and urged him, his soul was vexed to death.

¹⁷ And he told her all his heart, and said to her, "A razor has never come upon my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb. If my head is shaved, 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 the lords of the Philistines, saying, "Come up again, for he has told me all his heart." Then the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought the money in their hands.

¹⁹ She made him sleep on her knees. And she called 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!" And he awoke from his sleep and said, "I will go out as at other times and shake myself free." But he did not know that the LORD had left him.

²¹ And the Philistines seized him and gouged out his eyes and brought him down to Gaza and bound him with bronze shackles. And he ground at the mill in the prison.

²² But the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.

²³ Now the lords of the Philistines gathered to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to rejoice, and they said, "Our god has given Samson our enemy into our hand."

²⁴ And when the people saw him, they praised their god. For they said, "Our god has given our enemy into our hand,

the ravager of our country, who has killed many of us."

²⁵ And when their hearts were merry, they said, "Call Samson, that he may entertain us." So they called Samson out of the prison, and he entertained them. They made him stand between the pillars.

²⁶ And Samson said to the young man who held him by the hand, "Let me feel the pillars on which the house rests, that I may lean against them."

²⁷ Now the house was full of men and women. All the lords of the Philistines were there, and on the roof there were about 3,000 men and women, who looked on while Samson entertained.

²⁸ Then Samson called to the LORD and said, "O Lord GOD, please remember me and please strengthen me only this once, O God, that I may be avenged on the Philistines for my two eyes."

²⁹ And Samson grasped the two middle pillars on which the house rested, and he leaned his weight against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other.

³⁰ And Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines." Then he bowed with all his strength, and the house fell upon the lords and upon all the people who were in it. So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he had killed during his life.

³¹ Then his brothers and all his family came down and took him and brought him up and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of Manoah his father. He had judged Israel twenty years.

17 ¹ There was a man of the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Micah.

² And he said to his mother, "The 1,100 pieces of silver that were taken from you, about which you uttered a curse, and also spoke it in my ears, behold, the silver is with me; I took it." And his mother said, "Blessed be my son by the LORD."

³ And he restored the 1,100 pieces of silver to his mother. And his mother said, "I dedicate the silver to the LORD from my hand for my son, to make a carved image and a metal image. Now therefore I will restore it to you."

⁴ So when he restored the money to his mother, his mother took 200 pieces of silver and gave it to the silversmith, who made it into a carved image and a metal image. And it was in the house of Micah.

⁵ And the man Micah had a shrine, and he made an ephod and household gods, and ordained 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 of Bethlehem in Judah, of the family of Judah, who was a Levite, and he sojourned there.

⁸ And the man departed from the town of Bethlehem in Judah to sojourn where he could find a place. And as he journeyed, he came to the hill country of Ephraim to the house of Micah.

⁹ And Micah said to him, "Where do you come from?" And he said to him, "I am a Levite of Bethlehem in Judah, and I am going to sojourn where I may find a place."

¹⁰ And Micah said to him, "Stay with me, and be to me a father and a priest, and I will give you ten pieces of silver a year and a suit of clothes and your living." And the Levite went in.

¹¹ And the Levite was content to dwell with the man, and the young man became to him like one of his sons.

¹² And Micah ordained the Levite, and the young man became his priest, and was in the house of Micah.

¹³ Then Micah said, "Now I know that the LORD will prosper me, because 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 people of Dan was seeking for itself an inheritance to dwell in, for until then no inheritance among the tribes of Israel had fallen to them.

² So the people of Dan sent five able men from the whole number of their tribe, from Zorah and from Eshtaol, to spy out the land and to explore it. And they said to them, "Go and explore the land." And they came to the hill country

of Ephraim, to the house of Micah, and lodged there.

³ When they were by the house of Micah, they recognized the voice of the young Levite. And they turned aside and said to him, "Who brought you here? What are you doing in this place? What is your business here?"

⁴ And he said to them, "This is how Micah dealt with me: he has hired me, and I have become his priest."

⁵ And they said to him, "Inquire of God, please, that we may know whether the journey on which we are setting out will succeed."

⁶ And the priest said to them, "Go in peace. The journey on which you go is under the eye of the LORD."

⁷ Then the five men departed and came to Laish and saw the people who were there, how they lived in security, after the manner of the Sidonians, quiet and

unsuspecting, lacking nothing that is in the earth and possessing wealth, and how they were far from the Sidonians and had no dealings with anyone.

⁸ And when they came to their brothers at Zorah and Eshtaol, their brothers said to them, "What do you report?"

⁹ They said, "Arise, and let us go up against them, for we have seen the land, and behold, it is very good. And will you do nothing? Do not be slow to go, to enter in and possess the land.

¹⁰ As soon as you go, you will come to an unsuspecting people. The land is spacious, for God has given it into your hands, a place where there is no lack of anything that is in the earth."

¹¹ So 600 men of the tribe of Dan, armed with weapons of war, set out from Zorah and Eshtaol,

¹² and went up and encamped at Kiriath-jearim in Judah. On this account

that place is called Mahaneh-dan to this day; behold, it is west of Kiriath-jearim.

¹³ And they passed on from there to the hill country of Ephraim, and came to the house of Micah.

¹⁴ Then the five men who had gone to scout out the country of Laish said to their brothers, "Do you know that in these houses there are an ephod, household gods, a carved image, and a metal image? Now therefore consider what you will do."

¹⁵ And they turned aside there and came to the house of the young Levite, at the home of Micah, and asked him about his welfare.

¹⁶ Now the 600 men of the Danites, armed with their weapons of war, stood by the entrance of the gate.

¹⁷ And the five men who had gone to scout out the land went up and entered and took the carved image, the ephod,

the household gods, and the metal image, while the priest stood by the entrance of the gate with the 600 men armed with weapons of war.

¹⁸ And when these went into Micah's house and took the carved image, the ephod, the household gods, and the metal image, the priest said to them, "What are you doing?"

¹⁹ And they said to him, "Keep quiet; put your hand on your mouth and come with us and be to us a father and a priest. Is it better for you to be priest to the house of one man, or to be priest to a tribe and clan in Israel?"

²⁰ And the priest's heart was glad. He took the ephod and the household gods and the carved image and went along with the people.

²¹ So they turned and departed, putting the little ones and the livestock and the goods in front of them.

²² When they had gone a distance from the home of Micah, the men who were in the houses near Micah's house were called out, and they overtook the people of Dan.

²³ And they shouted to the people of Dan, who turned around and said to Micah, "What is the matter with you, that you come with such a company?"

²⁴ And he said, "You take my gods that I made and the priest, and go away, and what have I left? How then do you ask me, 'What is the matter with you?'"

²⁵ And the people of Dan said to him, "Do not let your voice be heard among us, lest angry fellows fall upon you, and you lose your life with the lives of your household."

²⁶ Then the people of Dan went their way. And when Micah saw that they were too strong for him, he turned and went back to his home.

²⁷ But the people of Dan took what Micah had made, and the priest who belonged to him, and they came to Laish, to a people quiet and unsuspecting, and struck them with the edge of the sword and burned the city with fire.

²⁸ And there was no deliverer because it was far from Sidon, and they had no dealings with anyone. It was in the valley that belongs to Beth-rehob. Then they rebuilt the city and lived in it.

²⁹ And they named the city Dan, after the name of Dan their ancestor, who was born to Israel; but the name of the city was Laish at the first.

³⁰ And the people of Dan set up the carved image for themselves, and Jonathan the son of Gershom, son of Moses, and his sons were priests to the tribe of the Danites until the day of the captivity of the land.

³¹ So they set up Micah's carved image that he made, as long as the house of God was at Shiloh.

19 ¹ In those days, when there was no king in Israel, a certain Levite was sojourning in the remote parts of the hill country of Ephraim, who took to himself a concubine from Bethlehem in Judah.

² And his concubine was unfaithful to him, and she went away from him to her father's house at Bethlehem in Judah, and was there some four months.

³ Then her husband arose and went after her, to speak kindly to her and bring her back. He had with him his servant and a couple of donkeys. And she brought him into her father's house. And when the girl's father saw him, he came with joy to meet him.

⁴ And his father-in-law, the girl's father, made him stay, and he remained with

him three days. So they ate and drank and spent the night there.

⁵ And on the fourth day they arose early in the morning, and he prepared to go, but the girl's father said to his son-in-law, "Strengthen your heart with a morsel of bread, and after that you may go."

⁶ So the two of them sat and ate and drank together. And the girl's father said to the man, "Be pleased to spend the night, and let your heart be merry."

⁷ And when the man rose up to go, his father-in-law pressed him, till he spent the night there again.

⁸ And on the fifth day he arose early in the morning to depart. And the girl's father said, "Strengthen your heart and wait until the day declines." So they ate, both of them.

⁹ And when the man and his concubine and his servant rose up to depart, his father-in-law, the girl's father, said to

him, "Behold, now the day has waned toward evening. Please, spend the night. Behold, the day draws to its close. Lodge here and let your heart be merry, and tomorrow you shall arise early in the morning for your journey, and go home."

¹⁰ But the man would not spend the night. He rose up and departed and arrived opposite Jebus (that is, Jerusalem). He had with him a couple of saddled donkeys, and his concubine was with him.

¹¹ When they were near Jebus, the day was nearly over, and the servant said to his master, "Come now, let us turn aside to this city of the Jebusites and spend the night in it."

¹² And his master said to him, "We will not turn aside into the city of foreigners, who do not belong to the people of Israel, but we will pass on to Gibeah."

¹³ And he said to his young man, "Come and let us draw near to one of these places and spend the night at Gibeah or at Ramah."

¹⁴ So they passed on and went their way. And the sun went down on them near Gibeah, which belongs to Benjamin,

¹⁵ and they turned aside there, to go in and spend the night at Gibeah. And he went in and sat down in the open square of the city, for no one took them into his house to spend the night.

¹⁶ And behold, an old man was coming from his work in the field at evening. The man was from the hill country of Ephraim, and he was sojourning in Gibeah. The men of the place were Benjaminites.

¹⁷ And he lifted up his eyes and 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 And he said to him, "We are passing from Bethlehem in Judah to the remote parts of the hill country of Ephraim, from which I come. I went to Bethlehem in Judah, and I am going to the house of the Lord, but no one has taken me into his house.

¹⁹ We have straw and feed for our donkeys, with bread and wine for me and your female servant and the young man with your servants. There is no lack of anything."

²⁰ And the old man said, "Peace be to you; I will care for all your wants. Only, do not spend the night in the square."

²¹ So he brought him into his house and gave the donkeys feed. And they washed their feet, and ate and drank.

²² As they were making their hearts merry, behold, the men of the city, worthless fellows, surrounded the house, beating on the door. And they

said to the old man, the master of the house, "Bring out the man who came into your house, that we may know him."

²³ And the man, the master of the house, went out to them and said to them, "No, my brothers, do not act so wickedly; since this man has come into my house, do not do this vile thing.

²⁴ Behold, here are my virgin daughter and his concubine. Let me bring them out now. Violate them and do with them what seems good to you, but against this man do not do this outrageous thing."

²⁵ But the men would not listen to him. So the man seized his concubine and made her go out to them. And they knew her and abused her all night until the morning. And as the dawn began to break, they let her go.

²⁶ And as morning appeared, the woman came and fell down at the door

of the man's house where her master was, until it was light.

²⁷ And her master rose up in the morning, and when he opened the doors of the house and went out to go on his way, behold, there was his concubine lying at the door of the house, with her hands on the threshold.

²⁸ He said to her, "Get up, let us be going." But there was no answer. Then he put her on the donkey, and the man rose up and went away to his home.

²⁹ And when he entered his house, he took a knife, and taking hold of his concubine he divided her, limb by limb, into twelve pieces, and sent her throughout all the territory of Israel.

³⁰ And all who saw it said, "Such a thing has never happened or been seen from the day that the people of Israel came up out of the land of Egypt until this day; consider it, take counsel, and speak."

20 ¹ Then all the people of Israel came out, from Dan to Beersheba, including the land of Gilead, and the congregation assembled as one man to the LORD at Mizpah.

² And the chiefs of all the people, of all the tribes of Israel, presented themselves in the assembly of the people of God, 400,000 men on foot that drew the sword.

³ (Now the people of Benjamin heard that the people of Israel had gone up to Mizpah.) And the people of Israel said, "Tell us, how did this evil happen?"

⁴ And the Levite, the husband of the woman who was murdered, answered and said, "I came to Gibeah that belongs to Benjamin, I and my concubine, to spend the night.

⁵ And the leaders of Gibeah rose against me and surrounded the house against me by night. They meant to kill me, and

they violated my concubine, and she is dead.

⁶ So I took hold of my concubine and cut her in pieces and sent her throughout all the country of the inheritance of Israel, for they have committed abomination and outrage in Israel.

⁷ Behold, you people of Israel, all of you, give your advice and counsel here."

⁸ And all the people arose as one man, saying, "None of us will go to his tent, and none of us will return to his house.

⁹ But now this is what we will do to Gibeah: we will go up against it by lot,

¹⁰ and we will take ten men of a hundred throughout all the tribes of Israel, and a hundred of a thousand, and a thousand of ten thousand, to bring provisions for the people, that when they come they may repay Gibeah of Benjamin, for all the outrage that they have committed in Israel."

¹¹ So all the men of Israel gathered against the city, united as one man.

¹² And the tribes of Israel sent men through all the tribe of Benjamin, saying, "What evil is this that has taken place among you?"

¹³ Now therefore give up the men, the worthless fellows in Gibeah, that we may put them to death and purge evil from Israel." But the Benjaminites would not listen to the voice of their brothers, the people of Israel.

¹⁴ Then the people of Benjamin came together out of the cities to Gibeah to go out to battle against the people of Israel.

¹⁵ And the people of Benjamin mustered out of their cities on that day 26,000 men who drew the sword, besides the inhabitants of Gibeah, who mustered 700 chosen men.

¹⁶ Among all these were 700 chosen men who were left-handed; every one could sling a stone at a hair and not miss.

¹⁷ And the men of Israel, apart from Benjamin, mustered 400,000 men who drew the sword; all these were men of war.

¹⁸ The people of Israel arose and went up to Bethel and inquired of God, "Who shall go up first for us to fight against the people of Benjamin?" And the LORD said, "Judah shall go up first."

¹⁹ Then the people of Israel rose in the morning and encamped against Gibeah.

²⁰ And the men of Israel went out to fight against Benjamin, and the men of Israel drew up the battle line against them at Gibeah.

²¹ The people of Benjamin came out of Gibeah and destroyed on that day 22,000 men of the Israelites.

²² But the people, the men of Israel, took courage, and again formed the battle line in the same place where they had formed it on the first day.

²³ And the people of Israel went up and wept before the LORD until the evening. And they inquired of the LORD, "Shall we again draw near to fight against our brothers, the people of Benjamin?" And the LORD said, "Go up against them."

²⁴ So the people of Israel came near against the people of Benjamin the second day.

²⁵ And Benjamin went against them out of Gibeah the second day, and destroyed 18,000 men of the people of Israel. All these were men who drew the sword.

²⁶ Then all the people of Israel, the whole army, went up and came to Bethel and wept. They sat there before the LORD and fasted that day until evening,

and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.

²⁷ And the people of Israel inquired of the LORD (for the ark of the covenant of God was there in those days,

²⁸ and Phinehas the son of Eleazar, son of Aaron, ministered before it in those days), saying, "Shall we go out once more to battle against our brothers, the people of Benjamin, or shall we cease?" And the LORD said, "Go up, for tomorrow I will give them into your hand."

²⁹ So Israel set men in ambush around Gibeah.

³⁰ And the people of Israel went up against the people of Benjamin on the third day and set themselves in array against Gibeah, as at other times.

³¹ And the people of Benjamin went out against the people and were drawn away from the city. And as at other

times they began to strike and kill some of the people in the highways, one of which goes up to Bethel and the other to Gibeah, and in the open country, about thirty men of Israel.

³² And the people of Benjamin said, "They are routed before us, as at the first." But the people of Israel said, "Let us flee and draw them away from the city to the highways."

³³ And all the men of Israel rose up out of their place and set themselves in array at Baal-tamar, and the men of Israel who were in ambush rushed out of their place from Maareh-geba.

³⁴ And there came against Gibeah 10,000 chosen men out of all Israel, and the battle was hard, but the Benjaminites did not know that disaster was close upon them.

³⁵ And the LORD defeated Benjamin before Israel, and the people of Israel

destroyed 25,100 men of Benjamin that day. All these were men who drew the sword.

³⁶ So the people of Benjamin saw that they were defeated. The men of Israel gave ground to Benjamin, because they trusted the men in ambush whom they had set against Gibeah.

³⁷ Then the men in ambush hurried and rushed against Gibeah; the men in ambush moved out and struck all the city with the edge of the sword.

³⁸ Now the appointed signal between the men of Israel and the men in the main ambush was that when they made a great cloud of smoke rise up out of the city

³⁹ the men of Israel should turn in battle. Now Benjamin had begun to strike and kill about thirty men of Israel. They said, "Surely they are defeated before us, as in the first battle."

⁴⁰ But when the signal began to rise out of the city in a column of smoke, the Benjaminites looked behind them, and behold, the whole of the city went up in smoke to heaven.

⁴¹ Then the men of Israel turned, and the men of Benjamin were dismayed, for they saw that disaster was close 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 those who came out of the cities were destroying them in their midst.

⁴³ Surrounding the Benjaminites, they pursued them and trod them down from Nohah as far as opposite Gibeah on the east.

⁴⁴ Eighteen thousand men of Benjamin fell, all of them men of valor.

⁴⁵ And they turned and fled toward the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon. Five thousand men of them were cut down in the highways. And they were pursued hard to Gidom, and 2,000 men of them were struck down.

⁴⁶ So all who fell that day of Benjamin were 25,000 men who drew the sword, all of them men of valor.

⁴⁷ But 600 men turned and fled toward the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon and remained at the rock of Rimmon four months.

⁴⁸ And the men of Israel turned back against the people of Benjamin and struck them with the edge of the sword, the city, men and beasts and all that they found. And all the towns that they found they set on fire.

21 ¹ Now the men of Israel had sworn at Mizpah, "No one of us

shall give his daughter in marriage to Benjamin."

² And the people came to Bethel and sat there till evening before God, and they lifted up their voices and wept bitterly.

³ And they said, "O LORD, the God of Israel, why has this happened in Israel, that today there should be one tribe lacking in Israel?"

⁴ And the next day the people rose early and built there an altar and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings.

⁵ And the people of Israel said, "Which of all the tribes of Israel did not come up in the assembly to the LORD?" For they had taken a great oath concerning him who did not come up to the LORD to Mizpah, saying, "He shall surely be put to death."

⁶ And the people of Israel had compassion for Benjamin their brother

and said, "One tribe is cut off from Israel this day.

⁷ What shall we do for wives for those who are left, since we have sworn by the LORD that we will not give them any of our daughters for wives?"

⁸ And they said, "What one is there of the tribes of Israel that did not come up to the LORD to Mizpah?" And behold, no one had come to the camp from Jabesh-gilead, to the assembly.

⁹ For when the people were mustered, behold, not one of the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead was there.

¹⁰ So the congregation sent 12,000 of their bravest men there and commanded them, "Go and strike the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead with the edge of the sword; also the women and the little ones.

¹¹ This is what you shall do: every male and every woman that has lain with a male you shall devote to destruction."

¹² And they found among the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead 400 young virgins who had not known a man by lying with him, 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 people of Benjamin who were at the rock of Rimmon and proclaimed peace to them.

¹⁴ And Benjamin returned at that time. And they gave them the women whom they had saved alive of the women of Jabesh-gilead, but they were not enough for them.

¹⁵ And the people had compassion on Benjamin because the LORD had made a breach in the tribes of Israel.

¹⁶ Then the elders of the congregation said, "What shall we do for wives for those who are left, since the women are destroyed out of Benjamin?"

¹⁷ And they said, "There must be an inheritance for the survivors of Benjamin, that a tribe not be blotted out from Israel.

¹⁸ Yet we cannot give them wives from our daughters." For the people of Israel had sworn, "Cursed be he who gives a wife to Benjamin."

¹⁹ So they said, "Behold, there is the yearly feast of the LORD at Shiloh, which is north of Bethel, on the east of the highway that goes up from Bethel to Shechem, and south of Lebonah."

²⁰ And they commanded the people of Benjamin, saying, "Go and lie in ambush in the vineyards

²¹ and watch. If the daughters of Shiloh come out to dance in the dances, then

come out of the vineyards and snatch each man his wife from the daughters of Shiloh, and go to the land of Benjamin.

²² And when their fathers or their brothers come to complain to us, we will say to them, 'Grant them graciously to us, because we did not take for each man of them his wife in battle, neither did you give them to them, else you would now be guilty.'

²³ And the people of Benjamin did so and took their wives, according to their number, from the dancers whom they carried off. Then they went and returned to their inheritance and rebuilt the towns and lived in them.

²⁴ And the people of Israel departed from there at that time, every man to his tribe and family, and 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 In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons.

² The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there.

³ But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons.

⁴ These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years,

⁵ and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

⁶ Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the LORD had visited his people and given them food.

⁷ So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah.

⁸ But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May 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 of you in the house of her husband!" Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.

¹⁰ And they said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people."

¹¹ But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands?"

¹² Turn back, my daughters; go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons,

¹³ would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake 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, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law."

¹⁶ But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where 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. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you."

¹⁸ And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

¹⁹ So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them. And the women said, "Is this Naomi?"

²⁰ She said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.

²¹ I went away full, and the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the LORD has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?"

²² So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabite her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

2¹ Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz.

² And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter."

³ So she set out 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 clan of Elimelech.

⁴ And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem. And he said to the reapers, "The LORD be with you!" And they answered, "The LORD bless you."

⁵ Then Boaz said to his young man who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?"

⁶ And the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, "She is the young Moabite woman, who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab.

⁷ She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves after the reapers.' So she came, and she has continued from early morning until now, except for a short rest."

⁸ Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Now, listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women.

⁹ Let your eyes be on the field that they are reaping, and go after them. Have I not charged the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink what the young men have drawn."

¹⁰ Then she fell on her face, bowing 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 But Boaz answered her, "All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told to me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before.

¹² The LORD repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!"

¹³ Then she said, "I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, though I am not one of your servants."

¹⁴ And at mealtime Boaz said to her, "Come here and eat some bread and dip your morsel in the wine." So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed to her roasted grain. And she ate until she was satisfied, and she had some left over.

¹⁵ When she rose to glean, Boaz instructed his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her.

¹⁶ And also pull out some from the bundles for her and leave it for her to glean, and do not rebuke her."

¹⁷ So she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley.

¹⁸ And she took it up and went into the city. Her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. She also brought out and gave her what food she had left over after being satisfied.

¹⁹ And her mother-in-law said to her, "Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man 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 And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "May he be blessed by the LORD, whose kindness has not forsaken the

living or the dead!" Naomi also said to her, "The man is a close relative of ours, one of our redeemers."

²¹ And Ruth the Moabite said, "Besides, he said to me, 'You shall keep 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, lest in another field you be assaulted."

²³ So she kept close to the young women of Boaz, gleaning until the end of the barley and wheat harvests. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

3¹ Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, should I not seek rest for you, that it may be well with you?"

² Is not Boaz our relative, with whose young women you were? See, he

is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor.

³ Wash therefore and anoint yourself, and put on your cloak and go down to the threshing floor, but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking.

⁴ But when he lies down, observe the place where he lies. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down, and he will tell you what to do."

⁵ And she replied, "All that you say I will do."

⁶ So she went down to the threshing floor and did just as her mother-in-law had commanded her.

⁷ And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. Then she came softly and uncovered his feet and lay down.

⁸ At midnight the man was startled and turned over, and behold, a woman lay at his feet!

⁹ He said, "Who are you?" And she answered, "I am Ruth, your servant. Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a redeemer."

¹⁰ And he said, "May you be blessed by the LORD, my daughter. You have made this last kindness greater than the first in that you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich.

¹¹ And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you ask, for all my fellow townsmen know that you are a worthy woman.

¹² And now it is true that I am a redeemer. Yet there is a redeemer nearer than I.

¹³ Remain tonight, and in the morning, if he will redeem you, good; let him do it. But if he is not willing to redeem you,

then, as the LORD lives, I will redeem you. Lie down until the morning."

¹⁴ So she lay at his feet until the morning, but arose before one could recognize another. And he said, "Let it not be known that the woman came to the threshing floor."

¹⁵ And he said, "Bring the garment you are wearing and hold it out." So she held it, and he measured out six measures of barley and put it on her. Then she went into the city.

¹⁶ And when she came to her mother-in-law, she said, "How did you fare, my daughter?" Then she told her all that the man had done for her,

¹⁷ saying, "These six measures of barley he gave to me, for he said to me, 'You must not go back empty-handed to your mother-in-law.'"

¹⁸ She replied, "Wait, my daughter, until you learn how the matter turns out, for

the man will not rest but will settle the matter today."

4 ¹ Now Boaz had gone up to the gate and sat down there. And behold, the redeemer, of whom Boaz had spoken, came by. So Boaz said, "Turn aside, friend; sit down here." And he turned 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 redeemer, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, is selling the parcel of land that belonged to our relative Elimelech.

⁴ So I thought I would tell you of it and say, 'Buy it in the presence of those sitting here and in the presence of the elders of my people.' If you will redeem it, redeem it. But if you will not, tell me, that I may know, for there is no one besides you to redeem it, and I come

after you." And he said, "I will redeem it."

⁵ Then Boaz said, "The day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the widow of the dead, in order to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance."

⁶ Then the redeemer said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I impair my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption yourself, for I cannot redeem it."

⁷ Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging: to confirm a transaction, the one drew off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was the manner of attesting in Israel.

⁸ So when the redeemer said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself," he drew off his sandal.

⁹ Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses this day

that I have bought from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and to Mahlon.

¹⁰ Also Ruth the Moabite, the widow of Mahlon, I have bought to be my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brothers and from the gate of his native place. You are witnesses this day."

¹¹ Then all the people who were at the gate and the elders said, "We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman, who is coming into your house, like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you act worthily in Ephrathah and be renowned in Bethlehem,

¹² and may your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah,

because of the offspring that the LORD will give you by this young woman."

¹³ So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and 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 redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel!

¹⁵ He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him."

¹⁶ Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse.

¹⁷ And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi." They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

¹⁸ Now these are the generations of Perez: Perez fathered Hezron,

¹⁹ Hezron fathered Ram, Ram fathered Amminadab,

²⁰ Amminadab fathered Nahshon, Nahshon fathered Salmon,

²¹ Salmon fathered Boaz, Boaz fathered Obed,

²² Obed fathered Jesse, and Jesse fathered David.

1 Samuel

1 ¹ There was a certain man of Ramathaim-zophim of the hill country of Ephraim whose name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, son of Elihu, son of Tohu, son of Zuph, an Ephrathite.

² He had two wives. The name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other, Peninnah. And Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

³ Now this man used to go up year by year from his city to worship and to sacrifice to the LORD of hosts at Shiloh, where the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests of the LORD.

⁴ On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters.

⁵ But to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the LORD had closed her womb.

⁶ And her rival used to provoke her grievously to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb.

⁷ So it went on year by year. As often as she went up to the house of the LORD, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat.

⁸ And Elkanah, her husband, said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? And why do you not eat? And why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?"

⁹ After they had eaten and drunk in Shiloh, Hannah rose. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the LORD.

¹⁰ She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly.

¹¹ And she vowed a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if you will indeed

look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head."

¹² As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli observed her mouth.

¹³ Hannah was speaking in her heart; only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli took her to be a drunken woman.

¹⁴ And Eli said to her, "How long will you go on being drunk? Put away your wine from you."

¹⁵ But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman troubled in spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD.

¹⁶ Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for all along I have

been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation."

¹⁷ Then Eli answered, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition that you have made to him."

¹⁸ And she said, "Let your servant find favor in your eyes." Then the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

¹⁹ They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her.

²⁰ And in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, "I have asked for him from the LORD."

²¹ The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow.

²² But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, so that he may appear in the presence of the LORD and dwell there forever."

²³ Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him; only, may the LORD establish his word." So the woman remained and nursed her son until she weaned him.

²⁴ And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh. And the child was young.

²⁵ Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli.

²⁶ And she said, "Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was

standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD.

²⁷ For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition that I made to him.

²⁸ Therefore I have lent him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD." And he worshiped the LORD there.

2 ¹ And Hannah prayed and said, "My heart exults in the LORD; my strength is exalted in the LORD. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in your salvation.

² "There is none holy like the LORD; there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.

³ Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.

⁴ The bows of the mighty are broken,
but the feeble bind on strength.

⁵ Those who were full have hired
themselves out for bread, but those who
were hungry have ceased to hunger. The
barren has borne seven, but she who
has many children is forlorn.

⁶ The LORD kills and brings to life; he
brings down to Sheol and raises up.

⁷ The LORD makes poor and makes rich;
he brings low and he exalts.

⁸ He raises up the poor from the dust;
he lifts the needy from the ash heap to
make them sit with princes and inherit a
seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth
are the LORD's, and on them he has set
the world.

⁹ "He will guard the feet of his faithful
ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in
darkness, for not by might shall a man
prevail.

¹⁰ The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; against them he will thunder in heaven. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king and exalt the power of his anointed."

¹¹ Then Elkanah went home to Ramah. And the boy ministered to the LORD in the presence of Eli the priest.

¹² Now the sons of Eli were worthless men. They did not know the LORD.

¹³ The custom of the priests with the people was that when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant would come, while the meat was boiling, with a three-pronged fork in his hand,

¹⁴ and he would thrust it into the pan or kettle or cauldron or pot. All that the fork brought up the priest would take for himself. This is what they did at Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there.

¹⁵ Moreover, before the fat was burned, the priest's servant would come and say to the man who was sacrificing, "Give meat for the priest to roast, for he will not accept boiled meat from you but only raw."

¹⁶ And if the man said to him, "Let them burn the fat first, and then take as much as you wish," he would say, "No, you must give it now, and if not, I will take it by force."

¹⁷ Thus the sin of the young men was very great in the sight of the LORD, for the men treated the offering of the LORD with contempt.

¹⁸ Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy clothed with a linen ephod.

¹⁹ And his mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

²⁰ Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD give you children by this woman for the petition she asked of the LORD." So then they would return to their home.

²¹ Indeed the LORD visited Hannah, and she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. And the young man Samuel grew in the presence of the LORD.

²² Now Eli was very old, and he kept hearing all that his sons were doing to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who were serving at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

²³ And 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; it is no good report that I hear the people of the LORD spreading abroad.

²⁵ If someone sins against a man, God will mediate for him, but if someone sins against the LORD, who can intercede for him?" But they would not listen to the voice of their father, for it was the will of the LORD to put them to death.

²⁶ Now the young man Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and also with man.

²⁷ And there came a man of God to Eli and said to him, "Thus the LORD has said, 'Did I indeed reveal myself to the house of your father when they were in Egypt subject to the house of Pharaoh?

²⁸ Did I choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to go up to my altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before me? I gave to the house of your father all my offerings by fire from the people of Israel.

²⁹ Why then do you scorn my sacrifices and my offerings that I commanded, and

honor your sons above me by fattening yourselves on the choicest parts of every offering of my people Israel?'

³⁰ Therefore the LORD the God of Israel declares: 'I promised that your house and the house of your father should go in and out before me forever,' but now the LORD declares: '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 when I will cut off your strength and the strength of your father's house, so that there will not be an old man in your house.

³² Then in distress you will look with envious eye on all the prosperity that shall be bestowed on Israel, and there shall not be an old man in your house forever.

³³ The only one of you whom I shall not cut off from my altar shall be spared to weep his eyes out to grieve his heart, and all the descendants of your house shall die by the sword of men.

³⁴ And this that shall come upon your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, shall be the sign to you: both of them shall die on the same day.

³⁵ And I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who shall do according to what is in my heart and in my mind. And I will build him a sure house, and he shall go in and out before my anointed forever.

³⁶ And everyone who is left in your house shall come to implore him for a piece of silver or a loaf of bread and shall say, "Please put me in one of the priests' places, that I may eat a morsel of bread."'''

3 ¹ Now the young man Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli.

And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision.

² At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place.

³ The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was.

⁴ Then the LORD called Samuel, and he said, "Here I am!"

⁵ and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down.

⁶ And the LORD called again, "Samuel!" and Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again."

⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

⁸ And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the young man.

⁹ Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰ And the LORD came and stood, calling as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant hears."

¹¹ Then the LORD said to Samuel, "Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which the two ears of everyone who hears it will tingle.

¹² On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end.

¹³ And I declare to him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them.

¹⁴ Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever."

¹⁵ Samuel lay until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli.

¹⁶ But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." And he said, "Here I am."

¹⁷ And Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also if you

hide anything from me of all that he told you."

¹⁸ So 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 And 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 was established as a prophet of the LORD.

²¹ And the LORD appeared again at Shiloh, for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the LORD.

4 ¹ And the word of Samuel came to all Israel. Now Israel went out to battle against the Philistines. They encamped at Ebenezer, and the Philistines encamped at Aphek.

² The Philistines drew up in line against Israel, and when the battle spread, Israel was defeated by the Philistines, who killed about four thousand men on the field of battle.

³ And when the troops came to 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 here from Shiloh, that it may come among us and save us from the power of our enemies."

⁴ So the people sent to Shiloh and brought from there the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, who is enthroned on the cherubim. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.

⁵ As soon as the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel

gave a mighty shout, so that the earth resounded.

⁶ And when the Philistines heard the noise of the shouting, they said, "What does this great shouting in the camp of the Hebrews mean?" And when they learned that the ark of the LORD had come to the camp,

⁷ the Philistines were afraid, for they said, "A god has come into the camp." And they said, "Woe to us! For nothing like this has happened before.

⁸ Woe to us! Who can deliver us from the power of these mighty gods? These are the gods who struck the Egyptians with every sort of plague in the wilderness.

⁹ Take courage, and be men, O Philistines, lest you become slaves to the Hebrews as they have been to you; be men and fight."

¹⁰ So the Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated, and they fled, every man to his home. And there was a very great slaughter, for there fell of Israel thirty thousand foot soldiers.

¹¹ And the ark of God was captured, and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died.

¹² A man of Benjamin ran from the battle line and came to Shiloh the same day, with his clothes torn and with dirt on his head.

¹³ When he arrived, Eli was sitting on his seat by the road watching, for his heart trembled for the ark of God. And when the man came into the city and told the news, all the city cried out.

¹⁴ When Eli heard the sound of the outcry, he said, "What is this uproar?" Then the man hurried and came and told Eli.

¹⁵ Now Eli was ninety-eight years old and his eyes were set so that he could not see.

¹⁶ And the man said to Eli, "I am he who has come from the battle; I fled from the battle today." And he said, "How did it go, my son?"

¹⁷ He who brought the news answered and said, "Israel has fled before the Philistines, and there has also been a great defeat among the people. Your two sons also, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the ark of God has been captured."

¹⁸ As soon as he mentioned the ark of God, Eli fell over backward from his seat by the side of the gate, and his neck was broken and he died, for the man was old and heavy. He had judged Israel forty years.

¹⁹ Now his daughter-in-law, the wife of Phinehas, was pregnant, about to give

birth. 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 and gave birth, for her pains came upon her.

²⁰ And about the time of her death the women attending her said to her, "Do not be afraid, for you have borne a son." But she did not answer or pay attention.

²¹ And 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 When the Philistines captured the ark of God, they brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod.

² Then the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it into the house of Dagon and set it up beside Dagon.

³ And when the people of Ashdod rose early the next day, behold, Dagon had fallen face downward on the ground before the ark of the LORD. So they took Dagon and put him back in his place.

⁴ But when they rose early on the next morning, behold, Dagon had fallen face downward on the ground before the ark of the LORD, and the head of Dagon and both his hands were lying cut off on the threshold. Only the trunk of Dagon was left to him.

⁵ This is why the priests of Dagon and all who enter the house of Dagon do not tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod to this day.

⁶ The hand of the LORD was heavy against the people of Ashdod, and he

terrified and afflicted them with tumors, both Ashdod and its territory.

⁷ And when the men of Ashdod saw how things were, they said, "The ark of the God of Israel must not remain with us, for his hand is hard against us and against Dagon our god."

⁸ So they sent and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines and said, "What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel?" They answered, "Let the ark of the God of Israel be brought around to Gath." So they brought the ark of the God of Israel there.

⁹ But after they had brought it around, the hand of the LORD was against the city, causing a very great panic, and he afflicted the men of the city, both young and old, so that tumors broke out on them.

¹⁰ So they sent the ark of God to Ekron. But as soon as the ark of God came to

Ekron, the people of Ekron cried out, "They have brought around to us the ark of the God of Israel to kill us and our people."

¹¹ They sent therefore and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines and said, "Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it return to its own place, that it may not kill us and our people." For there was a deathly panic throughout the whole city. The hand of God was very heavy there.

¹² The men who did not die were struck with tumors, and the cry of the city went up to heaven.

6 ¹ 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 and said, "What shall we do with the ark of the LORD?"

Tell us with what we shall send it to its place."

³ They said, "If you send away the ark of the God of Israel, do not send it empty, but by all means return him a guilt offering. Then you will be healed, and it will be known to you why his hand does not turn away from you."

⁴ And they said, "What is the guilt offering that we shall return to him?" They answered, "Five golden tumors and five golden mice, according to the number of the lords of the Philistines, for the same plague was on all of you and on your lords."

⁵ So you must make images of your tumors and images of your mice that ravage the land, and give glory to the God of Israel. Perhaps he will lighten his hand from off you and your gods and your land.

⁶ Why should you harden your hearts as the Egyptians and Pharaoh hardened their hearts? After he had dealt severely with them, did they not send the people away, and they departed?

⁷ Now then, take and prepare a new cart and two milk cows on which there has never come a yoke, and yoke the cows to the cart, but take their calves home, away from them.

⁸ And take the ark of the LORD and place it on the cart and put in a box at its side the figures of gold, which you are returning to him as a guilt offering. Then send it off and let it go its way

⁹ and watch. If it goes up on the way to its own land, to Beth-shemesh, then it is he who has done us this great harm, but if not, then we shall know that it is not his hand that struck us; it happened to us by coincidence."

¹⁰ The men did so, and took two milk cows and yoked them to the cart and shut up their calves at home.

¹¹ And they put the ark of the LORD on the cart and the box with the golden mice and the images of their tumors.

¹² And the cows went straight in the direction of Beth-shemesh along one highway, lowing as they went. They turned neither to the right nor to the left, and the lords of the Philistines went after them as far as the border of Beth-shemesh.

¹³ Now the people of Beth-shemesh were reaping their wheat harvest in the valley. And when they lifted up their eyes and saw the ark, they rejoiced to see it.

¹⁴ The cart came into the field of Joshua of Beth-shemesh and stopped there. A great stone was there. And they split up the wood of the cart and offered the cows as a burnt offering to the LORD.

¹⁵ And the Levites took down the ark of the LORD and the box that was beside it, in which were the golden figures, and set them upon the great stone. And the men of Beth-shemesh offered burnt offerings and sacrificed sacrifices on that day to the LORD.

¹⁶ And when the five lords of the Philistines saw it, they returned that day to Ekron.

¹⁷ These are the golden tumors that the Philistines returned as a guilt offering to the LORD: one for Ashdod, one for Gaza, one for Ashkelon, one for Gath, one for Ekron,

¹⁸ and the golden mice, according to the number of all the cities of the Philistines belonging to the five lords, both fortified cities and unwallled villages. The great stone beside which they set down the ark of the LORD is a witness to this day in the field of Joshua of Beth-shemesh.

¹⁹ And he struck some of the men of Beth-shemesh, because they looked upon the ark of the LORD. He struck seventy men of them, and the people mourned because the LORD had struck the people with a great blow.

²⁰ Then the men of Beth-shemesh said, "Who is able to stand before the LORD, this holy God? And to whom shall he go up away from us?"

²¹ So they sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kiriath-jearim, saying, "The Philistines have returned the ark of the LORD. Come down and take it up to you."

7¹ And the men of Kiriath-jearim came and took up the ark of the LORD and brought it to the house of Abinadab on the hill. And they consecrated his son Eleazar to have charge of the ark of the LORD.

² From the day that the ark was lodged at Kiriath-jearim, a long time passed, some twenty years, and all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD.

³ And Samuel said to all the house of Israel, "If you are returning to the LORD with all your heart, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth from among you and direct your heart to the LORD and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines."

⁴ So the people of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtaroth, and they served the LORD only.

⁵ Then Samuel said, "Gather all Israel at Mizpah, and I will pray to the LORD for you."

⁶ So they gathered at Mizpah and drew water and poured it out before the LORD and fasted on that day and said there, "We have sinned against the LORD." And

Samuel judged the people of Israel at Mizpah.

⁷ Now when the Philistines heard that the people of Israel had gathered at Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the people of Israel heard of it, they were afraid of the Philistines.

⁸ And the people 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 So Samuel took a nursing lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. And Samuel cried out to the LORD for Israel, and the LORD answered him.

¹⁰ As Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to attack Israel. But the LORD thundered with a mighty sound that day against the Philistines and threw them into

confusion, and they were routed before Israel.

¹¹ And the men of Israel went out from Mizpah and pursued the Philistines and struck them, 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; for he said, "Till now the LORD has helped us."

¹³ So the Philistines were subdued and did not again enter the territory of Israel. And the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.

¹⁴ The cities that the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron to Gath, and Israel delivered their territory from the hand of the Philistines. There was peace also between Israel and the Amorites.

¹⁵ Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life.

¹⁶ And he went on a circuit year by year to Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah. And he judged Israel in all these places.

¹⁷ Then he would return to Ramah, for his home was there, and there also he judged Israel. And he built there an altar to the LORD.

8 ¹ When Samuel became old, he made his sons judges over Israel.

² The name of his firstborn son was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba.

³ Yet his sons did not walk in his ways but turned aside after gain. They 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, "Behold, you are old and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint for 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." And Samuel prayed to the LORD.

⁷ And the LORD said to Samuel, "Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them.

⁸ According to all the deeds that they have done, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt even to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are also doing to you.

⁹ Now then, obey their voice; only you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them."

¹⁰ So Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking for a king from him.

¹¹ He said, "These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will

take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen and to run before his chariots.

¹² And he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots.

¹³ He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers.

¹⁴ He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his servants.

¹⁵ He will take the tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and to his servants.

¹⁶ He will take your male servants and female servants and the best of your young men and your donkeys, and put them to his work.

¹⁷ He will take the tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves.

¹⁸ And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the LORD will not answer you in that day."

¹⁹ But the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel. And they said, "No! But there shall be 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 when Samuel had heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the ears of the LORD.

²² And the LORD said to Samuel, "Obey their voice and make them a king." Samuel then said to the men of Israel, "Go every man to his city."

9 ¹ There was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish, the son of

Abiel, son of Zeror, son of Becorath, son of Aphiah, a Benjaminite, a man of wealth.

² And he had a son whose name was Saul, a handsome young man. There was not a man among the people of Israel more handsome than he. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people.

³ Now the donkeys of Kish, Saul's father, were lost. So Kish said to Saul his son, "Take one of the young men with you, and arise, go and look for the donkeys."

⁴ And he passed through the hill country of Ephraim and passed through the land of Shalishah, but they did not find them. And they passed through the land of Shaalim, but they were not there. Then they passed through the land of Benjamin, but did not find them.

⁵ When they came to the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant who was with

him, "Come, let us go back, lest my father cease to care about the donkeys and become anxious about us."

⁶ But he said to him, "Behold, there is a man of God in this city, and he is a man who is held in honor; all that he says comes true. So now let us go there. Perhaps he can tell us the way we should go."

⁷ Then Saul said to his servant, "But if we go, what can we bring the man? For the bread in our sacks is gone, and there is no present to bring to the man of God. What do we have?"

⁸ The servant answered Saul again, "Here, I have with me a quarter of a shekel of silver, and I will give it to the man of God to tell us our way."

⁹ (Formerly in Israel, when a man went to inquire of God, he said, "Come, let us go to the seer," for today's "prophet" was formerly called a seer.)

¹⁰ And 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 young women coming out to draw water and said to them, "Is the seer here?"

¹² They answered, "He is; behold, he is just ahead of you. Hurry. He has come just now to the city, because the people have a sacrifice today on the high place.

¹³ As soon as you enter the city you will find him, before he goes up to the high place to eat. For the people will not eat till he comes, since he must bless the sacrifice; afterward those who are invited will eat. Now go up, for you will meet him immediately."

¹⁴ So they went up to the city. As they were entering the city, they saw Samuel coming out toward them on his way up to the high place.

¹⁵ Now the day before Saul came, the LORD had revealed to Samuel:

¹⁶ "Tomorrow about this time I will send to you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him to be prince over my people Israel. He shall save my people from the hand of the Philistines. For I have seen my people, because their cry has come to me."

¹⁷ When Samuel saw Saul, the LORD told him, "Here is the man of whom I spoke to you! He it is who shall restrain my people."

¹⁸ Then Saul approached Samuel in the gate and said, "Tell me where is the house of the seer?"

¹⁹ Samuel answered Saul, "I am the seer. Go up before me to the high place, for today you shall eat with me, and in the morning I will let you go and will tell you all that is on your mind."

²⁰ As for your donkeys that were lost three days ago, do not set your mind on them, for they have been found. And for whom is all that is desirable in Israel? Is it not for you and for all your father's house?"

²¹ Saul answered, "Am I not a Benjaminite, from the least of the tribes of Israel? And is not my clan the humblest of all the clans of the tribe of Benjamin? Why then have you spoken to me in this way?"

²² Then Samuel took Saul and his young man and brought them into the hall and gave them a place at the head of those who had been invited, who were about thirty persons.

²³ And Samuel said to the cook, "Bring the portion I gave you, of which I said to you, 'Put it aside.'"

²⁴ So the cook took up the leg and what was on it and set them before Saul. And

Samuel said, "See, what was kept is set before you. Eat, because it was kept for you until the hour appointed, that you might eat with the guests." So Saul ate with Samuel that day.

²⁵ And when they came down from the high place into the city, a bed was spread for Saul on the roof, and he lay down to sleep.

²⁶ Then at the break of dawn Samuel called to Saul on the roof, "Up, that I may send you on your way." So Saul arose, and both he and Samuel went out into the street.

²⁷ As they were going down to the outskirts of the city, Samuel said to Saul, "Tell the servant to pass on before us, and when he has passed on, stop here yourself for a while, that I may make known 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, "Has not the LORD anointed you to be prince over his people Israel? And you shall reign over the people of the LORD and you will save them from the hand of their surrounding enemies. And this shall be the sign to you that the LORD has anointed you to be prince over his heritage.

² When you depart from me today, you will meet two men by Rachel's tomb in the territory of Benjamin at Zelzah, and they will say to you, 'The donkeys that you went to seek are found, and now your father has ceased to care about the donkeys and is anxious about you, saying, "What shall I do about my son?"'

³ Then you shall go on from there further and come to the oak of Tabor. Three men going up to God at Bethel will meet you there, 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 accept from their hand.

⁵ After that you shall come to Gibeath-elohim, where there is a garrison of the Philistines. And there, as soon as you come to the city, you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place with harp, tambourine, flute, and lyre before them, prophesying.

⁶ Then the Spirit of the LORD will rush upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man.

⁷ Now when these signs meet you, do what your hand finds to do, for God is with you.

⁸ Then go down before me to Gilgal. And behold, I am coming to you to offer burnt offerings and to sacrifice peace offerings. Seven days you shall wait, until

I come to you and show you what you shall do."

⁹ When he turned his back to leave Samuel, God gave him another heart. And all these signs came to pass that day.

¹⁰ When they came to Gibeah, behold, a group of prophets met him, and the Spirit of God rushed upon him, and he prophesied among them.

¹¹ And when all who knew him previously saw how he prophesied with the prophets, the people said to one another, "What has come over the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?"

¹² And a man of the place answered, "And who is their father?" Therefore it became a proverb, "Is Saul also among the prophets?"

¹³ When he had finished prophesying, he came to the high place.

¹⁴ Saul's uncle said to him and to his servant, "Where did you go?" And he said, "To seek the donkeys. And when we saw they were not to be found, we went to Samuel."

¹⁵ And Saul's uncle said, "Please tell me what Samuel said to you."

¹⁶ And Saul said to his uncle, "He told us plainly that the donkeys had been found." But about the matter of the kingdom, of which Samuel had spoken, he did not tell him anything.

¹⁷ Now Samuel called the people together to the LORD at Mizpah.

¹⁸ And he said to the people of Israel, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all the kingdoms that were oppressing you.'

¹⁹ But today you have rejected your God, who saves you from all your

calamities and your distresses, and you have said to him, 'Set a king over us.' Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and by your thousands."

²⁰ Then Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel near, and the tribe of Benjamin was taken by lot.

²¹ He brought the tribe of Benjamin near by its clans, and the clan of the Matrites was taken by lot; and Saul the son of Kish was taken by lot. But when they sought him, he could not be found.

²² So they inquired again of the LORD, "Is there a man still to come?" and the LORD said, "Behold, he has hidden himself among the baggage."

²³ Then they ran and took 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? There is none like him among all the people." And all the people shouted, "Long live the king!"

²⁵ Then Samuel told the people the rights and duties of the kingship, and he wrote them in a book and laid it up before the LORD. Then Samuel sent all the people away, each one to his home.

²⁶ Saul also went to his home at Gibeah, and with him went men of valor whose hearts God had touched.

²⁷ But some worthless fellows said, "How can this man save us?" And they despised him and brought him no present. But he held his peace.

11 ¹ Then Nahash the Ammonite went up and besieged Jabesh-gilead, and all the men of Jabesh said to Nahash, "Make a treaty with us, and we will serve you."

² But Nahash the Ammonite said to them, "On this condition I will make a treaty with you, that I gouge out all your right eyes, and thus bring disgrace on all Israel."

³ The elders of Jabesh said to him, "Give us seven days respite that we may send messengers through all the territory of Israel. Then, if there is no one to save us, we will give ourselves up to you."

⁴ When the messengers came to Gibeah of Saul, they reported the matter in the ears of the people, and all the people wept aloud.

⁵ Now, behold, Saul was coming from the field behind the oxen. And Saul said, "What is wrong with the people, that they are weeping?" So they told him the news of the men of Jabesh.

⁶ And the Spirit of God rushed upon Saul when he heard these words, and his anger was greatly kindled.

⁷ He took a yoke of oxen and cut them in pieces and sent them throughout all the territory of Israel by the hand of messengers, saying, "Whoever does not come out after Saul and Samuel, so shall it be done to his oxen!" Then the dread of the LORD fell upon the people, and they came out as one man.

⁸ When he mustered them at Bezek, the people of Israel were three hundred thousand, and the men of Judah thirty thousand.

⁹ And they said to the messengers who had come, "Thus shall you say to the men of Jabesh-gilead: 'Tomorrow, by the time the sun is hot, you shall have deliverance.'" When the messengers came and told the men of Jabesh, they were glad.

¹⁰ Therefore the men of Jabesh said, "Tomorrow we will give ourselves up

to you, and you may do to us whatever seems good to you."

¹¹ And the next day Saul put the people in three companies. And they came into the midst of the camp in the morning watch and struck down the Ammonites until the heat of the day. And those who survived were scattered, so that no two of them were left together.

¹² Then the people said to Samuel, "Who is it that 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 worked salvation in Israel."

¹⁴ Then Samuel said to the people, "Come, let us go to Gilgal and there renew the kingdom."

¹⁵ So all the people went to Gilgal, and there they made Saul king before the LORD in Gilgal. There they sacrificed

peace offerings before the LORD, and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly.

12 ¹ And Samuel said to all Israel, "Behold, I have obeyed your voice in all that you have said to me and have made a king over you.

² And now, behold, the king walks before you, and I am old and gray; and behold, my sons are with you. I have walked before you from my youth until this day.

³ Here I am; testify against me before the LORD and before his anointed. Whose ox have I taken? Or whose donkey have I taken? Or whom have I defrauded? Whom have I oppressed? Or from whose hand have I taken a bribe to blind my eyes with it? Testify against me and I will restore it to you."

⁴ They said, "You have not defrauded us or oppressed us or taken anything from any man's hand."

⁵ And 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 said, "He is witness."

⁶ And Samuel said to the people, "The LORD is witness, who appointed Moses and Aaron and brought your fathers up out of the land of Egypt."

⁷ Now therefore stand still that I may plead with you before the LORD concerning all the righteous deeds of the LORD that he performed for you and for your fathers.

⁸ When Jacob went into Egypt, and the Egyptians oppressed them, then your fathers cried out to the LORD and the LORD sent Moses and Aaron, who

brought your fathers out of Egypt and made them dwell in this place.

⁹ But they forgot the LORD their God. And he sold them into the hand of Sisera, commander of the army of Hazor, and into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the king of Moab. And they fought against them.

¹⁰ And they cried out to the LORD and said, 'We have sinned, because we have forsaken the LORD and have served the Baals and the Ashtaroth. But now deliver us out of the hand of our enemies, that we may serve you.'

¹¹ And the LORD sent Jerubbaal and Barak and Jephthah and Samuel and delivered you out of the hand of your enemies on every side, and you lived in safety.

¹² And when you saw that Nahash the 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 And now behold the king whom you have chosen, for whom you have asked; behold, the LORD has set a king over you.

¹⁴ If you will fear the LORD and serve him and obey his voice and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, and if both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the LORD your God, it will be well.

¹⁵ But if you will 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 and your king.

¹⁶ Now therefore stand still and see this great thing that the LORD will do before your eyes.

¹⁷ Is it not wheat harvest today? I will call upon the LORD, that he may send

thunder and rain. And you shall know and see that your wickedness is great, which you have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking for yourselves a king."

¹⁸ So Samuel called upon 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 this evil, to ask for ourselves a king."

²⁰ And Samuel said to the people, "Do not be afraid; you have done all this evil. Yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart.

²¹ And do not turn aside after empty things that cannot profit or deliver, for they are empty.

²² For the LORD will not forsake his people, for his great name's sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you a people for himself.

²³ Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you, and I will instruct you in the good and the right way.

²⁴ Only fear the LORD and serve him faithfully 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 was . . . years old when he began to reign, and he reigned . . . and two years over Israel.

² Saul chose three thousand men of Israel. Two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and the hill country of Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin. The rest of the

people he sent home, every man to his tent.

³ Jonathan defeated the garrison of the Philistines that was at Geba, and the Philistines heard of it. And Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, "Let the Hebrews hear."

⁴ And all Israel heard it said that Saul had defeated the garrison of the Philistines, and also that Israel had become a stench to the Philistines. And the people were called out to join Saul at Gilgal.

⁵ And the Philistines mustered to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots and six thousand horsemen and troops like the sand on the seashore in multitude. They came up and encamped in Michmash, to the east of Beth-aven.

⁶ When the men of Israel saw that they were in trouble (for the people were hard pressed), the people hid

themselves in caves and in holes and in rocks and in tombs and in cisterns,

⁷ and some Hebrews crossed the fords of the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul was still at Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.

⁸ He waited seven days, the time appointed by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and the people were scattering from him.

⁹ So Saul said, "Bring the burnt offering here to me, and the peace offerings." And he offered the burnt offering.

¹⁰ As soon as he had finished offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came. And Saul went out to meet him and greet him.

¹¹ Samuel said, "What have you done?" And Saul said, "When I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the days

appointed, and that the Philistines had mustered at Michmash,

¹² I said, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the favor of the LORD.' So I forced myself, and offered the burnt offering."

¹³ And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the command of the LORD your God, with which he commanded you. For then the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever.

¹⁴ But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought out a man after his own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."

¹⁵ And Samuel arose and went up from Gilgal. The rest of the people went up after Saul to meet the army; they went up from Gilgal to Gibeah of Benjamin.

And Saul numbered the people who were present with him, about six hundred men.

¹⁶ And Saul and Jonathan his son and the people who were present with them stayed in Geba of Benjamin, but the Philistines encamped in Michmash.

¹⁷ And raiders came out of the camp of the Philistines in three companies. One company turned toward Ophrah, to the land of Shual;

¹⁸ another company turned toward Beth-horon; and another company turned toward the border that looks down on 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 themselves swords or spears."

²⁰ But every one of the Israelites went down to the Philistines to sharpen his plowshare, his mattock, his axe, or his sickle,

²¹ and the charge was two-thirds of a shekel for the plowshares and for the mattocks, and a third of a shekel for sharpening the axes and for setting the goads.

²² So on the day of the battle there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people with Saul and Jonathan, but Saul and Jonathan his son had them.

²³ And the garrison of the Philistines went out to the pass of Michmash.

14 ¹ One day Jonathan the son of Saul said to the young man who carried his armor, "Come, let us go over to the Philistine garrison on the other side." But he did not tell his father.

² Saul was staying in the outskirts of Gibeah in the pomegranate cave at Migron. The people who were with him were about six hundred men,

³ including Ahijah the son of Ahitub, Ichabod's brother, son of Phinehas, son of Eli, the priest of the LORD in Shiloh, wearing an ephod. And the people did not know that Jonathan had gone.

⁴ Within the passes, by which Jonathan sought to go over to the Philistine garrison, there was a rocky crag on the one side and a rocky crag on the other side. The name of the one was Bozez, and the name of the other Seneh.

⁵ The one crag rose on the north in front of Michmash, and the other on the south in front of Geba.

⁶ Jonathan said to the young man who carried 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 can hinder the LORD from saving by many or by few."

⁷ And his armor-bearer said to him, "Do all that is in your heart. Do as you wish. Behold, I am with you heart and soul."

⁸ Then Jonathan said, "Behold, we will cross over to the men, and we will show ourselves to them."

⁹ If they say to us, 'Wait until we come to you,' then we will stand still in our place, and we will not go up to them."

¹⁰ But if they say, 'Come up to us,' then we will go up, for the LORD has given them into our hand. And this shall be the sign to us."

¹¹ So both of them showed themselves to the garrison of the Philistines. And the Philistines said, "Look, Hebrews are coming out of the holes where they have hidden themselves."

¹² And the men of the garrison hailed Jonathan and his armor-bearer and

said, "Come up to us, and we will show you a thing." And Jonathan said to his armor-bearer, "Come up after me, for the LORD has given them into the hand of Israel."

¹³ Then Jonathan climbed up on his hands and feet, and his armor-bearer after him. And they fell before Jonathan, and his armor-bearer killed them after him.

¹⁴ And that first strike, which Jonathan and his armor-bearer made, killed about twenty men within as it were half a furrow's length in an acre of land.

¹⁵ And there was a panic in the camp, in the field, and among all the people. The garrison and even the raiders trembled, the earth quaked, and it became a very great panic.

¹⁶ And the watchmen of Saul in Gibeah of Benjamin looked, and behold, the multitude was dispersing here and there.

¹⁷ Then Saul said to the people who were with him, "Count and see who has gone from us." And when they had counted, behold, Jonathan and his armor-bearer were not there.

¹⁸ So Saul said to Ahijah, "Bring the ark of God here." For the ark of God went at that time with the people of Israel.

¹⁹ Now while Saul was talking to the priest, the tumult in the camp of the Philistines increased more and more. So Saul said to the priest, "Withdraw your hand."

²⁰ Then Saul and all the people who were with him rallied and went into the battle. And behold, every Philistine's sword was against his fellow, and there was very great confusion.

²¹ Now the Hebrews who had been with the Philistines before that time and who had gone up with them into the camp, even they also turned to be with

the Israelites who were with Saul and Jonathan.

²² Likewise, when all the men of Israel who had hidden themselves in the hill country of Ephraim heard that the Philistines were fleeing, they too followed hard after them in the battle.

²³ So the LORD saved Israel that day. And the battle passed beyond Beth-aven.

²⁴ And the men of Israel had been hard pressed that day, so Saul had laid an oath on the people, saying, "Cursed be the man who eats food until it is evening and I am avenged on my enemies." So none of the people had tasted food.

²⁵ Now when all the people came to the forest, behold, there was honey on the ground.

²⁶ And when the people entered the forest, behold, the honey was dropping, 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, so he put out the tip of the staff that was in his hand and dipped it in the honeycomb and put his hand to his mouth, and his eyes became bright.

²⁸ Then one of the people said, "Your father strictly charged the people with an oath, saying, 'Cursed be the man who eats food this day.'" And the people were faint.

²⁹ Then Jonathan said, "My father has troubled the land. See how my eyes have become bright 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 that they found. For now the defeat among the Philistines has not been great."

³¹ They struck down the Philistines that day from Michmash to Aijalon. And the people were very faint.

³² The people pounced on the spoil and took sheep and oxen and calves and slaughtered them on the ground. And the people ate them with the blood.

³³ Then they told Saul, "Behold, the people are sinning against the LORD by eating with the blood." And he said, "You have dealt treacherously; roll a great stone to me here."

³⁴ And Saul said, "Disperse yourselves among the people and say to them, 'Let every man bring his ox or his sheep and 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 they slaughtered them there.

³⁵ And Saul built an altar to the LORD; it was the first altar that he built to the LORD.

³⁶ Then Saul said, "Let us go down after the Philistines by night and plunder them until the morning light; let us not leave a man of them." And they said, "Do whatever seems good to you." But the priest said, "Let us draw near to God here."

³⁷ And Saul inquired of God, "Shall I go down after the Philistines? Will you give them into the hand of Israel?" But he did not answer him that day.

³⁸ And Saul said, "Come here, all you leaders of the people, and know and see how this sin has arisen today.

³⁹ For as the LORD lives who saves Israel, though it be in Jonathan my son, he shall surely die." But there was not a man among all the people who answered him.

⁴⁰ Then he said to all Israel, "You shall be on one side, and I and Jonathan my son will be on the other side." And the people said to Saul, "Do what seems good to you."

⁴¹ Therefore Saul said, "O LORD God of Israel, why have you not answered your servant this day? If this guilt is in me or in Jonathan my son, O LORD, God of Israel, give Urim. But if this guilt is in your people Israel, give Thummim." And Jonathan and Saul were taken, but the people escaped.

⁴² Then Saul said, "Cast the lot between me and my son Jonathan." And Jonathan was taken.

⁴³ Then Saul said to Jonathan, "Tell me what you have done." And Jonathan told him, "I tasted a little honey with the tip of the staff that was in my hand. Here I am; I will die."

⁴⁴ And Saul said, "God do so to me and more also; you shall surely die, Jonathan."

⁴⁵ Then the people said to Saul, "Shall Jonathan die, who has worked this great salvation in Israel? Far from it! As the LORD lives, there shall not one hair of his head fall to the ground, for he has worked with God this day." So the people ransomed Jonathan, so that he did not die.

⁴⁶ Then Saul went up from pursuing the Philistines, and the Philistines went to their own place.

⁴⁷ When Saul had taken the kingship over Israel, he fought against all his enemies on every side, against Moab, against the Ammonites, against Edom, against the kings of Zobah, and against the Philistines. Wherever he turned he routed them.

⁴⁸ And he did valiantly and struck the Amalekites and delivered Israel out of the hands of those who plundered them.

⁴⁹ Now the sons of Saul were Jonathan, Ishvi, and Malchi-shua. And the names of his two daughters were these: the name of the firstborn was Merab, and the name of the younger Michal.

⁵⁰ And 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 There was hard fighting against the Philistines all the days of Saul. And when Saul saw any strong man, or any valiant man, he attached him to himself.

15 ¹ And Samuel said to Saul, "The LORD sent me to anoint you king over his people Israel; now therefore listen to the words of the LORD.

² Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'I have noted what Amalek did to Israel in opposing them on the way when they came up out of Egypt.

³ Now go and strike Amalek and devote to destruction all that they have. Do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.'"

⁴ So Saul summoned the people and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand men on foot, and ten thousand men of Judah.

⁵ And Saul came to the city of Amalek and lay in wait in the valley.

⁶ Then Saul said to the Kenites, "Go, depart; go down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them. For you showed kindness to all the people of Israel when they came up out of Egypt." So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.

⁷ And Saul defeated the Amalekites from Havilah as far as Shur, which is east of Egypt.

⁸ And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive and devoted to destruction all the people with the edge of the sword.

⁹ But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep and of the oxen and of the fattened calves and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them. All that was despised and worthless they devoted to destruction.

¹⁰ The word of the LORD came to Samuel:

¹¹ "I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following me and has not performed my commandments." And Samuel was angry, and he cried to the LORD all night.

¹² And Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning. And it was told Samuel, "Saul came to Carmel, and behold, he set up a monument for himself and turned and passed on and went down to Gilgal."

¹³ And Samuel came to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed be you to the LORD. I have performed the commandment of the LORD."

¹⁴ And Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears and the lowing of the oxen that I hear?"

¹⁵ Saul said, "They have brought them from the Amalekites, for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen to sacrifice to the LORD your God, and the rest we have devoted to destruction."

¹⁶ Then Samuel said to Saul, "Stop! I will tell you what the LORD said to me this night." And he said to him, "Speak."

¹⁷ And Samuel said, "Though you are little in your own eyes, are you not the head of the tribes of Israel? The LORD anointed you king over Israel.

¹⁸ And the LORD sent you on a mission and said, 'Go, devote to destruction 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 pounce on the spoil and do what was evil in the sight of the LORD?"

²⁰ And Saul said to Samuel, "I have obeyed the voice of the LORD. I have gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me. I have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and I have devoted the Amalekites to destruction.

²¹ But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the best of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal."

²² And 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 listen than the fat of rams.

²³ For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has also rejected you from being king."

²⁴ 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 And 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 As Samuel turned to go away, Saul seized the skirt of his robe, and it tore.

²⁸ And Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you.

²⁹ And also the Glory of Israel will not lie or have regret, for he is not a man, that he should have regret."

³⁰ Then he said, "I have sinned; yet honor me now before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may bow before the LORD your God."

³¹ So Samuel turned back after Saul, and Saul bowed before the LORD.

³² Then Samuel said, "Bring here to me Agag the king of the Amalekites." And Agag came to him cheerfully. Agag said, "Surely the bitterness of death is past."

³³ And Samuel said, "As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women." And Samuel hacked Agag to pieces before the LORD in Gilgal.

³⁴ Then Samuel went to Ramah, and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul.

³⁵ And Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the LORD regretted that he had made Saul king over Israel.

16 ¹ The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for 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 And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you."

⁴ Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?"

⁵ And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before him."

⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

⁸ Then 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 And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these."

¹¹ Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here."

¹² And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he."

¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

¹⁴ Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD tormented him.

¹⁵ And Saul's servants said to him, "Behold now, an evil spirit from God is tormenting you."

¹⁶ Let our lord now command your servants who are before you to seek out a man who is skillful in playing the lyre, and when the evil spirit from God is upon you, he will play it, and you will be well."

¹⁷ So Saul said to his servants, "Provide for me a man who can play well and bring him to me."

¹⁸ One of the young men answered, "Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence, and the LORD is with him."

¹⁹ Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, "Send me David your son, who is with the sheep."

²⁰ And Jesse took a donkey laden with bread and a skin of wine and a young goat and sent them by David his son to Saul.

²¹ And David came to Saul and entered his service. And Saul loved him greatly, and he became his armor-bearer.

²² And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Let David remain in my service, for he has found favor in my sight."

²³ And whenever the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand. So Saul was refreshed and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.

17 ¹ Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle. And they were gathered at Socoh, which belongs to Judah, and encamped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim.

² And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered, and encamped in the Valley of Elah, and drew up in line of battle against the Philistines.

³ And the Philistines stood on the mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with a valley between them.

⁴ And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.

⁵ He had a helmet of bronze 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 javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders.

⁷ The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron. And his shield-bearer went before him.

⁸ He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not 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 ranks 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 an Ephrathite of Bethlehem in Judah, named Jesse, who had eight sons. In the days of Saul the man was already old and advanced in years.

¹³ The three oldest sons of Jesse had followed Saul to the battle. And the names of his three sons who went to the battle were Eliab the firstborn, and next to him Abinadab, and the third Shammah.

¹⁴ David was the youngest. The three eldest followed Saul,

¹⁵ but David went back and forth from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem.

¹⁶ For forty days the Philistine came forward and took his stand, morning and evening.

¹⁷ And Jesse said to David his son, "Take for your brothers an ephah of this parched grain, and these ten loaves, and carry them quickly to the camp to your brothers.

¹⁸ Also take these ten cheeses to the commander of their thousand. See if your brothers are well, and bring some token from them."

¹⁹ Now Saul and they and all the men of Israel were in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines.

²⁰ And David rose early in the morning and left the sheep with a keeper and took the provisions and went, as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the encampment as the host was going out to the battle line, shouting the war cry.

²¹ And Israel and the Philistines drew up for battle, army against army.

²² And David left the things in charge of the keeper of the baggage and ran to the ranks and went and greeted his brothers.

²³ As he talked with them, behold, the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines and spoke the same words as before. And David heard him.

²⁴ All the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were much afraid.

²⁵ And the men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel. And the king will enrich the man who kills him with great riches and will give him his daughter and make his father's house free in Israel."

²⁶ And David said to the men who stood by him, "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 the same way, "So shall it be done to the man who kills him."

²⁸ Now Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spoke to the men. And Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, "Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your presumption and the evil of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle."

²⁹ And David said, "What have I done now? Was it not but a word?"

³⁰ And he turned away from him toward another, and spoke in the same way, and the people answered him again as before.

³¹ When the words that David spoke were heard, they repeated them before Saul, and he sent for him.

³² And 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 but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth."

³⁴ But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock,

³⁵ I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him.

³⁶ Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for

he has defied the armies of the living God."

³⁷ And David said, "The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"

³⁸ Then Saul clothed David with his armor. He put a helmet of bronze on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail,

³⁹ and David strapped his sword over his armor. And he tried in vain to go, for he had not tested them. Then David said to Saul, "I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them." So David put them off.

⁴⁰ Then he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the brook and put them in his shepherd's

pouch. His sling was in his hand, and he approached the Philistine.

⁴¹ And the Philistine moved forward and came near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him.

⁴² And when the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was but a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance.

⁴³ And 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 The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field."

⁴⁵ Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and 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 down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel,

⁴⁷ and that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hand."

⁴⁸ When the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine.

⁴⁹ And David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone and slung it and struck the Philistine on his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground.

⁵⁰ So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. There was no sword in the hand of David.

⁵¹ Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

⁵² And the men of Israel and Judah rose with a shout and pursued the Philistines as far as Gath and the gates of Ekron, so that the wounded Philistines fell on the way from Shaaraim as far as Gath and Ekron.

⁵³ And the people of Israel came back from chasing the Philistines, and they plundered their camp.

⁵⁴ And David took the head of the Philistine and brought it to Jerusalem, but he put his armor in his tent.

⁵⁵ As soon as Saul saw David go 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 And the king said, "Inquire whose son the boy is."

⁵⁷ And as soon as David returned from the striking down 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?" And David answered, "I am the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite."

18 ¹ As soon as 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 And Saul took him that day and would not let him return to his father's house.

³ Then Jonathan made a covenant with David, because he loved him as his own soul.

⁴ And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was on him and gave it to David, and his armor, and even his sword and his bow and his belt.

⁵ And David went out and was successful wherever Saul sent him, so that Saul set him over the men of war. And this was good in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

⁶ As they were coming home, when David returned from striking down the Philistine, the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with songs of joy, and with musical instruments.

⁷ And the women sang to one another as they celebrated, "Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands."

⁸ And Saul was very angry, and this saying displeased him. He said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands, and what more can he have but the kingdom?"

⁹ And Saul eyed David from that day on.

¹⁰ The next day a harmful spirit from God rushed upon Saul, and he raved within his house while David was playing the lyre, as he did day by day. Saul had his spear in his hand.

¹¹ And Saul hurled the spear, for he thought, "I will pin David to the wall." But David evaded him twice.

¹² Saul was afraid of David because the LORD was with him but had departed from Saul.

¹³ So Saul removed him from his presence and made him a commander of a thousand. And he went out and came in before the people.

¹⁴ And David had success in all his undertakings, for the LORD was with him.

¹⁵ And when Saul saw that he had great success, he stood in fearful awe of him.

¹⁶ But all Israel and Judah loved David, for he went out and came in before them.

¹⁷ Then Saul said to David, "Here is my elder daughter Merab. I will give her to you for a wife. Only be valiant for me and fight the LORD's battles." For Saul thought, "Let not my hand be against him, but let the hand of the Philistines be against him."

¹⁸ And David said to Saul, "Who am I, and who are my relatives, my father's

clan in Israel, that I should be son-in-law to the king?"

¹⁹ But at the time when Merab, Saul's daughter, should have been given to David, she was given to Adriel the Meholathite for a wife.

²⁰ Now Saul's daughter Michal loved David. And they told Saul, and the thing pleased him.

²¹ Saul thought, "Let me give her to him, that she may be a snare for him and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him." Therefore Saul said to David a second time, "You shall now be my son-in-law."

²² And Saul commanded his servants, "Speak to David in private and say, 'Behold, the king has delight in you, and all his servants love you. Now then become the king's son-in-law.'"

²³ And Saul's servants spoke those words in the ears of David. And David

said, "Does it seem to you a little thing to become the king's son-in-law, since I am a poor man and have no reputation?"

²⁴ And the servants of Saul told him, "Thus and so did David speak."

²⁵ Then Saul said, "Thus shall you say to David, 'The king desires no bride-price except a hundred foreskins of the Philistines, that he may be avenged of the king's enemies.'" Now Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines.

²⁶ And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king's son-in-law. Before the time had expired,

²⁷ David arose and went, along with his men, and killed two hundred of the Philistines. And David brought their foreskins, which were given in full number to the king, that he might

become the king's son-in-law. And Saul gave him his daughter Michal for a wife.

²⁸ But when Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and that Michal, Saul's daughter, loved him,

²⁹ Saul was even more afraid of David. So Saul was David's enemy continually.

³⁰ Then the princes of the Philistines came out to battle, and as often as they came out David had more success than all the servants of Saul, so that his name was highly esteemed.

19 ¹ And Saul spoke to Jonathan his son and to all his servants, that they should kill David. But Jonathan, Saul's son, delighted much in David.

² And Jonathan told David, "Saul my father seeks to kill you. Therefore be on your guard in the morning. Stay in a secret place and hide yourself.

³ And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are, and I

will speak to my father about you. And if I learn anything I will tell you."

⁴ And Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father and said to him, "Let not the king sin against his servant David, because he has not sinned against you, and because his deeds have brought good to you.

⁵ For he took his life in his hand and he struck down the Philistine, and the LORD worked a great salvation for all Israel. You saw it, and rejoiced. Why then will you sin against innocent blood by killing David without cause?"

⁶ And Saul listened to the voice of Jonathan. Saul swore, "As the LORD lives, he shall not be put to death."

⁷ And Jonathan called David, and Jonathan reported to him all these things. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as before.

⁸ And there was war again. And David went out and fought with the Philistines and struck them with a great blow, so that they fled before him.

⁹ Then a harmful spirit from the LORD came upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his spear in his hand. And David was playing the lyre.

¹⁰ And Saul sought to pin David to the wall with the spear, but he eluded Saul, so that he struck the spear into the wall. And David fled and escaped that night.

¹¹ Saul sent messengers to David's house to watch him, that he might kill him in the morning. But Michal, David's wife, told him, "If you do not escape with your life tonight, tomorrow you will be killed."

¹² So Michal let David down through the window, and he fled away and escaped.

¹³ Michal took an image and laid it on the bed and put a pillow of goats' hair at its head and covered it with the clothes.

¹⁴ And when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, "He is sick."

¹⁵ Then Saul sent the messengers to see David, saying, "Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may kill him."

¹⁶ And when the messengers came in, behold, the image was in the bed, with the pillow of goats' hair at its head.

¹⁷ Saul said to Michal, "Why have you deceived me thus and let my enemy go, so that he has escaped?" And Michal answered Saul, "He said to me, 'Let me go. Why should I kill you?'"

¹⁸ Now David fled and escaped, and he came to Samuel at Ramah and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and lived at Naioth.

¹⁹ And it was told Saul, "Behold, David is at Naioth in Ramah."

²⁰ Then Saul sent messengers to take David, and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as head over them, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied.

²¹ When it was told Saul, he sent other messengers, and they also prophesied. And Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they also prophesied.

²² Then he himself went to Ramah and came to the great well that is in Secu. And he asked, "Where are Samuel and David?" And one said, "Behold, they are at Naioth in Ramah."

²³ And he went there to Naioth in Ramah. And the Spirit of God came upon him also, and as he went he prophesied until he came to Naioth in Ramah.

²⁴ And he too stripped off his clothes, and he too prophesied before Samuel and lay naked all that day and all that

night. Thus it is said, "Is Saul also among the prophets?"

20 ¹ Then David fled from Naioth in Ramah and came and said before Jonathan, "What have I done? What is my guilt? And what is my sin before your father, that he seeks my life?"

² And he said to him, "Far from it! You shall not die. Behold, my father does nothing either great or small without disclosing it to me. And why should my father hide this from me? It is not so."

³ But David vowed again, saying, "Your father knows well that I have found favor in your eyes, and he thinks, '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 Then Jonathan said to David, "Whatever you say, I will do for you."

⁵ David said to Jonathan, "Behold, tomorrow is the new moon, and I should not fail to sit at table with the king. But let me go, that I may hide myself in the field till the third day at evening.

⁶ If your father misses me at all, then say, 'David earnestly asked leave of me to run to Bethlehem his city, for there is a yearly sacrifice there for all the clan.'

⁷ If he says, 'Good!' it will be well with your servant, but if he is angry, then know that harm is determined by him.

⁸ Therefore deal kindly with your servant, for you have brought your servant into a covenant of the LORD with you. But if there is guilt in me, kill me yourself, for why should you bring me to your father?"

⁹ And Jonathan said, "Far be it from you! If I knew that it was determined by my father that harm should come to you, would I not tell you?"

¹⁰ Then David said to Jonathan, "Who will tell me if your father answers you roughly?"

¹¹ And Jonathan said to David, "Come, let us go out into the field." So they both went out into the field.

¹² And Jonathan said to David, "The LORD, the God of Israel, be witness! When I have sounded out my father, about this time tomorrow, or the third day, behold, if he is well disposed toward David, shall I not then send and disclose it to you?"

¹³ But should it please my father to do you harm, the LORD do so to Jonathan and more also if I do not disclose it to you and send you away, that you may go in safety. May the LORD be with you, as he has been with my father.

¹⁴ If I am still alive, show me the steadfast love of the LORD, that I may not die;

¹⁵ and do not cut off your steadfast love from my house forever, when the LORD cuts off every one of the enemies of David from the face of the earth."

¹⁶ And Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, "May the LORD take vengeance on David's enemies."

¹⁷ And Jonathan made David swear again by his love for him, for he loved him as he loved his own soul.

¹⁸ Then Jonathan said to him, "Tomorrow is the new moon, and you will be missed, because your seat will be empty.

¹⁹ On the third day go down quickly to the place where you hid yourself when the matter was in hand, and remain beside the stone heap.

²⁰ And I will shoot three arrows to the side of it, as though I shot at a mark.

²¹ And behold, I will send the young man, saying, 'Go, find the arrows.' If I say to the young man, 'Look, the arrows are on this side of you, take them,' then you are to come, for, as the LORD lives, it is safe for you and there is no danger.

²² But if I say to the youth, 'Look, the arrows are beyond you,' then go, for the LORD has sent you away.

²³ And as for the matter of which you and I have spoken, behold, the LORD is between you and me forever."

²⁴ So David hid himself in the field. And when the new moon came, the king sat down to eat food.

²⁵ The king sat on his seat, as at other times, on the seat by the wall. Jonathan sat opposite, and Abner sat by Saul's side, but David's place was empty.

²⁶ Yet Saul did not say anything that day, for he thought, "Something has

happened to him. He is not clean; surely he is not clean."

²⁷ But on the second day, the day after the new moon, David's place was empty. And Saul said to Jonathan his son, "Why has not the son of Jesse come to the meal, either yesterday or today?"

²⁸ Jonathan answered Saul, "David earnestly asked leave of me to go to Bethlehem.

²⁹ He said, 'Let me go, for our clan holds a sacrifice in the city, and my brother has commanded me to be there. So now, if I have found favor in your eyes, let me get away and see my brothers.' For this reason he has not come to the king's table."

³⁰ Then Saul's anger was kindled 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, neither you nor your kingdom shall be established. Therefore send and bring him to me, for he shall surely die."

³² Then Jonathan answered Saul his father, "Why should he be put to death? What has he done?"

³³ But Saul hurled his spear at him to strike him. So Jonathan knew that his father was determined to put David to death.

³⁴ And Jonathan rose 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 disgraced him.

³⁵ In the morning Jonathan went out into the field to the appointment with David, and with him a little boy.

³⁶ And he said to his boy, "Run and find the arrows that I shoot." As the boy ran, he shot an arrow beyond him.

³⁷ And when the boy came to the place of the arrow that Jonathan had shot, Jonathan called after the boy and said, "Is not the arrow beyond you?"

³⁸ And Jonathan called after the boy, "Hurry! Be quick! Do not stay!" So Jonathan's boy gathered up the arrows and came to his master.

³⁹ But the boy knew nothing. Only Jonathan and David knew the matter.

⁴⁰ And Jonathan gave his weapons to his boy and said to him, "Go and carry them to the city."

⁴¹ And as soon as the boy had gone, David rose from beside the stone heap and fell on his face to the ground and bowed three times. And they kissed one another and wept with one another, David weeping the most.

⁴² Then Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, because we have sworn both of us in the name of the LORD, saying, 'The LORD shall be between me and you, and between my offspring and your offspring, forever.'" And he rose and departed, and Jonathan went into the city.

21 ¹ Then David came to Nob to Ahimelech the priest. And Ahimelech came to meet David trembling and said to him, "Why are you alone, and no one with you?"

² And David said to Ahimelech the priest, "The king has charged me with a matter and said to me, 'Let no one know anything of the matter about which I send you, and with which I have charged you.' I have made an appointment with the young men for such and such a place.

³ Now then, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever is here."

⁴ And the priest answered David, "I have no common bread on hand, but there is holy bread--if the young men have kept themselves from women."

⁵ And David answered the priest, "Truly women have been kept from us as always when I go on an expedition. The vessels of the young men are holy even when it is an ordinary journey. How much more today will their vessels be holy?"

⁶ So the priest gave him the holy bread, for there was no bread there but the bread of the Presence, which is removed from before the LORD, to be replaced by hot bread on the day it is taken away.

⁷ Now a certain man of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained

before the LORD. His name was Doeg the Edomite, the chief of Saul's herdsmen.

⁸ Then David said to Ahimelech, "Then have you not here a spear or a sword at hand? For I have brought neither my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's business required haste."

⁹ And the priest said, "The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you struck down in the valley of Elah, behold, it is here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you will take that, take it, for there is none but that here." And David said, "There is none like that; give it to me."

¹⁰ And David rose and fled that day from Saul and went to Achish the king of Gath.

¹¹ And the servants of Achish said to him, "Is not this David the king of the land? Did they not sing to one another

of him in dances, 'Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands'?"

¹² And David took these words to heart and was much afraid of Achish the king of Gath.

¹³ So he changed his behavior before them and pretended to be insane in their hands and made marks on the doors of the gate and let his spittle run down his beard.

¹⁴ Then Achish said to his servants, "Behold, you see the man is mad. Why then have you brought him to me?"

¹⁵ Do I lack madmen, that you have brought this fellow to behave as a madman in my presence? Shall this fellow come into my house?"

22 ¹ David 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, and everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was bitter in soul, gathered to him. And he became captain over them. And there were with him about four hundred men.

³ And David went from there to Mizpeh of Moab. And he said to the king of Moab, "Please let my father and my mother stay with you, till I know what God will do for me."

⁴ And he left them with the king of Moab, and they stayed with him all the time that David was in the stronghold.

⁵ Then the prophet Gad said to David, "Do not remain in the stronghold; depart, and go into the land of Judah." So David departed and went into the forest of Hereth.

⁶ Now Saul heard that David was discovered, and the men who were with him. Saul was sitting at Gibeah under the tamarisk tree on the height with his spear in his hand, and all his servants were standing about him.

⁷ And Saul said to his servants who stood about him, "Hear now, people of Benjamin; will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, will he make you all commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds,

⁸ that all of you have conspired against me? No one discloses to me when my son makes a covenant with the son of Jesse. None of you is sorry for me or discloses to me that my son has stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as at this day."

⁹ Then answered Doeg the Edomite, who stood by the servants of Saul, "I

saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub,

¹⁰ and he inquired of the LORD for him and gave him provisions and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine."

¹¹ Then the king sent to summon Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests who were at Nob, and all of them came to the king.

¹² And Saul said, "Hear now, son of Ahitub." And he answered, "Here I am, my lord."

¹³ And 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, so that he has risen against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?"

¹⁴ Then Ahimelech answered the king, "And who among all your servants is so faithful as David, who is the king's

son-in-law, and captain over your bodyguard, and honored in your house?

¹⁵ Is today the first time that I have inquired of God for him? No! Let not the king impute anything to his servant or to all the house of my father, for your servant has known nothing of all this, much or little."

¹⁶ And the king said, "You shall surely die, Ahimelech, you and all your father's house."

¹⁷ And the king said to the guard who stood about him, "Turn and kill the priests of the LORD, because their hand also is with David, and they knew that he fled and did not disclose it to me." But the servants of the king would not put out their hand to strike the priests of the LORD.

¹⁸ Then the king said to Doeg, "You turn and strike the priests." And Doeg the Edomite turned and struck down

the priests, and he killed on that day eighty-five persons who wore the linen ephod.

¹⁹ And Nob, the city of the priests, he put to the sword; both man and woman, child and infant, ox, donkey and sheep, he put to the sword.

²⁰ But 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 priests of the LORD.

²² And David said to Abiathar, "I knew on that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul. I have occasioned the death of all the persons of your father's house.

²³ Stay with me; do not be afraid, for he who seeks my life seeks your life. With me you shall be in safekeeping."

23 ¹ Now they told David, "Behold, the Philistines are fighting against

Keilah and are robbing the threshing floors."

² Therefore David inquired of the LORD, "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, "Behold, 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 again. And the LORD answered him, "Arise, go down to Keilah, for I will give the Philistines into your hand."

⁵ And David and his men went to Keilah and fought with the Philistines and brought away their livestock and struck them with a great blow. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah.

⁶ When Abiathar the son of Ahimelech had fled to David to Keilah, he had come down with an ephod in his hand.

⁷ Now it was told Saul that David had come to Keilah. And Saul said, "God has given him into my hand, for he has shut himself in by entering a town that has gates and bars."

⁸ And Saul summoned all the people to war, to go down to Keilah, to besiege David and his men.

⁹ David knew that Saul was plotting harm against him. And he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod here."

¹⁰ Then said David, "O LORD, the God of Israel, your servant has surely heard that Saul seeks to come to Keilah, to destroy the city on my account.

¹¹ Will the men of Keilah surrender me into his hand? Will Saul come down, as your servant has heard? O LORD, the God of Israel, please tell your servant." And the LORD said, "He will come down."

¹² Then David said, "Will the men of Keilah surrender me and my men into the hand of Saul?" And the LORD said, "They will surrender you."

¹³ Then David and his men, who were about six hundred, arose and departed from Keilah, and they went wherever they could go. When Saul was told that David had escaped from Keilah, he gave up the expedition.

¹⁴ And David remained in the strongholds in the wilderness, in the hill country of the Wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God did not give him into his hand.

¹⁵ David saw that Saul had come out to seek his life. David was in the Wilderness of Ziph at Horesh.

¹⁶ And Jonathan, Saul's son, rose and went to David at Horesh, 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. Saul my father also knows this."

¹⁸ And the two of them made a covenant before the LORD. David remained at Horesh, and Jonathan went home.

¹⁹ Then the Ziphites went up to Saul at Gibeah, saying, "Is not David hiding among us in the strongholds at Horesh, on the hill of Hachilah, which is south of Jeshimon?"

²⁰ Now come down, O king, according to all your heart's desire to come down, and our part shall be to surrender him into the king's hand."

²¹ And Saul said, "May you be blessed by the LORD, for you have had compassion on me.

²² Go, make yet more sure. Know and see the place where his foot is, and who has seen him there, for it is told me that he is very cunning.

²³ See therefore and take note of all the lurking places where he hides, and come back to me with sure information. Then I will go with you. And if he is in the land, I will search him out among all the thousands of Judah."

²⁴ And they arose and went to Ziph ahead of Saul. Now David and his men were in the wilderness of Maon, in the Arabah to the south of Jeshimon.

²⁵ And Saul and his men went to seek him. And David was told, so he went down to the rock and lived in the wilderness of Maon. And when Saul heard that, he pursued after David in the wilderness of Maon.

²⁶ Saul went on one side of the mountain, and David and his men on the

other side of the mountain. And David was hurrying to get away from Saul. As Saul and his men were closing in on David and his men to capture them,

²⁷ a messenger came to Saul, saying, "Hurry and come, for the Philistines have made a raid against the land."

²⁸ So Saul returned from pursuing after David and went against the Philistines. Therefore that place was called the Rock of Escape.

²⁹ And David went up from there and lived in the strongholds of Engedi.

24 ¹ When Saul returned from following the Philistines, he was told, "Behold, David is in the wilderness of Engedi."

² Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel and went to seek David and his men in front of the Wildgoats' Rocks.

³ And he came to the sheepfolds by the way, where there was a cave, and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the innermost parts of the cave.

⁴ And the men of David said to him, "Here is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold, I will give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it shall seem good to you.'" Then David arose and stealthily cut off a corner of Saul's robe.

⁵ And afterward David's heart struck him, because he had cut off a corner of Saul's robe.

⁶ He said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD's anointed, to put out my hand against him, seeing he is the LORD's anointed."

⁷ So David persuaded his men with these words and did not permit them to

attack Saul. And Saul rose up and left the cave and went on his way.

⁸ Afterward David also arose and went out of the cave, and called after Saul, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the earth and paid homage.

⁹ And David said to Saul, "Why do you listen to the words of men who say, 'Behold, David seeks your harm'?"

¹⁰ Behold, this day your eyes have seen how the LORD gave you today into my hand in the cave. And some told me to kill you, but I spared you. I said, 'I will not put out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD's anointed.'

¹¹ See, my father, see the corner of your robe in my hand. For by the fact that I cut off the corner of your robe and did not kill you, you may know and see that there is no wrong or treason in my

hands. I have not sinned against you, though you hunt my life to take it.

¹² May the LORD judge between me and you, may the LORD avenge me against you, but my hand shall not be against you.

¹³ As the proverb of the ancients says, 'Out of the wicked comes wickedness.' But my hand shall not be against you.

¹⁴ After whom has the king of Israel come out? After whom do you pursue? After a dead dog! After a flea!

¹⁵ May the LORD therefore be judge and give sentence between me and you, and see to it and plead my cause and deliver me from your hand."

¹⁶ As soon as David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And Saul lifted up his voice and wept.

¹⁷ He said to David, "You are more righteous than I, for you have repaid me good, whereas I have repaid you evil.

¹⁸ And you have declared this day how you have dealt well with me, in that you did not kill me when the LORD put me into your hands.

¹⁹ For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him go away safe? So may the LORD reward you with good for what you have done to me this day.

²⁰ And now, behold, I know that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand.

²¹ Swear to me therefore by the LORD that you will not cut off my offspring after me, and that you will not destroy my name out of my father's house."

²² And David swore this to Saul. Then Saul went home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

25 ¹ Now Samuel died. And all Israel assembled and mourned for him, and they buried him in his house at Ramah. Then David rose and went down to the wilderness of Paran.

² And there was a man in Maon whose business was in Carmel. The man was very rich; he had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. He was shearing his sheep in Carmel.

³ Now the name of the man was Nabal, and the name of his wife Abigail. The woman was discerning and beautiful, but the man was harsh and badly behaved; he was a Calebite.

⁴ David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep.

⁵ So David sent ten young men. And David said to the young men, "Go up to Carmel, and go to Nabal and greet him in my name.

⁶ And thus you shall greet him: 'Peace be to you, and peace be to your house, and peace be to all that you have.

⁷ I hear that you have shearers. Now your shepherds have been with us, and we did them no harm, and they missed nothing all the time 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 you have at hand to your servants and to your son David.'"

⁹ When David's young men came, they said all this to Nabal in the name of David, and then they waited.

¹⁰ And Nabal answered David's servants, "Who is David? Who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants these days who are breaking away from their masters.

¹¹ Shall I take my bread and my water and my meat that I have killed for my shearers and give it to men who come from I do not know where?"

¹² So David's young men turned away and came back and told him all this.

¹³ And David said to his men, "Every man strap on his sword!" And every man of them strapped on his sword. David also strapped on his sword. And about four hundred men went up after David, while two hundred remained with the baggage.

¹⁴ But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, "Behold, David sent messengers out of the wilderness to greet our master, and he railed at them.

¹⁵ Yet the men were very good to us, and we suffered no harm, and we did not miss anything when we were in the fields, as long as we went with them.

¹⁶ They were a wall to us both by night and by day, all the while we were with them keeping the sheep.

¹⁷ Now therefore know this and consider what you should do, for harm is determined against our master and against all his house, and he is such a worthless man that one cannot speak to him."

¹⁸ Then Abigail made haste and took two hundred loaves and two skins of wine and five sheep already prepared and five seahs of parched grain and a hundred clusters of raisins and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid them on donkeys.

¹⁹ And she said to her young men, "Go on before me; behold, I come after you." But she did not tell her husband Nabal.

²⁰ And as she rode on the donkey and came down under cover of the mountain, behold, David and his men

came down toward her, and she met them.

²¹ Now David had said, "Surely in vain have I guarded all that this fellow has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that belonged to him, and he has returned me evil for good.

²² God do so to the enemies of David and more also, if by morning I leave so much as one male of all who belong to him."

²³ When Abigail saw David, she hurried and got down from the donkey and fell before David on her face and bowed to the ground.

²⁴ She fell at his feet and said, "On me alone, my lord, be the guilt. Please let your servant speak in your ears, and hear the words of your servant.

²⁵ Let not my lord regard this worthless fellow, Nabal, for as his name is, so is he. Nabal is his name, and folly is with him.

But I your servant did not see the young men of my lord, whom you sent.

²⁶ Now then, my lord, as the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, because the LORD has restrained you from bloodguilt and from saving with your own hand, now then let your enemies and those who seek to do evil to my lord be as Nabal.

²⁷ And now let this present that your servant has brought to my lord be given to the young men who follow my lord.

²⁸ Please forgive the trespass of your servant. For the LORD will certainly make my lord a sure house, because my lord is fighting the battles of the LORD, and evil shall not be found in you so long as you live.

²⁹ If men rise up to pursue you and to seek your life, the life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living in the care of the LORD your God. And the

lives of your enemies he shall sling out as from the hollow of a sling.

³⁰ And when the LORD has done to my lord according to all the good that he has spoken concerning you and has appointed you prince over Israel,

³¹ my lord shall have no cause of grief or pangs of conscience for having shed blood without cause or for my lord taking vengeance himself. And when the LORD has dealt well with my lord, then remember your servant."

³² And David said to Abigail, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me!

³³ Blessed be your discretion, and blessed be you, who have kept me this day from bloodguilt and from avenging myself with my own hand!

³⁴ For as surely as the LORD the God of Israel lives, who has restrained me from hurting you, unless you had hurried

and come to meet me, truly by morning there had not been left to Nabal so much as one male."

³⁵ Then David received from her hand what she had brought him. And he said to her, "Go up in peace to your house. See, I have obeyed your voice, and I have granted your petition."

³⁶ And Abigail came to Nabal, and behold, 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. So she told him nothing at all until the morning light.

³⁷ In the morning, when the wine had gone out of Nabal, his wife told him these things, and his heart died within him, and he became as a stone.

³⁸ And about ten days later the LORD struck Nabal, and he died.

³⁹ When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, "Blessed be the LORD who

has avenged the insult I received at the hand of Nabal, and has kept back his servant from wrongdoing. The LORD has returned the evil of Nabal on his own head." Then David sent and spoke to Abigail, to take her as his wife.

⁴⁰ When the servants of David came to Abigail at Carmel, they said to her, "David has sent us to you to take you to him as his wife."

⁴¹ And she rose and bowed with her face to the ground and said, "Behold, your handmaid is a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord."

⁴² And Abigail hurried and rose and mounted a donkey, and her five young women attended her. She followed the messengers of David and became his wife.

⁴³ David also took Ahinoam of Jezreel, and both of them became his wives.

⁴⁴ Saul had given Michal his daughter, David's wife, to Palti the son of Laish, who was of Gallim.

26 ¹ Then the Ziphites came to Saul at Gibeah, saying, "Is not David hiding himself on the hill of Hachilah, which is on the east of Jeshimon?"

² So Saul arose and went down to the wilderness of Ziph with three thousand chosen men of Israel to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph.

³ And Saul encamped on the hill of Hachilah, which is beside the road on the east of Jeshimon. But David remained in the wilderness. When he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness,

⁴ David sent out spies and learned that Saul had come.

⁵ Then David rose and came to the place where Saul had encamped. And David saw the place where Saul lay, with Abner the son of Ner, the commander

of his army. Saul was lying within the encampment, while the army was encamped around him.

⁶ Then David said to Ahimelech the Hittite, and to Joab's brother Abishai the son of Zeruiah, "Who will go down with me into the camp to Saul?" And Abishai said, "I will go down with you."

⁷ So David and Abishai went to the army by night. And there lay Saul sleeping within the encampment, with his spear stuck in the ground at his head, and Abner and the army lay around him.

⁸ Then said Abishai to David, "God has given your enemy into your hand this day. Now please let me pin him to the earth with one stroke of the spear, and I will not strike him twice."

⁹ But David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him, for who can put out his hand against the LORD's anointed and be guiltless?"

¹⁰ And David said, "As the LORD lives, the LORD will strike him, or his day will come to die, or he will go down into battle and perish.

¹¹ The LORD forbid that I should put out my hand against the LORD's anointed. But take now the spear that is at his head and the jar of water, and let us go."

¹² So David took the spear and the jar of water from Saul's head, and they went away. No man saw it or knew it, nor did any awake, for they were all asleep, because a deep sleep from the LORD had fallen upon them.

¹³ Then David went over to the other side and stood far off on the top of the hill, with a great space between them.

¹⁴ And David called to the army, and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, "Will you not answer, Abner?" Then Abner answered, "Who are you who calls to the king?"

¹⁵ And David said to Abner, "Are you not a man? Who is like you in Israel? Why then have you not kept watch over your lord the king? For one of the people came in to destroy the king your lord.

¹⁶ This thing that you have done is not good. As the LORD lives, you deserve to die, because you have not kept watch over your lord, the LORD's anointed. And now see where the king's spear is and the jar of water that was at his head."

¹⁷ Saul recognized David's voice and said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And David said, "It is my voice, my lord, O king."

¹⁸ And he said, "Why does my lord pursue after his servant? For what have I done? What evil is on my hands?"

¹⁹ Now therefore let my lord the king hear the words of his servant. If it is the LORD who has stirred you up against me, may he accept an offering, but if it

is men, may they be cursed before the LORD, for they have driven me out this day that I should have no share in the heritage of the LORD, saying, 'Go, serve other gods.'

²⁰ Now therefore, let not my blood fall to the earth away from the presence of the LORD, for the king of Israel has come out to seek a single flea like one who hunts a partridge in the mountains."

²¹ Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Return, my son David, for I will no more do you harm, because my life was precious in your eyes this day. Behold, I have acted foolishly, and have made a great mistake."

²² And David answered and said, "Here is the spear, O king! Let one of the young men come over and take it.

²³ The LORD rewards every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness, for the LORD gave you into my hand today,

and I would not put out my hand against the LORD's anointed.

²⁴ Behold, as your life was precious this day in my sight, so may my life be precious in the sight of the LORD, and may he deliver me out of all tribulation."

²⁵ Then Saul said to David, "Blessed be you, my son David! You will do many things and will succeed in them." So David went his way, and Saul returned to his place.

27 ¹ Then David said in his heart, "Now I shall perish one day by the hand of Saul. There is nothing better for me than that I should escape to the land of the Philistines. Then Saul will despair of seeking me any longer within the borders of Israel, and I shall escape out of his hand."

² So David arose and went over, he and the six hundred men who were with

him, to Achish the son of Maach, king of Gath.

³ And David lived with Achish at Gath, he and his men, every man with his household, and David with his two wives, Ahinoam of Jezreel, and Abigail of Carmel, Nabal's widow.

⁴ And when it was told Saul that David had fled to Gath, he no longer sought him.

⁵ Then David said to Achish, "If I have found favor in your eyes, let a place be given me in one of the country towns, that I may dwell there. For why should your servant dwell in the royal city with you?"

⁶ So that day Achish gave him Ziklag. Therefore Ziklag has belonged to the kings of Judah to this day.

⁷ And the number of the days that David lived in the country of the Philistines was a year and four months.

⁸ Now David and his men went up and made raids against the Geshurites, the Girzites, and the Amalekites, for these were the inhabitants of the land from of old, as far as Shur, to the land of Egypt.

⁹ And David would strike the land and would leave neither man nor woman alive, but would take away the sheep, the oxen, the donkeys, the camels, and the garments, and come back to Achish.

¹⁰ When Achish asked, "Where have you made a raid today?" David would say, "Against the Negeb of Judah," or, "Against the Negeb of the Jerahmeelites," or, "Against the Negeb of the Kenites."

¹¹ And David would leave neither man nor woman alive to bring news to Gath, thinking, "Lest they should tell about us and say, 'So David has done.'" Such was his custom all the while he lived in the country of the Philistines.

¹² And Achish trusted David, thinking, "He has made himself an utter stench to his people Israel; therefore he shall always be my servant."

28 ¹ In those days the Philistines gathered their forces for war, to fight against Israel. And Achish said to David, "Understand that you and your men are to go out with me in the army."

² David said to Achish, "Very well, you shall know what your servant can do." And Achish said to David, "Very well, I will make you my bodyguard for life."

³ Now Samuel had died, and all Israel had mourned for him and buried him in Ramah, his own city. And Saul had put the mediums and the necromancers out of the land.

⁴ The Philistines assembled and came and encamped at Shunem. And Saul gathered all Israel, 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 prophets.

⁷ Then Saul said to his servants, "Seek out for me a woman who is a medium, that I may go to her and inquire of her." And his servants said to him, "Behold, there is a medium at En-dor."

⁸ So Saul disguised himself and put on other garments and went, he and two men with him. And they came to the woman by night. And he said, "Divine for me by a spirit and bring up for me whomever I shall name to you."

⁹ The woman said to him, "Surely you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off the mediums and the necromancers from the land. Why then

are you laying a trap for my life to bring about my death?"

¹⁰ But Saul swore to her by the LORD, "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?" He said, "Bring up Samuel for me."

¹² When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice. And the woman said to Saul, "Why have you deceived me? You are Saul."

¹³ The king said to her, "Do not be afraid. What do you see?" And the woman said to Saul, "I see a god coming up out of the earth."

¹⁴ He said to her, "What is his appearance?" And she said, "An old man is coming up, and he is wrapped in a robe." And Saul knew that it was Samuel, and he bowed with his face to the ground and paid homage.

¹⁵ Then Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?" Saul answered, "I am in great distress, for the Philistines are warring against me, and God has turned away from me and answers me no more, either by prophets or by dreams. Therefore I have summoned you to tell me what I shall do."

¹⁶ And Samuel said, "Why then do you ask me, since the LORD has turned from you and become your enemy?"

¹⁷ The LORD has done to you 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 and did not carry out his fierce wrath against Amalek, therefore the LORD has done this thing to you this day.

¹⁹ Moreover, the LORD will give Israel also with you into the hand of the Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons shall be with me. The LORD will give the army of Israel also into the hand of the Philistines."

²⁰ Then Saul fell at once full length on the ground, filled with fear because of the words of Samuel. And there was no strength in him, for he had eaten nothing all day and all night.

²¹ And the woman came to Saul, and when she saw that he was terrified, she said to him, "Behold, your servant has obeyed you. I have taken my life in my hand and have listened to what you have said to me.

²² Now therefore, you also obey your servant. Let me set a morsel of bread before you; and eat, that you may have strength when you go on your way."

²³ He refused and said, "I will not eat." But his servants, together with the woman, urged him, and he listened to their words. So he arose from the earth and sat on the bed.

²⁴ Now the woman had a fattened calf in the house, and she quickly killed it, and she took flour and kneaded it and baked unleavened bread of it,

²⁵ and she put it before Saul and his servants, and they ate. Then they rose and went away that night.

29 ¹ Now the Philistines had gathered all their forces at Aphek. And the Israelites were encamped by the spring that is in Jezreel.

² As the lords of the Philistines were passing on by hundreds and by thousands, and David and his men were passing on in the rear with Achish,

³ the commanders of the Philistines said, "What are these Hebrews

doing here?" And Achish said to the commanders of the Philistines, "Is this not David, the servant of Saul, king of Israel, who has been with me now for days and years, and since he deserted to me I have found no fault in him to this day."

⁴ But the commanders of the Philistines were angry with him. And the commanders of the Philistines said to him, "Send the man back, that he may return to the place to which you have assigned him. He shall not go down with us to battle, lest in the battle he become an adversary to us. For how could this fellow reconcile himself to his lord? Would it not be with the heads of the men here?"

⁵ Is not this David, of whom they sing to one another in dances, 'Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands'?"

⁶ Then Achish called David and said to him, "As the LORD lives, you have been honest, and to me it seems right that you should march out and in with me in the campaign. For I have found nothing wrong in you from the day of your coming to me to this day. Nevertheless, the lords do not approve of you.

⁷ So go back now; and go peaceably, that you may not displease the lords of the Philistines."

⁸ And David said to Achish, "But what have I done? What have you found in your servant from the day I entered your service until now, that I may not go and fight against the enemies of my lord the king?"

⁹ And Achish answered David and said, "I know that you are as blameless in my sight as an angel of God. Nevertheless, the commanders of the Philistines have

said, 'He shall not go up with us to the battle.'

¹⁰ Now then rise early in the morning with the servants of your lord who came with you, and start early in the morning, and depart as soon as you have light."

¹¹ So David set out with his men early in the morning to return to the land of the Philistines. But the Philistines went up to Jezreel.

30 ¹ Now when David and his men came to Ziklag on the third day, the Amalekites had made a raid against the Negeb and against Ziklag. They had overcome Ziklag and burned it with fire

² and taken captive the women and all who were in it, both small and great.

They killed no one, but carried them off and went their way.

³ And when David and his men came to the city, they found it burned with fire,

and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive.

⁴ Then David and the people who were with him raised their voices and wept until they had no more strength to weep.

⁵ David's two wives also had been taken captive, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel.

⁶ And David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because all the people were bitter in soul, each for his sons and daughters. But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.

⁷ And David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelech, "Bring me the ephod." So Abiathar brought the ephod to David.

⁸ And David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I pursue after this band? Shall I overtake them?" He answered him, "Pursue, for

you shall surely overtake and shall surely rescue."

⁹ So David set out, and the six hundred men who were with him, and they came to the brook Besor, where those who were left behind stayed.

¹⁰ But David pursued, he and four hundred men. Two hundred stayed behind, who were too exhausted to cross the brook Besor.

¹¹ They found an Egyptian in the open country and brought him to David. And they gave him bread and he ate. They gave him water to drink,

¹² and they gave him a piece of a cake of figs and two clusters of raisins. And when he had eaten, his spirit revived, for he had not eaten bread or drunk water for three days and three nights.

¹³ And David said to him, "To whom do you belong? And where are you from?" He said, "I am a young man of Egypt,

servant to an Amalekite, and my master left me behind because I fell sick three days ago.

¹⁴ We had made a raid against the Negeb of the Cherethites and against that which belongs to Judah and against the Negeb of Caleb, and we burned Ziklag with fire."

¹⁵ And David said to him, "Will you take me down to this band?" And he said, "Swear to me by God that you will not kill me or deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will take you down to this band."

¹⁶ And when he had taken him down, behold, they were spread abroad over all the land, eating and drinking and dancing, because of all the great spoil they had taken from the land of the Philistines and from the land of Judah.

¹⁷ And David struck them down from twilight until the evening of the next day,

and not a man of them escaped, except four hundred young men, who mounted camels and fled.

¹⁸ David recovered all that the Amalekites had taken, and David rescued his two wives.

¹⁹ Nothing was missing, whether small or great, sons or daughters, spoil or anything that had been taken. David brought back all.

²⁰ David also captured all the flocks and herds, and the people drove the livestock before him, and said, "This is David's spoil."

²¹ Then David came to the two hundred men who had been too exhausted to follow David, and who had been left at the brook Besor. And they went out to meet David and to meet the people who were with him. And when David came near to the people he greeted them.

²² Then all the wicked and worthless fellows among the men who had gone with David said, "Because they did not go with us, we will not give them any of the spoil that we have recovered, except that each man may lead away his wife and children, and depart."

²³ But David said, "You shall not do so, my brothers, with what the LORD has given us. He has preserved us and given into our hand the band that came against us.

²⁴ Who would listen to you in this matter? For as his share is who goes down into the battle, so shall his share be who stays by the baggage. They shall share alike."

²⁵ And he made it a statute and a rule for Israel from that day forward to this day.

²⁶ When David came to Ziklag, he sent part of the spoil to his friends, the elders

of Judah, saying, "Here is a present for you from the spoil of the enemies of the LORD."

²⁷ It was for those in Bethel, in Ramoth of the Negeb, in Jattir,

²⁸ in Aroer, in Siphmoth, in Eshtemoa,

²⁹ in Racal, in the cities of the Jerahmeelites, in the cities of the Kenites,

³⁰ in Hormah, in Bor-ashan, in Athach,

³¹ in Hebron, for all the places where David and his men had roamed.

31 ¹ Now the Philistines fought against Israel, and the men of Israel fled before the Philistines and fell slain on Mount Gilboa.

² And the Philistines overtook Saul and his sons, and the Philistines struck down Jonathan and Abinadab and Malchi-shua, the sons of Saul.

³ The battle pressed hard against Saul, and the archers found him, and he was badly wounded by the archers.

⁴ Then Saul said to his armor-bearer, "Draw your sword, and thrust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and mistreat me." But his armor-bearer would not, for he feared greatly. Therefore Saul took his own sword and fell upon it.

⁵ And when his armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell upon his sword and died with him.

⁶ Thus Saul died, and his three sons, and his armor-bearer, and all his men, on the same day together.

⁷ And when the men of Israel who were on the other side of the valley and those beyond the Jordan saw that the men of Israel had fled and that Saul and his sons were dead, they abandoned their cities

and fled. And the Philistines came and lived in them.

⁸ The next day, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mount Gilboa.

⁹ So they cut off his head and stripped off his armor and sent messengers throughout the land of the Philistines, to carry the good news to the house of their idols and to the people.

¹⁰ They put his armor in the temple of Ashtaroth, and they fastened his body to the wall of Beth-shan.

¹¹ But when the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul,

¹² all the valiant men arose and went 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 And they took their bones and buried them under the tamarisk tree in Jabesh and fasted seven days.

2 Samuel

1 ¹ After the death of Saul, when David had returned from striking down the Amalekites, David remained two days in Ziklag.

² And on the third day, behold, a man came from Saul's camp, with his clothes torn and dirt on his head. And when he came to David, he fell to the ground and paid homage.

³ David said to him, "Where do you come from?" And he said to him, "I have escaped from the camp of Israel."

⁴ And David said to him, "How did it go? Tell me." And he answered, "The people fled from the battle, and also many of the people have fallen and are dead, and Saul and his son Jonathan are also dead."

⁵ Then David said to the young man who told him, "How do you know that Saul and his son Jonathan are dead?"

⁶ And the young man who told him said, "By chance I happened to be on Mount Gilboa, and there was Saul leaning on his spear, and behold, the chariots and the horsemen were close upon him.

⁷ And 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?' I answered him, 'I am an Amalekite.'

⁹ And he said to me 'Stand beside me and kill me, for anguish has seized me, and yet my life still lingers.'

¹⁰ So I stood beside 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 armlet that was on his arm, and I have brought them here to my lord."

¹¹ Then David took hold of his 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 and for the people of the LORD and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.

¹³ And David said to the young man who told him, "Where do you come from?" And he answered, "I am the son of a sojourner, an Amalekite."

¹⁴ David said to him, "How is it you were not afraid to put out your hand to destroy the LORD's anointed?"

¹⁵ Then David called one of the young men and said, "Go, execute him." And he struck him down so that he died.

¹⁶ And David said to him, "Your blood be on your head, for your own mouth has testified against you, saying, 'I have killed the LORD's anointed.'"

¹⁷ And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and Jonathan his son,

¹⁸ and he said it should be taught to the people of Judah; behold, it is written in the Book of Jashar. He said:

¹⁹ "Your glory, O Israel, is slain on your high places! How the mighty have fallen!

²⁰ Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Ashkelon, lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised exult.

²¹ "You mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew or rain upon you, nor fields of offerings! For there the shield of the mighty was defiled, 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 turned not back, and the sword of Saul returned not empty.

²³ "Saul and Jonathan, beloved and lovely! In life and in death they were not divided; they were swifter than eagles; they were stronger than lions.

²⁴ "You daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you luxuriously in scarlet, who put ornaments of gold on your apparel.

²⁵ "How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle! "Jonathan lies slain on your high places.

²⁶ I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; very pleasant have you been to me; your love to me was extraordinary, surpassing the love of women.

²⁷ "How the mighty have fallen, and the weapons of war perished!"

2¹ After this David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah?" And the LORD said to

him, "Go up." David said, "To which shall I go up?" And he said, "To Hebron."

² So David went up there, and his two wives also, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel.

³ And David brought up his men who were with him, everyone with his household, and they lived in the towns of Hebron.

⁴ And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah. When they told David, "It was the men of Jabesh-gilead who buried Saul,"

⁵ David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh-gilead and said to them, "May you be blessed by the LORD, because you showed this loyalty to Saul your lord and buried him.

⁶ Now may the LORD show steadfast love and faithfulness to you. And I will

do good to you because you have done this thing.

⁷ Now therefore let your hands be strong, and be valiant, for Saul your lord is dead, and the house of Judah has anointed me king over them."

⁸ But Abner the son of Ner, commander of Saul's army, took Ish-bosheth the son of Saul and brought him over to Mahanaim,

⁹ and he made him king over Gilead and the Ashurites and Jezreel and Ephraim and Benjamin and all Israel.

¹⁰ Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, was forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and he reigned two years. But 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 Abner the son of Ner, and the servants of Ish-bosheth 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 at the pool of Gibeon. And they sat down, the one on the one side of the pool, and the other on the other side of the pool.

¹⁴ And Abner said to Joab, "Let the young men arise and compete before us." And Joab said, "Let them arise."

¹⁵ Then they arose and passed over by number, twelve for Benjamin and Ish-bosheth the son of Saul, and twelve of the servants of David.

¹⁶ And each caught his opponent by the head and thrust his sword in his opponent's side, so they fell down together. Therefore that place was called Helkath-hazzurim, which is at Gibeon.

¹⁷ And the battle was very fierce that day. And Abner and the men of Israel were beaten before the servants of David.

¹⁸ And the three sons of Zeruiah were there, Joab, Abishai, and Asahel. Now Asahel was as swift of foot as a wild gazelle.

¹⁹ And Asahel pursued Abner, and as he went, he turned neither to the right hand nor to the left from following Abner.

²⁰ Then Abner looked behind him and said, "Is it you, Asahel?" And he answered, "It is I."

²¹ Abner said to him, "Turn aside to your right hand or to your left, and seize one of the young men and take his spoil." But Asahel would not turn aside from following him.

²² And Abner said again to Asahel, "Turn aside from following me. Why should

I strike you to the ground? How then could I lift up my face to your brother Joab?"

²³ But he refused to turn aside.

Therefore Abner struck him in the stomach with the butt of his spear, so that the spear came out at his back. And he fell there and died where he was. And all who came to the place where Asahel had fallen and died, stood still.

²⁴ But Joab and Abishai pursued Abner. And as the sun was going down they came to the hill of Ammah, which lies before Giah on the way to the wilderness of Gibeon.

²⁵ And the people of Benjamin gathered themselves together behind Abner and became one group and took their stand on the top of a hill.

²⁶ Then Abner called to Joab, "Shall the sword devour forever? Do you not know that the end will be bitter? How long will

it be before you tell your people to turn from the pursuit of their brothers?"

²⁷ And Joab said, "As God lives, if you had not spoken, surely the men would not have given up the pursuit of their brothers until the morning."

²⁸ So Joab blew the trumpet, and all the men stopped and pursued Israel no more, nor did they fight anymore.

²⁹ And Abner and his men went all that night through the Arabah. They crossed the Jordan, and marching the whole morning, they came to Mahanaim.

³⁰ Joab returned from the pursuit of Abner. And when he had gathered all the people together, there were missing from David's servants nineteen men besides Asahel.

³¹ But the servants of David had struck down of Benjamin 360 of Abner's men.

³² And they took up Asahel and buried him in the tomb of his father, which was

at Bethlehem. And Joab and his men marched all night, and the day broke upon them at Hebron.

3 ¹ There was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David. And David grew stronger and stronger, while the house of Saul became weaker and weaker.

² And sons were born to David at Hebron: his firstborn was Amnon, of Ahinoam of Jezreel;

³ and his second, Chileab, of Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel; and the third, Absalom the son of Maacah the daughter of Talmai king of Geshur;

⁴ and the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith; and the fifth, Shephatiah the son of Abital;

⁵ and the sixth, Ithream, of Eglah, David's wife. These were born to David in Hebron.

⁶ While there was war between the house of Saul and the house of David, Abner was making himself strong in the house of Saul.

⁷ Now Saul had a concubine whose name was Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah. And Ish-bosheth said to Abner, "Why have you gone in to my father's concubine?"

⁸ Then Abner was very angry over the words of Ish-bosheth and said, "Am I a dog's head of Judah? To this day I keep showing steadfast love to the house of Saul your father, to his brothers, and to his friends, and have not given you into the hand of David. And yet you charge me today with a fault concerning a woman.

⁹ God do so to Abner and more also, if I do not accomplish for David what 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 Ish-bosheth could not answer Abner another word, because he feared him.

¹² And Abner sent messengers to David on his behalf, saying, "To whom does the land belong? Make your covenant with me, and behold, my hand shall be with you to bring over all Israel to you."

¹³ And he said, "Good; I will make a covenant with you. But one thing I require of you; that is, you shall not see my face unless you first bring Michal, Saul's daughter, when you come to see my face."

¹⁴ Then David sent messengers to Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, saying, "Give me my wife Michal, for whom I paid the

bridal price of a hundred foreskins of the Philistines."

¹⁵ And Ish-bosheth sent and took her from her husband Paltiel the son of Laish.

¹⁶ But her husband went with her, weeping after her all the way to Bahurim. Then Abner said to him, "Go, return." And he returned.

¹⁷ And Abner conferred with the elders of Israel, saying, "For some time past you have been seeking David as king over you.

¹⁸ Now then bring it about, for the LORD has promised David, saying, 'By the hand of my servant David I will save my people Israel from the hand of the Philistines, and from the hand of all their enemies.'"

¹⁹ Abner also spoke to Benjamin. And then Abner went to tell David at Hebron

all that Israel and the whole house of Benjamin thought good to do.

²⁰ When Abner came with twenty men to David at Hebron, David made a feast for Abner and the men who were with him.

²¹ And Abner said to David, "I will arise and go and will 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 Just then the servants of David arrived with Joab from a raid, bringing much spoil with them. But Abner was not with David at Hebron, for he had sent him away, and he had gone in peace.

²³ When Joab and all the army that was with him came, it was told Joab, "Abner the son of Ner came to the king, and

he has let him go, and he has gone in peace."

²⁴ Then Joab went to the king and said, "What have you done? Behold, Abner came to you. Why is it that you have sent him away, so that he is gone?"

²⁵ You know that Abner the son of Ner came to deceive you and to know your going out and your coming in, and to know all that you are doing."

²⁶ When Joab came out from David's presence, he sent messengers after Abner, and they brought him back from the cistern of Sirah. But David did not know about it.

²⁷ And when Abner returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside into the midst of the gate to speak with him privately, and there he struck him in the stomach, so that he died, for the blood of Asahel his brother.

²⁸ Afterward, when David heard of it, he said, "I and my kingdom are forever guiltless before the LORD for the blood of Abner the son of Ner.

²⁹ May it fall upon the head of Joab and upon all his father's house, and may the house of Joab never be without one who has a discharge or who is leprous or who holds a spindle or who falls by the sword or who lacks bread!"

³⁰ So Joab and Abishai his brother killed Abner, because he had put their brother Asahel to death in the battle at Gibeon.

³¹ Then David said to Joab and to all the people who were with him, "Tear your clothes and put on sackcloth and mourn before Abner." And King David followed the bier.

³² They buried Abner at Hebron. And the king lifted up his voice and wept at the grave of Abner, and all the people wept.

³³ And the king lamented for Abner, saying, "Should Abner die as a fool dies?

³⁴ Your hands were not bound; your feet were not fettered; as one falls before the wicked you have fallen." And all the people wept again over him.

³⁵ Then all the people came to persuade David to eat bread while it was yet day. But David swore, saying, "God do so to me and more also, if I taste bread or anything else till the sun goes down!"

³⁶ And all the people took notice of it, and it pleased them, as everything that the king did pleased all the people.

³⁷ So all the people and all Israel understood that day that it had not been the king's will to put to death Abner the son of Ner.

³⁸ And 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 was gentle today, though anointed king. These men, the sons of Zeruiah, are more severe than I. The LORD repay the evildoer according to his wickedness!"

4 ¹ When Ish-bosheth, Saul's son, heard that Abner had died at Hebron, his courage failed, and all Israel was dismayed.

² Now Saul's son had two men who were captains of raiding bands; the name of the one was Baanah, and the name of the other Rechab, sons of Rimmon a man of Benjamin from Beeroth (for Beeroth also is counted part of Benjamin;

³ the Beerothites fled to Gittaim and have been sojourners there to this day).

⁴ Jonathan, the son of Saul, had a son who was crippled 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 as she fled in her haste, he fell and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth.

⁵ Now the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, set out, and about the heat of the day they came to the house of Ish-bosheth as he was taking his noonday rest.

⁶ And they came into the midst of the house as if to get wheat, and they stabbed him in the stomach. Then Rechab and Baanah his brother escaped.

⁷ When they came into the house, as he lay on his bed in his bedroom, they struck him and put him to death and beheaded him. They took his head and went by the way of the Arabah all night,

⁸ and brought the head of Ish-bosheth to David at Hebron. And they said to the king, "Here is the head of Ish-bosheth, the son of Saul, your enemy, who sought your life. The LORD has avenged my

lord the king this day on Saul and on his offspring."

⁹ But David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, "As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my life out of every adversity,

¹⁰ when one told me, 'Behold, Saul is dead,' and thought he was bringing good news, I seized him and killed him at Ziklag, which was the reward I gave him for his news.

¹¹ How much more, when wicked men have killed a righteous man in his own house on his bed, shall I not now require his blood at your hand and destroy you from the earth?"

¹² And David commanded his young men, and they killed them and cut off their hands and feet and hanged them beside the pool at Hebron. But they took

the head of Ish-bosheth and buried it in the tomb of Abner at Hebron.

5 ¹ Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "Behold, we are your bone and flesh.

² In times past, when Saul was king over us, it was you who led out and brought in Israel. And the LORD said to you, 'You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel.'"

³ So 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 At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years.

⁶ And the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, who said to David, "You will not come in here, but the blind and the lame will ward you off"--thinking, "David cannot come in here."

⁷ Nevertheless, David took the stronghold of Zion, that is, the city of David.

⁸ And David said on that day, "Whoever would strike the Jebusites, let him get up the water shaft to attack 'the lame and the blind,' who are hated by David's soul." Therefore it is said, "The blind and the lame shall not come into the house."

⁹ And David lived in the stronghold and called it the city of David. And David built the city all around from the Millo inward.

¹⁰ And David became greater and greater, for the LORD, the God of hosts, was with him.

¹¹ And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, also carpenters and masons who built David a house.

¹² And David knew that the LORD had established him 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 came from Hebron, and more sons and daughters were born to David.

¹⁴ And 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 When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over

Israel, all the Philistines went up to search for David. But David heard of it and went down to the stronghold.

¹⁸ Now the Philistines had come and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim.

¹⁹ And David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will you give them into my hand?" And the LORD said to David, "Go up, for I will certainly give the Philistines into your hand."

²⁰ And David came to Baal-perazim, and David defeated them there. And he said, "The LORD has burst through my enemies before me like a bursting flood." Therefore the name of that place is called Baal-perazim.

²¹ And the Philistines left their idols there, and David and his men carried them away.

²² And the Philistines came up yet again and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim.

²³ And when David inquired of the LORD, he said, "You shall not go up; go around to their rear, and come against them opposite the balsam trees.

²⁴ And when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, then rouse yourself, for then the LORD has gone out before you to strike down the army of the Philistines."

²⁵ And David did as the LORD commanded him, and struck down the Philistines from Geba to Gezer.

6 ¹ David again gathered all the chosen 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, which is called by the name of the LORD of hosts who sits enthroned on the cherubim.

³ And they carried 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, were driving the new cart,

⁴ with the ark of God, and Ahio went before the ark.

⁵ And David and all the house of Israel were making merry before the LORD, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals.

⁶ And when they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled.

⁷ And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah, and God struck him down there because of his error, and he died there beside the ark of God.

⁸ And David was angry because the LORD had burst forth against Uzzah. And that place is called Perez-uzzah, to this day.

⁹ And David was afraid of the LORD that day, and he said, "How can the ark of the LORD come to me?"

¹⁰ So David was not willing to take the ark of the LORD into the city of David. But David took it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite.

¹¹ And 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 And it was told King David, "The LORD has blessed the household 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 rejoicing.

¹³ And when those who bore the ark of the LORD had gone six steps, he sacrificed an ox and a fattened animal.

¹⁴ And 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 horn.

¹⁶ As the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, and she despised him in her heart.

¹⁷ And they brought in the ark of the LORD and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it. And David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.

¹⁸ And when David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts

¹⁹ and distributed among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins to each one. Then all the people departed, each to his house.

²⁰ And David returned to bless his household. But Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David and said, "How the king of Israel honored himself today, uncovering himself today before the eyes of his servants' female servants, as one of the vulgar fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!"

²¹ And David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me above your father and above all his house, to appoint me as prince over Israel, the people of the LORD--and I will make merry before the LORD.

²² I will make myself yet more contemptible than this, and I will be

abased in your eyes. But by the female servants of whom you have spoken, by them I shall be held in honor."

²³ And Michal the daughter of Saul had no child to the day of her death.

7 ¹ Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies,

² the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent."

³ And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

⁴ But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan,

⁵ "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in?

⁶ I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel

from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling.

⁷ In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges 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 you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel.

⁹ And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.

¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and

be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly,

¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.

¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall 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 to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men,

¹⁵ but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you.

¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever."

¹⁷ In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

¹⁸ Then King David went in and sat before the LORD and said, "Who am I, O Lord GOD, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far?

¹⁹ And yet this was a small thing in your eyes, O Lord GOD. You have spoken also of your servant's house for a great while to come, and this is instruction for mankind, O Lord GOD!

²⁰ And what more can David say to you? For you know your servant, O Lord GOD!

²¹ Because of your promise, and according to your own heart, you have brought about all this greatness, to make your servant know it.

²² Therefore you are great, O LORD God. For there is none like you, and there is no God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

²³ And who is like your people Israel, the one nation on earth whom God went to redeem to be his people, making himself a name and doing for them great and awesome things by driving out before your people, whom you redeemed for yourself from Egypt, a nation and its gods?

²⁴ And you established for yourself your people Israel to be your people forever. And you, O LORD, became their God.

²⁵ And now, O LORD God, confirm forever the word that you have spoken

concerning your servant and concerning his house, and do as you have spoken.

²⁶ And your name will be magnified forever, saying, 'The LORD of hosts is God over Israel,' and the house of your servant David will be established before you.

²⁷ For you, O LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, have made this revelation to your servant, saying, 'I will build you a house.' Therefore your servant has found courage 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 good thing to your servant.

²⁹ Now therefore may it please you to bless the house of your servant, so that it may continue forever before you. For you, O Lord GOD, have spoken, and with your blessing shall the house of your servant be blessed forever."

8 ¹ After this David defeated the Philistines and subdued them, and David took Metheg-ammah out of the hand of the Philistines.

² And he defeated Moab and he measured them with a line, making them lie down on the ground. Two lines he measured to be put to death, and one full line to be spared. And the Moabites became servants to David and brought tribute.

³ David also defeated Hadadezer the son of Rehob, king of Zobah, as he went to restore his power at the river Euphrates.

⁴ And David took from him 1,700 horsemen, and 20,000 foot soldiers. And David hamstrung all the chariot horses but left enough for a hundred chariots.

⁵ And when the Syrians of Damascus came to help Hadadezer king of Zobah,

David struck down 22,000 men of the Syrians.

⁶ Then David put garrisons in Aram of Damascus, and the Syrians became servants to David and brought tribute. And the LORD gave victory to David wherever he went.

⁷ And David took the shields of gold that were carried by the servants of Hadadezer and brought them to Jerusalem.

⁸ And from Betah and from Berothai, cities of Hadadezer, King David took very much bronze.

⁹ When Toi king of Hamath heard that David had defeated the whole army of Hadadezer,

¹⁰ Toi sent his son Joram to King David, to ask about his health and to bless him because he had fought against Hadadezer and defeated him, for Hadadezer had often been at war with

Toi. And Joram brought with him articles of silver, of gold, and of bronze.

¹¹ These also King David dedicated to the LORD, together with the silver and gold that he dedicated from all the nations he subdued,

¹² from Edom, Moab, the Ammonites, the Philistines, Amalek, and from the spoil of Hadadezer the son of Rehob, king of Zobah.

¹³ And David made a name for himself when he returned from striking down 18,000 Edomites in the Valley of Salt.

¹⁴ Then he put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom he put garrisons, and all the Edomites became David's servants. And the LORD gave victory to David wherever he went.

¹⁵ So David reigned over all Israel. And David administered justice and equity to all his people.

¹⁶ Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the army, and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder,

¹⁷ and Zadok the son of Ahitub and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar were priests, and Seraiah was secretary,

¹⁸ and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites, and David's sons were priests.

9 ¹ And David said, "Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

² Now there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba, and they called him to David. And the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" And he said, "I am your servant."

³ And the king said, "Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God to him?" Ziba

said to the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in his feet."

⁴ The king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "He is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar."

⁵ Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar.

⁶ And Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, son of Saul, came to David and fell on his face and paid homage. And David said, "Mephibosheth!" And he answered, "Behold, I am your servant."

⁷ And David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan, and I will restore to you all the land of Saul your father, and you shall eat at my table always."

⁸ And he paid homage and said, "What is your servant, that you should show regard for a dead dog such as I?"

⁹ Then the king called Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, "All that belonged to Saul and to all his house I have given to your master's grandson.

¹⁰ And you and your sons and your servants shall till the land for him and shall bring in the produce, that your master's grandson may have bread to eat. But Mephibosheth your master's grandson shall always eat at my table." Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.

¹¹ Then Ziba said to the king, "According to all that my lord the king commands his servant, so will your servant do." So Mephibosheth ate at David's table, like one of the king's sons.

¹² And Mephibosheth had a young son, whose name was Mica. And all who lived

in Ziba's house became Mephibosheth's servants.

¹³ So Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, for he ate always at the king's table. Now he was lame in both his feet.

10 ¹ After this the king of the Ammonites died, and Hanun his son reigned in his place.

² And David said, "I will deal loyally with Hanun the son of Nahash, as his father dealt loyally with me." So David sent by his servants to console him concerning his father. And David's servants came into the land of the Ammonites.

³ But the princes of the Ammonites said to Hanun their lord, "Do you think, because David has sent comforters to you, that he is honoring your father? Has not David sent his servants to you to search the city and to spy it out and to overthrow it?"

⁴ So Hanun took David's servants and shaved off half the beard of each and cut off their garments in the middle, at their hips, and sent them away.

⁵ When it was told David, he sent to meet them, for the men were greatly ashamed. And the king said, "Remain at Jericho until your beards have grown and then return."

⁶ When the Ammonites saw that they had become a stench to David, the Ammonites sent and hired the Syrians of Beth-rehob, and the Syrians of Zobah, 20,000 foot soldiers, and the king of Maacah with 1,000 men, and the men of Tob, 12,000 men.

⁷ And when David heard of it, he sent Joab and all the host of the mighty men.

⁸ And the Ammonites came out and drew up in battle array at the entrance of the gate, and the Syrians of Zobah and of Rehob and the men of Tob and

Maacah were by themselves in the open country.

⁹ When Joab saw that the battle was set against him both in front and in the rear, he chose some of the best men of Israel and arrayed them against the Syrians.

¹⁰ The rest of his men he put in the charge of Abishai his brother, and he arrayed them against the Ammonites.

¹¹ And he said, "If the Syrians are too strong for me, then you shall help me, but if the Ammonites are too strong for you, then I will come and help you.

¹² Be of good courage, and let us be courageous for our people, and for the cities of our God, and may the LORD do what seems good to him."

¹³ So Joab and the people who were with him drew near to battle against the Syrians, and they fled before him.

¹⁴ And when the Ammonites saw that the Syrians fled, they likewise fled before

Abishai and entered the city. Then Joab returned from fighting against the Ammonites and came to Jerusalem.

¹⁵ But when the Syrians saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they gathered themselves together.

¹⁶ And Hadadezer sent and brought out the Syrians who were beyond the Euphrates. They came to Helam, with Shobach the commander of the army of Hadadezer at their head.

¹⁷ And when it was told David, he gathered all Israel together and crossed the Jordan and came to Helam. The Syrians arrayed themselves against David and fought with him.

¹⁸ And the Syrians fled before Israel, and David killed of the Syrians the men of 700 chariots, and 40,000 horsemen, and wounded Shobach the commander of their army, so that he died there.

¹⁹ And when all the kings who were servants of Hadadezer saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they made peace with Israel and became subject to them. So the Syrians were afraid to save the Ammonites anymore.

11 ¹ In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel. And they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

² It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful.

³ And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, "Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?"

⁴ So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she had been purifying herself from her uncleanness.) Then she returned to her house.

⁵ And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."

⁶ So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David.

⁷ When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab was doing and how the people were doing and how the war was going.

⁸ Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." And Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king.

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 When they told David, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "Have you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?"

¹¹ Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah dwell in booths, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field. Shall I then go to my house, to eat and to 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, "Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next.

¹³ And David invited him, and he ate in his presence and drank, so that he made him drunk. And in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

¹⁴ In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah.

¹⁵ In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, that he may be struck down, and die."

¹⁶ And as Joab was besieging the city, he assigned Uriah to the place where he knew there were valiant men.

¹⁷ And the men of the city came out and fought with Joab, and some of the servants of David among the people fell. Uriah the Hittite also died.

¹⁸ Then Joab sent and told David all the news about the fighting.

¹⁹ And he instructed the messenger, "When you have finished telling all the news about the fighting to the king,

²⁰ then, if the king's anger rises, and if he says to you, 'Why did you go so near the city to fight? Did you not know that they would shoot from the wall?

²¹ Who killed Abimelech the son of Jerubbesheth? Did not a woman cast an upper millstone on him from the wall, so that he died at Thebez? Why did you go so 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 him to tell.

²³ The messenger said to David, "The men gained an advantage over us and came out against us in the field, but we drove them back to the entrance of the gate.

²⁴ Then the archers shot at your servants from the wall. Some of the king's servants are dead, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also."

²⁵ David said to the messenger, "Thus shall you say to Joab, 'Do not let this matter trouble you, for the sword

devours now one and now another. Strengthen your attack against the city and overthrow it.' And encourage him."

²⁶ When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she lamented over her husband.

²⁷ And when the 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 And the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor.

² The rich man had very many flocks and herds,

³ but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. And he brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children. It used to eat of his morsel and drink from his

cup and lie in his arms, and it was like a daughter to him.

⁴ Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was unwilling to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the guest 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 Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die,

⁶ and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."

⁷ Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul.

⁸ And I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your arms

and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. And if this were too little, I would add to you as much more.

⁹ Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.

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 evil against you out of 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 and before the sun.'"

¹³ 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 Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the LORD, the child who is born to you shall die."

¹⁵ Then Nathan went to his house. And the LORD afflicted the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and he became sick.

¹⁶ David therefore sought God on behalf of the child. And David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground.

¹⁷ And the elders of his house stood beside him, to raise him from the ground, but he would not, nor did he eat food with them.

¹⁸ On the seventh day the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they said, "Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spoke to him, and he did not

listen to us. How then can we say to him the child is dead? He may do himself some harm."

¹⁹ But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, David understood that the child was dead. And David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" They said, "He is dead."

²⁰ Then David arose from the earth and washed and anointed himself and changed his clothes. And he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped. He then went to his own house. And when he asked, they set food before him, and he ate.

²¹ Then his servants said to him, "What is this thing 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 He said, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept, for I said,

'Who knows 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 will not return to me."

²⁴ Then David comforted his wife, Bathsheba, and went in to her and lay with her, and she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. And the LORD loved him

²⁵ and sent a message by Nathan the prophet. So he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD.

²⁶ Now Joab fought against Rabbah of the Ammonites and took the royal city.

²⁷ And Joab sent messengers to David and said, "I have fought against Rabbah; moreover, I have taken the city of waters.

²⁸ Now then gather the rest of the people together and encamp against the city and take it, lest I take the city and it be called by my name."

²⁹ So David gathered all the people together and went to Rabbah and fought against it and took it.

³⁰ And he took the crown of their king from his head. The weight of it was a talent of gold, and in it was a precious stone, and it was placed on David's head. And he brought out the spoil of the city, a very great amount.

³¹ And he brought out the people who were in it and set them to labor with saws and iron picks and iron axes and made them toil at the brick kilns. And thus he did to all the cities of the Ammonites. Then David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.

13 ¹ Now Absalom, David's son, had a beautiful sister, whose name was Tamar. And after a time Amnon, David's son, loved her.

² And Amnon was so tormented that he made himself ill because of his

sister Tamar, for she was a virgin, and it seemed impossible to Amnon to do anything to her.

³ But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah, David's brother. And Jonadab was a very crafty man.

⁴ And he said to him, "O son of the king, why are you so haggard morning after morning? Will you not tell me?" Amnon said to him, "I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister."

⁵ 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, 'Let my sister Tamar come and give me bread to eat, and prepare the food in my sight, that I may see it and eat it from her hand.'"

⁶ So Amnon lay down and pretended to be ill. And when the king came to see him, Amnon said to the king, "Please let

my sister Tamar come and make a couple of cakes in my sight, that I may eat from her hand."

⁷ Then David sent home to Tamar, saying, "Go to your brother Amnon's house and prepare food for him."

⁸ So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house, where he was lying down. And she took dough and kneaded it and made cakes in his sight and baked the cakes.

⁹ And she took the pan and emptied it out before him, but he refused to eat. And Amnon said, "Send out everyone from me." So everyone went out from him.

¹⁰ Then Amnon said to Tamar, "Bring the food into the chamber, that I may eat from your hand." And Tamar took the cakes she had made and brought them into the chamber to Amnon her brother.

¹¹ But when she brought them near him to eat, he took hold of her and said to her, "Come, lie with me, my sister."

¹² She answered him, "No, my brother, do not violate me, for such a thing is not done in Israel; do not do this outrageous thing."

¹³ As for me, where could I carry my shame? And as for you, you would be as one of the outrageous fools in Israel. Now therefore, please speak to the king, for he will not withhold me from you."

¹⁴ But he would not listen to her, and being stronger than she, he violated her and lay with her.

¹⁵ Then Amnon hated her with very great hatred, 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, "Get up! Go!"

¹⁶ But she said to him, "No, my brother, for this wrong in sending me away is

greater than the other that you did to me." But he would not listen to her.

¹⁷ He called the young man who served him and said, "Put this woman out of my presence and bolt the door after her."

¹⁸ Now she was wearing a long robe with sleeves, for thus were the virgin daughters of the king dressed. So his servant put her out and bolted the door after her.

¹⁹ And Tamar put ashes on her head and tore the long robe that she wore. And she laid her hand on her head and went away, crying aloud as she went.

²⁰ And her brother Absalom said to her, "Has Amnon your brother been with you? Now hold your peace, my sister. He is your brother; do not take this to heart." So Tamar lived, a desolate woman, in her brother Absalom's house.

²¹ When King David heard of all these things, he was very angry.

²² But Absalom spoke to Amnon neither good nor bad, for Absalom hated Amnon, because he had violated his sister Tamar.

²³ After two full years Absalom had sheepshearers at Baal-hazor, which is near Ephraim, and Absalom invited all the king's sons.

²⁴ And Absalom came to the king and said, "Behold, 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, lest we be burdensome to you." He pressed him, but he would not go but gave him his blessing.

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 pressed him until he let Amnon and all the king's sons go with him.

²⁸ Then Absalom commanded his servants, "Mark when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say to you, 'Strike Amnon,' then kill him. Do not fear; have I not commanded you? Be courageous and be valiant."

²⁹ So the servants of Absalom did to Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and each mounted his mule and fled.

³⁰ While they were on the way, news came to David, "Absalom has struck down all the king's sons, and not one of them is left."

³¹ Then the king arose and tore his garments and lay on the earth. And all his servants who were standing by tore their garments.

³² But Jonadab the son of Shimeah, David's brother, said, "Let not my lord suppose that they have killed all the young men the king's sons, for Amnon alone is dead. For by the command of Absalom this has been determined from the day he violated his sister Tamar.

³³ Now therefore let not my lord the king so take it to heart as to suppose that all the king's sons are dead, for Amnon alone is dead."

³⁴ But Absalom fled. And the young man who kept the watch lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, many people were coming from the road behind him by the side of the mountain.

³⁵ And Jonadab said to the king, "Behold, the king's sons have come; as your servant said, so it has come about."

³⁶ And as soon as he had finished speaking, behold, the king's sons came and lifted up their voice and wept. And

the king also 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 day after day.

³⁸ So Absalom fled and went to Geshur, and was there three years.

³⁹ And the spirit of the king longed to go out to Absalom, because he was comforted about Amnon, since he was dead.

14 ¹ Now Joab the son of Zeruiah knew that the king's heart went out to Absalom.

² And Joab sent to Tekoa and brought from there a wise woman and said to her, "Pretend to be a mourner and put on mourning garments. Do not anoint yourself with oil, but behave like a woman who has been mourning many days for the dead.

³ Go to the king and speak thus to him." So Joab put the words in her mouth.

⁴ When the woman of Tekoa came to the king, she fell on her face to the ground and paid homage and said, "Save me, O king."

⁵ And the king said to her, "What is your trouble?" She answered, "Alas, I am a widow; my husband is dead.

⁶ And your servant had two sons, and they quarreled with one another in the field. There was no one to separate them, and one struck the other and killed him.

⁷ And now the whole clan has risen against your servant, and they say, 'Give up the man who struck his brother, that we may put him to death for the life of his brother whom he killed.' And so they would destroy the heir also. Thus they would quench my coal that is left and

leave to my husband neither name nor remnant on the face of 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, "On me be the guilt, my lord the king, and on my father's house; let the king and his throne be guiltless."

¹⁰ The king said, "If anyone says anything to you, bring him to me, and he shall never touch you again."

¹¹ Then she said, "Please let the king invoke the LORD your God, that the avenger of blood kill no more, and my son be not destroyed." He said, "As the LORD lives, not one hair of your son shall fall to the ground."

¹² Then the woman said, "Please let your servant speak a word to my lord the king." He said, "Speak."

¹³ And the woman said, "Why then have you planned such a thing against the people of God? For in giving this decision the king convicts himself, inasmuch as the king does not bring his banished one home again.

¹⁴ We must all die; we are like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again. But God will not take away life, and he devises means so that the banished one will not remain an outcast.

¹⁵ Now I have come to say this to my lord the king because the people have made me afraid, and your servant thought, 'I will speak to the king; it may be that the king will perform the request of his servant.

¹⁶ For the king will hear and deliver his servant from the hand of the man who would destroy me and my son together from the heritage of God.'

¹⁷ And your servant thought, 'The word of my lord the king will set me at rest,' for my lord the king is like the angel of God to discern good and evil. The LORD your God be with you!"

¹⁸ Then the king answered the woman, "Do not hide from me anything I ask you." And the woman said, "Let my lord the king speak."

¹⁹ The king said, "Is the hand of Joab with you in all this?" The woman answered and said, "As surely as you live, my lord the king, one cannot turn to the right hand or to the left from anything that my lord the king has said. It was your servant Joab who commanded me; it was he who put all these words in the mouth of your servant.

²⁰ In order to change the course of things your servant Joab did this. But my lord has wisdom like the wisdom of the

angel of God to know all things that are on the earth."

²¹ Then the king said to Joab, "Behold now, I grant this; go, bring back the young man Absalom."

²² And Joab fell on his face to the ground and paid homage and blessed the king. And Joab said, "Today your servant knows that I have found favor in your sight, my lord the king, in that the king has granted 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 dwell apart in his own house; he is not to come into my presence." So Absalom lived apart in his own house and did not come into the king's presence.

²⁵ Now in all Israel there was no one so much to be praised for his handsome appearance as Absalom. 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 (for at the end of every year he used to cut it; when it was heavy on him, he cut it), he weighed the hair of his head, two hundred shekels by the king's weight.

²⁷ There were born to Absalom three sons, and one daughter whose name was Tamar. She was a beautiful woman.

²⁸ So Absalom lived two full years in Jerusalem, without coming into the king's presence.

²⁹ Then Absalom sent for Joab, to send him to the king, but Joab would not come to him. And he sent a second time, but Joab would not come.

³⁰ Then he said to his servants, "See, Joab's field is next to mine, and he has barley there; go and set it on fire." So Absalom's servants set the field on fire.

³¹ Then Joab arose and went to Absalom at his house and said to him, "Why have your servants set my field on fire?"

³² Absalom answered Joab, "Behold, I sent word to you, 'Come here, that I may send you to the king, to ask, "Why have I come from Geshur? It would be better for me to be there still." Now therefore let me go into the presence of the king, and if there is guilt in me, let him put me to death.'"

³³ Then Joab went to the king and told him, and he summoned Absalom. So he came to the king and bowed himself on his face to the ground before the king, and the king kissed Absalom.

15 ¹ After this Absalom got himself a chariot and horses, and fifty men to run before him.

² And Absalom used to rise early and stand beside the way of the gate. And

when any man had a dispute to come before the king for judgment, Absalom would call to him and say, "From what city are you?" And when he said, "Your servant is of such and such a tribe in Israel,"

³ Absalom would say to him, "See, your claims are good and right, but there is no man designated by the king to hear you."

⁴ Then Absalom would say, "Oh that I were judge in the land! Then every man with a dispute or cause might come to me, and I would give him justice."

⁵ And whenever a man came near to pay homage to him, he would put out his hand and take hold of him and kiss him.

⁶ Thus Absalom did to all of Israel who came to the king for judgment. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

⁷ And at the end of four years Absalom said to the king, "Please let me go and pay my vow, which I have vowed to the LORD, in Hebron.

⁸ For your servant vowed a vow while I lived at Geshur in Aram, saying, 'If the LORD will indeed bring me back to Jerusalem, then I will offer worship to the LORD.'"

⁹ The king said to him, "Go in peace." So he arose and went to Hebron.

¹⁰ But Absalom sent secret messengers throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then say, 'Absalom is king at Hebron!'"

¹¹ With Absalom went two hundred men from Jerusalem who were invited guests, and they went in their innocence and knew nothing.

¹² And while Absalom was offering the sacrifices, he sent for Ahithophel

the Gilonite, David's counselor, from his city Giloh. And the conspiracy grew strong, and the people with Absalom kept increasing.

¹³ And a messenger came to David, saying, "The hearts of the men of Israel have gone after Absalom."

¹⁴ Then David said to all his servants who were with him at Jerusalem, "Arise, and let us flee, or else there will be no escape for us from Absalom. Go quickly, lest he overtake us quickly and bring down ruin on us and strike the city with the edge of the sword."

¹⁵ And the king's servants said to the king, "Behold, your servants are ready to do whatever my lord the king decides."

¹⁶ So the king went out, and all his household after him. And the king left ten concubines to keep the house.

¹⁷ And the king went out, and all the people after him. And they halted at the last house.

¹⁸ And all his servants passed by him, and all the Cherethites, and all the Pelethites, and all the six hundred Gittites who had followed him from Gath, passed on before the king.

¹⁹ Then the king said to Ittai the Gittite, "Why do you also go with us? Go back and stay with the king, for you are a foreigner and also an exile from your home.

²⁰ You came only yesterday, and shall I today make you wander about with us, since I go I know not where? Go back and take your brothers with you, and may the LORD show steadfast love and faithfulness to you."

²¹ But Ittai answered the king, "As the LORD lives, and as my lord the king lives, wherever my lord the king shall be,

whether for death or for life, there also will your servant be."

²² And David said to Ittai, "Go then, pass on." So Ittai the Gittite passed on with all his men and all the little ones who were with him.

²³ And all the land wept aloud as all the people passed by, and the king crossed the brook Kidron, and all the people passed on toward the wilderness.

²⁴ And Abiathar came up, and behold, Zadok came also with all the Levites, bearing the ark of the covenant of God. And they set down the ark of God until the people had all passed out of 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 let me see both it and his dwelling place.

²⁶ But if he says, 'I have no pleasure in you,' behold, here I am, let him do to me what seems good to him."

²⁷ The king also said to Zadok the priest, "Are you not a seer? Go back to the city in peace, with your two sons, Ahimaaz your son, and Jonathan the son of Abiathar.

²⁸ See, I will wait at the fords of the wilderness until word comes from you to inform me."

²⁹ So Zadok and Abiathar carried the ark of God back to Jerusalem, and they remained there.

³⁰ But David went up the ascent of the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went, barefoot and with his head covered. And all the people who were with him covered their heads, and they went up, weeping as they went.

³¹ And it was told David, "Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom."

And David said, "O LORD, please turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness."

³² While David was coming to the summit, where God was worshiped, behold, Hushai the Archite came to meet him with his coat torn and dirt on his head.

³³ David said to him, "If you go on with me, you will be 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 have been your father's servant in time past, so now I will be your servant,' then you will defeat for me the counsel of Ahithophel.

³⁵ Are not Zadok and Abiathar the priests with you there? So whatever you hear from the king's house, tell it to Zadok and Abiathar the priests.

³⁶ Behold, their two sons are with them there, Ahimaaz, Zadok's son, and Jonathan, Abiathar's son, and by them

you shall send to me everything you hear."

³⁷ So Hushai, David's friend, came into the city, just as Absalom was entering Jerusalem.

16 ¹ When David had passed a little beyond the summit, Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth met him, with a couple of donkeys saddled, bearing two hundred loaves of bread, a hundred bunches of raisins, a hundred of summer fruits, and a skin of wine.

² And the king said to Ziba, "Why have you brought these?" Ziba answered, "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 faint in the wilderness to drink."

³ And the king said, "And where is your master's son?" Ziba said to the king, "Behold, he remains in Jerusalem, for he

said, 'Today the house of Israel will give me back the kingdom of my father.'"

⁴ Then the king said to Ziba, "Behold, all that belonged to Mephibosheth is now yours." And Ziba said, "I pay homage; let me ever find favor in your sight, my lord the king."

⁵ When King David came to Bahurim, there came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera, and as he came he cursed continually.

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 And Shimei said as he cursed, "Get out, get out, you man of blood, you worthless man!"

⁸ The LORD has avenged on you all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned, and the LORD

has given the kingdom into the hand of your son Absalom. See, your evil is on you, for you are a man of blood."

⁹ Then Abishai the son of Zeruiah said to the king, "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over and take off his head."

¹⁰ But the king said, "What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah? If he is cursing 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 to all his servants, "Behold, my own son seeks my life; how much more now may this Benjaminite! Leave him alone, and let him curse, for the LORD has told him to."

¹² It may be that the LORD will look on the wrong done to me, and that the LORD will repay me with good for his cursing today."

¹³ So David and his men went on the road, while Shimei went along on the hillside opposite him and cursed as he went and threw stones at him and flung dust.

¹⁴ And the king, and all the people who were with him, arrived weary at the Jordan. And there he refreshed himself.

¹⁵ Now Absalom and all the people, the men of Israel, came to Jerusalem, and Ahithophel with him.

¹⁶ And when Hushai the Archite, David's friend, came to Absalom, Hushai said to Absalom, "Long live the king! Long live the king!"

¹⁷ And 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, for whom the LORD and this people and all the men of Israel have chosen, his I will be, and with him I will remain.

¹⁹ And again, whom should I serve? Should it not be his son? As I have served your father, so I will serve you."

²⁰ Then Absalom said to Ahithophel, "Give your counsel. What shall we do?"

²¹ 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 have made yourself a stench to your father, and the hands of all who are with you will be strengthened."

²² So they pitched a tent for Absalom on the roof. And Absalom went in to his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.

²³ Now in those days the counsel that Ahithophel gave was as if one consulted the word of God; so was all the counsel of Ahithophel esteemed, both by David and by Absalom.

17 ¹ Moreover, Ahithophel said to Absalom, "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 discouraged and throw him into a panic, and all the people who are with him will flee. I will strike down only the king,

³ and I will bring all the people back to you as a bride comes home to her husband. You seek the life of only one man, and all the people will be at peace."

⁴ And the advice seemed right in the eyes of Absalom and all the elders of Israel.

⁵ Then Absalom said, "Call Hushai the Archite also, and let us hear what he has to say."

⁶ And when Hushai came to Absalom, Absalom said to him, "Thus has

Ahithophel spoken; shall we do as he says? If not, you speak."

⁷ Then Hushai said to Absalom, "This time the counsel that Ahithophel has given is not good."

⁸ Hushai said, "You know that your father and his men are mighty men, and that they are enraged, like a bear robbed of her cubs in the field. Besides, your father is expert in war; he will not spend the night with the people."

⁹ Behold, even now he has hidden himself in one of the pits or in some other place. And as soon as some of the people fall at the first attack, whoever hears it will say, 'There has been a slaughter among the people who follow Absalom.'

¹⁰ Then even the valiant man, whose heart is like the heart of a lion, will utterly melt with fear, for all Israel knows that your father is a mighty man, and

that those who are with him are valiant men.

¹¹ But my counsel is that all Israel be gathered to you, from Dan to Beersheba, as the sand by the sea for multitude, and that you go to battle in person.

¹² So we shall come upon him in some place where he is to be found, and we shall light upon him as the dew falls on the ground, and of him and all the men with him not one will be left.

¹³ If he withdraws into a city, then all Israel will bring ropes to that city, and we shall drag it into the valley, until not even a pebble is to be found there."

¹⁴ And Absalom and all the men of Israel said, "The counsel of Hushai the Archite is better than the counsel of Ahithophel." For the LORD had ordained to defeat the good counsel of Ahithophel, so that the LORD might bring harm upon Absalom.

¹⁵ Then Hushai said to Zadok and Abiathar the priests, "Thus and so did Ahithophel counsel Absalom and the elders of Israel, and thus and so have I counseled.

¹⁶ Now therefore send quickly and tell David, 'Do not stay tonight at the fords of the wilderness, but by all means pass over, lest the king and all the people who are with him be swallowed up.'"

¹⁷ Now Jonathan and Ahimaaz were waiting at En-rogel. A female servant was to go and tell them, and they were to go and tell King David, for they were not to be seen entering the city.

¹⁸ But a young man saw them and told Absalom. So both of them went away quickly and came to the house of a man at Bahurim, who had a well in his courtyard. And they went down into it.

¹⁹ And the woman took and spread a covering over the well's mouth and

scattered grain on it, and nothing was known of it.

²⁰ When Absalom's servants came to the woman at the house, they said, "Where are Ahimaaz and Jonathan?" And the woman said to them, "They have gone over the brook of water." And when they had sought and could not find them, they returned to Jerusalem.

²¹ After they had gone, the men came up out of the well, and went and told King David. They said to David, "Arise, and go quickly over the water, for thus and so has Ahithophel counseled against you."

²² Then David arose, and all the people who were with him, and they crossed the Jordan. By daybreak not one was left who had not crossed the Jordan.

²³ When Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his donkey and went off home to his

own city. He set his house in order and hanged himself, and he died and was buried in the tomb of his father.

²⁴ Then David came to Mahanaim. And Absalom crossed the Jordan with all the men of Israel.

²⁵ Now Absalom had set Amasa over the army instead of Joab. Amasa was the son of a man named Ithra the Ishmaelite, who had married Abigail the daughter of Nahash, sister of Zeruiah, Joab's mother.

²⁶ And Israel and Absalom encamped in the land of Gilead.

²⁷ When David came to Mahanaim, Shobi the son of Nahash from Rabbah of the Ammonites, and Machir the son of Ammiel from Lo-debar, and Barzillai the Gileadite from Rogelim,

²⁸ brought beds, basins, and earthen vessels, wheat, barley, flour, parched grain, beans and lentils,

²⁹ honey and curds and sheep and cheese from the herd, for David and the people with him to eat, for they said, "The people are hungry and weary and thirsty in the wilderness."

18 ¹ Then David mustered the men who were with him and set over them commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds.

² And David sent out the army, one third under the command of Joab, one third under the command of Abishai the son of Zeruiah, Joab's brother, and one third under the command of Ittai the Gittite. And the king said to the men, "I myself will also go out with you."

³ But the men said, "You shall not go out. For if we flee, they will not care about us. If half of us die, they will not care about us. But you are worth ten thousand of us. Therefore it is better that you send us help from the city."

⁴ The king said to them, "Whatever seems best to you I will do." So the king stood at the side of the gate, while all the army marched out by hundreds and by thousands.

⁵ And the king ordered Joab and Abishai and Ittai, "Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom." And all the people heard when the king gave orders to all the commanders about Absalom.

⁶ So the army went out into the field against Israel, and the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim.

⁷ And the men of Israel were defeated there by the servants of David, and the loss there was great on that day, twenty thousand men.

⁸ The battle spread over the face of all the country, and the forest devoured more people that day than the sword.

⁹ And Absalom happened to meet the servants of David. Absalom was riding

on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great terebinth, and his head caught fast in the oak, and he was suspended between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on.

¹⁰ And a certain man saw it and told Joab, "Behold, I saw Absalom hanging in an oak."

¹¹ Joab said to the man who told him, "What, you saw him! Why then did you not strike him there to the ground? I would have been glad to give you ten pieces of silver and a belt."

¹² But the man said to Joab, "Even if I felt in my hand the weight of a thousand pieces of silver, I would not reach out my hand against the king's son, for in our hearing the king commanded you and Abishai and Ittai, 'For my sake protect the young man Absalom.'

¹³ On the other hand, if I had dealt treacherously against his life (and there is nothing hidden from the king), then you yourself would have stood aloof."

¹⁴ Joab said, "I will not waste time like this with you." And he took three javelins in his hand and thrust them into the heart of Absalom while he was still alive in the oak.

¹⁵ And ten young men, Joab's armor-bearers, surrounded Absalom and struck him and killed him.

¹⁶ Then Joab blew the trumpet, and the troops came back from pursuing Israel, for Joab restrained them.

¹⁷ And they took Absalom and threw him into a great pit in the forest and raised over him a very great heap of stones. And all Israel fled every one to his own home.

¹⁸ Now Absalom in his lifetime had taken and set up for himself the pillar

that 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 it is called Absalom's monument to this day.

¹⁹ Then Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said, "Let me run and carry news to the king that the LORD has delivered him from the hand of his enemies."

²⁰ And Joab said to him, "You are not to carry news today. You may carry news another day, but today you shall carry no news, because the king's son is dead."

²¹ Then Joab said to the Cushite, "Go, tell the king what you have seen." The Cushite bowed before Joab, and ran.

²² Then Ahimaaz the son of Zadok said again to Joab, "Come what may, let me also run after the Cushite." And Joab said, "Why will you run, my son, seeing that you will have no reward for the news?"

²³ "Come what may," he said, "I will run." So he said to him, "Run." Then Ahimaaz ran by the 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 of the gate by the wall, and when he lifted up his eyes and looked, he saw a man running alone.

²⁵ The watchman called out and told the king. And the king said, "If he is alone, there is news in his mouth." And he drew nearer and nearer.

²⁶ The watchman saw another man running. And the watchman called to the gate and said, "See, another man running alone!" The king said, "He also brings news."

²⁷ 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 Then Ahimaaz cried out to the king, "All is well." And he bowed before the king with his face to the earth and said, "Blessed be the LORD your God, who has delivered up the men who raised their hand against my lord the king."

²⁹ And the king said, "Is it well with the young man Absalom?" Ahimaaz answered, "When Joab sent the king's servant, your servant, I saw a great commotion, but I do not know what it was."

³⁰ And the king said, "Turn aside and stand here." So he turned aside and stood still.

³¹ And behold, the Cushite came, and the Cushite said, "Good news for my lord the king! For the LORD has delivered you this day from the hand of all who rose up against you."

³² The king said to the Cushite, "Is it well with the young man Absalom?" And the Cushite answered, "May the enemies of my lord the king and all who rise up against you for evil be like that young man."

³³ And the king was deeply moved and went up to the chamber over the gate and wept. And as he went, he said, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

19 ¹ It was told Joab, "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 that day, "The king is grieving for his son."

³ And the people stole into the city that day as people steal in who are ashamed when they flee in battle.

⁴ The king covered his face, and the king cried 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, "You have today covered with shame the faces of all your servants, who have this day saved your life and the lives of your sons and your daughters and the lives of your wives and your concubines,

⁶ because you love those who hate you and hate those who love you. For you have made it clear today that commanders and servants are nothing to you, for today I know that if Absalom were alive and all of us were dead today, then you would be pleased.

⁷ Now therefore arise, go out and speak kindly to your servants, for I swear by the LORD, if you do not go, not a man will stay with you this night, and this will be worse for you than all the evil that

has come upon you from your youth until now."

⁸ Then the king arose and took his seat in the gate. And the people were all told, "Behold, the king is sitting in the gate." And all the people came before the king. Now Israel had fled every man to his own home.

⁹ And all the people were arguing throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "The king delivered us from the hand of our enemies and saved us from the hand of the Philistines, and now he has fled out of the land from Absalom.

¹⁰ But Absalom, whom we anointed over us, is dead in battle. Now therefore why do you say nothing about bringing the king back?"

¹¹ And King David sent this message to Zadok and Abiathar the priests, "Say to the elders of Judah, 'Why should you be the last to bring the king back to his

house, when the word of all Israel has come to the king?

¹² You are my brothers; you are my bone and my flesh. Why then should you be 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 my army from now on in place of Joab.'

¹⁴ And he swayed the heart of all the men of Judah as one man, so that they sent word to the king, "Return, both you and all your servants."

¹⁵ So the king came back to the Jordan, and Judah came to Gilgal to meet the king and to bring the king over the Jordan.

¹⁶ And Shimei the son of Gera, the Benjaminite, from Bahurim, hurried to come down with the men of Judah to meet King David.

¹⁷ And with him were a thousand men from Benjamin. And Ziba the servant of the house of Saul, with his fifteen sons and his twenty servants, rushed down to the Jordan before the king,

¹⁸ and they crossed the ford to bring over the king's household and to do his pleasure. And Shimei the son of Gera fell down before the king, as he was about to cross the Jordan,

¹⁹ and said to the king, "Let not my lord hold me guilty or remember how your servant did wrong on the day my lord the king left Jerusalem. Do not let the king take it to heart.

²⁰ For your servant knows that I have sinned. Therefore, behold, I have come this day, the first of all the house of Joseph to come down to meet my lord the king."

²¹ Abishai the son of Zeruiah answered, "Shall not Shimei be put to death for

this, because he cursed the LORD's anointed?"

²² But David said, "What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah, that you should this day be as an adversary to me? Shall anyone be put to death in Israel this day? For do I not know that I am this day king over Israel?"

²³ And the king said to Shimei, "You shall not die." And the king gave him his oath.

²⁴ And Mephibosheth the son of Saul came down to meet the king. He had neither taken care of his feet nor trimmed his beard nor washed his clothes, from the day the king departed until the day he came back in safety.

²⁵ And when he came to Jerusalem to meet the king, the king said to him, "Why did you not go with me, Mephibosheth?"

²⁶ He answered, "My lord, O king, my servant deceived me, for your servant

said to him, 'I will saddle a donkey for myself, that I may ride on it and go with the king.' For your servant is lame.

²⁷ He has slandered your servant to my lord the king. But my lord the king is like the angel of God; do therefore what seems good to you.

²⁸ For all my father's house were but men doomed to death before my lord the king, but you set your servant among those who eat at your table. What further right have I, then, to cry to the king?"

²⁹ And the king said to him, "Why speak any more of your affairs? I have decided: you and Ziba shall divide the land."

³⁰ And Mephibosheth said to the king, "Oh, let him take it all, since my lord the king has come safely home."

³¹ Now Barzillai the Gileadite had come down from Rogelim, and he went on

with the king to the Jordan, to escort him over the Jordan.

³² Barzillai was a very aged man, eighty years old. He had provided the king with food while he stayed at Mahanaim, for he was a very wealthy man.

³³ And the king said to Barzillai, "Come over with me, and I will provide for you with me in Jerusalem."

³⁴ But Barzillai said to the king, "How many years have I still to live, that I should go up with the king to Jerusalem?"

³⁵ I am this day eighty years old. Can I discern what is pleasant and what is not? Can your servant taste what he eats or what he drinks? Can I still listen to the voice of singing men and singing women? Why then should your servant be an added burden to my lord the king?

³⁶ Your servant will go a little way over the Jordan with the king. Why should the king repay me with such a reward?

³⁷ Please let your servant return, that I may die in my own city near the grave of my father and my mother. But here is your servant Chimham. Let him go over with my lord the king, and do for him whatever seems good to you."

³⁸ And the king answered, "Chimham shall go over with me, and I will do for him whatever seems good to you, and all that you desire of me I will do for you."

³⁹ Then all the people went over the Jordan, and the king went over. And the king kissed Barzillai and blessed him, and he returned to his own home.

⁴⁰ The king went on to Gilgal, and Chimham went on with him. All the people of Judah, and also half the people of Israel, brought the king on his way.

⁴¹ Then all the men of Israel came to the king and said to the king, "Why have our brothers the men of Judah stolen you away and brought the king and

his household over the Jordan, and all David's men with him?"

⁴² All the men of Judah answered the men of Israel, "Because the king is our close relative. Why then are you angry over this matter? Have we eaten at all at the king's expense? Or has he given us any gift?"

⁴³ And the men of Israel answered the men of Judah, "We have ten shares in the king, and in David also we have more than you. Why then did you despise us? Were we not the first to speak of bringing back our king?" But the words of the men of Judah were fiercer than the words of the men of Israel.

20¹ Now there happened to be there a worthless man, whose name was Sheba, the son of Bichri, a Benjaminite. And he blew the trumpet and said, "We have no portion in David,

and we have no inheritance in the son of Jesse; every man to his tents, O Israel!"

² So all the men of Israel withdrew from David and followed Sheba the son of Bichri. But the men of Judah followed their king steadfastly from the Jordan to Jerusalem.

³ And David came to his house at Jerusalem. And the king took the ten concubines whom he had left to care for the house and put them in a house under guard and provided for them, but did not go in to them. So they were shut up until the day of their death, living as if in widowhood.

⁴ Then the king said to Amasa, "Call the men of Judah together to me within three days, and be here yourself."

⁵ So Amasa went to summon Judah, but he delayed beyond the set time that had been 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 get himself to fortified cities and escape from us."

⁷ And there went out after him Joab's men and the Cherethites and the Pelethites, and all the mighty men. They went out from Jerusalem to pursue Sheba the son of Bichri.

⁸ When they were at the great stone that is in Gibeon, Amasa came to meet them. Now Joab was wearing a soldier's garment, and over it was a belt with a sword in its sheath fastened on his thigh, and as he went forward it fell out.

⁹ And Joab said to Amasa, "Is it well with you, my brother?" And Joab took Amasa by the beard with his right hand to kiss him.

¹⁰ But Amasa did not observe the sword that was in Joab's hand. So Joab struck

him with it in the stomach and spilled his entrails to the ground without striking a second blow, and he died. Then Joab and Abishai his brother pursued Sheba the son of Bichri.

¹¹ And one of Joab's young men took his stand by Amasa and said, "Whoever favors Joab, and whoever is for David, let him follow Joab."

¹² And Amasa lay wallowing in his blood in the highway. And anyone who came by, seeing him, stopped. And when the man saw that all the people stopped, he carried Amasa out of the highway into the field and threw a garment over him.

¹³ When he was taken out of the highway, all the people went on after Joab to pursue Sheba the son of Bichri.

¹⁴ And Sheba passed through all the tribes of Israel to Abel of Beth-maacah, and all the Bichrites assembled and followed him in.

¹⁵ And all the men who were with Joab came and besieged him in Abel of Beth-maacah. They cast up a mound against the city, and it stood against the rampart, and they were battering the wall to throw it down.

¹⁶ Then a wise woman called from the city, "Listen! Listen! Tell Joab, 'Come here, that I may speak to you.'"

¹⁷ And he came near her, and the woman said, "Are you Joab?" He answered, "I am." Then she said to him, "Listen to the words of your servant." And he answered, "I am listening."

¹⁸ Then she said, "They used to say in former times, 'Let them but ask counsel at Abel,' and so they settled a matter.

¹⁹ I am one of those who are peaceable and faithful in Israel. You seek to destroy a city that is a mother in Israel. Why will you swallow up the heritage of the LORD?"

²⁰ Joab answered, "Far be it from me, far be it, that I should swallow up or destroy!

²¹ That is not true. But a man of the hill country of Ephraim, called Sheba the son of Bichri, has lifted up his hand against King David. Give up him alone, and I will withdraw from the city." And the woman said to Joab, "Behold, his head shall be thrown to you over the wall."

²² Then the woman went to all the people in her wisdom. And they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri and threw it out to Joab. So he blew the trumpet, and they dispersed from the city, every man to his home. And Joab returned to Jerusalem to the king.

²³ Now Joab was in command of all the army of Israel; and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was in command of the Cherethites and the Pelethites;

²⁴ and Adoram was in charge of the forced labor; and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was the recorder;

²⁵ and Sheva was secretary; and Zadok and Abiathar were priests;

²⁶ and Ira the Jairite was also David's priest.

21 ¹ Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year. And David sought the face of the LORD. And the LORD said, "There is bloodguilt on Saul and on his house, because he put the Gibeonites to death."

² So the king called the Gibeonites and spoke to them. Now the Gibeonites were not of the people of Israel but of the remnant of the Amorites. Although the people of Israel had sworn to spare them, Saul had sought to strike them down in his zeal for the people of Israel and Judah.

³ And David said to the Gibeonites, "What shall I do for you? And how shall I make atonement, that you may bless the heritage of the LORD?"

⁴ The Gibeonites said to him, "It is not a matter of silver or gold between us and Saul or his house; neither is it for us to put any man to death in Israel." And he said, "What do you say that I shall do for you?"

⁵ They said to the king, "The man who consumed us and planned to destroy us, so that we should have no place in all the territory of Israel,

⁶ let seven of his sons be given to us, so that we may hang them before the LORD at Gibeah of Saul, the chosen of the LORD." And the king said, "I will give them."

⁷ But the king spared Mephibosheth, the son of Saul's son Jonathan, because of the oath of the LORD that was

between them, between David and Jonathan the son of Saul.

⁸ The king took the two sons of Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, whom she bore to Saul, Armoni and Mephibosheth; and the five sons of Merab the daughter of Saul, whom she bore to Adriel the son of Barzillai the Meholathite;

⁹ and he gave them into the hands of the Gibeonites, and they hanged them on the mountain before the LORD, and the seven of them perished together. They were put to death in the first days of harvest, at the beginning of barley harvest.

¹⁰ Then Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it for herself on the rock, from the beginning of harvest until rain fell upon them from the heavens. And she did not allow the birds of the air to come upon them by day, or the beasts of the field by night.

¹¹ When David was told what Rizpah the daughter of Aiah, the concubine of Saul, had done,

¹² David went and took the bones of Saul and the bones of his son Jonathan from the men of Jabesh-gilead, who had stolen them from the public square of Beth-shan, where the Philistines had hanged them, on the day the Philistines killed Saul on Gilboa.

¹³ And he brought up from there the bones of Saul and the bones of his son Jonathan; and they gathered the bones of those who were hanged.

¹⁴ And they buried the bones of Saul and his son Jonathan in the land of Benjamin in Zela, in the tomb of Kish his father. And they did all that the king commanded. And after that God responded to the plea for the land.

¹⁵ There was war again between the Philistines and Israel, and David went

down together with his servants, and they fought against the Philistines. And David grew weary.

¹⁶ And Ishbi-benob, one of the descendants of the giants, whose spear weighed three hundred shekels of bronze, and who was armed with a new sword, thought to kill David.

¹⁷ But Abishai the son of Zeruiah came to his aid and attacked the Philistine and killed him. Then David's men swore to him, "You shall no longer go out with us to battle, lest you quench the lamp of Israel."

¹⁸ After this there was again war with the Philistines at Gob. Then Sibbecai the Hushathite struck down Saph, who was one of the descendants of the giants.

¹⁹ And there was again war with the Philistines at Gob, and Elhanan the son of Jaare-oregim, the Bethlehemite, struck down Goliath the Gittite, the

shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam.

²⁰ And there was again 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 descended from the giants.

²¹ And when he taunted Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimei, David's brother, struck him down.

²² These four were descended from the giants in Gath, and they fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants.

22 ¹ And David spoke to the LORD the words of this song on the day when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul.

² He said, "The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,

³ my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my savior; you save me from violence.

⁴ I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.

⁵ "For the waves of death encompassed me, the torrents of destruction assailed me;

⁶ the cords of Sheol entangled me; the snares of death confronted me.

⁷ "In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I called. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry came to his ears.

⁸ "Then the earth reeled and rocked; the foundations of the heavens trembled and quaked, because he was angry.

⁹ Smoke went up from his nostrils, and devouring fire from his mouth; glowing coals flamed forth from him.

¹⁰ He bowed the heavens and came down; thick darkness was under his feet.

¹¹ He rode on a cherub and flew; he was seen on the wings of the wind.

¹² He made darkness around him his canopy, thick clouds, a gathering of water.

¹³ Out of the brightness before him coals of fire flamed forth.

¹⁴ The LORD thundered from heaven, and the Most High uttered his voice.

¹⁵ And he sent out arrows and scattered them; lightning, and routed them.

¹⁶ Then the channels of the sea were seen; the foundations of the world were laid bare, at the rebuke of the LORD, at the blast of the breath of his nostrils.

¹⁷ "He sent from on high, he took me; he drew me out of many waters.

¹⁸ He rescued me from my strong enemy, from those who hated me, for they were too mighty for me.

¹⁹ They confronted me in the day of my calamity, but the LORD was my support.

²⁰ He brought me out into a broad place; he rescued me, because he delighted in me.

²¹ "The LORD dealt with me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands he rewarded me.

²² For I have kept the ways of the LORD and have not wickedly departed from my God.

²³ For all his rules were before me, and from his statutes I did not turn aside.

²⁴ I was blameless before him, and I kept myself from guilt.

²⁵ And the LORD has rewarded me according to my righteousness, according to my cleanness in his sight.

²⁶ "With the merciful you show yourself merciful; with the blameless man you show yourself blameless;

²⁷ with the purified you deal purely,
and with the crooked you make yourself
seem tortuous.

²⁸ You save a humble people, but your
eyes are on the haughty to bring them
down.

²⁹ For you are my lamp, O LORD, and
my God lightens my darkness.

³⁰ For by you I can run against a troop,
and by my God I can leap over a wall.

³¹ This God--his way is perfect; the word
of the LORD proves true; he is a shield
for all those who take refuge in him.

³² "For who is God, but the LORD? And
who is a rock, except our God?

³³ This God is my strong refuge and has
made my way blameless.

³⁴ He made my feet like the feet of a
deer and set me secure on the heights.

³⁵ He trains my hands for war, so that
my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

³⁶ You have given me the shield of your salvation, and your gentleness made me great.

³⁷ You gave a wide place for my steps under me, and my feet did not slip;

³⁸ I pursued my enemies and destroyed them, and did not turn back until they were consumed.

³⁹ I consumed them; I thrust them through, so that they did not rise; they fell under my feet.

⁴⁰ For you equipped me with strength for the battle; you made those who rise against me sink under me.

⁴¹ You made my enemies turn their backs to me, those who hated me, and I destroyed them.

⁴² They looked, but there was none to save; they cried to the LORD, but he did not answer them.

⁴³ I beat them fine as the dust of the earth; I crushed them and stamped them down like the mire of the streets.

⁴⁴ "You delivered me from strife with my people; you kept me as the head of the nations; people whom I had not known served me.

⁴⁵ Foreigners came cringing to me; as soon as they heard of me, they obeyed me.

⁴⁶ Foreigners lost heart and came trembling out of their fortresses.

⁴⁷ "The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be my God, the rock of my salvation,

⁴⁸ the God who gave me vengeance and brought down peoples under me,

⁴⁹ who brought me out from my enemies; you exalted me above those who rose against me; you delivered me from men of violence.

⁵⁰ "For this I will praise you, O LORD, among the nations, and sing praises to your name.

⁵¹ Great salvation he brings to his king, and shows steadfast love to his anointed, to David and his offspring forever."

23 ¹ Now these are the last words of David: The oracle of David, the son of Jesse, the oracle of the man who was raised on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, the sweet psalmist of Israel:

² "The Spirit of the LORD speaks by me; his word is on my tongue.

³ The God of Israel has spoken; the Rock of Israel has said to me: When one rules justly over men, ruling in the fear of God,

⁴ he dawns on them like the morning light, like the sun shining forth on a cloudless morning, like rain that makes grass to sprout from the earth.

⁵ For does not my house stand so with God? For he has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure. For will he not cause to prosper all my help and my desire?

⁶ But worthless men are all like thorns that are thrown away, for they cannot be taken with the hand;

⁷ but the man who touches them arms himself with iron and the shaft of a spear, and they are utterly consumed with fire."

⁸ These are the names of the mighty men whom David had: Joshebbasshebeth a Tahchemonite; he was chief of the three. He wielded his spear against eight hundred whom he killed at one time.

⁹ And next to him among the three mighty men was Eleazar the son of Dodo, son of Ahohi. He was with David when they defied the Philistines who

were gathered there for battle, and the men of Israel withdrew.

¹⁰ He rose and struck down the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand clung to the sword. And the LORD brought about a great victory that day, and the men returned after him only to strip the slain.

¹¹ And next to him was Shammah, the son of Agee the Hararite. The Philistines gathered together at Lehi, where there was a plot of ground full of lentils, and the men fled from the Philistines.

¹² But he took his stand in the midst of the plot and defended it and struck down the Philistines, and the LORD worked a great victory.

¹³ And three of the thirty chief men went down and came about harvest time to David at the cave of Adullam, when a band of Philistines was encamped in the Valley of Rephaim.

¹⁴ David was then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then at Bethlehem.

¹⁵ And David said longingly, "Oh, that someone would give me water to drink from the well of Bethlehem that is by the gate!"

¹⁶ Then the three mighty men broke through the camp of the Philistines and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate and carried and brought it to David. But he would not drink of it. He poured it out to the LORD

¹⁷ and said, "Far be it from me, O LORD, that I should do this. Shall I drink the blood of the men who went at the risk of their lives?" Therefore he would not drink it. These things the three mighty men did.

¹⁸ Now Abishai, the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruiah, was chief of the thirty. And he wielded his spear against three

hundred men and killed them and won a name beside the three.

¹⁹ He was the most renowned of the thirty and became their commander, but he did not attain to the three.

²⁰ And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was a valiant man of Kabzeel, a doer of great deeds. He struck down two ariels of Moab. He also went down and struck down a lion in a pit on a day when snow had fallen.

²¹ And he struck down an Egyptian, a handsome man. The Egyptian had a spear in his hand, but Benaiah went down to him with a staff and snatched the spear out of the Egyptian's hand and killed him with his own spear.

²² These things did Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and won a name beside the three mighty men.

²³ He was renowned among the thirty, but he did not attain to the three. And David set him over his bodyguard.

²⁴ Asahel the brother of Joab was one of the thirty; Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem,

²⁵ Shammah of Harod, Elikah of Harod,

²⁶ Helez the Paltite, Ira the son of Ikkesh of Tekoa,

²⁷ Abiezer of Anathoth, Mebunnai the Hushathite,

²⁸ Zalmon the Ahohite, Maharai of Netophah,

²⁹ Heleb the son of Baanah of Netophah, Ittai the son of Ribai of Gibeah of the people of Benjamin,

³⁰ Benaiah of Pirathon, Hiddai of the brooks of Gaash,

³¹ Abi-albon the Arbathite, Azmaveth of Bahurim,

³² Eliahba the Shaalbonite, the sons of Jashen, Jonathan,

³³ Shammah the Hararite, Ahiam the son of Sharar the Hararite,

³⁴ Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai of Maacah, Eliam the son of Ahithophel of Gilo,

³⁵ Hezro of Carmel, Paarai the Arbite,

³⁶ Igal the son of Nathan of Zobah, Bani the Gadite,

³⁷ Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai of Beeroth, the armor-bearer of Joab the son of Zeruiah,

³⁸ Ira the Ithrite, Gareb the Ithrite,

³⁹ Uriah the Hittite: thirty-seven in all.

24 ¹ Again the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he incited David against them, saying, "Go, number Israel and Judah."

² So the king said to Joab, the commander of the army, who was with him, "Go through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, and number the

people, that I may know the number of the people."

³ But Joab said to the king, "May the LORD your God add to the people a hundred times as many as they are, while the eyes of my lord the king still see it, but why does my lord the king delight in this thing?"

⁴ But the king's word prevailed against Joab and the commanders of the army. So Joab and the commanders of the army went out from the presence of the king to number the people of Israel.

⁵ They crossed the Jordan and began from Aroer, and from the city that is in the middle of the valley, toward Gad and on to Jazer.

⁶ Then they came to Gilead, and to Kadesh in the land of the Hittites; and they came to Dan, and from Dan they went around to Sidon,

⁷ and came to the fortress of Tyre and to all the cities of the Hivites and Canaanites; and they went out to the Negeb of Judah at 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 And Joab gave the sum of the numbering of the people to the king: in Israel there were 800,000 valiant men who drew the sword, and the men of Judah were 500,000.

¹⁰ But David's heart struck him after he had numbered the people. And David said to the LORD, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done. But now, O LORD, please take away the iniquity of your servant, for I have done very foolishly."

¹¹ And when David arose in the morning, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying,

¹² "Go and say to David, 'Thus says the LORD, Three things I offer you. Choose one of them, that I may do it to you.'"

¹³ So Gad came to David and told him, and said to him, "Shall three years of famine come to you in your land? Or will you flee three months before your foes while they pursue you? Or shall there be three days' pestilence in your land? Now consider, and decide what answer I shall return to him who sent me."

¹⁴ Then David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Let us fall into the hand of the LORD, for his mercy is great; but let me not fall into the hand of man."

¹⁵ So the LORD sent a pestilence on Israel from the morning until the appointed time. And there died of the people from Dan to Beersheba 70,000 men.

¹⁶ And when the angel stretched out his hand toward Jerusalem to destroy

it, the LORD relented from the calamity and said to the angel who was working destruction among the people, "It is enough; now stay 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, "Behold, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly. But these sheep, what have they done? Please let your hand be against me and against my father's house."

¹⁸ And Gad came that day to David and said to him, "Go up, raise an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite."

¹⁹ So David went up at Gad's word, as the LORD commanded.

²⁰ And when Araunah looked down, he saw the king and his servants coming on toward him. And Araunah went out and

paid homage to the king with his face to the ground.

²¹ And Araunah said, "Why has my lord the king come to his servant?" David said, "To buy the threshing floor from you, in order to build an altar to the LORD, that the plague may be averted from the people."

²² Then Araunah said to David, "Let my lord the king take and offer up what seems good to him. Here are the oxen for the burnt offering and the threshing sledges and the yokes of the oxen for the wood.

²³ All this, O king, Araunah gives to the king." And Araunah said to the king, "The LORD your God accept you."

²⁴ But the king said to Araunah, "No, but I will buy it from you for a price. I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost 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 responded to the plea for the land, and the plague was averted from Israel.

1 Kings

1 ¹ Now King David was old and advanced in years. And although they covered him with clothes, he could not get warm.

² Therefore his servants said to him, "Let a young woman be sought for my lord the king, and let her wait on the king and be in his service. Let her lie in your arms, that my lord the king may be warm."

³ So they sought for a beautiful 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 beautiful, and she was of service to the king and

attended to him, but the king knew her not.

⁵ Now 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 His father had never at any time displeased him by asking, "Why have you done thus and so?" He was also a very handsome man, and he was born next after Absalom.

⁷ He conferred with Joab the son of Zeruiah and with Abiathar the priest. And they followed Adonijah and helped him.

⁸ But Zadok the priest and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada and Nathan the prophet and Shimei and Rei and David's mighty men were not with Adonijah.

⁹ Adonijah sacrificed sheep, oxen, and fattened cattle by the Serpent's Stone,

which is beside En-rogel, and he invited all his brothers, the king's sons, and all the royal officials of Judah,

¹⁰ but he did not invite Nathan the prophet or Benaiah or the mighty men or Solomon his brother.

¹¹ Then Nathan said to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, "Have you not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith has become king and David our lord does not know it?

¹² Now therefore come, let me give you advice, that you may save your own life and the life of your son Solomon.

¹³ Go in at once to King David, and say to him, 'Did you not, my lord the king, swear to your servant, saying, "Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne"? Why then is Adonijah king?'

¹⁴ Then while you are still speaking with the king, I also will come in after you and confirm your words."

¹⁵ So Bathsheba went to the king in his chamber (now the king was very old, and Abishag the Shunammite was attending to the king).

¹⁶ Bathsheba bowed and paid homage to the king, and the king said, "What do you desire?"

¹⁷ She said to him, "My lord, you swore to your servant by the LORD your God, saying, 'Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne.'

¹⁸ And now, behold, Adonijah is king, although you, my lord the king, do not know it.

¹⁹ He has sacrificed oxen, 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 now, my lord the king, the eyes of all Israel are on you, to tell them who shall sit on the throne of my lord the king after him.

²¹ Otherwise it will come to pass, when my lord the king sleeps with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon will be counted offenders."

²² While she was still speaking with the king, Nathan the prophet came in.

²³ And they told the king, "Here is Nathan the prophet." And when he came in before the king, he bowed before the king, with his face to the ground.

²⁴ And Nathan said, "My lord the king, have you said, 'Adonijah shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne'?

²⁵ For he has gone down this day and has sacrificed oxen, fattened cattle, and

sheep in abundance, and has invited all the king's sons, the commanders of the army, and Abiathar the priest. And behold, they are eating and drinking before him, and saying, 'Long live King Adonijah!'

²⁶ But me, your servant, and Zadok the priest, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and your servant Solomon he has not invited.

²⁷ Has this thing been brought about by my lord the king and you have not told your servants who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?"

²⁸ Then King David answered, "Call Bathsheba to me." So she came into the king's presence and stood before the king.

²⁹ And the king swore, saying, "As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my soul out of every adversity,

³⁰ as I swore to you by the LORD, the God of Israel, saying, 'Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne in my place,' even so will I do this day."

³¹ Then Bathsheba bowed with her face to the ground and paid homage to the king and said, "May my lord King David live forever!"

³² 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 And the king said to them, "Take with you the servants of your lord and have Solomon my son ride on my own mule, and bring him down to Gihon.

³⁴ And let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet there anoint him king over Israel. Then blow the trumpet and say, 'Long live King Solomon!'

³⁵ You shall then come up after him, and he shall come and sit on my throne, for he shall be king in my place. And I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and over Judah."

³⁶ And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king, "Amen! May the LORD, the God of my lord the king, say so.

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, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites and the Pelethites went down and had Solomon ride on King David's mule and brought him to Gihon.

³⁹ There Zadok the priest took the horn of oil from the tent and anointed Solomon. Then they blew the trumpet,

and all the people said, "Long live King Solomon!"

⁴⁰ And all the people went up after him, playing on pipes, and rejoicing with great joy, so that the earth was split by their noise.

⁴¹ Adonijah and all the guests who were with him heard it as they finished feasting. And when Joab heard the sound of the trumpet, he said, "What does this uproar in the city mean?"

⁴² While he was still speaking, behold, Jonathan the son of Abiathar the priest came. And Adonijah said, "Come in, for you are a worthy man and bring good news."

⁴³ Jonathan answered Adonijah, "No, for our lord King David has made Solomon king,

⁴⁴ and the king has sent with him Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the

Cherethites and the Pelethites. And they had him ride on the king's mule.

⁴⁵ And 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 Solomon sits on the royal throne.

⁴⁷ Moreover, the king's servants came to congratulate our lord King David, saying, 'May your God make the name of Solomon more famous than yours, and make his throne greater than your throne.' And the king bowed himself on the bed.

⁴⁸ And the king also said, 'Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who has granted someone to sit on my throne this day, my own eyes seeing it.'"

⁴⁹ Then all the guests of Adonijah trembled and rose, and each went his own way.

⁵⁰ And Adonijah feared Solomon. So he arose and went and took hold of the horns of the altar.

⁵¹ Then it was told Solomon, "Behold, Adonijah fears King Solomon, for behold, he has laid hold of the horns of the altar, saying, 'Let King Solomon swear to me first that he will not put his servant to death with the sword.'"

⁵² And Solomon said, "If he will show himself a worthy man, not one of his hairs shall fall to the earth, but if wickedness is found in him, he shall die."

⁵³ So King Solomon sent, and they brought him down from the altar. And he came and paid homage to King Solomon, and Solomon said to him, "Go to your house."

2¹ When David's time to die drew near, he commanded Solomon his son, saying,

² "I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, and show yourself a man,

³ and keep the charge of the LORD your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, 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 establish his word that he spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me in faithfulness with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'

⁵ "Moreover, you also know what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me, how he dealt with the two commanders of the

armies of Israel, Abner the son of Ner, and Amasa the son of Jether, whom he killed, avenging in time of peace for blood that had been shed in war, and putting the blood of war on the belt around his waist and on the sandals on his feet.

⁶ Act therefore according to your wisdom, but do not let his gray head go down to Sheol in peace.

⁷ But deal loyally with the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite, and let them be among those who eat at your table, for with such loyalty they met me when I fled from Absalom your brother.

⁸ And there is also with you Shimei the son of Gera, the Benjaminite from Bahurim, who cursed me with a grievous curse on the day when I went to Mahanaim. But when he came down to meet me at the Jordan, 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. You will know what you ought to do to him, and you shall bring his gray head down with blood to Sheol."

¹⁰ Then David slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of David.

¹¹ And the time that David reigned over Israel was forty years. He reigned seven years in Hebron and thirty-three years in Jerusalem.

¹² So Solomon sat on the throne of David his father, and his kingdom was firmly established.

¹³ Then Adonijah the son of Haggith came to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon. And she said, "Do you come peacefully?" He said, "Peacefully."

¹⁴ Then he said, "I have something to say to you." She said, "Speak."

¹⁵ He said, "You know that the kingdom was mine, and that all Israel fully expected me to reign. However, the kingdom has turned about and become my brother's, for it was his from the LORD.

¹⁶ And now I have one request to make of you; do not refuse me." She said to him, "Speak."

¹⁷ And he said, "Please ask King Solomon--he will not refuse you--to give me Abishag the Shunammite as my wife."

¹⁸ Bathsheba said, "Very well; I will speak for you to the king."

¹⁹ So Bathsheba went to King Solomon to speak to him on behalf of Adonijah. And the king rose to meet her and bowed down to her. Then he sat on his throne and had a seat brought for the king's mother, and she sat on his right.

²⁰ Then she said, "I have one small request to make of you; do not refuse me." And the king said to her, "Make your request, my mother, for I will not refuse you."

²¹ She said, "Let Abishag the Shunammite be given to Adonijah your brother as his wife."

²² King Solomon answered his mother, "And why do you ask Abishag the Shunammite for Adonijah? Ask for him the kingdom also, for he is my older brother, and on his side are Abiathar the priest and Joab the son of Zeruiah."

²³ Then King Solomon swore by the LORD, saying, "God do so to me and more also if this word does not cost Adonijah his life!"

²⁴ Now therefore as the LORD lives, who has established me and placed me on the throne of David my father, and who

has made me a house, as he promised, Adonijah shall be put to death this day."

²⁵ So King Solomon sent 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 estate, for you deserve death. But I will not at this time put you to death, because you carried the ark of the Lord GOD before David my father, and because you shared in all my father's affliction."

²⁷ So Solomon expelled Abiathar from being priest to the LORD, thus fulfilling the word of the LORD that he had spoken concerning the house of Eli in Shiloh.

²⁸ When the news came to Joab--for Joab had supported Adonijah although he had not supported Absalom--Joab fled to the tent of the LORD and caught hold of the horns of the altar.

²⁹ And when it was told King Solomon, "Joab has fled to the tent of the LORD, and behold, he is beside the altar," Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, saying, "Go, strike him down."

³⁰ So Benaiah came to the tent of the LORD and said to him, "The king commands, 'Come out.'" But he said, "No, I will die here." Then Benaiah brought the king word again, saying, "Thus said Joab, and thus he answered me."

³¹ The king replied to him, "Do as he has said, strike him down and bury him, and thus take away from me and from my father's house the guilt for the blood that Joab shed without cause.

³² The LORD will bring back his bloody deeds on his own head, because, without the knowledge of my father David, he attacked and killed with the sword two men more righteous and

better than himself, Abner the son of Ner, commander of the army of Israel, and Amasa the son of Jether, commander of the army of Judah.

³³ So shall their blood come back on the head of Joab and on the head of his descendants forever. But for David and for his descendants and for his house and for his throne there shall be peace from the LORD forevermore."

³⁴ Then Benaiah the son of Jehoiada went up and struck him down and put him to death. And he was buried in his own house in the wilderness.

³⁵ The king put Benaiah the son of Jehoiada over the army in place of Joab, and the king put Zadok the priest in the place of Abiathar.

³⁶ Then the king sent and summoned Shimei and said to him, "Build yourself a house in Jerusalem and dwell there, and

do not go out from there to any place whatever.

³⁷ For on the day you go out and cross the brook Kidron, know for certain that you shall die. Your blood shall be on your own head."

³⁸ And Shimei said to the king, "What you say is good; as my lord the king has said, so will your servant do." So Shimei lived in Jerusalem many days.

³⁹ But it happened at the end of three years that two of Shimei's servants ran away to Achish, son of Maacah, king of Gath. And when it was told Shimei, "Behold, your servants are in Gath,"

⁴⁰ Shimei arose and saddled a donkey and went to Gath to Achish to seek his servants. Shimei went and brought his servants from Gath.

⁴¹ And when Solomon was told that Shimei had gone from Jerusalem to Gath and returned,

⁴² the king sent and summoned Shimei and said to him, "Did I not make you swear by the LORD and solemnly warn you, saying, 'Know for certain that on the day you go out and go to any place whatever, you shall die'? And you said to me, 'What you say is good; I will obey.'"

⁴³ Why then have you not kept your oath to the LORD and the commandment with which I commanded you?"

⁴⁴ The king also said to Shimei, "You know in your own heart all the harm that you did to David my father. So the LORD will bring back your harm on your own head."

⁴⁵ But King Solomon shall be blessed, and the throne of David shall be established before the LORD forever."

⁴⁶ Then the king commanded Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and he went out and struck him down, and he died. So

the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon.

3 ¹ Solomon made a marriage alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt. He took Pharaoh's daughter and brought her into the city of David until he had finished building his own house and the house of the LORD and the wall around Jerusalem.

² The people were sacrificing at the high places, however, because no house had yet been built for the name of the LORD.

³ Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father, only he sacrificed and made offerings at the high places.

⁴ And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer 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 I shall give you."

⁶ And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day.

⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but 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 many to be numbered or counted for multitude.

⁹ Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your

people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this.

¹¹ And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right,

¹² behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.

¹³ I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days.

¹⁴ And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my

commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

¹⁵ And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

¹⁶ Then two prostitutes came to the king and stood before him.

¹⁷ The one woman said, "Oh, my lord, this woman and I live in the same house, and I gave birth to a child while she was in the house.

¹⁸ Then on the third day after I gave birth, this woman also gave birth. And we were alone. There was no one else with us in the house; only we two were in the house.

¹⁹ And this woman's son died in the night, because she lay on him.

²⁰ And she arose at midnight and took my son from beside me, while your servant slept, and laid him at her breast, and laid her dead son at my breast.

²¹ When I rose in the morning to nurse my child, behold, he was dead. But when I looked at him closely in the morning, behold, he was not the child that I had borne."

²² But the other woman said, "No, the living child is mine, and the dead child is yours." The first said, "No, the dead child is yours, and the living child is mine." Thus they spoke before the king.

²³ Then the king said, "The one says, 'This is my son that is alive, and your son is dead'; and the other says, 'No; but your son is dead, and my son is the living one.'"

²⁴ And the king said, "Bring me a sword." So a sword was brought before the king.

²⁵ And the king said, "Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one and half to the other."

²⁶ Then the woman whose son was alive said to the king, because her heart yearned for her son, "Oh, my lord, give her the living child, and by no means put him to death." But the other said, "He shall be neither mine nor yours; divide him."

²⁷ Then the king answered and said, "Give the living child to the first woman, and by no means put him to death; she is his mother."

²⁸ And all Israel heard of the judgment that the king had rendered, and they stood in awe of the king, because they perceived that the wisdom of God was in him to do justice.

4 ¹ King Solomon was king over all Israel,

² and these were his high officials:
Azariah the son of Zadok was the priest;

³ Elihoreph and Ahijah the sons of Shisha were secretaries; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder;

⁴ Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was in command of the army; Zadok and Abiathar were priests;

⁵ Azariah the son of Nathan was over the officers; Zabud the son of Nathan was priest and king's friend;

⁶ Ahishar was in charge of the palace; and Adoniram the son of Abda was in charge of the forced labor.

⁷ Solomon had twelve officers over all Israel, who provided food for the king and his household. Each man had to make provision for one month in the year.

⁸ These were their names: Ben-hur, in the hill country of Ephraim;

⁹ Ben-deker, in Makaz, Shaalbim, Beth-shemesh, and Elonbeth-hanan;

¹⁰ Ben-hesed, in Arubboth (to him belonged Socoh and all the land of Hephher);

¹¹ Ben-abinadab, in all Naphath-dor (he had Taphath the daughter of Solomon as his wife);

¹² Baana the son of Ahilud, in Taanach, Megiddo, and all Beth-shean that is beside Zarethan below Jezreel, and from Beth-shean to Abel-meholah, as far as the other side of Jokmeam;

¹³ Ben-geber, in Ramoth-gilead (he had the villages of Jair the son of Manasseh, which are in Gilead, and he had the region of Argob, which is in Bashan, sixty great cities with walls and bronze bars);

¹⁴ Ahinadab the son of Iddo, in Mahanaim;

¹⁵ Ahimaaz, in Naphtali (he had taken Basemath the daughter of Solomon as his wife);

¹⁶ Baana the son of Hushai, in Asher and Bealoth;

¹⁷ Jehoshaphat the son of Paruah, in Issachar;

¹⁸ Shimei the son of Ela, in Benjamin;

¹⁹ Geber the son of Uri, in the land of Gilead, the country of Sihon king of the Amorites and of Og king of Bashan. And there was one governor who was over the land.

²⁰ Judah and Israel were as many as the sand by the sea. They ate and drank and were happy.

²¹ Solomon ruled over all the kingdoms from the Euphrates to the land of the Philistines and to the border of Egypt. They brought tribute and served Solomon all the days of his life.

²² Solomon's provision for one day was thirty cors of fine flour and sixty cors of meal,

²³ ten fat oxen, and twenty pasture-fed cattle, a hundred sheep, besides deer, gazelles, roebucks, and fattened fowl.

²⁴ For he had dominion over all the region west of the Euphrates from Tiphseh to Gaza, over all the kings west of the Euphrates. And he had peace on all sides around him.

²⁵ And Judah and Israel lived in safety, from Dan even to Beersheba, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, all the days of Solomon.

²⁶ Solomon also had 40,000 stalls of horses for his chariots, and 12,000 horsemen.

²⁷ And those officers supplied provisions for King Solomon, and for all who came to King Solomon's table, each

one in his month. They let nothing be lacking.

²⁸ Barley also and straw for the horses and swift steeds they brought to the place where it was required, each according to his duty.

²⁹ And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding beyond measure, and breadth of mind like the sand on the seashore,

³⁰ so that Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt.

³¹ For he was wiser than all other men, wiser than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Calcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol, and his fame was in all the surrounding nations.

³² He also spoke 3,000 proverbs, and his songs were 1,005.

³³ He spoke of trees, from the cedar that is in Lebanon to the hyssop that

grows out of the wall. He spoke also of beasts, and of birds, and of reptiles, and of fish.

³⁴ And people of all nations came to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and from all the kings of the earth, who had heard of his wisdom.

5 ¹ Now Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants to Solomon when he heard that they had anointed him king in place of his father, for Hiram always loved David.

² And Solomon sent word to Hiram,

³ "You know that David my father could not build a house for the name of the LORD his God because of the warfare with which his enemies surrounded him, until the LORD put them 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 misfortune.

⁵ And so I intend to build a house for the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD said to David my father, 'Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, shall build the house for my name.'

⁶ Now therefore command that cedars of Lebanon be cut for me. And my servants will join your servants, and I will pay you for your servants such wages as you set, for you know that there is no one among us who knows how to cut timber like the Sidonians."

⁷ As soon as Hiram heard the words of Solomon, he rejoiced greatly and said, "Blessed be the LORD this day, who has given to David a wise son to be over this great people."

⁸ And Hiram sent to Solomon, saying, "I have heard the message that you have sent to me. I am ready to do all you desire in the matter of cedar and cypress timber.

⁹ My servants shall bring it down to the sea from Lebanon, and I will make it into rafts to go by sea to the place you direct. And I will have them broken up there, and you shall receive it. And you shall meet my wishes by providing food for my household."

¹⁰ So Hiram supplied Solomon with all the timber of cedar and cypress that he desired,

¹¹ while Solomon gave Hiram 20,000 cors of wheat as food for his household, and 20,000 cors of beaten oil. Solomon gave this to Hiram year by year.

¹² And the LORD gave Solomon wisdom, as he promised him. And there was peace between Hiram and Solomon, and the two of them made a treaty.

¹³ King Solomon drafted forced labor out of all Israel, and the draft numbered 30,000 men.

¹⁴ And he sent them to Lebanon, 10,000 a month in shifts. They would be a month in Lebanon and two months at home. Adoniram was in charge of the draft.

¹⁵ Solomon also had 70,000 burden-bearers and 80,000 stonecutters in the hill country,

¹⁶ besides Solomon's 3,300 chief officers who were over the work, who had charge of the people who carried on the work.

¹⁷ At the king's command they quarried out great, costly stones in order to lay the foundation of the house with dressed stones.

¹⁸ So Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders and the men of Gebal did the cutting and prepared the timber and the stone to build the house.

6 ¹ In the four hundred and eightieth year after the people of Israel came

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, he began to build the house of the LORD.

² The house that King Solomon built for the LORD was sixty cubits long, twenty cubits wide, and thirty cubits high.

³ The vestibule in front of the nave of the house was twenty cubits long, equal to the width of the house, and ten cubits deep in front of the house.

⁴ And he made for the house windows with recessed frames.

⁵ He also built a structure against the wall of the house, running around the walls of the house, both the nave and the inner sanctuary. And he made side chambers all around.

⁶ The lowest story was five cubits broad, the middle one was six cubits broad, and the third was seven cubits broad.

For around the outside of the house he made offsets on the wall in order that the supporting beams should not be inserted into the walls of the house.

⁷ When the house was built, it was with stone prepared at the quarry, so that neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron was heard in the house while it was being built.

⁸ The entrance for the lowest story was on the south side of the house, and one went up by stairs to the middle story, and from the middle story to the third.

⁹ So he built the house and finished it, and he made the ceiling of the house of beams and planks of cedar.

¹⁰ He built the structure against the whole house, five cubits high, and it was joined to the house with timbers of cedar.

¹¹ Now the word of the LORD came to Solomon,

¹² "Concerning this house that you are building, if you will walk in my statutes and obey my rules and keep all my commandments and walk in them, then I will establish my word with you, which I spoke to David your father.

¹³ And I will dwell among the children of Israel and will not forsake my people Israel."

¹⁴ So Solomon built the house and finished it.

¹⁵ He lined the walls of the house on the inside with boards of cedar. From the floor of the house to the walls of the ceiling, he covered them on the inside with wood, and he covered the floor of the house with boards of cypress.

¹⁶ He built twenty cubits of the rear of the house with boards of cedar from the floor to the walls, and he built this within as an inner sanctuary, as the Most Holy Place.

¹⁷ The house, that is, the nave in front of the inner sanctuary, was forty cubits long.

¹⁸ The cedar within the house was carved in the form of gourds and open flowers. All was cedar; no stone was seen.

¹⁹ The inner sanctuary he prepared in the innermost part of the house, to set there the ark of the covenant of the LORD.

²⁰ The inner sanctuary was twenty cubits long, twenty cubits wide, and twenty cubits high, and he overlaid it with pure gold. He also overlaid an altar of cedar.

²¹ And Solomon overlaid the inside of the house with pure gold, and he drew chains of gold across, in front of the inner sanctuary, and overlaid it with gold.

²² And he overlaid the whole house with gold, until all the house was finished. Also the whole altar that belonged to the inner sanctuary he overlaid with gold.

²³ In the inner sanctuary he made two cherubim of olivewood, each ten cubits high.

²⁴ Five cubits was the length of one wing of the cherub, and five cubits the length of the other wing of the cherub; it was ten cubits from the tip of one wing to the tip of the other.

²⁵ The other cherub also measured ten cubits; both cherubim had the same measure and the same form.

²⁶ The height of one cherub was ten cubits, and so was that of the other cherub.

²⁷ He put the cherubim in the innermost part of the house. And the wings of the cherubim were spread out so that a wing of one touched the one wall, and a wing

of the other cherub touched the other wall; their other wings touched each other in the middle of the house.

²⁸ And he overlaid the cherubim with gold.

²⁹ Around all the walls of the house he carved engraved figures of cherubim and palm trees and open flowers, in the inner and outer rooms.

³⁰ The floor of the house he overlaid with gold in the inner and outer rooms.

³¹ For the entrance to the inner sanctuary he made doors of olivewood; the lintel and the doorposts were five-sided.

³² He covered the two doors of olivewood with carvings of cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers. He overlaid them with gold and spread gold on the cherubim and on the palm trees.

³³ So also he made for the entrance to the nave doorposts of olivewood, in the form of a square,

³⁴ and two doors of cypress wood. The two leaves of the one door were folding, and the two leaves of the other door were folding.

³⁵ On them he carved cherubim and palm trees and open flowers, and he overlaid them with gold evenly applied on the carved work.

³⁶ He built the inner court with three courses of cut stone and one course 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 parts, and according to all its specifications. He was seven years in building it.

7¹ Solomon was building his own house thirteen years, and he finished his entire house.

² He built the House of the Forest of Lebanon. Its length was a hundred cubits and its breadth fifty cubits and its height thirty cubits, and it was built on four rows of cedar pillars, with cedar beams on the pillars.

³ And it was covered with cedar above the chambers that were on the forty-five pillars, fifteen in each row.

⁴ There were window frames in three rows, and window opposite window in three tiers.

⁵ All the doorways and windows had square frames, and window was opposite window in three tiers.

⁶ And he made the Hall of Pillars; its length was fifty cubits, and its breadth thirty cubits. There was a porch in front

with pillars, and a canopy in front of them.

⁷ And he made the Hall of the Throne where he was to pronounce judgment, even the Hall of Judgment. It was finished with cedar from floor to rafters.

⁸ His own house where he was to dwell, in the other court back of the hall, was of like workmanship. Solomon also made a house like this hall for Pharaoh's daughter whom he had taken in marriage.

⁹ All these were made of costly stones, cut according to measure, sawed with saws, back and front, even from the foundation to the coping, and from the outside to the great court.

¹⁰ The foundation was of costly stones, huge stones, stones of eight and ten cubits.

¹¹ And above were costly stones, cut according to measurement, and cedar.

¹² The great court had three courses of cut stone all around, and a course of cedar beams; so had the inner court of the house of the LORD and the vestibule of the house.

¹³ And King Solomon sent and brought Hiram from Tyre.

¹⁴ He was the son of a widow of the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a man of Tyre, a worker in bronze. And he was full of wisdom, understanding, and skill for making any work in bronze. He came to King Solomon and did all his work.

¹⁵ He cast two pillars of bronze. Eighteen cubits was the height of one pillar, and a line of twelve cubits measured its circumference. It was hollow, and its thickness was four fingers. The second pillar was the same.

¹⁶ He also made two capitals of cast bronze to set on the tops of the pillars.

The height of the one capital was five cubits, and the height of the other capital was five cubits.

¹⁷ There were lattices of checker work with wreaths of chain work for the capitals on the tops of the pillars, a lattice for the one capital and a lattice for the other capital.

¹⁸ Likewise he made pomegranates in two rows around the one latticework to cover the capital that was on the top of the pillar, and he did the same with the other capital.

¹⁹ Now the capitals that were on the tops of the pillars in the vestibule were of lily-work, four cubits.

²⁰ The capitals were on the two pillars and also above the rounded projection which was beside the latticework. There were two hundred pomegranates in two rows all around, and so with the other capital.

²¹ He set up the pillars at the vestibule of the temple. He set up the pillar on the south and called its name Jachin, and he set up the pillar on the north and called its name Boaz.

²² And on the tops of the pillars was lily-work. Thus the work of the pillars was finished.

²³ Then he made the sea of cast metal. It was round, ten cubits from brim to brim, and five cubits high, and a line of thirty cubits measured its circumference.

²⁴ Under its brim were gourds, for ten cubits, compassing the sea all around. The gourds were in two rows, cast with it when it was cast.

²⁵ It stood on twelve oxen, three facing north, three facing west, three facing south, and three facing east. The sea was set on them, and all their rear parts were inward.

²⁶ Its thickness was a handbreadth, and its brim was made like the brim of a cup, like the flower of a lily. It held two thousand baths.

²⁷ He also made the ten stands of bronze. Each stand was four cubits long, four cubits wide, and three cubits high.

²⁸ This was the construction of the stands: they had panels, and the panels were set in the frames,

²⁹ and on the panels that were set in the frames were lions, oxen, and cherubim. On the frames, both above and below the lions and oxen, there were wreaths of beveled work.

³⁰ Moreover, each stand had four bronze wheels and axles of bronze, and at the four corners were supports for a basin. The supports were cast with wreaths at the side of each.

³¹ Its opening was within a crown that projected upward one cubit. Its opening

was round, as a pedestal is made, a cubit and a half deep. At its opening there were carvings, and its panels were square, not round.

³² And the four wheels were underneath the panels. The axles of the wheels were of one piece with the stands, and the height of a wheel was a cubit and a half.

³³ The wheels were made like a chariot wheel; their axles, their rims, their spokes, and their hubs were all cast.

³⁴ There were four supports at the four corners of each stand. The supports were of one piece with the stands.

³⁵ And on the top of the stand there was a round band half a cubit high; and on the top of the stand its stays and its panels were of one piece with it.

³⁶ And on the surfaces of its stays and on its panels, he carved cherubim, lions,

and palm trees, according to the space of each, with wreaths all around.

³⁷ After this manner he made the ten stands. All of them were cast alike, of the same measure and the same form.

³⁸ And he made ten basins of bronze. Each basin held forty baths, each basin measured four cubits, and there was a basin for each of the ten stands.

³⁹ And he set the stands, five on the south side of the house, and five on the north side of the house. And he set the sea at the southeast corner of the house.

⁴⁰ Hiram also made the pots, the shovels, and the basins. So Hiram finished all the work that he did for King Solomon on the house of the LORD:

⁴¹ the two pillars, the two bowls of the capitals that were on the tops of the pillars, and the two latticeworks to cover the two bowls of the capitals that were on the tops of the pillars;

⁴² and the four hundred pomegranates for the two latticeworks, two rows of pomegranates for each latticework, to cover the two bowls of the capitals that were on the pillars;

⁴³ the ten stands, and the ten basins on the stands;

⁴⁴ and the one sea, and the twelve oxen underneath the sea.

⁴⁵ Now the pots, the shovels, and the basins, all these vessels in the house of the LORD, which Hiram made for King Solomon, were of burnished bronze.

⁴⁶ In the plain of the Jordan the king cast them, in the clay ground between Succoth and Zarethan.

⁴⁷ And Solomon left all the vessels unweighed, because there were so many of them; the weight of the bronze was not ascertained.

⁴⁸ So Solomon made all the vessels that were in the house of the LORD: the

golden altar, the golden table for the bread of the Presence,

⁴⁹ the lampstands of pure gold, five on the south side and five on the north, before the inner sanctuary; the flowers, the lamps, and the tongs, of gold;

⁵⁰ the cups, snuffers, basins, dishes for incense, and fire pans, of pure gold; and the sockets of gold, for the doors of the innermost part of the house, the Most Holy Place, and for the doors of the nave of the temple.

⁵¹ Thus all the work that King Solomon did on the house of the LORD was finished. And Solomon brought in the things that David his father had dedicated, the silver, the gold, and the vessels, and stored them in the treasuries of the house of the LORD.

8¹ Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the fathers'

houses of the people of Israel, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion.

² And all the men of Israel assembled to King Solomon at the feast in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month.

³ And all the elders of Israel came, and the priests took up the ark.

⁴ And they brought up the ark of the LORD, the tent of meeting, and all the holy vessels that were in the tent; the priests and the Levites brought them up.

⁵ And King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel, who had assembled before him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and oxen that they could not be counted or numbered.

⁶ Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the

Most Holy Place, underneath the wings of the cherubim.

⁷ For the cherubim spread out their wings over the place of the ark, so that the cherubim overshadowed the ark and its poles.

⁸ And the poles were so long that the ends of the poles were seen from the Holy Place before the inner sanctuary; but they could not be seen from outside. And they are there to this day.

⁹ There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone that Moses put there at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the people of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt.

¹⁰ And when the priests came out of the Holy Place, a cloud filled the house of the LORD,

¹¹ so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the

glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.

¹² Then Solomon said, "The LORD has said that he would dwell in thick darkness.

¹³ I have indeed built you an exalted house, a place for you to dwell in forever."

¹⁴ Then the king turned around and blessed all the assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel stood.

¹⁵ And he said, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who with his hand has fulfilled what he promised with his mouth to David my father, saying,

¹⁶ 'Since the day that I brought my people Israel out of Egypt, I chose no city out of all the tribes 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 David my father to build a house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel.

¹⁸ But the LORD said to David my father, 'Whereas it was in your heart to build a house for my name, you did well that it was in your heart.

¹⁹ Nevertheless, you shall not build the house, but your son who shall be born to you shall build the house for my name.'

²⁰ Now the LORD has fulfilled his promise that he made. For I have risen in the place of David my father, and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and I have built the house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel.

²¹ And there I have provided a place for the ark, in which is the covenant of the LORD that 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 said, "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart,

²⁴ who have kept with your servant David my father what you declared to him. You spoke with your mouth, and with your hand have fulfilled it this day.

²⁵ Now therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant David my father what you have promised him, saying, 'You shall not lack a man to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.'

²⁶ Now therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you have spoken to your servant David my father.

²⁷ "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built!

²⁸ Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O LORD my God, listening to the cry and to the prayer that your servant prays before you this day,

²⁹ that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you have said, 'My name shall be there,' that you may listen to the prayer that your servant offers toward this place.

³⁰ And listen to the plea of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. And listen in heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.

³¹ "If a man sins against his neighbor and is made to take an oath and comes and swears his oath before your altar in this house,

³² then hear in heaven and act and judge your servants, condemning the guilty by bringing his conduct on his own head, and vindicating the righteous by rewarding him according to his righteousness.

³³ "When your people Israel are defeated before the enemy because they have sinned against you, and if they turn again to you and acknowledge your name and pray and plead with you in this house,

³⁴ then hear in heaven and forgive the sin of your people Israel and bring them again to the land that you gave to their fathers.

³⁵ "When heaven is shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against

you, if they pray toward this place and acknowledge your name and turn from their sin, when you afflict them,

³⁶ then hear in heaven and forgive the sin of your servants, your people Israel, when you teach them the good way in which they should walk, and grant rain upon your land, which you have given to your people as an inheritance.

³⁷ "If there is famine in the land, if there is pestilence or blight or mildew or locust or caterpillar, if their enemy besieges them in the land at their gates, whatever plague, whatever sickness there is,

³⁸ whatever prayer, whatever plea is made by any man or by all your people Israel, each knowing the affliction of his own heart and stretching out his hands toward this house,

³⁹ then hear in heaven your dwelling place and forgive and act and render to each whose heart you know, according

to all his ways (for you, you only,
know the hearts of all the children of
mankind),

⁴⁰ that they may fear you all the days
that they live in the land that you gave
to our fathers.

⁴¹ "Likewise, when a foreigner, who is
not of your people Israel, comes from a
far country for your name's sake

⁴² (for they shall hear of your great
name and your mighty hand, and of your
outstretched arm), when he comes and
prays toward this house,

⁴³ hear in heaven your dwelling place
and do according to all for which the
foreigner calls to you, in order that all
the peoples of the earth may know your
name and fear you, as do your people
Israel, and that they may know that this
house that I have built is called by your
name.

⁴⁴ "If your people go out to battle against their enemy, by whatever way you shall send them, and they pray to the LORD toward the city that you have chosen and the house that I have built for your name,

⁴⁵ then hear in heaven their prayer and their plea, and maintain their cause.

⁴⁶ "If they sin against you--for there is no one who does not sin--and you are angry with them and give them to an enemy, so that they are carried away captive to the land of the enemy, far off or near,

⁴⁷ yet if they turn their heart in the land to which they have been carried captive, and repent and plead with you in the land of their captors, saying, 'We have sinned and have acted perversely and wickedly,'

⁴⁸ if they repent with all their mind and with all their heart in the land of their

enemies, who carried them captive, and pray to you toward their land, which you gave to their fathers, the city that you have chosen, and the house that I have built for your name,

⁴⁹ then hear in heaven your dwelling place their prayer and their plea, and maintain their cause

⁵⁰ and forgive your people who have sinned against you, and all their transgressions that they have committed against you, and grant them compassion in the sight of those who carried them captive, that they may have compassion on them

⁵¹ (for they are your people, and your heritage, which you brought out of Egypt, from the midst of the iron furnace).

⁵² Let your eyes be open to the plea of your servant and to the plea of

your people Israel, giving ear to them whenever they call to you.

⁵³ For you separated them from among all the peoples of the earth to be your heritage, as you declared through Moses your servant, when you brought our fathers out of Egypt, O Lord GOD."

⁵⁴ Now as Solomon finished offering all this prayer and plea to the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, where he had knelt with hands outstretched toward heaven.

⁵⁵ And 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. Not one word has failed of all his good promise, which he spoke by Moses his servant.

⁵⁷ The LORD our God be with us, as he was with our fathers. May he not leave us or forsake us,

⁵⁸ that he may incline our hearts to him, to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments, his statutes, and his rules, which he commanded our fathers.

⁵⁹ Let these words of mine, with which I have pleaded before the LORD, be near to the LORD our God day and night, and may he maintain the cause of his servant and the cause of his people Israel, as each day requires,

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 wholly true to the LORD our God, walking in his statutes and keeping his commandments, as at this day."

⁶² Then the king, and all Israel with him, offered sacrifice before the LORD.

⁶³ Solomon offered as peace offerings to the LORD 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep. So the king and all the people of Israel dedicated the house of the LORD.

⁶⁴ The same day the king consecrated the middle of the court that was before the house of the LORD, for there he offered the burnt offering and the grain offering and the fat pieces of the peace offerings, because the bronze altar that was before the LORD was too small to receive the burnt offering and the grain offering and the fat pieces of the peace offerings.

⁶⁵ So Solomon held the feast at that time, and all Israel with him, a great assembly, from Lebo-hamath to the Brook of Egypt, before the LORD our God, seven days.

⁶⁶ On the eighth day he sent the people away, and they blessed the king and went to their homes joyful and glad of

heart for all the goodness that the LORD had shown to David his servant and to Israel his people.

9¹ As soon as Solomon had finished building the house of the LORD and the king's house and all that Solomon desired to build,

² the LORD appeared to Solomon a second time, as he had appeared to him at Gibeon.

³ And the LORD said to him, "I have heard your prayer and your plea, which you have made before me. I have consecrated this house that you have built, by putting my name there forever. My eyes and my heart will be there for all time.

⁴ And as for you, if you will walk before me, as David your father walked, with integrity of heart and uprightness, doing according to all that I have commanded

you, and keeping my statutes and my rules,

⁵ then I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father, saying, 'You shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'

⁶ But if you turn aside from following me, you or your children, and do not keep my commandments and my statutes that I have set before you, but go and serve other gods and worship them,

⁷ then I will cut off Israel from the land that I have given them, and the house that I have consecrated for my name I will cast out of my sight, and Israel will become a proverb and a byword among all peoples.

⁸ And this house will become a heap of ruins. Everyone passing by it will be astonished and will hiss, and they will

say, 'Why has the LORD done thus to this land and to this house?'

⁹ Then they will say, 'Because they abandoned the LORD their God who brought their fathers out of the land of Egypt and laid hold on other gods and worshiped them and served them. Therefore the LORD has brought all this disaster on them.'"

¹⁰ At the end of twenty years, in which Solomon had built the two houses, the house of the LORD and the king's house,

¹¹ and Hiram king of Tyre had supplied Solomon with cedar and cypress timber and gold, as much as he desired, King Solomon gave to Hiram twenty cities in the land of Galilee.

¹² But when Hiram came from Tyre to see the cities that Solomon had given him, they did not please him.

¹³ Therefore he said, "What kind of cities are these that you have given me,

my brother?" So they are called the land of Cabul to this day.

¹⁴ Hiram had sent to the king 120 talents of gold.

¹⁵ And this is the account of the forced labor that King Solomon drafted to build the house of the LORD and his own house and the Millo and the wall of Jerusalem and Hazor and Megiddo and Gezer

¹⁶ (Pharaoh king of Egypt had gone up and captured Gezer and burned it with fire, and had killed the Canaanites who lived in the city, and had given it as dowry to his daughter, Solomon's wife;

¹⁷ so Solomon rebuilt Gezer) and Lower Beth-horon

¹⁸ and Baalath and Tamar in the wilderness, in the land of Judah,

¹⁹ and all the store cities that Solomon had, and the cities for his chariots, and the cities for his horsemen, 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, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, who were not of the people of Israel--

²¹ their descendants who were left after them in the land, whom the people of Israel were unable to devote to destruction--these Solomon drafted to be slaves, and so they are to this day.

²² But of the people of Israel Solomon made no slaves. They were the soldiers, they were his officials, his commanders, his captains, his chariot commanders and his horsemen.

²³ These were the chief officers who were over Solomon's work: 550 who had charge of the people who carried on the work.

²⁴ But Pharaoh's daughter went up from the city of David to her own house that Solomon had built for her. Then he built the Millo.

²⁵ Three times a year Solomon used to offer up burnt offerings and peace offerings on the altar that he built to the LORD, making offerings with it before the LORD. So he finished the house.

²⁶ King Solomon built a fleet of ships at Ezion-geber, which is near Eloth on the shore of the Red Sea, in the land of Edom.

²⁷ And Hiram sent with the fleet his servants, seamen who were familiar with the sea, together with the servants of Solomon.

²⁸ And they went to Ophir and brought from there gold, 420 talents, and they 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 bearing spices and very much gold and precious stones. And when she came to Solomon, she told him all that was on her mind.

³ And Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing hidden from the king that he could not explain 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 of his table, the seating of his officials, and the attendance of his servants, their clothing, his cupbearers, and his burnt offerings that he offered at the house of the LORD, there was no more breath in her.

⁶ And she said to the king, "The report was true that I heard in my own land of your words and of your wisdom,

⁷ but I did not believe the reports until I came and my own eyes had seen it. And behold, the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity surpass the report that I heard.

⁸ Happy are your men! Happy are your servants, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom!

⁹ Blessed be the LORD your God, who has delighted in you and set you on the throne of Israel! Because the LORD loved Israel forever, he has made you king, that you may execute justice and righteousness."

¹⁰ Then she gave the king 120 talents of gold, and a very great quantity of spices and precious stones. Never again came such an abundance of spices as these

that the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

¹¹ Moreover, the fleet of Hiram, which brought gold from Ophir, brought from Ophir a very great amount of almug wood and precious stones.

¹² And the king made of the almug wood supports for the house of the LORD and for the king's house, also lyres and harps for the singers. No such almug wood has come or been seen to this day.

¹³ And King Solomon gave to the queen of Sheba all that she desired, whatever she asked besides what was given her by the bounty of King Solomon. So she turned and went back to her own land with her servants.

¹⁴ Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was 666 talents of gold,

¹⁵ besides that which came from the explorers and from the business of the

merchants, and from all the kings of the west and from the governors of the land.

¹⁶ King Solomon made 200 large shields of beaten gold; 600 shekels of gold went into each shield.

¹⁷ And he made 300 shields of beaten gold; three minas of gold went into each shield. And the king put them in the House of the Forest of Lebanon.

¹⁸ The king also made a great ivory throne and overlaid it with the finest gold.

¹⁹ The throne had six steps, and at the back of the throne was a calf's head, and on each side of the seat were armrests and two lions standing beside the armrests,

²⁰ while twelve lions stood there, one on each end of a step on the six steps. The like of it was never made in any kingdom.

²¹ All King Solomon's drinking vessels were of gold, and all the vessels of the House of the Forest of Lebanon were of pure gold. None were of silver; silver was not considered as anything in the days of Solomon.

²² For the king had a fleet of ships of Tarshish at sea with the fleet of Hiram. Once every three years the fleet of ships of Tarshish used to come bringing gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks.

²³ Thus King Solomon excelled all the kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom.

²⁴ And the whole earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put into his mind.

²⁵ Every one of them brought his present, articles of silver and gold, garments, myrrh, spices, horses, and mules, so much year by year.

²⁶ And Solomon gathered together chariots and horsemen. He had 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horsemen, whom he stationed in the chariot cities and with the king in Jerusalem.

²⁷ And the king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stone, and he made cedar as plentiful as the sycamore of the Shephelah.

²⁸ And Solomon's import of horses was from Egypt and Kue, and the king's traders received them from Kue at a price.

²⁹ A chariot could be imported from Egypt for 600 shekels of silver and a horse for 150, and so through the king's traders they were exported to all the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Syria.

11 ¹ Now King Solomon loved many foreign women, along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite,

Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women,

² from the nations concerning which the LORD had said to the people of Israel, "You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods." Solomon clung to these in love.

³ He had 700 wives, princesses, and 300 concubines. And his wives turned away his heart.

⁴ For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.

⁵ For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.

⁶ So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and did not wholly follow the LORD, as David his father had done.

⁷ Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Molech the abomination of the Ammonites, on the mountain east of Jerusalem.

⁸ And so he did for all his foreign wives, who made offerings and sacrificed to their gods.

⁹ And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the LORD, the 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 commanded.

¹¹ Therefore the LORD said to Solomon, "Since this has been your practice and

you have not kept my covenant and my statutes that I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you and will give it to your servant.

¹² Yet for the sake of David your father I will not do it in your days, but I will tear it out of the hand of your son.

¹³ However, I will not tear away all the kingdom, but I will give one tribe to your son, for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem that I have chosen."

¹⁴ And the LORD raised up an adversary against Solomon, Hadad the Edomite. He was of the royal house in Edom.

¹⁵ For when David was in Edom, and Joab the commander of the army went up to bury the slain, he struck down every male in Edom

¹⁶ (for Joab and all Israel remained there six months, until he had cut off every male in Edom).

¹⁷ But Hadad fled to Egypt, together with certain Edomites of his father's servants, Hadad still being a little child.

¹⁸ They set out from Midian and came to Paran and took men with them from Paran and came to Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, who gave him a house and assigned him an allowance of food and gave him land.

¹⁹ And Hadad found great favor in the sight of Pharaoh, so that he gave him in marriage the sister of his own wife, the sister of Tahpenes the queen.

²⁰ And the sister of Tahpenes bore him Genubath his son, whom Tahpenes weaned in Pharaoh's house. And Genubath was in Pharaoh's house among the sons of Pharaoh.

²¹ But when Hadad heard in Egypt that David slept 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 But Pharaoh said to him, "What have you lacked with me that you are now seeking to go to your own country?" And he said to him, "Only let me depart."

²³ God also raised up as an adversary to him, Rezon the son of Eliada, who had fled from his master Hadadezer king of Zobah.

²⁴ And he gathered men about him and became leader of a marauding band, after the killing by David. And they went to Damascus and lived there and made him king in Damascus.

²⁵ He was an adversary of Israel all the days of Solomon, doing harm as Hadad did. And he loathed Israel and reigned over Syria.

²⁶ Jeroboam the son of Nebat, an Ephraimite of Zeredah, a servant of Solomon, whose mother's name was

Zeruah, a widow, also lifted up his hand against the king.

²⁷ And this was the reason why he lifted up his hand against the king. Solomon built the Millo, and closed up the breach of the city of David his father.

²⁸ The man Jeroboam was very able, and when Solomon saw that the young man was industrious he gave him charge over all the forced labor of the house of Joseph.

²⁹ And at that time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him on the road. Now Ahijah had dressed himself in a new garment, and the two of them were alone in the open country.

³⁰ Then Ahijah laid 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 am about to tear the kingdom from the hand of Solomon and will give you ten tribes

³² (but he shall have one tribe, for the sake of my servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city that 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 Moab, and Milcom the god of the Ammonites, and they have not walked in my ways, doing what is right in my sight and keeping my statutes and my rules, as David his father did.

³⁴ Nevertheless, I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand, but I will make him ruler all the days of his life, for the sake of David my servant whom I chose, who kept my commandments and my statutes.

³⁵ But I will take the kingdom out of his son's hand and will give it to you, ten tribes.

³⁶ Yet to his son I will give one tribe, that David my servant may always have a lamp before me in Jerusalem, the city where I have chosen to put my name.

³⁷ And I will take you, and you shall reign over all that your soul desires, and you shall be king over Israel.

³⁸ And if you will listen to all that I command you, and will walk in my ways, and do what is right in my eyes by keeping my statutes and my commandments, as David my servant did, I will be with you and will build you a sure house, as I built for David, and I will give Israel to you.

³⁹ And I will afflict the offspring of David because of this, but not forever."

⁴⁰ Solomon sought therefore to kill Jeroboam. But Jeroboam arose and fled

into Egypt, to Shishak king of Egypt, and was in Egypt until the death of Solomon.

⁴¹ Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, and all that he did, and his wisdom, are they not written in the Book of the Acts of Solomon?

⁴² And the time that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was forty years.

⁴³ And Solomon slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of David his father. And Rehoboam his son reigned in his place.

12 ¹ Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king.

² And as soon as Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard of it (for he was still in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon), then Jeroboam returned from Egypt.

³ And they sent and called him, and Jeroboam and all the assembly of Israel came and said to Rehoboam,

⁴ "Your father made our yoke heavy. Now therefore lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke on us, and we will serve you."

⁵ He said to them, "Go away for three days, then come again to me." So the people went away.

⁶ Then King Rehoboam took counsel with the old men, who had stood before Solomon his father while he was yet alive, saying, "How do you advise me to answer this people?"

⁷ And they said to him, "If you will be a servant to this people today and serve them, and speak good words to them when you answer them, then they will be your servants forever."

⁸ But he abandoned the counsel that the old men gave him and took counsel

with the young men who had grown up with him and stood before him.

⁹ And he said to them, "What do you advise that we answer this people who have said to me, 'Lighten the yoke that your father put on us'?"

¹⁰ And the young men who had grown up with him said to him, "Thus shall you speak to this people who said to you, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, but you lighten it for us,' thus shall you say to them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's thighs.

¹¹ And now, whereas my father laid on you a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.'"

¹² So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king said, "Come to me again the third day."

¹³ And the king answered the people harshly, and forsaking the counsel that the old men had given him,

¹⁴ he spoke to them according to the counsel of the young men, saying, "My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions."

¹⁵ So the king did not listen to the people, for it was a turn of affairs brought about by the LORD that he might fulfill his word, which the LORD spoke by Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

¹⁶ And when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, "What portion do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, O Israel! Look now to your own house, David." So Israel went to their tents.

¹⁷ But Rehoboam reigned over the people of Israel who lived in the cities of Judah.

¹⁸ Then King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was taskmaster over the forced labor, and all Israel stoned him to death with stones. And King Rehoboam hurried to mount his chariot to flee to Jerusalem.

¹⁹ So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day.

²⁰ And when all Israel heard that Jeroboam had returned, they sent and called him to the assembly and made him king over all Israel. There was none that followed the house of David but the tribe of Judah only.

²¹ When Rehoboam came to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah and the tribe of Benjamin, 180,000 chosen warriors, to fight against the house of Israel, to restore the kingdom to Rehoboam the son of Solomon.

²² But the word of God came to Shemaiah the man of God:

²³ "Say to Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and to all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the rest of the people,

²⁴ 'Thus says the LORD, You shall not go up or fight against your relatives the people of Israel. Every man return to his home, for this thing is from me.'" So they listened to the word of the LORD and went home again, according to the word of the LORD.

²⁵ Then Jeroboam built Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim and lived there. And he went out from there and built Penuel.

²⁶ And Jeroboam said in his heart, "Now the kingdom will turn back to the house of David.

²⁷ If this people go up to offer sacrifices in the temple of the LORD at Jerusalem,

then the heart of this people will turn again to their lord, to Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and return to Rehoboam king of Judah."

²⁸ So the king took counsel and made two calves of gold. And he said to the people, "You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt."

²⁹ And he set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan.

³⁰ Then this thing became a sin, for the people went as far as Dan to be before one.

³¹ He also made temples on high places and appointed priests from among all the people, who were not of the Levites.

³² And Jeroboam appointed a feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month like the feast that was in Judah, and he offered sacrifices on the altar. So he did

in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he made. And he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places that he had made.

³³ He went up to the altar that he had made in Bethel on the fifteenth day in the eighth month, in the month that he had devised from his own heart. And he instituted a feast for the people of Israel and went up to the altar to make offerings.

13 ¹ And behold, a man of God came out of Judah by the word of the LORD to Bethel. Jeroboam was standing by the altar to make offerings.

² And the man cried against the altar by the word of the LORD and said, "O altar, altar, thus says the LORD: 'Behold, a son shall be born to the house of David, Josiah by name, and he shall sacrifice on you the priests of the high places

who make offerings on you, and human bones shall be burned on you.'"

³ And he gave a sign the same day, saying, "This is the sign that the LORD has spoken: 'Behold, the altar shall be torn down, and the ashes that are on it shall be poured out.'"

⁴ And when the king heard the saying of the man of God, which he cried against the altar at Bethel, Jeroboam stretched out his hand from the altar, saying, "Seize him." And his hand, which he stretched out against him, dried up, so that he could not draw it back to himself.

⁵ The altar also was torn down, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign that the man of God had given by the word of the LORD.

⁶ And the king said to the man of God, "Entreat now the favor of the LORD your God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me." And the man of God

entreated the LORD, and the king's hand was restored to him and became as it was before.

⁷ And the king said to the man of God, "Come home with me, and refresh yourself, and I will give you a reward."

⁸ And the man of God said to the king, "If you give me half your house, I will not go in with you. And I will not eat bread or drink water in this place,

⁹ for so was it commanded me by the word of the LORD, saying, 'You shall neither eat bread nor drink water nor return by the way that you came.'"

¹⁰ So he went another way and did not return by the way that he came to Bethel.

¹¹ Now an old prophet lived in Bethel. And his sons came and told him all that the man of God had done that day in Bethel. They also told to their father the words that he had spoken to the king.

¹² And their father said to them, "Which way did he go?" And his sons showed him the way that the man of God who came from Judah had gone.

¹³ And he said to his sons, "Saddle the donkey for me." So they saddled the donkey for him and he mounted it.

¹⁴ And he went after the man of God and found him sitting under an oak. And 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 may not return with you, or go in with you, neither will I eat bread nor drink water with you in this place,

¹⁷ for it was said to me by the word of the LORD, 'You shall neither eat bread nor drink water there, nor return by the way that you came.'"

¹⁸ And he said to him, "I also am a prophet as you are, and an angel spoke to me by the word of the LORD, saying, 'Bring him back with you into your house that he may eat bread and drink water.'" But he lied to him.

¹⁹ So he went back with him and ate bread in his house and drank water.

²⁰ And as they sat at the table, the word of the LORD came to the prophet who had brought him back.

²¹ And he cried to the man of God who came from Judah, "Thus says the LORD, 'Because you have disobeyed the word of the LORD and have not kept the command that the LORD your God commanded you,

²² but have come back and have eaten bread and drunk water in the place of which he said to you, "Eat no bread and drink no water," your body shall not come to the tomb of your fathers.'"

²³ And after he had eaten bread and drunk, he saddled the donkey for the prophet whom he had brought back.

²⁴ And as he went away a lion met him on the road and killed him. And his body was thrown in the road, and the donkey stood beside it; the lion also stood beside the body.

²⁵ And behold, men passed by and saw the body thrown in the road and the lion standing by the body. And they came and told it in the city where the old prophet lived.

²⁶ And when the prophet who had brought him back from the way heard of it, he said, "It is the man of God who disobeyed the word of the LORD; therefore the LORD has given him to the lion, which has torn him and killed him, according to the word that the LORD spoke to him."

²⁷ And he said to his sons, "Saddle the donkey for me." And they saddled it.

²⁸ And he went and found his body thrown in the road, and the donkey and the lion standing beside the body. The lion had not eaten the body or torn the donkey.

²⁹ And the prophet took up the body of the man of God and laid it on the donkey and brought it back to the city to mourn and to bury him.

³⁰ And he laid the body in his own grave. And they mourned over him, saying, "Alas, my brother!"

³¹ And after he had buried him, he said to his sons, "When I die, bury me in the grave in which the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones.

³² For the saying that he called out by the word of the LORD against the altar in Bethel and against all the houses of

the high places that are in the cities of Samaria shall surely come to pass."

³³ After this thing Jeroboam did not turn from his evil way, but made priests for the high places again from among all the people. Any who would, he ordained to be priests of the high places.

³⁴ And this thing became sin to the house of Jeroboam, so as to cut it off and to destroy it from the face of the earth.

14 ¹ At that time Abijah the son of Jeroboam fell sick.

² And Jeroboam said to his wife, "Arise, and disguise yourself, that it not be known that you are the wife of Jeroboam, and go to Shiloh. Behold, Ahijah the prophet is there, who said of me that I should be king over this people.

³ Take with you ten loaves, some cakes, and a jar of honey, and go to him. He will tell you what shall happen to the child."

⁴ Jeroboam's wife did so. She arose and went to Shiloh and came to the house of Ahijah. Now Ahijah could not see, for his eyes were dim because of his age.

⁵ And the LORD said to Ahijah, "Behold, the wife of Jeroboam is coming to inquire of you concerning her son, for he is sick. Thus and thus shall you say to her." When she came, she pretended to be another woman.

⁶ But when Ahijah heard the sound of her feet, as she came in at the door, he said, "Come in, wife of Jeroboam. Why do you pretend to be another? For I am charged with unbearable news for you.

⁷ Go, tell Jeroboam, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: "Because I exalted you from among the people and made you leader 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 like my servant

David, who kept my commandments and followed me with all his heart, doing only that which was right in my eyes,

⁹ but you have done evil above all who were before you and have gone and made for yourself other gods and metal images, provoking me to anger, and have cast me behind your back,

¹⁰ therefore behold, I will bring harm upon the house of Jeroboam and will cut off from Jeroboam every male, both bond and free in Israel, and will burn up the house of Jeroboam, as a man burns up dung until it is all gone.

¹¹ Anyone belonging to Jeroboam who dies in the city the dogs shall eat, and anyone who dies in the open country the birds of the heavens shall eat, for the LORD has spoken it."

¹² Arise therefore, go to your house. When your feet enter the city, the child shall die.

¹³ And all Israel shall mourn for him and bury him, for he only of Jeroboam shall come to the grave, because in him there is found something pleasing to the LORD, the 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 today. And henceforth,

¹⁵ the LORD will strike Israel as a reed is shaken in the water, and root up Israel out of this good land that he gave to their fathers and scatter them beyond the Euphrates, because they have made their Asherim, provoking the LORD to anger.

¹⁶ And he will give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, which he sinned and made Israel to sin."

¹⁷ Then Jeroboam's wife arose and departed and came to Tirzah. And as she

came to the threshold of the house, the child died.

¹⁸ And all Israel buried him and mourned for him, according to the word of the LORD, which he spoke by his servant Ahijah the prophet.

¹⁹ Now the rest of the acts of Jeroboam, how he warred and how he reigned, behold, they are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel.

²⁰ And the time that Jeroboam reigned was twenty-two years. And he slept with his fathers, and Nadab his son reigned in his place.

²¹ Now Rehoboam the son of Solomon reigned in Judah. Rehoboam was forty-one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city that the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there. His mother's name was Naamah the Ammonite.

²² And Judah did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked him to jealousy with their sins that they committed, more than all that their fathers had done.

²³ For they also built for themselves high places and pillars and Asherim on every high hill and under every green tree,

²⁴ and there were also male cult prostitutes in the land. They did according to all the abominations of the nations that the LORD drove out before the people of Israel.

²⁵ In the fifth year of King Rehoboam, Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem.

²⁶ 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 shields of gold that Solomon had made,

²⁷ and King Rehoboam made in their place shields of bronze, and committed them to the hands of the officers of the guard, who kept the door of the king's house.

²⁸ And as often as the king went into the house of the LORD, the guard carried them and brought them back to 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 continually.

³¹ And Rehoboam slept with his fathers and was buried with his fathers in the city of David. His mother's name was Naamah the Ammonite. And Abijam his son reigned in his place.

15 ¹ Now in the eighteenth year of King Jeroboam the son of Nebat, Abijam began to reign over Judah.

² He reigned for three years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Maacah the daughter of Abishalom.

³ And he walked in all the sins that his father did before him, and his heart was not wholly true to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father.

⁴ Nevertheless, for David's sake the LORD his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem, setting up his son after him, and establishing Jerusalem,

⁵ because David did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and did not turn aside from anything that he commanded him all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.

⁶ Now there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all the days of his life.

⁷ 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 And Abijam slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David. And Asa his son reigned in his place.

⁹ In the twentieth year of Jeroboam king of Israel, Asa began to reign over Judah,

¹⁰ and he reigned forty-one years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Maacah the daughter of Abishalom.

¹¹ And Asa did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, as David his father had done.

¹² He put away the male cult prostitutes out of the land and removed all the idols that his fathers had made.

¹³ He also removed Maacah his mother from being queen mother because she

had made an abominable image for Asherah. And Asa cut down her image and burned it at the brook Kidron.

¹⁴ But the high places were not taken away. Nevertheless, the heart of Asa was wholly true to the LORD all his days.

¹⁵ And he brought into the house of the LORD the sacred gifts of his father and his own sacred gifts, silver, and gold, and vessels.

¹⁶ And there was war between Asa and Baasha king of Israel all their days.

¹⁷ Baasha king of Israel went up against Judah and built Ramah, that he might permit no one to go out or come in to Asa king of Judah.

¹⁸ Then Asa took all the silver and the gold that were left in the treasures of the house of the LORD and the treasures of the king's house and gave them into the hands of his servants. And King Asa sent them to Ben-hadad the son of

Tabrimmon, the son of Hezion, king of Syria, who lived in Damascus, saying,

¹⁹ "Let there be a covenant between me and you, as there was between my father and your father. Behold, I am sending to you a present of silver and gold. Go, break your covenant with Baasha king of Israel, that he may withdraw from me."

²⁰ And Ben-hadad listened to King Asa and sent the commanders of his armies against the cities of Israel and conquered Ijon, Dan, Abel-beth-maacah, and all Chinneroth, with all the land of Naphtali.

²¹ And when Baasha heard of it, he stopped building Ramah, and he lived in Tirzah.

²² Then King Asa made a proclamation to all Judah, none was exempt, and they carried away the stones of Ramah and its timber, with which Baasha had been building, and with them King Asa built Geba of Benjamin and Mizpah.

²³ Now the rest of all the acts of Asa, all his might, and all that he did, and the cities that he built, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? But in his old age he was diseased in his feet.

²⁴ And Asa slept with his fathers and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father, and Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his place.

²⁵ Nadab the son of Jeroboam began to reign over Israel in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and he reigned over Israel two years.

²⁶ He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and walked in the way of his father, and in his sin which he made Israel to sin.

²⁷ Baasha the son of Ahijah, of the house of Issachar, conspired against him. And Baasha struck him down at Gibbethon, which belonged to the

Philistines, for Nadab and all Israel were laying siege to Gibbethon.

²⁸ So Baasha killed him in the third year of Asa king of Judah and reigned in his place.

²⁹ And as soon as he was king, he killed all the house of Jeroboam. He left to the house of Jeroboam not one that breathed, until he had destroyed it, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by his servant Ahijah the Shilonite.

³⁰ It was for the sins of Jeroboam that he sinned and that he made Israel to sin, and because of the anger to which he provoked the LORD, the God of Israel.

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 began to reign over all Israel at Tirzah, and he reigned twenty-four years.

³⁴ He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and walked in the way of Jeroboam and in his sin which he made Israel to sin.

16 ¹ And the word of the LORD came to Jehu the son of Hanani against Baasha, saying,

² "Since I exalted you out of the dust and made you leader over my people Israel, and you have walked in the way of Jeroboam and have made my people Israel to sin, provoking me to anger with their sins,

³ behold, I will utterly sweep away Baasha and his house, and I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

⁴ Anyone belonging to Baasha who dies in the city the dogs shall eat, and anyone of his who dies in the field the birds of the heavens shall eat."

⁵ Now the rest of the acts of Baasha and what he did, and his might, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?

⁶ And Baasha slept with his fathers and was buried at Tirzah, and Elah his son reigned in his place.

⁷ Moreover, the word of the LORD came by the prophet Jehu the son of Hanani against Baasha and his house, both because of all the evil that he did in the sight of the LORD, provoking him to anger with the work of his hands, in being like the house of Jeroboam, and also because he destroyed it.

⁸ In the twenty-sixth year of Asa king of Judah, Elah the son of Baasha began

to reign over Israel in Tirzah, and he reigned two years.

⁹ But his servant Zimri, commander of half his chariots, conspired against him. When he was at Tirzah, drinking himself drunk in the house of Arza, who was over the household in Tirzah,

¹⁰ Zimri came in and struck him down and killed him, in the twenty-seventh year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned in his place.

¹¹ When he began to reign, as soon as he had seated himself on his throne, he struck down all the house of Baasha. He did not leave him a single male of his relatives or his friends.

¹² Thus Zimri destroyed all the house 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, which they sinned and

which they made Israel to sin, 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 reigned seven days in Tirzah. Now the troops were encamped against Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines,

¹⁶ and the troops who were encamped heard it said, "Zimri has conspired, and he has killed the king." Therefore all Israel made Omri, the commander of the army, king over Israel that day in the camp.

¹⁷ So Omri went up from Gibbethon, and all Israel with him, and they besieged Tirzah.

¹⁸ And when Zimri saw that the city was taken, he went into the citadel of the king's house and burned the king's house over him with fire and died,

¹⁹ because of his sins that he committed, doing evil in the sight of the LORD, walking in the way of Jeroboam, and for his sin which he committed, making Israel to sin.

²⁰ Now the rest of the acts of Zimri, and the conspiracy that he made, 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 overcame the people who followed Tibni the son of Ginath. So Tibni died, and Omri became king.

²³ In the thirty-first year of Asa king of Judah, Omri began to reign over Israel, and he reigned for twelve years; six years he reigned in Tirzah.

²⁴ He bought the hill of Samaria from Shemer for two talents of silver, and he fortified the hill and called the name of the city that he built Samaria, after the name of Shemer, the owner of the hill.

²⁵ Omri did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and did more evil than all who were before him.

²⁶ For he walked in all the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and in the sins that he made Israel to sin, provoking the LORD, the God of Israel, to anger by their idols.

²⁷ Now the rest of the acts of Omri that he did, and the might that he showed, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?

²⁸ And Omri slept with his fathers and was buried in Samaria, and Ahab his son reigned in his place.

²⁹ In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab the son of Omri began to reign over Israel, and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years.

³⁰ And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD, more than all who were before him.

³¹ And as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, he took for his wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and went and served Baal and worshiped him.

³² He erected an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he built in Samaria.

³³ And Ahab made an Asherah. Ahab did more to provoke the LORD, the 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 at the cost of Abiram his firstborn, and set up its gates at the cost of his youngest son Segub, according to the word of the LORD, which he spoke by Joshua the son of Nun.

17 ¹ Now Elijah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word."

² And the word of the LORD came to him,

³ "Depart from here and turn eastward and hide yourself by the brook Cherith, which is east of the Jordan.

⁴ 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. He went and lived by the brook Cherith that is east of the Jordan.

⁶ And 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 after a while the brook dried up, because there was no rain in the land.

⁸ Then the word of the LORD came to him,

⁹ "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you."

¹⁰ So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her

and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink."

¹¹ And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand."

¹² And she said, "As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now 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 first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son.

¹⁴ For thus says the LORD the God of Israel, 'The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth.'"

¹⁵ And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days.

¹⁶ The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

¹⁷ After this the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became ill. And his illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him.

¹⁸ And she said to Elijah, "What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance and to cause the death of my son!"

¹⁹ And he said to her, "Give me your son." And he took him from her arms and carried him up into the upper chamber where he lodged, and laid him on his own bed.

²⁰ And he cried to the LORD, "O LORD my God, have you brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by killing her son?"

²¹ Then he stretched himself upon the child three times and cried to the LORD, "O LORD my God, let this child's life come into him again."

²² And the LORD listened to the voice of Elijah. And the life of the child came into him again, and he revived.

²³ And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper chamber into the house and delivered him to his mother. And Elijah said, "See, your son lives."

²⁴ And the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth."

18 ¹ After many days the word of the LORD came to Elijah, in the third

year, saying, "Go, show yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain upon the earth."

² So Elijah went to show himself to Ahab. Now the famine was severe in Samaria.

³ And Ahab called Obadiah, who was over the household. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly,

⁴ and when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the LORD, Obadiah took a hundred prophets and hid them by fifties in a cave and fed them with bread and water.)

⁵ And Ahab said to Obadiah, "Go through the land to all the springs of water and to all the valleys. Perhaps we may find grass and save the horses and mules alive, and not lose some of the animals."

⁶ So they divided the land between them to pass through it. Ahab went in one direction by himself, and Obadiah went in another direction by himself.

⁷ And as Obadiah was on the way, behold, Elijah met him. And Obadiah recognized him and fell on his face and said, "Is it you, my lord Elijah?"

⁸ And he answered him, "It is I. Go, tell your lord, 'Behold, Elijah is here.'"

⁹ And he said, "How have I sinned, that you would give 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 lord has not sent to seek you. And when they would say, 'He is not here,' he would take an oath of the kingdom or nation, that they had not found you.

¹¹ And now you say, 'Go, tell your lord, "Behold, Elijah is here."' "

¹² And as soon as I have gone from you, the Spirit of the LORD will carry you I know not where. And so, when I come and tell Ahab and he cannot find you, he

will kill me, although I your servant have feared the LORD from my youth.

¹³ Has it not been told my lord what I did when Jezebel killed the prophets of the LORD, how I hid a hundred men of the LORD's prophets by fifties in a cave and fed them with bread and water?

¹⁴ And now you say, 'Go, tell your lord, "Behold, Elijah is here"'; and he will kill me."

¹⁵ And Elijah said, "As the LORD of hosts lives, before whom I stand, I will surely show myself to him today."

¹⁶ So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him. And Ahab went to meet Elijah.

¹⁷ When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is it you, you troubler of Israel?"

¹⁸ And he answered, "I have not troubled Israel, but you have, and your father's house, because you have abandoned the commandments of the LORD and followed the Baals.

¹⁹ Now therefore send and gather all Israel to me at Mount Carmel, and the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

²⁰ So Ahab sent to all the people of Israel and gathered the prophets together at Mount Carmel.

²¹ And Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." And the people did not answer him a word.

²² Then Elijah said to the people, "I, even I only, am left a prophet of the LORD, but Baal's prophets are 450 men.

²³ Let two bulls be given to us, and let them choose one bull for themselves and cut it in pieces and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. And I will

prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood and put no fire to it.

²⁴ And you call upon the name of your god, and I will call upon the name of the LORD, and the God who answers by fire, he is God." And all the people answered, "It is well spoken."

²⁵ Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many, and call upon the name of your god, but put no fire to it."

²⁶ And they took the bull that was given them, and they prepared it and called upon the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, "O Baal, answer us!" But there was no voice, and no one answered. And they limped around the altar that they had made.

²⁷ And at noon Elijah mocked them, saying, "Cry aloud, for he is a god. Either he is musing, or he is relieving himself,

or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened."

²⁸ And they cried aloud and cut themselves after their custom with swords and lances, until the blood gushed out upon them.

²⁹ And as midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice. No one answered; no one paid attention.

³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." And all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that had been thrown down.

³¹ Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD came, saying, "Israel shall be your name,"

³² and with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD. And he made a

trench about the altar, as great as would contain two seahs of seed.

³³ And he put the wood in order and cut the bull in pieces and laid it on the wood. And he said, "Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood."

³⁴ And 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 And the water ran around the altar and filled the trench also with water.

³⁶ And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word.

³⁷ Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that you, O LORD,

are God, and that you have turned their hearts back."

³⁸ Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

³⁹ And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The LORD, he is God; the LORD, he is God."

⁴⁰ And Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape." And they seized them. And Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon and slaughtered them there.

⁴¹ And Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink, for there is a sound of the rushing of rain."

⁴² So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Mount Carmel. And he bowed himself down on

the earth and put his face between his knees.

⁴³ And he said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea." And he went up and looked and said, "There is nothing." And he said, "Go again," seven times.

⁴⁴ And at the seventh time he said, "Behold, a little cloud like a man's hand is rising from the sea." And he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot and go down, lest the rain stop you.'"

⁴⁵ And in a little while the heavens grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode and went to Jezreel.

⁴⁶ And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah, and he gathered up his garment and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

19 ¹ Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword.

² Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow."

³ Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came 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 asked that he might die, saying, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers."

⁵ And he lay down and slept under a broom tree. And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, "Arise and eat."

⁶ And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and lay down again.

⁷ And the angel of the LORD came again a second time and touched him and said, "Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you."

⁸ And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God.

⁹ There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

¹⁰ He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and

I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away."

¹¹ And he said, "Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks 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 the sound of a low whisper.

¹³ And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

¹⁴ He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and

killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away."

¹⁵ And the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria.

¹⁶ And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place.

¹⁷ And the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha put to death.

¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that 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

in front of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and cast his cloak upon him.

²⁰ And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, "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 And he returned from following him and took the yoke of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the yokes of the oxen and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and went after Elijah and assisted him.

20¹ Ben-hadad the king of Syria gathered all his army together. Thirty-two kings were with him, and horses and chariots. And he went up and closed in on Samaria and fought against it.

² And 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 best wives and children also are mine.'"

⁴ And the king of Israel answered, "As you say, my lord, O king, I am yours, and all that I have."

⁵ The messengers came again and said, "Thus says Ben-hadad: 'I sent to you, saying, "Deliver to me your silver and your gold, your wives and your children."

⁶ Nevertheless I will send my servants to you tomorrow about this time, and they shall search your house and the houses of your servants and lay hands on whatever pleases you and take it away.'"

⁷ Then the king of Israel called all the elders of the land and said, "Mark, now, and see how this man is seeking trouble, for he sent to me for my wives and my

children, and for my silver and my gold, and I did not refuse him."

⁸ And all the elders and all the people said to him, "Do not listen or consent."

⁹ So he said to the messengers of Ben-hadad, "Tell my lord the king, 'All that you first demanded of your servant I will do, but this thing I cannot do.'" And the messengers departed and brought him word again.

¹⁰ Ben-hadad sent to him and said, "The gods do so to me and more also, if the dust of Samaria shall suffice for handfuls for all the people who follow me."

¹¹ And the king of Israel answered, "Tell him, 'Let not him who straps on his armor boast himself like he who takes it off.'"

¹² When Ben-hadad heard this message as he was drinking with the kings in the booths, he said to his men, "Take your

positions." And they took their positions against the city.

¹³ And behold, a prophet came near to Ahab king of Israel and said, "Thus says the LORD, Have you seen all this great multitude? Behold, I will give it into your hand this day, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

¹⁴ And Ahab said, "By whom?" He said, "Thus says the LORD, By the servants of the governors of the districts." Then he said, "Who shall begin the battle?" He answered, "You."

¹⁵ Then he mustered the servants of the governors of the districts, and they were 232. And after them he mustered all the people of Israel, seven thousand.

¹⁶ And they went out at noon, while Ben-hadad was drinking himself drunk in the booths, he and the thirty-two kings who helped him.

¹⁷ The servants of the governors of the districts went out first. And Ben-hadad sent out scouts, and they reported to him, "Men are coming out from Samaria."

¹⁸ He said, "If they have come out for peace, take them alive. Or if they have come out for war, take them alive."

¹⁹ So these went out of the city, the servants of the governors of the districts and the army that followed them.

²⁰ And each struck down his man. The Syrians fled, and Israel pursued them, but Ben-hadad king of Syria escaped on a horse with horsemen.

²¹ And the king of Israel went out and struck the horses and chariots, and struck the Syrians with a great blow.

²² Then the prophet came near to the king of Israel and said to him, "Come, strengthen yourself, and consider well what you have to do, for in the spring

the king of Syria will come up against you."

²³ And the servants of the king of Syria said to him, "Their gods are gods of the hills, and so they were stronger than we. But let us fight against them in the plain, and surely we shall be stronger than they.

²⁴ And do this: remove the kings, each from his post, and put commanders in their places,

²⁵ and 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, and surely we shall be stronger than they." And he listened to their voice and did so.

²⁶ In the spring, Ben-hadad mustered the Syrians and went up to Aphek to fight against Israel.

²⁷ And the people of Israel were mustered and were provisioned and

went against them. The people of Israel encamped before them like two little flocks of goats, but the Syrians filled the country.

²⁸ And a man of God came near and said to the king of Israel, "Thus says the LORD, 'Because the Syrians have said, "The LORD is a god of the hills but he is not a god of the valleys," therefore I will give all this great multitude into your hand, and you shall know that I am the LORD.'"

²⁹ And they encamped opposite one another seven days. Then on the seventh day the battle was joined. And the people of Israel struck down of the Syrians 100,000 foot soldiers in one day.

³⁰ And the rest fled into the city of Aphek, and the wall fell upon 27,000 men who were left. Ben-hadad also fled and entered an inner chamber in the city.

³¹ And his servants said to him, "Behold now, we have heard that the kings of the house of Israel are merciful kings. Let us put sackcloth around our waists and ropes on our heads and go out to the king of Israel. Perhaps he will spare your life."

³² So they tied sackcloth around their waists and put ropes on their heads and went to the king of Israel and said, "Your servant Ben-hadad says, 'Please, let me live.'" And he said, "Does he still live? He is my brother."

³³ Now the men were watching for a sign, and they quickly took it up from him and said, "Yes, your brother Ben-hadad." Then he said, "Go and bring him." Then Ben-hadad came out to him, and he caused him to come up into the chariot.

³⁴ And Ben-hadad said to him, "The cities that my father took from your father I will restore, and you may

establish bazaars for yourself in Damascus, as my father did in Samaria." And Ahab said, "I will let you go on these terms." So he made a covenant with him and let him go.

³⁵ And a certain man of the sons of the prophets said to his fellow at the command of the LORD, "Strike me, please." But the man refused to strike him.

³⁶ Then he said to him, "Because you have not obeyed the voice of the LORD, behold, as soon as you have gone from me, a lion shall strike you down." And as soon as he had departed from him, a lion met him and struck him down.

³⁷ Then he found another man and said, "Strike me, please." And the man struck him--struck him and wounded him.

³⁸ So the prophet departed and waited for the king by the way, disguising himself with a bandage over his eyes.

³⁹ And as the king passed, he cried to the king and said, "Your servant went out into the midst of the battle, and behold, a soldier turned 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 And as your servant was busy here and there, he was gone." The king of Israel said to him, "So shall your judgment be; you yourself have decided it."

⁴¹ Then he hurried to take the bandage away from his eyes, and the king of Israel recognized him as one of the prophets.

⁴² And he said to him, "Thus says the LORD, 'Because you have let go out of your hand the man whom I had devoted to destruction, therefore your life shall be for his life, and your people for his people.'"

⁴³ And the king of Israel went to his house vexed and sullen and came to Samaria.

21 ¹ Now Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard in Jezreel, beside the palace of Ahab king of Samaria.

² And after this Ahab said to Naboth, "Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near my house, and I will give you a better vineyard for it; or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its value in money."

³ But Naboth said to Ahab, "The LORD forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers."

⁴ And Ahab went into his house vexed and sullen because of what Naboth the Jezreelite had said 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 vexed that you eat no food?"

⁶ And 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 please you, I will give you another vineyard for it.' And he answered, 'I will not give you my vineyard.'"

⁷ And Jezebel his wife said to him, "Do you now govern Israel? Arise and eat bread and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite."

⁸ So she wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal, and she sent the letters to the elders and the leaders who lived with Naboth in his city.

⁹ And she wrote in the letters, "Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth at the head of the people."

¹⁰ And set two worthless men opposite him, and let them bring a charge against him, saying, 'You have cursed God and the king.' Then take him out and stone him to death."

¹¹ And the men of his city, the elders and the leaders who lived in his city, did as Jezebel had sent word to them. As it was written in the letters that she had sent to them,

¹² they proclaimed a fast and set Naboth at the head of the people.

¹³ And the two worthless men came in and sat opposite him. And the worthless men brought a charge against Naboth in the presence of the people, saying, "Naboth cursed God and the king." So they took him outside the city and stoned him to death with stones.

¹⁴ Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, "Naboth has been stoned; he is dead."

¹⁵ As soon as Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, 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 And as soon as Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, Ahab arose to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.

¹⁷ Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying,

¹⁸ "Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who is in Samaria; behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone to take possession.

¹⁹ And you shall say to him, 'Thus says the LORD, "Have you killed and also taken possession?"' And you shall say to him, 'Thus says the LORD: "In the place where dogs licked up the blood

of Naboth shall dogs lick your own blood."'''

²⁰ Ahab said to Elijah, "Have you found me, O my enemy?" He answered, "I have found you, because you have sold yourself to do what is evil in the sight of the LORD.

²¹ Behold, I will bring disaster upon you. I will utterly burn you up, and will cut off from Ahab every male, bond or free, in Israel.

²² And I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, for the anger to which you have provoked me, and because you have made Israel to sin.

²³ And of Jezebel the LORD also said, 'The dogs shall eat Jezebel within the walls of Jezreel.'

²⁴ Anyone belonging to Ahab who dies in the city the dogs shall eat, and anyone

of his who dies in the open country the birds of the heavens shall eat."

²⁵ (There was none who sold himself to do what was evil in the sight of the LORD like Ahab, whom Jezebel his wife incited.

²⁶ He acted very abominably in going after idols, as the Amorites had done, whom the LORD cast out before the people of Israel.)

²⁷ And when Ahab heard those words, he tore his clothes and put sackcloth on his flesh and fasted and lay in sackcloth and went about dejectedly.

²⁸ And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying,

²⁹ "Have you seen how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself before me, I will not bring the disaster in his days; but in his son's days I will bring the disaster upon his house."

22 ¹ For three years Syria and Israel continued without war.

² But in the third year Jehoshaphat the king of Judah came down to the king of Israel.

³ And the king of Israel said to his servants, "Do you know that Ramoth-gilead belongs to us, and we keep quiet and do not take it out of the hand of the king of Syria?"

⁴ And he said to Jehoshaphat, "Will you go with me to battle at Ramoth-gilead?" And Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, "I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses."

⁵ And Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, "Inquire first for the word of the LORD."

⁶ Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men, and said to them, "Shall I go to battle against Ramoth-gilead, or shall

I refrain?" And they said, "Go up, for the Lord will give it into the hand of the king."

⁷ But Jehoshaphat said, "Is there not here another prophet of the LORD of whom we may inquire?"

⁸ And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "There is yet one man by whom we may inquire of the LORD, Micaiah the son of Imlah, but I hate him, for he never prophesies good concerning me, but evil." And Jehoshaphat said, "Let not the king say so."

⁹ Then the king of Israel summoned an officer and said, "Bring quickly Micaiah the son of Imlah."

¹⁰ Now the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah were sitting on their thrones, arrayed in their robes, at the threshing floor at the entrance of the gate of Samaria, and all

the prophets were prophesying before them.

¹¹ And Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah made for himself horns of iron and said, "Thus says the LORD, 'With these you shall push the Syrians until they are destroyed.'"

¹² And all the prophets prophesied so and said, "Go up to Ramoth-gilead and triumph; the LORD will give it into the hand of the king."

¹³ And the messenger who went to summon Micaiah said to him, "Behold, the words of the prophets with one accord are favorable to the king. Let your word be like the word of one of them, and speak favorably."

¹⁴ But Micaiah said, "As the LORD lives, what the LORD says to me, that I will speak."

¹⁵ And when he had come to the king, the king said to him, "Micaiah, shall we

go to Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall we refrain?" And he answered him, "Go up and triumph; the LORD will give it into the hand of the king."

¹⁶ But the king said to him, "How many times shall I make you swear that you speak to me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?"

¹⁷ And 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 home in peace.'"

¹⁸ And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "Did I not tell you that he would not prophesy good concerning me, but evil?"

¹⁹ And Micaiah said, "Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing beside him on his right hand and on his left;

²⁰ and the LORD said, 'Who will entice Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?' And one said one thing, and another said another.

²¹ Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD, saying, 'I will entice him.'

²² And the LORD said to him, 'By what means?' And he said, 'I will go out, and will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' And he said, 'You are to entice him, and you shall succeed; go out and do so.'

²³ Now therefore behold, the LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these your prophets; the LORD has declared disaster for you."

²⁴ Then Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah came near and struck Micaiah on the cheek and said, "How did the Spirit of the LORD go from me to speak to you?"

²⁵ And Micaiah said, "Behold, you shall see on that day when you go into an inner chamber to hide yourself."

²⁶ And the king of Israel said, "Seize Micaiah, and take him back 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 meager rations of bread and water, until I come in peace.'"

²⁸ And Micaiah said, "If you return in peace, the LORD has not spoken by me." And he said, "Hear, all you peoples!"

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 wear your robes." And 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, "Fight with neither small nor great, but only with the king of Israel."

³² And when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, they said, "It is surely the king of Israel." So they turned to fight against him. And Jehoshaphat cried out.

³³ And when the captains of the chariots saw that it was not the king of Israel, they turned back from pursuing him.

³⁴ But a certain man drew his bow at random and struck the king of Israel between the scale armor and the breastplate. Therefore he said to the driver of his chariot, "Turn around and carry me out of the battle, for I am wounded."

³⁵ And the battle continued that day, and the king was propped up in his chariot facing the Syrians, until at evening he died. And the blood of the wound flowed into the bottom of the chariot.

³⁶ And about sunset a cry went through the army, "Every man to his city, and every man to his country!"

³⁷ So the king died, and was brought to Samaria. And they buried the king in Samaria.

³⁸ And they washed the chariot by the pool of Samaria, and the dogs licked up his blood, and the prostitutes washed themselves in it, according to the word of the LORD that he had spoken.

³⁹ Now the rest of the acts of Ahab and all that he did, and the ivory house that 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 slept with his fathers, and Ahaziah his son reigned in his place.

⁴¹ Jehoshaphat the son of Asa began to reign over Judah in the fourth year of Ahab king of Israel.

⁴² Jehoshaphat was thirty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Azubah the daughter of Shilhi.

⁴³ He walked in all the way of Asa his father. He did not turn aside from it, doing what was right in the sight of the LORD. Yet the high places were not taken away, and the people still sacrificed and made offerings on the high places.

⁴⁴ Jehoshaphat also made peace with the king of Israel.

⁴⁵ Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, and his might that he showed, and how he warred, are they

not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?

⁴⁶ And from the land he exterminated the remnant of the male cult prostitutes who remained in the days of his father Asa.

⁴⁷ There was no king in Edom; a deputy was king.

⁴⁸ Jehoshaphat made ships of Tarshish to go to Ophir for gold, but they did not go, 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 was not willing.

⁵⁰ And Jehoshaphat slept with his fathers and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father, and Jehoram his son reigned in his place.

⁵¹ Ahaziah the son of Ahab began to reign over Israel in Samaria in the

seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and he reigned two years over Israel.

⁵² He did what was 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 made Israel to sin.

⁵³ He served Baal and worshiped him and provoked the LORD, the God of Israel, to anger in every way that his father had done.

2 Kings

1 ¹ After the death of Ahab, Moab rebelled against Israel.

² Now Ahaziah fell through the lattice in his upper chamber in Samaria, and lay sick; so he sent messengers, telling them, "Go, inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, whether I shall recover from this sickness."

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 went.

⁵ The messengers returned to the king, and he said to them, "Why have you returned?"

⁶ And they said to him, "There came a man to meet us, and said to us, 'Go back 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 He said to them, "What kind of man was he who came to meet you and told you these things?"

⁸ They answered him, "He wore a garment of hair, with a belt of leather about his waist." And he said, "It is Elijah the Tishbite."

⁹ Then the king sent to him a captain of fifty men with his fifty. He went up to Elijah, who was sitting on the top of a

hill, and said to him, "O man of God, the king says, 'Come down.'"

¹⁰ But Elijah answered the captain of fifty, "If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty." Then fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.

¹¹ Again the king sent to him another captain of fifty men with his fifty. And he answered and said to him, "O man of God, this is the king's order, 'Come down quickly!'"

¹² But Elijah answered them, "If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty." Then the fire of God came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.

¹³ Again the king sent the captain of a third fifty with his fifty. And the third captain of fifty went up and came and fell on his knees before Elijah and entreated

him, "O man of God, please let my life, and the life of these fifty servants of yours, be precious in your sight.

¹⁴ Behold, fire came down from heaven and consumed the two former captains of fifty men with their fifties, but now let my life be precious in your sight."

¹⁵ Then 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 and 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 he died according to the word of the LORD that Elijah had spoken. Jehoram became king in his place in

the second year of Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, because Ahaziah had no son.

¹⁸ Now the rest of the acts of Ahaziah that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?

2 ¹ Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.

² And Elijah said to Elisha, "Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel.

³ And the sons of the prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he said, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet."

⁴ Elijah said to him, "Elisha, please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho.

⁵ The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know it; keep quiet."

⁶ Then Elijah said to him, "Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on.

⁷ Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan.

⁸ Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water

was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground.

⁹ When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you." And Elisha said, "Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me."

¹⁰ And he said, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so."

¹¹ And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

¹² And Elisha saw it and he cried, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

¹³ And he took up the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan.

¹⁴ Then he took the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the water, saying, "Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?" And when he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.

¹⁵ Now when the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho saw him opposite them, they said, "The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha." And they came to meet him and bowed to the ground before him.

¹⁶ And they said to him, "Behold now, there are with your servants fifty strong men. Please let them go and seek your master. It may be that the Spirit of the LORD has caught him up and cast him upon some mountain or into some valley." And he said, "You shall not send."

¹⁷ But when they urged him till he was ashamed, he said, "Send." They sent therefore fifty men. And for three days they sought him but did not find him.

¹⁸ And they came back to him while he was staying at Jericho, and he said to them, "Did I not say to you, 'Do not go'?"

¹⁹ Now the men of the city said to Elisha, "Behold, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord sees, but the water is bad, and the land is unfruitful."

²⁰ He said, "Bring me a new bowl, and put salt in it." So they brought it to him.

²¹ Then he went to the spring of water and threw salt in it and said, "Thus says the LORD, I have healed this water; from now on neither death nor miscarriage shall come from it."

²² So the water has been healed to this day, according to the word that Elisha spoke.

²³ He went up from there to Bethel, and while he was going up on the way, some small boys came out of the city and jeered at him, saying, "Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead!"

²⁴ And he turned around, and when he saw them, he cursed them in the name of the LORD. And two she-bears came out of the woods and tore forty-two of the boys.

²⁵ From there he went on to Mount Carmel, and from there he returned to Samaria.

3 ¹ In the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, Jehoram the son of Ahab became king over Israel in Samaria, and he reigned twelve years.

² He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, though not like his father and mother, for he put away the pillar of Baal that his father had made.

³ Nevertheless, he clung to the sin of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin; he did not depart from it.

⁴ Now Mesha king of Moab was a sheep breeder, and he had to deliver to the king of Israel 100,000 lambs and the wool of 100,000 rams.

⁵ But when Ahab died, the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel.

⁶ So King Jehoram marched out of Samaria at that time and mustered all Israel.

⁷ And he went and sent word to Jehoshaphat king of Judah, "The king of Moab has rebelled against me. Will you go with me to battle against Moab?" And he said, "I will go. I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses."

⁸ Then he said, "By which way shall we march?" Jehoram answered, "By the way of the wilderness of Edom."

⁹ So the king of Israel went with the king of Judah and the king of Edom. And when they had made a circuitous march of seven days, there was no water for the army or for the animals that followed them.

¹⁰ Then the king of Israel said, "Alas! The LORD has called these three kings to give them into the hand of Moab."

¹¹ And Jehoshaphat said, "Is there no prophet of the LORD here, through whom we may inquire of the LORD?" Then one of the king of Israel's servants answered, "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 And Elisha said to the king of Israel, "What have I to do with you? Go to the prophets of your father and to the prophets of your mother." But the king of Israel said to him, "No; it is the LORD who has called these three kings to give them into the hand of Moab."

¹⁴ And Elisha said, "As the LORD of hosts lives, before whom I stand, were it not that I have regard for Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, I would neither look at you nor see you.

¹⁵ But now bring me a musician." And when the musician played, the hand of the LORD came upon him.

¹⁶ And he said, "Thus says the LORD, 'I will make this dry streambed full of pools.'

¹⁷ For thus says the LORD, 'You shall not see wind or rain, but that streambed

shall be filled with water, so that you shall drink, you, your livestock, and your animals.'

¹⁸ This is a light thing in the sight of the LORD. He will also give the Moabites into your hand,

¹⁹ and you shall attack every fortified city and every choice city, and shall fell every good tree and stop up all springs of water and ruin every good piece of land with stones."

²⁰ The next morning, about the time of offering the sacrifice, behold, water came from the direction of Edom, till the country was filled with water.

²¹ When all the Moabites heard that the kings had come up to fight against them, all who were able to put on armor, from the youngest to the oldest, were called out and were drawn up at the border.

²² And when they rose early in the morning and the sun shone on the water, the Moabites saw the water opposite them as red as blood.

²³ And they said, "This is blood; the kings have surely fought together and struck one another down. Now then, Moab, to the spoil!"

²⁴ But when they came to the camp of Israel, the Israelites rose and struck the Moabites, till they fled before them. And they went forward, striking the Moabites as they went.

²⁵ And they overthrew the cities, and on every good piece of land every man threw a stone until it was covered. They stopped every spring of water and felled all the good trees, till only its stones were left in Kir-hareseth, and the slingers surrounded and attacked it.

²⁶ When the king of Moab saw that the battle was going against him, he

took with him 700 swordsmen to break through, opposite the king of Edom, but they could not.

²⁷ Then he took his oldest son who was to reign in his place and offered him for a burnt offering on the wall. And there came great wrath against Israel. And they withdrew from him and returned to their own land.

4 ¹ Now the wife of one of the sons of the prophets cried to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the LORD, but the creditor has come to take my two children to be his slaves."

² And Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me; what have you in the house?" And she said, "Your servant has nothing in the house except a jar of oil."

³ Then he said, "Go outside, borrow vessels from all your neighbors, empty vessels and not too few.

⁴ Then go in and shut the door behind yourself and your sons and pour into all these vessels. And when one is full, set it aside."

⁵ So she went from him and shut the door behind herself and her sons. And as she poured they brought the vessels to her.

⁶ When the vessels were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel." And he said to her, "There is not another." Then the oil stopped flowing.

⁷ She came and told the man of God, and he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debts, and you and your sons can live on the rest."

⁸ One day Elisha went on to Shunem, where a wealthy woman lived, who urged him to eat some food. So whenever he passed that way, he would turn in there to eat food.

⁹ And she said to her husband, "Behold now, I know that this is a holy man of God who is continually passing our way.

¹⁰ Let us make a small room on the roof with walls and put there for him a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp, so that whenever he comes to us, he can go in there."

¹¹ One day he came there, and he turned into the chamber and rested there.

¹² And he said to Gehazi his servant, "Call this Shunammite." When he had called her, she stood before him.

¹³ And he said to him, "Say now to her, 'See, you have taken all this trouble for us; what is to be done for you? Would you have a word spoken on your behalf to the king or to the commander of the army?'" She answered, "I dwell among my own people."

¹⁴ And he said, "What then is to be done for her?" Gehazi answered, "Well, she has no son, and her husband is old."

¹⁵ He said, "Call her." And when he had called her, she stood in the doorway.

¹⁶ And he said, "At this season, about this time next year, you shall embrace a son." And she said, "No, my lord, O man of God; do not lie to your servant."

¹⁷ But the woman conceived, and she bore a son about that time the following spring, as Elisha had said to her.

¹⁸ When the child had grown, he went out one day to his father among the reapers.

¹⁹ And he said to his father, "Oh, my head, my head!" The father said to his servant, "Carry him to his mother."

²⁰ And when he had lifted him and brought him to his mother, the child sat on her lap till noon, and then he died.

²¹ And she went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God and shut the door behind him and went out.

²² Then she called to her husband and said, "Send me one of the servants and one of the donkeys, that I may quickly go to the man of God and come back again."

²³ And he said, "Why will you go to him today? It is neither new moon nor Sabbath." She said, "All is well."

²⁴ Then she saddled the donkey, and she said to her servant, "Urge the animal on; do not slacken the pace for me unless I tell you."

²⁵ So she set out and came to the man of God at Mount Carmel. When the man of God saw her coming, he said to Gehazi his servant, "Look, there is the Shunammite.

²⁶ Run at once to meet her and say to her, 'Is all well with you? Is all well

with your husband? Is all well with the child?" And she answered, "All is well."

²⁷ And when she came to the mountain to the man of God, she caught hold of his feet. And Gehazi came to push her away. But the man of God said, "Leave her alone, for she is in bitter distress, and the LORD has hidden it from me and has not told me."

²⁸ Then she said, "Did I ask my lord for a son? Did I not say, 'Do not deceive me?'"

²⁹ He said to Gehazi, "Tie up your garment and take my staff in your hand and go. If you meet anyone, do not greet him, and if anyone greets you, do not reply. And lay my staff on the face of the child."

³⁰ Then the mother of the child said, "As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So he arose and followed her.

³¹ Gehazi went on ahead and laid the staff on the face of the child, but there was no sound or sign of life. Therefore he returned to meet him and told him, "The child has not awakened."

³² When Elisha came into the house, he saw the child lying dead on his bed.

³³ So he went in and shut the door behind the two of them and prayed to the LORD.

³⁴ Then he went up and lay on the child, putting his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands. And as he stretched himself upon him, the flesh of the child became warm.

³⁵ Then he got up again and walked once back and forth in the house, and went up and stretched himself upon him. The child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes.

³⁶ Then he summoned Gehazi and said, "Call this Shunammite." So he called her.

And when she came to him, he said, "Pick up your son."

³⁷ She came and fell at his feet, bowing to the ground. Then she picked up her son and went out.

³⁸ And Elisha came again to Gilgal when there was a famine in the land. And as the sons of the prophets were sitting before him, he said to his servant, "Set on the large pot, and boil stew for the sons of the prophets."

³⁹ One of them went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine and gathered from it his lap full of wild gourds, and came and cut them up into the pot of stew, not knowing what they were.

⁴⁰ And they poured out some for the men to eat. But while they were eating of the stew, they cried out, "O man of God, there is death in the pot!" And they could not eat it.

⁴¹ He said, "Then bring flour." And he threw it into the pot and said, "Pour some out for the men, that they may eat." And there was no harm in the pot.

⁴² A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing the man of God bread of the firstfruits, twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. And Elisha said, "Give to the men, that they may eat."

⁴³ But his servant said, "How can I set this before a hundred men?" So he repeated, "Give them to the men, that they may eat, for thus says the LORD, 'They shall eat and have some left.'"

⁴⁴ So he set it before them. And they ate and had some left, according to the word of the LORD.

5¹ Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and in high favor, because by him the LORD had given

victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper.

² Now the Syrians on one of their raids had carried off a little girl from the land of Israel, and she worked in the service of Naaman's wife.

³ She said to her mistress, "Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."

⁴ So Naaman went in and told his lord, "Thus and so spoke the girl from the land of Israel."

⁵ And the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So he went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothes.

⁶ And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to

you Naaman my servant, that you may cure him of his leprosy."

⁷ And when the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Only consider, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me."

⁸ But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come now to me, that he may know that there is a prophet in Israel."

⁹ So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha's house.

¹⁰ And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean."

¹¹ But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, "Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper.

¹² Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage.

¹³ But his servants came near and said to him, "My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?"

¹⁴ So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

¹⁵ Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and he came and stood before him. And he said, "Behold, I know that there is no God in all the earth but in Israel; so accept now a present from your servant."

¹⁶ But he said, "As the LORD lives, before whom I stand, I will receive none." And he urged him to take it, but he refused.

¹⁷ Then Naaman said, "If not, please let there be given to your servant two mules' load of earth, for from now on your servant will not offer burnt offering or sacrifice to any god but the LORD.

¹⁸ In this matter may the LORD pardon your servant: when my master goes into the house of Rimmon to worship there, leaning on my arm, and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon, when I bow myself in the house of Rimmon,

the LORD pardon your servant in this matter."

¹⁹ He said to him, "Go in peace." But when Naaman had gone from him a short distance,

²⁰ Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, "See, my master has spared this Naaman the Syrian, in not accepting from his hand what he brought. As the LORD lives, I will run after him and get something from him."

²¹ So Gehazi followed Naaman. And when Naaman saw someone 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 to say, 'There have just now come to me from the hill country of Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets. Please give them a talent of silver and two festal garments.'"

²³ And Naaman said, "Be pleased to accept two talents." And he urged him and tied up two talents of silver in two bags, with two festal garments, and laid them on two of his servants. And they carried them before Gehazi.

²⁴ And when he came to the hill, he took them from their hand and put them in the house, and he sent the men away, and they departed.

²⁵ He went in and stood before his master, and Elisha said to him, "Where have you been, Gehazi?" And he said, "Your servant went nowhere."

²⁶ But he said to him, "Did not my heart go when the man turned from his chariot to meet you? Was it a time to accept money and garments, olive orchards and vineyards, sheep and oxen, male servants and female servants?

²⁷ Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and to your

descendants forever." So he went out from his presence a leper, like snow.

6¹ Now the sons of the prophets said to Elisha, "See, the place where we dwell under your charge is too small for us.

² Let us go to the Jordan and each of us get there a log, and let us make a place for us to dwell there." And he answered, "Go."

³ Then one of them said, "Be pleased 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 felling a log, his axe head fell into the water, and he cried out, "Alas, my master! It was borrowed."

⁶ Then the man of God said, "Where did it fall?" When he showed him the place, he cut off a stick and threw it in there and made the iron float.

⁷ And he said, "Take it up." So he reached out his hand and took it.

⁸ Once when the king of Syria was warring against Israel, he took counsel with his servants, saying, "At such and such a place shall be my camp."

⁹ But the man of God sent word to the king of Israel, "Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are going down there."

¹⁰ And the king of Israel sent to the place about which the man of God told him. Thus he used to warn him, so that he saved himself there more than once or twice.

¹¹ And the mind of the king of Syria was greatly troubled because of this thing, and he called his servants and said to them, "Will you not show me who 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 And he said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send and seize him." It was told him, "Behold, he is in Dothan."

¹⁴ So he sent there horses and chariots and a great army, and they came by night and surrounded the city.

¹⁵ When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"

¹⁶ He said, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

¹⁷ Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see." So 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 And when the Syrians came down against him, Elisha prayed to the LORD and said, "Please strike this people with blindness." So he struck them with blindness in accordance with the prayer of Elisha.

¹⁹ And Elisha said to them, "This is not the way, and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek." And he led them to Samaria.

²⁰ As soon as they entered Samaria, Elisha said, "O LORD, open the eyes of these men, that they may see." So the LORD opened their eyes and they saw, and behold, they were in the midst of Samaria.

²¹ As soon as the king of Israel saw them, he said to Elisha, "My father, shall

I strike them down? Shall I strike them down?"

²² He answered, "You shall not strike them down. Would you strike down those whom you have taken captive with your sword and with your bow? Set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master."

²³ So he prepared for them a great feast, and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. And the Syrians did not come again on raids into the land of Israel.

²⁴ Afterward Ben-hadad king of Syria mustered his entire army and went up and besieged Samaria.

²⁵ And there was a great famine in Samaria, as they besieged it, until a donkey's head was sold for eighty shekels of silver, and the fourth part of

a kab of dove's dung for five shekels of silver.

²⁶ Now 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 will not help you, how shall I help you? From the threshing floor, or from the winepress?"

²⁸ And the king asked her, "What is your trouble?" 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 on the next day I said to her, 'Give your son, that we may eat him.' But she has hidden her son."

³⁰ When the king heard the words of the woman, he tore his clothes--now he was passing by on the wall--and the people looked, and behold, he had sackcloth beneath on his body--

³¹ and he said, "May God do so to me and more also, if the head of Elisha the son of Shaphat remains on his shoulders today."

³² Elisha was sitting in his house, and the elders were sitting with him. Now the king had dispatched a man from his presence, but before the messenger arrived Elisha said to the elders, "Do you see how this murderer has sent to take off my head? Look, when the messenger comes, shut the door and hold the door fast against him. Is not the sound of his master's feet behind him?"

³³ And while he was still speaking with them, the messenger came down to him and said, "This trouble is from the LORD! Why should I wait for the LORD any longer?"

7 ¹ But 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 Then the captain on whose hand the king leaned said to the man of God, "If the LORD himself should make windows in heaven, could this thing be?" But he said, "You shall see it with your own eyes, but you shall not eat of it."

³ Now there were four men who were lepers at the entrance to the gate. And they said to one another, "Why are we sitting here until we die?

⁴ If we say, 'Let us enter the city,' the famine is in the city, and we shall die there. And if we sit here, we die also. So now come, let us go over to the camp of the Syrians. If they spare our lives we shall live, and if they kill us we shall but die."

⁵ So they arose at twilight to go to the camp of the Syrians. But when they

came to the edge of the camp of the Syrians, behold, there was no one there.

⁶ For the Lord had made the army of the Syrians hear the sound of chariots and of horses, the sound of a great army, so that they said to one another, "Behold, the king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Egypt to come against us."

⁷ So they fled away in the twilight and abandoned their tents, their horses, and their donkeys, leaving the camp as it was, and fled for their lives.

⁸ And when these lepers came to the edge of the camp, they went into a tent and ate and drank, and they carried off silver and gold and clothing and went and hid them. Then they came back and entered another tent and carried off things from it and went and hid them.

⁹ Then they said to one another, "We are not doing right. This day is a day of

good news. If we are silent and wait until the morning light, punishment will overtake us. Now therefore come; let us go and tell the king's household."

¹⁰ So they came and called to the gatekeepers of the city and told them, "We came to the camp of the Syrians, and behold, there was no one to be seen or heard there, nothing but the horses tied and the donkeys tied and the tents as they were."

¹¹ Then the gatekeepers called out, and it was told within the king's household.

¹² And the king rose in the night and said to his servants, "I will 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 open country, thinking, 'When they come out of the city, we shall take them alive and get into the city.'"

¹³ And one of his servants said, "Let some men take five of the remaining horses, seeing that those who are left here will fare like the whole multitude of Israel who have already perished. Let us send and see."

¹⁴ So they took two horsemen, and the king sent them after the army of the Syrians, saying, "Go and see."

¹⁵ So they went after them as far as the Jordan, and behold, all the way was littered with garments and equipment that the Syrians had thrown away in their haste. And the messengers returned and told the king.

¹⁶ Then the people went out and plundered the camp 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 captain on whose hand he leaned to

have charge of the gate. And the people trampled him in the gate, so that he died, as the man of God had said when the king came down to him.

¹⁸ For when the man of God had said to the king, "Two seahs of barley shall be sold for a shekel, and a seah of fine flour for a shekel, about this time tomorrow in the gate of Samaria,"

¹⁹ the captain had answered the man of God, "If the LORD himself should make windows in heaven, could such a thing be?" And he had said, "You shall see it with your own 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.

8¹ Now Elisha had said to the woman whose son he had restored to life, "Arise, and depart with your household, and sojourn wherever you can, for the

LORD has called for a famine, and it will come upon the land for seven years."

² So the woman arose and did according to the word of the man of God. She went with her household and sojourned in the land of the Philistines seven years.

³ And at the end of the seven years, when the woman returned from the land of the Philistines, she went to appeal to the king for her house and her land.

⁴ Now the king was talking with Gehazi the servant of the man of God, saying, "Tell me all the great things that Elisha has done."

⁵ And while he was telling the king how Elisha had restored the dead to life, behold, the woman whose son he had restored to life appealed to the king for her house and her land. And Gehazi said, "My lord, O king, here is the woman, and here is her son whom Elisha restored to life."

⁶ And when the king asked the woman, she told him. So the king appointed an official for her, saying, "Restore all that was hers, together with all the produce of the fields from the day that she left the land until now."

⁷ Now Elisha came to Damascus. Ben-hadad the king of Syria was sick. And when it was told him, "The man of God has come here,"

⁸ the king said to Hazael, "Take a present with you and go to meet the man of God, and inquire of the LORD through him, saying, 'Shall I recover from this sickness?'"

⁹ So Hazael went to meet him, and took a present with him, all kinds of goods of Damascus, forty camel loads. When he came and stood before him, he said, "Your son Ben-hadad king of Syria has sent me to you, saying, 'Shall I recover from this sickness?'"

¹⁰ And Elisha said to him, "Go, say to him, 'You shall certainly recover,' but the LORD has shown me that he shall certainly die."

¹¹ And he fixed his gaze and stared at him, until he was embarrassed. And the man of God wept.

¹² And Hazael said, "Why does my lord weep?" He answered, "Because I know the evil that you will do to the people of Israel. You will set on fire their fortresses, and you will kill their young men with the sword and dash in pieces their little ones and rip open their pregnant women."

¹³ And Hazael said, "What is your servant, who is but a dog, that he should do this great thing?" Elisha answered, "The LORD has shown me that you are to be 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 that you would certainly recover."

¹⁵ But the next day he took the bed cloth and dipped it in water and spread it over his face, till he died. And Hazael became king in his place.

¹⁶ In the fifth year of Joram the son of Ahab, king of Israel, when Jehoshaphat was king of Judah, Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, began to reign.

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, as the house of Ahab had done, for the daughter of Ahab was his wife. And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD.

¹⁹ Yet the LORD was not willing to destroy Judah, for the sake of David his

servant, since he promised to give a lamp to him and to his sons forever.

²⁰ In his days Edom revolted from the rule of Judah and set up a king of their own.

²¹ Then Joram passed over to Zair with all his chariots and rose by night, and he and his chariot commanders struck the Edomites who had surrounded him, but his army fled home.

²² So Edom revolted from the rule of Judah to this day. Then Libnah revolted at the same 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 slept with his fathers and was buried with his fathers in the city of David, and 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 began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Athaliah; she was a granddaughter of Omri king of Israel.

²⁷ He also walked in the way of the house of Ahab and did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, as the house of Ahab had done, for he was son-in-law to the house of Ahab.

²⁸ He went with Joram the son of Ahab to make war against Hazael king of Syria at Ramoth-gilead, and the Syrians wounded Joram.

²⁹ And King Joram returned to be healed in Jezreel of the wounds that the Syrians had given 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 Then Elisha the prophet called one of the sons of the prophets and said to him, "Tie up your garments, and take this flask of oil in your hand, and go to Ramoth-gilead.

² And when you arrive, look there for Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat, son of Nimshi. And go in and have him rise from among his fellows, and lead him to an inner chamber.

³ Then take the flask of oil and pour it on his head and say, 'Thus says the LORD, I anoint you king over Israel.' Then open the door and flee; do not linger."

⁴ So the young man, the servant of the prophet, went to Ramoth-gilead.

⁵ And when he came, behold, the commanders of the army were in council. And he said, "I have a word for

you, O commander." And Jehu said, "To which of us all?" And he said, "To you, O commander."

⁶ So he arose and went into the house. And the young man poured the oil on his head, saying to him, "Thus says the LORD the God of Israel, I anoint you king over the people of the LORD, over Israel.

⁷ And you shall strike down the house of Ahab your master, so that I may avenge on Jezebel the blood of my servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the LORD.

⁸ For the whole house of Ahab shall perish, and I will cut off from Ahab every male, bond or free, in Israel.

⁹ And 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 And the dogs shall eat Jezebel in the territory of Jezreel, and none shall bury her." Then he opened the door and fled.

¹¹ When Jehu came out to the servants of his master, they said to him, "Is all well? Why did this mad fellow come to you?" And he said to them, "You know the fellow and his talk."

¹² And they said, "That is not true; tell us now." And he said, "Thus and so he spoke to me, saying, 'Thus says the LORD, I anoint you king over Israel.'"

¹³ Then in haste every man of them took his garment and put it under him on the bare steps, and they blew the trumpet and proclaimed, "Jehu is king."

¹⁴ Thus Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat the son of Nimshi conspired against Joram. (Now Joram with all Israel had been on guard at Ramoth-gilead against Hazael king of Syria,

¹⁵ but King Joram had returned to be healed in Jezreel of the wounds that the Syrians had given him, when he fought with Hazael king of Syria.) So Jehu said, "If this is your decision, then let no one slip out of the city to go and tell the news in Jezreel."

¹⁶ Then Jehu mounted his chariot and went to Jezreel, for Joram lay there. And Ahaziah king of Judah had come down to visit Joram.

¹⁷ Now the watchman was standing on the tower in Jezreel, and he saw the company of Jehu as he came and said, "I see a company." And Joram said, "Take a horseman and send to meet them, and let him say, 'Is it peace?'"

¹⁸ So a man on horseback went to meet him and said, "Thus says the king, 'Is it peace?'" And Jehu said, "What do you have to do with peace? Turn around and ride behind me." And the watchman

reported, saying, "The messenger reached them, but he is not coming back."

¹⁹ Then he sent out a second horseman, who came to them and said, "Thus the king has said, 'Is it peace?'" And Jehu answered, "What do you have to do with peace? Turn around and ride behind me."

²⁰ Again the watchman reported, "He reached them, but he is not coming back. And the driving is like the driving of Jehu the son of Nimshi, for he drives furiously."

²¹ Joram said, "Make ready." And they made ready his chariot. Then Joram king of Israel and Ahaziah king of Judah set out, each in his chariot, and went to meet Jehu, and met him at the property of Naboth the Jezreelite.

²² And when Joram saw Jehu, he said, "Is it peace, Jehu?" He answered, "What

peace can there be, so long as the whorings and the sorceries of your mother Jezebel are so many?"

²³ Then Joram reined about and fled, saying to Ahaziah, "Treachery, O Ahaziah!"

²⁴ And Jehu drew his bow with his full strength, and shot Joram between the shoulders, so that the arrow pierced his heart, and he sank in his chariot.

²⁵ Jehu said to Bidkar his aide, "Take him up and throw him on the plot of ground belonging to Naboth the Jezreelite. For remember, when you and I rode side by side behind Ahab his father, how the LORD made this pronouncement against him:

²⁶ 'As surely as I saw yesterday the blood of Naboth and the blood of his sons--declares the LORD--I will repay you on this plot of ground.' Now therefore take him up and throw him on the plot

of ground, in accordance with the word of the LORD."

²⁷ When Ahaziah the king of Judah saw this, he fled in the direction of Beth-haggan. And Jehu pursued him and said, "Shoot him also." And they shot him in the chariot at the ascent of Gur, which is by Ibleam. And he fled to Megiddo and died there.

²⁸ His servants carried him in a 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 began to reign over Judah.

³⁰ When Jehu came to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it. And she painted her eyes and adorned her head and looked out of the window.

³¹ And as Jehu entered the gate, she said, "Is it peace, you Zimri, murderer of your master?"

³² And he lifted up his face to the window and said, "Who is on my side? Who?" Two or three eunuchs looked out at him.

³³ He said, "Throw her down." So they threw her down. And some of her blood spattered on the wall and on the horses, and they trampled on her.

³⁴ Then he went in and ate and drank. And he said, "See now to this cursed woman and bury her, for she is a king's daughter."

³⁵ But when they went to bury her, they found no more of her than the skull and the feet and the palms of her hands.

³⁶ When they came back and told him, he said, "This is the word of the LORD, which he spoke by his servant Elijah the Tishbite, 'In the territory of Jezreel the dogs shall eat the flesh of Jezebel,

³⁷ and the corpse of Jezebel shall be as dung on the face of the field in the

territory of Jezreel, so that no one can say, This is Jezebel."

10¹ Now Ahab had seventy sons in Samaria. So Jehu wrote letters and sent them to Samaria, to the rulers of the city, to the elders, and to the guardians of the sons of Ahab, saying,

² "Now then, as soon as this letter comes to you, seeing your master's sons are with you, and there are with you chariots and horses, fortified cities also, and weapons,

³ select the best and fittest of your master's sons and set him on his father's throne and fight for your master's house."

⁴ But they were exceedingly afraid and said, "Behold, the two kings could not stand before him. How then can we stand?"

⁵ So he who was over the palace, and he who was over the city, together with

the elders and the guardians, sent to Jehu, saying, "We are your servants, and we will do all that you tell us. We will not make anyone king. Do whatever is good in your eyes."

⁶ Then he wrote to them a second letter, saying, "If you are on my side, and if you are ready to obey me, take the heads of your master's sons and come to me at Jezreel tomorrow at this time." Now the king's sons, seventy persons, were with the great men of the city, who were bringing them up.

⁷ And as soon as the letter came to them, they took the king's sons and slaughtered them, seventy persons, and put their heads in baskets and sent them to him at Jezreel.

⁸ When the messenger came and told him, "They have brought the heads of the king's sons," he said, "Lay them in

two heaps at the entrance of the gate until the morning."

⁹ Then in the morning, when he went out, he stood and said to all the people, "You are innocent. It was I who conspired against my master and killed him, but who struck down all these?"

¹⁰ Know then that there shall fall to the earth nothing of the word of the LORD, which the LORD spoke concerning the house of Ahab, for the LORD has done what he said by his servant Elijah."

¹¹ So Jehu struck down all who remained of the house of Ahab in Jezreel, all his great men and his close friends and his priests, until he left him none remaining.

¹² Then he set out and went to Samaria. On the way, when he was at Beth-eked of the Shepherds,

¹³ Jehu met the relatives of Ahaziah king of Judah, and he said, "Who are

you?" And they answered, "We are the relatives of Ahaziah, and we came down to visit the royal princes and the sons of the queen mother."

¹⁴ He said, "Take them alive." And they took them alive and slaughtered them at the pit of Beth-eked, forty-two persons, and he spared none of them.

¹⁵ And 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 true to my heart as mine is to yours?" And Jehonadab answered, "It is." Jehu said, "If it is, give me your hand." So he gave him his hand. And Jehu took him up with him into the chariot.

¹⁶ And he said, "Come with me, and see my zeal for the LORD." So he had him ride in his chariot.

¹⁷ And when he came to Samaria, he struck down all who remained to Ahab

in Samaria, till he had wiped them out, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke to Elijah.

¹⁸ Then Jehu assembled all the people and said to them, "Ahab served Baal a little, but Jehu will serve him much.

¹⁹ Now therefore call to me all the prophets of Baal, all his worshipers and all his priests. Let none be missing, for I have a great sacrifice to offer to Baal. Whoever is missing shall not live." But Jehu did it with cunning in order to destroy the worshipers of Baal.

²⁰ And Jehu ordered, "Sanctify a solemn assembly for Baal." So they proclaimed it.

²¹ And Jehu sent throughout all Israel, and all the worshipers of Baal came, so that there was not a man left who did not come. And they entered the house of Baal, and the house of Baal was filled from one end to the other.

²² He said to him who was in charge of the wardrobe, "Bring out the vestments for all the worshipers of Baal." So he brought out the vestments for them.

²³ Then Jehu went into the house of Baal with Jehonadab the son of Rechab, and he said to the worshipers of Baal, "Search, and see that there is no servant of the LORD here among you, but only the worshipers of Baal."

²⁴ Then they went in to offer sacrifices and burnt offerings. Now Jehu had stationed eighty men outside and said, "The man who allows any of those whom I give into your hands to escape shall forfeit his life."

²⁵ So as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, Jehu said to the guard and to the officers, "Go in and strike them down; let not a man escape." So when they put them to the sword, the guard and the officers cast

them out and went into the inner room of the house of Baal,

²⁶ and they brought out the pillar that was in the house of Baal and burned it.

²⁷ And they demolished the pillar of Baal, and demolished the house of Baal, and made it a latrine to this day.

²⁸ Thus Jehu wiped out Baal from Israel.

²⁹ But Jehu did not turn aside from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin--that is, the golden calves that were in Bethel and in Dan.

³⁰ And the LORD said to Jehu, "Because you have done well in carrying out what is right in my eyes, and have done to the house of Ahab according to all that was in my heart, your sons of the fourth generation shall sit on the throne of Israel."

³¹ But Jehu was not careful to walk in the law of the LORD the God of Israel

with all his heart. He did not turn from the sins of Jeroboam, which he made Israel to sin.

³² In those days the LORD began to cut off parts of Israel. Hazael defeated them throughout the territory of Israel:

³³ from the Jordan eastward, all the land of Gilead, the Gadites, and the Reubenites, and the Manassites, from Aroer, which is by the Valley of the Arnon, that is, Gilead and Bashan.

³⁴ Now the rest of the acts of Jehu and 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 slept with his fathers, and they buried him in Samaria. And Jehoahaz his son reigned in his place.

³⁶ The time that Jehu reigned over Israel in Samaria was twenty-eight years.

11 ¹ Now when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was

dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal family.

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 put to death, and she put him and his nurse in a bedroom. Thus they hid him from Athaliah, so that he was not put to death.

³ And he remained with her six years, hidden in the house of the LORD, while Athaliah reigned over the land.

⁴ But in the seventh year Jehoiada sent and brought the captains of the Carites and of the guards, and had them come to him in the house of the LORD. And he made a covenant with them and put them under oath in the house of the LORD, and he showed them the king's son.

⁵ And he commanded them, "This is the thing that you shall do: one third of you, those who come off duty on the Sabbath and guard the king's house

⁶ (another third being at the gate Sur and a third at the gate behind the guards) shall guard the palace.

⁷ And the two divisions of you, which come on duty in force on the Sabbath and guard the house of the LORD on behalf of the king,

⁸ shall surround the king, each with his weapons in his hand. And whoever approaches the ranks is to be put to death. Be with the king when he goes out and when he comes in."

⁹ The captains did according to all that Jehoiada the priest commanded, and they each brought his men who were to go off duty on the Sabbath, with those who were to come on duty on

the Sabbath, and came to Jehoiada the priest.

¹⁰ And the priest gave to the captains the spears and shields that had been King David's, which were in the house of the LORD.

¹¹ And the guards stood, every man with his weapons in his hand, from the south side of the house to the north side of the house, around the altar and the house on behalf of the king.

¹² Then he brought out the king's son and put the crown on him and gave him the testimony. And they proclaimed him king and anointed him, and they clapped their hands and said, "Long live the king!"

¹³ When Athaliah heard the noise of the guard and of the people, she went into the house of the LORD to the people.

¹⁴ And when she looked, there was the king standing by the pillar, according to

the custom, and the captains and the trumpeters beside the king, and all the people of the land rejoicing and blowing trumpets. And Athaliah tore her clothes and cried, "Treason! Treason!"

¹⁵ Then Jehoiada the priest commanded the captains who were set over the army, "Bring her out between the ranks, and put to death with the sword anyone who follows her." For the priest said, "Let her not be put to death in the house of the LORD."

¹⁶ So they laid hands on her; and she went through the horses' entrance to the king's house, and there she was put to death.

¹⁷ And Jehoiada made a covenant between the LORD and the king and people, that they should be the LORD's people, and also between the king and the people.

¹⁸ Then all the people of the land went to the house of Baal and tore it down; his altars and his images they broke in pieces, and they killed Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars. And the priest posted watchmen over the house of the LORD.

¹⁹ And he took the captains, the Carites, the guards, and all the people of the land, and they brought the king down from the house of the LORD, marching through the gate of the guards to the king's house. And he took his seat on the throne of the kings.

²⁰ So all the people of the land rejoiced, and the city was quiet after Athaliah had been put to death with the sword at the king's house.

²¹ Jehoash was seven years old when he began to reign.

12 ¹ In the seventh year of Jehu, Jehoash began to reign, and he

reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zibiah of Beersheba.

² And Jehoash did what was right in the eyes of the LORD all his days, because Jehoiada the priest instructed him.

³ Nevertheless, the high places were not taken away; the people continued to sacrifice and make offerings on the high places.

⁴ Jehoash said to the priests, "All the money of the holy things that is brought into the house of the LORD, the money for which each man is assessed--the money from the assessment of persons--and the money that a man's heart prompts him to bring into the house of the LORD,

⁵ let the priests take, each from his donor, and let them repair the house wherever any need of repairs is discovered."

⁶ But by the twenty-third year of King Jehoash, the priests had made no repairs on the house.

⁷ Therefore King Jehoash summoned Jehoiada the priest and the other priests and said to them, "Why are you not repairing the house? Now therefore take no more money from your donors, but hand it over for the repair of the house."

⁸ So the priests agreed that they should take no more money from the people, and that they should not repair the house.

⁹ Then Jehoiada the priest took a chest and bored a hole in the lid of it and set it beside the altar on the right side as one entered the house of the LORD. And the priests who guarded the threshold put in it all the money that was brought into the house of the LORD.

¹⁰ And whenever they saw that there was much money in the chest, the king's

secretary and the high priest came up and they bagged and counted the money that was found in the house of the LORD.

¹¹ Then they would give the money that was weighed out into the hands of the workmen who had the oversight of the house of the LORD. And they paid it out to the carpenters and the builders who worked on the house of the LORD,

¹² and to the masons and the stonecutters, as well as to buy timber and quarried stone for making repairs on the house of the LORD, and for any outlay for the repairs of the house.

¹³ But there were not made for the house of the LORD basins of silver, snuffers, bowls, trumpets, or any vessels of gold, or of silver, from the money that was brought into the house of the LORD,

¹⁴ for that was given to the workmen who were repairing the house of the LORD with it.

¹⁵ And they did not ask an accounting from the men into whose hand they delivered the money to pay out to the workmen, for they dealt honestly.

¹⁶ The money from the guilt offerings and the money from the sin offerings was not brought into the house of the LORD; it belonged to the priests.

¹⁷ At that time Hazael king of Syria went up and fought against Gath and took it. But when Hazael set his face to go up against Jerusalem,

¹⁸ Jehoash king of Judah took all the sacred gifts that Jehoshaphat and Jehoram and Ahaziah his fathers, the kings of Judah, had dedicated, and his own sacred gifts, and all the gold that was found in the treasuries of the house of the LORD and of the king's house, and sent these to Hazael king of Syria. Then Hazael 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 His servants arose and made a conspiracy and struck down Joash in the house of Millo, on the way that goes down to Silla.

²¹ It was Jozacar the son of Shimeath and Jehozabad the son of Shomer, his servants, who struck him down, so that he died. And they buried him with his fathers in the city of David, and 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 began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and he reigned seventeen years.

² He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and followed the sins of Jeroboam

the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin; he did not depart from them.

³ And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he gave them continually into the hand of Hazael king of Syria and into the hand of Ben-hadad the son of Hazael.

⁴ Then Jehoahaz sought the favor of the LORD, and the LORD listened to him, for he saw the oppression of Israel, how the king of Syria oppressed them.

⁵ (Therefore the LORD gave Israel a savior, so that they escaped from the hand of the Syrians, and the people of Israel lived in their homes as formerly.

⁶ Nevertheless, they did not depart from the sins of the house of Jeroboam, which he made Israel to sin, but walked in them; and the Asherah also remained in Samaria.)

⁷ For there was not left to Jehoahaz an army of more than fifty horsemen and

ten chariots and ten thousand footmen, 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 and 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 slept with his fathers, and they buried him in Samaria, and Joash his son reigned in his place.

¹⁰ In the thirty-seventh year of Joash king of Judah, Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and he reigned sixteen years.

¹¹ He also did what was evil in the sight of the LORD. He did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin, but he walked in them.

¹² Now the rest of the acts of Joash and all that he did, and the 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 slept with his fathers, and Jeroboam sat on his throne. And Joash was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel.

¹⁴ Now when Elisha had fallen sick with the illness of which he was to die, Joash king of Israel went down to him and wept before him, crying, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!"

¹⁵ And Elisha said to him, "Take a bow and arrows." So he took a bow and arrows.

¹⁶ Then he said to the king of Israel, "Draw the bow," and he drew it. And Elisha laid his hands on the king's hands.

¹⁷ And he said, "Open the window eastward," and he opened it. Then Elisha said, "Shoot," and he shot. And he said,

"The LORD's arrow of victory, the arrow of victory over Syria! For you shall fight the Syrians in Aphek until you have made an end of them."

¹⁸ And he said, "Take the arrows," and he took them. And he said to the king of Israel, "Strike the ground with them." And he struck three times and stopped.

¹⁹ Then the man of God was angry with him and said, "You should have struck five or six times; then you would have struck down Syria until you had made an end of it, but now you will strike down Syria only three times."

²⁰ So Elisha died, and they buried him. Now bands of Moabites used to invade the land in the spring of the year.

²¹ And as a man was being buried, behold, a marauding band was seen and the man was thrown into the grave of Elisha, and as soon as the man touched

the bones of Elisha, he revived and stood on his feet.

²² Now Hazael king of Syria oppressed Israel all the days of Jehoahaz.

²³ But the LORD was gracious to them and had compassion on them, and he turned toward them, because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not destroy them, nor has he cast them from his presence until now.

²⁴ When Hazael king of Syria died, Ben-hadad his son became king in his place.

²⁵ Then Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz took again from Ben-hadad the son of Hazael the cities that he had taken from Jehoahaz his father in war. Three times Joash defeated him and recovered the cities of Israel.

14 ¹ In the second year of Joash the son of Joahaz, king of Israel,

Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, began to reign.

² He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jehoaddin of Jerusalem.

³ And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, yet not like David his father. He did in all things as Joash his father had done.

⁴ But the high places were not removed; the people still sacrificed and made offerings on the high places.

⁵ And as soon as the royal power was firmly in his hand, he struck down his servants who had struck down the king his father.

⁶ But he did not put to death the children of the murderers, according to what is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, where the LORD commanded, "Fathers shall not be put to death

because of their children, nor shall children be put to death because of their fathers. But each one shall die for his own sin."

⁷ He struck down ten thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt and took Sela by storm, and called it Joktheel, which is its name to this day.

⁸ Then Amaziah sent messengers to Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz, son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, "Come, let us look one another in the face."

⁹ And Jehoash king of Israel sent word to Amaziah king of Judah, "A thistle on Lebanon sent to a cedar on Lebanon, saying, 'Give your daughter to my son for a wife,' and a wild beast of Lebanon passed by and trampled down the thistle.

¹⁰ You have indeed struck down Edom, and your heart has lifted you up. Be content with your glory, and stay at

home, for why should you provoke trouble so that you fall, you and Judah with you?"

¹¹ But Amaziah would not listen. So Jehoash king of Israel went up, and he and Amaziah king of Judah faced one another in battle at Beth-shemesh, which belongs to Judah.

¹² And Judah was defeated by Israel, and every man fled to his home.

¹³ And Jehoash king of Israel captured Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Jehoash, son of Ahaziah, at Beth-shemesh, and came to Jerusalem and broke down the wall of Jerusalem for four hundred cubits, from the Ephraim Gate to the Corner Gate.

¹⁴ And he seized all the gold and silver, and all the vessels that were found in the house of the LORD and in the treasuries of the king's house, also hostages, and he returned to Samaria.

¹⁵ Now the rest of the acts of Jehoash that he did, and 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 And Jehoash slept with his fathers and was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel, and Jeroboam his son reigned in his place.

¹⁷ Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, lived fifteen years after the death of Jehoash son of Jehoahaz, king of Israel.

¹⁸ Now the rest of the deeds of Amaziah, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?

¹⁹ And they made a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem, and he fled to Lachish. But they sent after him to Lachish and put him to death there.

²⁰ And they brought him on horses; and he was buried in 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 slept 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, began to reign in Samaria, and he reigned forty-one years.

²⁴ And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD. He did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin.

²⁵ He restored the border of Israel from Lebo-hamath as far as the Sea of the Arabah, according to the word of the

LORD, the God of Israel, which he spoke by his servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet, who was from Gath-hepher.

²⁶ For the LORD saw that the affliction of Israel was very bitter, for there was none left, bond or free, and there was none to help Israel.

²⁷ But the LORD had not said that he would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven, so 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, and his might, how he fought, and how he restored Damascus and Hamath to Judah in Israel, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?

²⁹ And Jeroboam slept with his fathers, the kings of Israel, and 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, began to reign.

² He was sixteen years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty-two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jecoliah of Jerusalem.

³ And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah had done.

⁴ Nevertheless, the high places were not taken away. The people still sacrificed and made offerings on the high places.

⁵ And the LORD touched the king, so that he was a leper to the day of his death, and he lived in a separate house. And Jotham the king's son was over the household, governing 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 And Azariah slept with his fathers, and they buried him with his fathers in the city of David, and 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 what was 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, which he made Israel to sin.

¹⁰ Shallum the son of Jabesh conspired against him and struck him down at Ibleam and put him to death and reigned in his place.

¹¹ Now the rest of the deeds of Zechariah, behold, they are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel.

¹² (This was the promise of the LORD that he gave to Jehu, "Your sons shall sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth generation." And so it came to pass.)

¹³ Shallum the son of Jabesh began to reign in the thirty-ninth year of Uzziah king of Judah, and he reigned one month in Samaria.

¹⁴ Then Menahem the son of Gadi came up from Tirzah and came to Samaria, and he struck down Shallum the son of Jabesh in Samaria and put him to death and reigned in his place.

¹⁵ Now the rest of the deeds of Shallum, and the conspiracy that he made, behold, they are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel.

¹⁶ At that time Menahem sacked Tiphseh and all who were in it and its territory from Tirzah on, because they did not open it to him. Therefore he

sacked it, and he ripped open all the women in it who were pregnant.

¹⁷ In the thirty-ninth year of Azariah king of Judah, Menahem the son of Gadi began to reign over Israel, and he reigned ten years in Samaria.

¹⁸ And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD. He did not depart all his days from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin.

¹⁹ Pul the king of Assyria came against the land, and Menahem gave Pul a thousand talents of silver, that he might help him to confirm his hold on the royal power.

²⁰ Menahem exacted the money from Israel, that is, from all the wealthy men, fifty shekels of silver from every man, 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 deeds of Menahem and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?

²² And Menahem slept with his fathers, and Pekahiah his son reigned in his place.

²³ In the fiftieth year of Azariah king of Judah, Pekahiah the son of Menahem began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and he reigned two years.

²⁴ And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD. He did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin.

²⁵ And Pekah the son of Remaliah, his captain, conspired against him with fifty men of the people of Gilead, and struck him down in Samaria, in the citadel of the king's house with Argob and Arieah; he put him to death and reigned in his place.

²⁶ Now the rest of the deeds of Pekahiah and all that he did, behold, 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 began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and he reigned twenty years.

²⁸ And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD. He did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin.

²⁹ In the days of Pekah king of Israel, Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria came and captured Ijon, Abel-beth-maacah, Janoah, Kedesh, Hazor, Gilead, and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, and he carried the people captive to Assyria.

³⁰ Then Hoshea the son of Elah made a conspiracy against Pekah the son of Remaliah and struck him down and put him to death and 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, behold, 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 began to reign, 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 eyes of the LORD, according to all that his father Uzziah had done.

³⁵ Nevertheless, the high places were not removed. The people still sacrificed and made offerings 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 the king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah against Judah.

³⁸ Jotham slept with his fathers and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father, and 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 began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. And he did not do what was right in the eyes of the LORD his God, as his father David had done,

³ but he walked in the way of the kings of Israel. He even burned his son as an

offering, according to the despicable practices of the nations whom the LORD drove out before the people of Israel.

⁴ And he sacrificed and made offerings on the high places and 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 wage war on Jerusalem, and they besieged Ahaz but could not conquer him.

⁶ At that time Rezin the king of Syria recovered Elath for Syria and drove the men of Judah from Elath, and the Edomites came to Elath, where they dwell 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 rescue me from the hand of the king of Syria and from the hand of the king of Israel, who are attacking me."

⁸ Ahaz also took the silver and gold that was found in the house of the LORD and in the treasures of the king's house and sent a present to the king of Assyria.

⁹ And the king of Assyria listened to him. The king of Assyria marched up against Damascus and took it, carrying its people captive to Kir, and he killed Rezin.

¹⁰ When King Ahaz went to Damascus to meet Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, he saw the altar that was at Damascus. And King Ahaz sent to Uriah the priest a model of the altar, and its pattern, exact in all its details.

¹¹ And Uriah the priest built the altar; in accordance with all that King Ahaz had sent from Damascus, so Uriah the priest made it, before King Ahaz arrived from Damascus.

¹² And when the king came from Damascus, the king viewed the altar.

Then the king drew near to the altar and went up on it

¹³ and burned his burnt offering and his grain offering and poured his drink offering and threw the blood of his peace offerings on the altar.

¹⁴ And the bronze altar that was before the LORD he removed from the front of the house, from the place between his altar and the house of the LORD, and put it on the north side of his altar.

¹⁵ And King Ahaz commanded Uriah the priest, saying, "On the great altar burn the morning burnt offering and the evening grain offering and the king's burnt offering and his grain offering, with the burnt offering of all the people of the land, and their grain offering and their drink offering. And throw on it all the blood of the burnt offering and all the blood of the sacrifice, but the bronze altar shall be for me to inquire by."

¹⁶ Uriah the priest did all this, as King Ahaz commanded.

¹⁷ And King Ahaz cut off the frames of the stands and removed the basin from them, and he took down the sea from off the bronze oxen that were under it and put it on a stone pedestal.

¹⁸ And the covered way for the Sabbath that had been built inside the house and the outer entrance for the king he caused to go around the house of the LORD, because of the king of Assyria.

¹⁹ Now the rest of the acts of Ahaz that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?

²⁰ And Ahaz slept with his fathers and was buried with his fathers in the city of David, and Hezekiah his son reigned in his place.

17 ¹ In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah, Hoshea the son of Elah

began to reign in Samaria over Israel, and he reigned nine years.

² And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, yet not as the kings of Israel who were before him.

³ Against him came up Shalmaneser king of Assyria. And Hoshea became his vassal and paid him tribute.

⁴ But the king of Assyria found treachery in Hoshea, for he had sent messengers to So, king of Egypt, and offered 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 Then the king of Assyria invaded all the land and came to Samaria, and for three years he besieged it.

⁶ In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria, and he carried the Israelites away to Assyria and placed them in Halah, and on the Habor,

the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

⁷ And this occurred because the people 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 had feared other gods

⁸ and walked in the customs of the nations whom the LORD drove out before the people of Israel, and in the customs that the kings of Israel had practiced.

⁹ And the people of Israel did secretly against the LORD their God things that were not right. They built for themselves high places in all their towns, from watchtower to fortified city.

¹⁰ They set up for themselves pillars and Asherim on every high hill and under every green tree,

¹¹ and there they made offerings on all the high places, as the nations did whom the LORD carried away before them. And they did wicked things, provoking the LORD to anger,

¹² and they served idols, of which the LORD had said to them, "You shall not do this."

¹³ Yet the LORD warned Israel and Judah by every prophet and every seer, saying, "Turn from your evil ways and keep my commandments and my statutes, in accordance with all the Law that I commanded your fathers, and that I sent to you by my servants the prophets."

¹⁴ But they would not listen, but were stubborn, as their fathers had been, who did not believe in the LORD their God.

¹⁵ They despised his statutes and his covenant that he made with their fathers and the warnings that he gave them. They went after false idols and became

false, and they followed the nations that were around them, concerning whom the LORD had commanded them that they should not do like them.

¹⁶ And they abandoned all the commandments of the LORD their God, and made for themselves metal images of two calves; and they made an Asherah and worshiped all the host of heaven and served Baal.

¹⁷ And they burned their sons and their daughters as offerings and used divination and omens and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking him to anger.

¹⁸ Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel and removed them out of his sight. None was left but the tribe of Judah only.

¹⁹ Judah also did not keep the commandments of the LORD their God,

but walked in the customs that Israel had introduced.

²⁰ And the LORD rejected all the descendants of Israel and afflicted them and gave them into the hand of plunderers, until he had cast them out of his sight.

²¹ When he had torn Israel from the house of David, they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king. And Jeroboam drove Israel from following the LORD and made them commit great sin.

²² The people of Israel walked in all the sins that Jeroboam did. They did not depart from them,

²³ until the LORD removed Israel out of his sight, as he had spoken by all his servants the prophets. So Israel was exiled from their own land to Assyria until this day.

²⁴ And the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva,

Hamath, and Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the people of Israel. And they took possession of Samaria and lived in its cities.

²⁵ And at the beginning of their dwelling there, they did not fear the LORD. Therefore the LORD sent lions among them, which killed some of them.

²⁶ So the king of Assyria was told, "The nations that you have carried away and placed in the cities of Samaria do not know the law of the god of the land. Therefore he has sent lions among them, and behold, they are killing them, because they do not know the law of the god of the land."

²⁷ Then the king of Assyria commanded, "Send there one of the priests whom you carried away from there, and let him go and dwell there and teach them the law of the god of the land."

²⁸ So one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and lived in Bethel and taught them how they should fear the LORD.

²⁹ But every nation still made gods of its own and put them in the shrines of the high places that the Samaritans had made, every nation in the cities in which they lived.

³⁰ The men of Babylon made Succoth-benoth, the men of Cuth made Nergal, the men of Hamath made Ashima,

³¹ and the Avvites made Nibhaz and Tartak; and the Sepharvites burned their children in the fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim.

³² They also feared the LORD and appointed from among themselves all sorts of people as priests of the high places, who sacrificed for them in the shrines of the high places.

³³ So they feared the LORD but also served their own gods, after the manner of the nations from among whom they had been carried away.

³⁴ To this day they do according to the former manner. They do not fear the LORD, and they do not follow the statutes or the rules or the law or the commandment that the LORD commanded the children of Jacob, whom he named Israel.

³⁵ The LORD made a covenant with them and commanded them, "You shall not fear other gods or bow yourselves to them or serve them or sacrifice to them,

³⁶ but you shall fear the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt with great power and with an outstretched arm. You shall bow yourselves to him, and to him you shall sacrifice.

³⁷ And the statutes and the rules and the law and the commandment that

he wrote for you, you shall always be careful to do. You shall not fear other gods,

³⁸ and you shall not forget the covenant that I have made with you. You shall not fear other gods,

³⁹ but you shall fear the LORD your God, and he will deliver you out of the hand of all your enemies."

⁴⁰ However, they would not listen, but they did according to their former manner.

⁴¹ So these nations feared the LORD and also served their carved images. Their children did likewise, and their children's children--as their fathers did, so they do to this day.

18 ¹ In the third year of Hoshea son of Elah, king of Israel, Hezekiah the son of Ahaz, king of Judah, began to reign.

² He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, 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 eyes of the LORD, according to all that David his father had done.

⁴ He removed the high places and broke the pillars and cut down the Asherah. And he broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the people of Israel had made offerings to it (it was called Nehushtan).

⁵ He trusted in the LORD the God of Israel, so that there was none like him among all the kings of Judah after him, nor among those who were before him.

⁶ For he held fast to the LORD. He did not depart from following him, but kept the commandments that the LORD commanded Moses.

⁷ And the LORD was with him; wherever he went out, he prospered. He rebelled against the king of Assyria and would not serve him.

⁸ He struck down the Philistines as far as Gaza and its territory, from watchtower to fortified city.

⁹ In the fourth year of King Hezekiah, which was the seventh year of Hoshea son of Elah, king of Israel, Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against Samaria and besieged it,

¹⁰ and at the end of three years he took it. In the sixth year of Hezekiah, which was the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel, Samaria was taken.

¹¹ The king of Assyria carried the Israelites away to Assyria and put them in Halah, and on 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, even all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded. They neither listened nor obeyed.

¹³ In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them.

¹⁴ And Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria at Lachish, saying, "I have done wrong; withdraw from me. Whatever you impose on me I will bear." And the king of Assyria required of Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold.

¹⁵ And 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 doorposts that Hezekiah king of Judah had overlaid and gave it to the king of Assyria.

¹⁷ And the king of Assyria sent the Tartan, the Rab-saris, and the Rabshakeh with a great army from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem. And they went up and came to Jerusalem. When they arrived, they came and stood by the conduit of the upper pool, which is on the highway to the Washer's Field.

¹⁸ And when they called for the king, there came out to them Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, who was over the household, and Shebna the secretary, and Joah the son of Asaph, the recorder.

¹⁹ And the Rabshakeh said to them, "Say to Hezekiah, 'Thus says the great king, the king of Assyria: On what do you rest this trust of yours?

²⁰ Do you think that mere words are strategy and power for war? In whom do you now trust, that you have rebelled against me?

²¹ Behold, you are trusting now in Egypt, that broken reed of a staff, which will pierce the hand of any man who leans on it. Such 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 altars Hezekiah has removed, saying to Judah and to Jerusalem, "You shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem"?

²³ Come now, make a wager with my master the king of Assyria: I will give you two thousand horses, if you are able on your part to set riders on them.

²⁴ How then can you repulse a single captain among the least of my master's servants, when you trust in Egypt for chariots and for horsemen?

²⁵ Moreover, is it without the LORD that I have come up 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, and Shebna, and Joah, said to the Rabshakeh, "Please speak to your servants in Aramaic, for we understand it. Do not speak to us in the language of Judah within the hearing of the people who are on the wall."

²⁷ But the Rabshakeh said to them, "Has my master sent me to speak these words to your master and to you, and not to the men sitting on the wall, who are doomed with you to eat their own dung and to drink their own urine?"

²⁸ Then the Rabshakeh stood and called out in a loud voice in the language of Judah: "Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria!

²⁹ Thus says the king: 'Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he will not be able to deliver you out of my hand.

³⁰ Do not let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD by saying, The LORD will surely deliver us, and this city will 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 your peace with me and come out to me. Then each one of you will eat of his own vine, and each one of his own fig tree, and each one of you will drink the water of his own cistern,

³² until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of grain and wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of olive trees and honey, that you may live, and not die. And do not listen to Hezekiah when he misleads you by saying, The LORD will deliver us.

³³ Has any of the gods of the nations ever delivered his land out of the hand of the king of Assyria?

³⁴ Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivvah? Have they delivered Samaria out of my hand?

³⁵ Who among all the gods of the lands have delivered their lands out of my hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem out of my hand?"

³⁶ But the people were silent and answered him not a word, for the king's command was, "Do not answer him."

³⁷ Then Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, who was over the household, and Shebna the secretary, 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 As soon as King Hezekiah heard it, he tore his clothes and covered himself with sackcloth and went into the house of the LORD.

² And he sent Eliakim, who was over the household, and Shebna the secretary, and the senior priests, covered with sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz.

³ They said to him, "Thus says Hezekiah, This day is a day of distress, of rebuke, and of disgrace; children have come to the point of birth, and there is no strength to bring them forth.

⁴ It may be that the LORD your God heard all the words of the Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to mock the living God, and will rebuke the words that the LORD your God has heard; therefore lift up your prayer for the remnant that is left."

⁵ When the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah,

⁶ Isaiah said to them, "Say to your master, 'Thus says the LORD: Do not be afraid because of the words that you

have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have reviled me.

⁷ Behold, I will put a spirit in him, so that he shall hear a rumor and return to his own land, and I will make him fall by the sword in his own land."

⁸ The Rabshakeh returned, and found the king of Assyria fighting against Libnah, for he heard that the king had left Lachish.

⁹ Now the king heard concerning Tirhakah king of Cush, "Behold, he has set out to fight against you." So he sent messengers again to Hezekiah, saying,

¹⁰ "Thus shall you speak to Hezekiah king of Judah: 'Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you by promising that Jerusalem will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.

¹¹ Behold, you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all lands,

devoting them to destruction. And shall you be delivered?

¹² Have the gods of the nations delivered them, the nations that my fathers destroyed, Gozan, Haran, Rezeph, and the people of Eden who were in Telassar?

¹³ Where is the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, the king of the city of Sepharvaim, the king of Hena, or the king of Ivvah?"

¹⁴ 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 And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD and said: "O LORD the God of Israel, who is enthroned above the cherubim, you are the 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 mock the living God.

¹⁷ Truly, O 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 were destroyed.

¹⁹ So now, O LORD our God, save us, please, from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you, O LORD, are God alone."

²⁰ Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Your prayer to me about Sennacherib king of Assyria I have heard.

²¹ This is the word that the LORD has spoken concerning him: "She despises

you, she scorns you-- the virgin daughter of Zion; she wags her head behind you-- the daughter of Jerusalem.

²² "Whom have you mocked and reviled? Against whom have you raised your voice and lifted your eyes to the heights? Against the Holy One of Israel!

²³ By your messengers you have mocked the Lord, and you have said, 'With my many chariots I have gone up the heights of the mountains, to the far recesses of Lebanon; I felled its tallest cedars, its choicest cypresses; I entered its farthest lodging place, its most fruitful forest.

²⁴ I dug wells and drank foreign waters, and I dried up with the sole of my foot all the streams of Egypt.'

²⁵ "Have you not heard that I determined it long ago? I planned from days of old what now I bring to pass,

that you should turn fortified cities into heaps of ruins,

²⁶ while their inhabitants, shorn of strength, are dismayed and confounded, and have become like plants of the field and like tender grass, like grass on the housetops, blighted before it is grown.

²⁷ "But I know your sitting down and your going out and coming in, and your raging against me.

²⁸ Because you have raged against me and your complacency has come into my ears, I will put my hook in your nose and my bit in your mouth, and I will turn you back on the way by which you came.

²⁹ "And this shall be the sign for you: this year eat what grows of itself, and in the second year what springs of the same. Then in the third year sow and reap and plant vineyards, and eat their fruit.

³⁰ And the surviving remnant of the house of Judah shall again take root downward and bear fruit upward.

³¹ For out of Jerusalem shall go a remnant, and out of Mount Zion a band of survivors. The zeal of the LORD will do this.

³² "Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the king of Assyria: He shall not come into this city or shoot an arrow there, or come before it with a shield or cast up a siege mound against it.

³³ By the way that he came, by the same he shall return, and he shall not come into this city, declares the LORD.

³⁴ For I will defend this city to save it, for my own sake and for the sake of my servant David."

³⁵ And that night the angel of the LORD went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians. And when

people arose early in the morning, behold, these were all dead bodies.

³⁶ Then Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and went home and lived at Nineveh.

³⁷ And as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, Adrammelech and Sharezer, his sons, struck him down with the sword and escaped into the land of Ararat. And Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place.

20 ¹ In those days Hezekiah became sick and was at the point of death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came to him and said to him, "Thus says the LORD, 'Set your house in order, for you shall die; you shall not recover.'"

² Then Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD, saying,

³ "Now, O LORD, please remember how I have walked before you in faithfulness and with a whole heart, and have

done what is good in your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

⁴ And before Isaiah had gone out of the middle court, the word of the LORD came to him:

⁵ "Turn back, and say to 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. Behold, I will heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the LORD,

⁶ and I will add fifteen years to your life. I will deliver you and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria, and I will defend this city for my own sake and for my servant David's sake."

⁷ And Isaiah said, "Bring a cake of figs. And let them take and lay it on the boil, that he may recover."

⁸ And Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "What shall be the sign that the LORD will heal

me, and that I shall go up to the house of the LORD on the third day?"

⁹ And Isaiah said, "This shall be the sign to you from the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing that he has promised: shall the shadow go forward ten steps, or go back ten steps?"

¹⁰ And Hezekiah answered, "It is an easy thing for the shadow to lengthen ten steps. Rather let the shadow go back ten steps."

¹¹ And Isaiah the prophet called to the LORD, and he brought the shadow back ten steps, by which it had gone down on the steps of Ahaz.

¹² At that time Merodach-baladan the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent envoys with letters and a present to Hezekiah, for he heard that Hezekiah had been sick.

¹³ And Hezekiah welcomed them, and he showed them all his treasure

house, the silver, the gold, the spices, the precious oil, his armory, all that was found in his storehouses. There was nothing in his house or in all his realm that Hezekiah did not show them.

¹⁴ Then Isaiah the prophet came to King Hezekiah, and said to him, "What did these men say? And from where did they come to you?" And Hezekiah said, "They have come from a far country, from Babylon."

¹⁵ He said, "What have they seen in your house?" And Hezekiah answered, "They have seen all that is in my house; there is nothing in my storehouses that I did not show 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 that which your fathers have stored up till this day,

shall be carried to Babylon. Nothing shall be left, says the LORD.

¹⁸ And some of your own sons, who shall be born to you, shall be taken away, and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon."

¹⁹ Then said Hezekiah to Isaiah, "The word of the LORD that you have spoken is good." For he thought, "Why not, if there will be peace and security in my days?"

²⁰ The rest of the deeds of Hezekiah and all his might and how he made the pool and the conduit and brought water into the city, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?

²¹ And Hezekiah slept with his fathers, and Manasseh his son reigned in his place.

21 ¹ Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and he

reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hephzibah.

² And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to the despicable practices of the nations whom the LORD drove out before the people of Israel.

³ For he rebuilt the high places that Hezekiah his father had destroyed, and he erected altars for Baal and made an Asherah, as Ahab king of Israel had done, and worshiped all the host of heaven and served them.

⁴ And he built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, "In Jerusalem will I 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 And he burned his son as an offering and used fortune-telling and omens and dealt with mediums and with wizards.

He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking him to anger.

⁷ And the carved image of Asherah that he had made he set in the house of which the LORD 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 cause the feet of Israel to wander anymore out of the land that I gave to their fathers, if only they will be 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 did not listen, and Manasseh led them astray to do more evil than the nations had done whom the LORD destroyed before the people of Israel.

¹⁰ And the LORD said by his servants the prophets,

¹¹ "Because Manasseh king of Judah has committed these abominations and has done things more evil than all that the Amorites did, who were before him, and has made Judah also to sin with his idols,

¹² therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Behold, I am bringing upon Jerusalem and Judah such disaster that the ears of everyone who hears of it will tingle.

¹³ And I will stretch over Jerusalem the measuring line of Samaria, and the plumb line of the house of Ahab, and I will wipe Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down.

¹⁴ And I will forsake the remnant of my heritage and give them into the hand of their enemies, and they shall become a prey and a spoil to all their enemies,

¹⁵ because they have done what is 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 the sin that he made Judah to sin so that they did what was evil in the sight of the LORD.

¹⁷ Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh and 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 And Manasseh slept with his fathers and was buried in the garden of his house, in the garden of Uzza, and Amon his son reigned in his place.

¹⁹ Amon was twenty-two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Meshullemeth the daughter of Haruz of Jotbah.

²⁰ And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, as Manasseh his father had done.

²¹ He walked in all the way in which his father walked and served the idols that his father served and worshiped them.

²² He abandoned the LORD, the God of his fathers, and did not walk in the way of the LORD.

²³ And the servants of Amon conspired against him and put the king to death in his house.

²⁴ But the people of the land struck down all those who had conspired against King Amon, and the people of the land made Josiah his son king in his place.

²⁵ Now the rest of the acts of Amon that 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, and Josiah his son reigned in his place.

22 ¹ Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, 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 eyes of the LORD and walked in all the way of David his father, and he did not turn aside to the right or to the left.

³ In the eighteenth year of King Josiah, the king sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, son of Meshullam, the secretary, to the house of the LORD, saying,

⁴ "Go up to Hilkiah the high priest, that he may count the money that has been brought into the house of the LORD, which the keepers of the threshold have collected from the people.

⁵ And let it be given into the hand of the workmen who have the oversight of the house of the LORD, and let them give it to the workmen who are at the house of the LORD, repairing the house

⁶ (that is, to the carpenters, and to the builders, and to the masons), and let them use it for buying timber and quarried stone to repair the house.

⁷ But no accounting shall be asked from them for the money that is delivered into their hand, for they deal honestly."

⁸ And Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the secretary, "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 And Shaphan the secretary came to the king, and reported to the king, "Your servants have emptied out the money that was found in the house and have delivered it into the hand of the

workmen who have the oversight of the house of the LORD."

¹⁰ Then Shaphan the secretary told the king, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read it before the king.

¹¹ When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his clothes.

¹² And the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Achbor the son of Micaiah, and Shaphan the secretary, and Asaiah the king's servant, saying,

¹³ "Go, inquire of the LORD for me, and 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 kindled 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, and Ahikam, and Achbor, and Shaphan, and Asaiah went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah, son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe (now she lived in Jerusalem in the Second Quarter), and they talked with her.

¹⁵ And she said to them, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: 'Tell the man who sent you to me,

¹⁶ Thus says the LORD, behold, I will bring disaster upon this place and upon its inhabitants, all the words of the book that the king of Judah has read.

¹⁷ Because they have forsaken me and have made offerings to other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the work of their hands, therefore my wrath will be kindled against this place, and it will not be quenched.

¹⁸ But to the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, thus shall

you say to him, Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Regarding the words that you have heard,

¹⁹ because your heart was penitent, and you humbled yourself before the LORD, when you heard how I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and you have torn your clothes and wept before me, I also have heard you, declares the LORD.

²⁰ Therefore, behold, 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 disaster that I will bring upon this place.'" And they brought back word to the king.

23 ¹ Then the king sent, and all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem were gathered to him.

² And the king went up to the house of the LORD, and with him all the

men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the priests and the prophets, all the people, both small and great. And he read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant that had been found in the house of the LORD.

³ And the king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after 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 joined in the covenant.

⁴ And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest and the priests of the second order and the keepers of the threshold to bring out of the temple of the LORD all the vessels made for Baal, for Asherah, and for all the host of heaven. He burned

them outside Jerusalem in the fields of the Kidron and carried their ashes to Bethel.

⁵ And he deposed the priests whom the kings of Judah had ordained to make offerings in the high places at the cities of Judah and around Jerusalem; those also who burned incense to Baal, to the sun and the moon and the constellations and all the host of the heavens.

⁶ And he brought out the Asherah from the house of the LORD, outside Jerusalem, to the brook Kidron, and burned it at the brook Kidron and beat it to dust and cast the dust of it upon the graves of the common people.

⁷ And he broke down the houses of the male cult prostitutes who were in the house of the LORD, where the women wove hangings for the Asherah.

⁸ And he brought all the priests out of the cities of Judah, and defiled the

high places where the priests had made offerings, from Geba to Beersheba. And he broke down the high places of the gates that were at the entrance of the gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which were on one's left at the gate of the city.

⁹ However, 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 brothers.

¹⁰ And he defiled Topheth, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, that no one might burn his son or his daughter as an offering to Molech.

¹¹ And 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 chamberlain, which was in the precincts. And he burned the chariots of the sun with fire.

¹² And the altars on the roof of the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars that Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of the LORD, he pulled down and broke in pieces and cast the dust of them into the brook Kidron.

¹³ And the king defiled the high places that were east of Jerusalem, to the south of the mount of corruption, which Solomon the king of Israel had built for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Sidonians, and for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.

¹⁴ And he broke in pieces the pillars and cut down the Asherim and filled their places with the bones of men.

¹⁵ Moreover, the altar at Bethel, the high place erected by Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, that altar with the high place he pulled down

and burned, reducing it to dust. He also burned the Asherah.

¹⁶ And as Josiah turned, he saw the tombs there on the mount. 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 that the man of God proclaimed, who had predicted these things.

¹⁷ Then he said, "What is that monument that I see?" And the men of the city told him, "It is the tomb of the man of God who came from Judah and predicted these things that you have done against the altar at Bethel."

¹⁸ And he said, "Let him be; let no man move his bones." So they let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet who came out of Samaria.

¹⁹ And Josiah removed all the shrines also of the high places that were in the cities of Samaria, which kings of Israel

had made, provoking the LORD to anger. He did to them according to all that he had done at Bethel.

²⁰ And he sacrificed all the priests of the high places who were there, on the altars, and burned human bones on them. Then he returned to Jerusalem.

²¹ And the king commanded all the people, "Keep the Passover to the LORD your God, as it is written in this Book of the Covenant."

²² For no such Passover had been kept since the days of the judges who judged Israel, or during all the days of the kings of Israel or of the kings of Judah.

²³ But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah this Passover was kept to the LORD in Jerusalem.

²⁴ Moreover, Josiah put away the mediums and the necromancers and the household gods and the idols and all the abominations that were seen in the

land of Judah and in Jerusalem, that he might establish the words of the law that were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the LORD.

²⁵ Before him there was no king like him, who turned to the LORD with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses, nor did any like him arise after him.

²⁶ Still the LORD did not turn from the burning of his great wrath, by which his anger was kindled against Judah, because of all the provocations with which Manasseh had provoked him.

²⁷ And the LORD said, "I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel, and I will cast off this city that I have chosen, Jerusalem, 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 Neco king of Egypt went up to the king of Assyria to the river Euphrates. King Josiah went to meet him, and Pharaoh Neco killed him at Megiddo, as soon as he saw him.

³⁰ And his servants carried him dead in a chariot from Megiddo and brought him to Jerusalem and buried him in his own tomb. And the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, and anointed him, and made him king in his father's place.

³¹ Jehoahaz was twenty-three years old when he began to reign, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah.

³² And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done.

³³ And Pharaoh Neco put him in bonds at Riblah in the land of Hamath, that he might not reign in Jerusalem, and laid on the land a tribute of a hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold.

³⁴ And Pharaoh Neco made Eliakim the son of Josiah king in the place of Josiah his father, and changed his name to Jehoiakim. But he took Jehoahaz away, and he came to Egypt and died there.

³⁵ And Jehoiakim gave the silver and the gold to Pharaoh, but he taxed the land to give the money according to the command of Pharaoh. He exacted the silver and the gold of the people of the land, from everyone according to his assessment, to give it to Pharaoh Neco.

³⁶ Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned

eleven years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zebidah the daughter of Pedaiah of Rumah.

³⁷ And he did what was 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 servant three years. Then he turned and rebelled against him.

² And the LORD sent against him bands of the Chaldeans and bands of the Syrians and bands of the Moabites and bands of the Ammonites, and sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by his servants the prophets.

³ Surely this came upon Judah at the command of the LORD, to remove them out of his sight, for the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he had done,

⁴ and also for the innocent blood that he had shed. For he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, and the LORD would not pardon.

⁵ Now the rest of the deeds 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 slept with his fathers, and Jehoiachin his son reigned in his place.

⁷ And the king of Egypt did not come again out of his land, 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 three months in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Nehushta the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem.

⁹ And he did what was 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 to Jerusalem, and the city was besieged.

¹¹ And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to the city while his servants were besieging it,

¹² and Jehoiachin the king of Judah gave himself up to the king of Babylon, himself and his mother and his servants and his officials and his palace officials. The king of Babylon took him prisoner in the eighth year of his reign

¹³ and carried off all the treasures of the house of the LORD and the treasures of the king's house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold in the temple of the LORD, which Solomon king of Israel had made, as the LORD had foretold.

¹⁴ He carried away all Jerusalem and all the officials and all the mighty men of valor, 10,000 captives, and all the craftsmen and the smiths. None remained, except the poorest people of the land.

¹⁵ And he carried away Jehoiachin to Babylon. The king's mother, the king's wives, his officials, and the chief men of the land he took into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon.

¹⁶ And the king of Babylon brought captive to Babylon all the men of valor, 7,000, and the craftsmen and the metal workers, 1,000, all of them strong and fit for war.

¹⁷ And 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 And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that Jehoiakim had done.

²⁰ For because of the anger of the LORD it came to the point in Jerusalem and Judah that he cast them out from his presence. And Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

25 ¹ And in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came with all his army against Jerusalem and laid siege to it. And they built siegeworks all around it.

² So the city was besieged till the eleventh year of King Zedekiah.

³ On the ninth day of the fourth month the famine was so severe in the city that

there was no food for the people of the land.

⁴ Then a breach was made in the city, and all the men of war fled by night by the way of the gate between the two walls, by the king's garden, though the Chaldeans were around the city. And they went in the direction of the Arabah.

⁵ But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king and overtook him in the plains of Jericho, and all his army was scattered from him.

⁶ Then they captured the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, and they passed sentence on him.

⁷ They slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and put out the eyes of Zedekiah and bound him in chains and took him to Babylon.

⁸ In the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month--that was the nineteenth

year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon--Nebuzaradan, the captain of the bodyguard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem.

⁹ And he burned the house of the LORD and the king's house and all the houses of Jerusalem; every great house he burned down.

¹⁰ And all the army of the Chaldeans, who were with the captain of the guard, broke down the walls around Jerusalem.

¹¹ And the rest of the people who were left in the city and the deserters who had deserted to the king of Babylon, together with the rest of the multitude, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried into exile.

¹² But the captain of the guard left some of the poorest of the land to be vinedressers and plowmen.

¹³ And the pillars of bronze that were in the house of the LORD, and the stands

and the bronze sea that were in the house of the LORD, the Chaldeans broke in pieces and carried the bronze to Babylon.

¹⁴ And they took away the pots and the shovels and the snuffers and the dishes for incense and all the vessels of bronze used in the temple service,

¹⁵ the fire pans also and the bowls. What was of gold the captain of the guard took away as gold, and what was of silver, as silver.

¹⁶ As for the two pillars, the one sea, and the stands that Solomon had made for the house of the LORD, the bronze of all these vessels was beyond weight.

¹⁷ The height of the one pillar was eighteen cubits, and on it was a capital of bronze. The height of the capital was three cubits. A latticework and pomegranates, all of bronze, were all

around the capital. And the second pillar had the same, with the latticework.

¹⁸ And the captain of the guard took Seraiah the chief priest and Zephaniah the second priest and the three keepers of the threshold,

¹⁹ and from the city he took an officer who had been in command of the men of war, and five men of the king's council who were found in the city, and the secretary of the commander 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 And Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard took them and brought them to the king of Babylon at Riblah.

²¹ And the king of Babylon struck them down and put them to death at Riblah in the land of Hamath. So Judah was taken into exile out of its land.

²² And over the people who remained in the land of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had left, he appointed Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan, governor.

²³ Now when all the captains and their men heard that the king of Babylon had appointed Gedaliah governor, they came with their men to Gedaliah at Mizpah, namely, Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and Johanan the son of Kareah, and Seraiah the son of Tanhumeth the Netophathite, and Jaazaniah the son of the Maacathite.

²⁴ And Gedaliah swore to them and their men, saying, "Do not be afraid because of the Chaldean officials. Live in the land and serve the king of Babylon, and it shall be well with you."

²⁵ But in the seventh month, Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, son of Elishama, of the royal family, came with ten men

and struck down Gedaliah and put him to death along with the Jews and the Chaldeans who were with him at Mizpah.

²⁶ Then all the people, both small and great, and the captains of the forces arose and went to Egypt, for they were afraid of the Chaldeans.

²⁷ And in the thirty-seventh year of the exile of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, Evil-merodach king of Babylon, in the year that he began to reign, graciously freed Jehoiachin king of Judah from prison.

²⁸ And he spoke kindly to him and gave him a seat above the seats of the kings who were with him in Babylon.

²⁹ So Jehoiachin put off his prison garments. And every day of his life he dined regularly at the king's table,

³⁰ and for his allowance, a regular allowance was given him by the king, according to his daily needs, as long as he lived.

1 Chronicles

- 1** ¹ Adam, Seth, Enosh;
² Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared;
³ Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech;
⁴ Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.
⁵ The sons of Japheth: Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.
⁶ The sons of Gomer: Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah.
⁷ The sons of Javan: Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Rodanim.
⁸ The sons of Ham: Cush, Egypt, Put, and Canaan.
⁹ The sons of Cush: Seba, Havilah, Sabta, Raama, and Sabteca. The sons of Raamah: Sheba and Dedan.
¹⁰ Cush fathered Nimrod. He was the first on earth to be a mighty man.

¹¹ Egypt fathered Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim,

¹² Pathrusim, Casluhim (from whom the Philistines came), and Caphtorim.

¹³ Canaan fathered Sidon his firstborn and Heth,

¹⁴ and the Jebusites, the Amorites, the Girgashites,

¹⁵ the Hivites, the Arkites, the Sinites,

¹⁶ the Arvadites, the Zemarites, and the Hamathites.

¹⁷ The sons of Shem: Elam, Asshur, Arpachshad, Lud, and Aram. And the sons of Aram: Uz, Hul, Gether, and Meshech.

¹⁸ Arpachshad fathered Shelah, and Shelah fathered Eber.

¹⁹ To Eber were born two sons: the name of the one was Peleg (for in his days the earth was divided), and his brother's name was Joktan.

²⁰ Joktan fathered Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah,

²¹ Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah,

²² Obal, Abimael, Sheba,

²³ Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab; all these were the sons of Joktan.

²⁴ Shem, Arpachshad, Shelah;

²⁵ Eber, Peleg, Reu;

²⁶ Serug, Nahor, Terah;

²⁷ Abram, that is, Abraham.

²⁸ The sons of Abraham: Isaac and Ishmael.

²⁹ These are their genealogies: the firstborn of Ishmael, Nebaioth, and Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam,

³⁰ Mishma, Dumah, Massa, Hadad, Tema,

³¹ Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah. These are the sons of Ishmael.

³² The sons of Keturah, Abraham's concubine: she bore Zimran, Jokshan,

Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah. The sons of Jokshan: Sheba and Dedan.

³³ The sons of Midian: Ephah, Ephher, Hanoah, Abida, and Eldaah. All these were the descendants of Keturah.

³⁴ Abraham fathered Isaac. The sons of Isaac: Esau and Israel.

³⁵ The sons of Esau: Eliphaz, Reuel, Jeush, Jalam, and Korah.

³⁶ The sons of Eliphaz: Teman, Omar, Zepho, Gatam, Kenaz, and of Timna, Amalek.

³⁷ The sons of Reuel: Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah.

³⁸ The sons of Seir: Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah, Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan.

³⁹ The sons of Lotan: Hori and Hemam; and Lotan's sister was Timna.

⁴⁰ The sons of Shobal: Alvan, Manahath, Ebal, Shepho, and Onam. The sons of Zibeon: Aiah and Anah.

⁴¹ The son of Anah: Dishon. The sons of Dishon: Hemdan, Eshban, Ithran, and Cheran.

⁴² The sons of Ezer: Bilhan, Zaavan, and Akan. The sons of Dishan: Uz and Aran.

⁴³ These are the kings who reigned in the land of Edom before any king reigned over the people of Israel: Bela the son of Beor, the name of his city being Dinhabah.

⁴⁴ Bela died, and Jobab the son of Zerah of Bozrah reigned in his place.

⁴⁵ Jobab died, and Husham of the land of the Temanites reigned in his place.

⁴⁶ Husham died, and Hadad the son of Bedad, who defeated Midian in the country of Moab, reigned in his place, the name of his city being Avith.

⁴⁷ Hadad died, and Samlah of Masrekah reigned in his place.

⁴⁸ Samlah died, and Shaul of Rehoboth on the Euphrates reigned in his place.

⁴⁹ Shaul died, and Baal-hanan, the son of Achbor, reigned in his place.

⁵⁰ Baal-hanan died, and Hadad reigned in his place, the name of his city being Pai; and his wife's name was Mehetabel, the daughter of Matred, the daughter of Mezahab.

⁵¹ And Hadad died. The chiefs of Edom were: chiefs Timna, Alvah, Jetheth,

⁵² Oholibamah, Elah, Pinon,

⁵³ Kenaz, Teman, Mibzar,

⁵⁴ Magdiel, and Iram; these are the chiefs of Edom.

2 ¹ These are the sons of Israel:
Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah,
Issachar, Zebulun,

² Dan, Joseph, Benjamin, Naphtali, Gad,
and Asher.

³ The sons of Judah: Er, Onan and Shelah; these three Bath-shua the Canaanite bore to him. Now Er, Judah's

firstborn, was evil in the sight of the LORD, and he put him to death.

⁴ His daughter-in-law Tamar also bore him Perez and Zerah. Judah had five sons in all.

⁵ The sons of Perez: Hezron and Hamul.

⁶ The sons of Zerah: Zimri, Ethan, Heman, Calcol, and Dara, five in all.

⁷ The son of Carmi: Achan, the troubler of Israel, who broke faith in the matter of the devoted thing;

⁸ and Ethan's son was Azariah.

⁹ The sons of Hezron that were born to him: Jerahmeel, Ram, and Chelubai.

¹⁰ Ram fathered Amminadab, and Amminadab fathered Nahshon, prince of the sons of Judah.

¹¹ Nahshon fathered Salmon, Salmon fathered Boaz,

¹² Boaz fathered Obed, Obed fathered Jesse.

¹³ Jesse fathered Eliab his firstborn,
Abinadab the second, Shimea the third,
¹⁴ Nethanel the fourth, Raddai the fifth,
¹⁵ Ozem the sixth, David the seventh.

¹⁶ And their sisters were Zeruiah and
Abigail. The sons of Zeruiah: Abishai,
Joab, and Asahel, three.

¹⁷ Abigail bore Amasa, and the father of
Amasa was Jether the Ishmaelite.

¹⁸ Caleb the son of Hezron fathered
children by his wife Azubah, and by
Jeriath; and these were her sons: Jesher,
Shobab, and Ardon.

¹⁹ When Azubah died, Caleb married
Ephrath, who bore him Hur.

²⁰ Hur fathered Uri, and Uri fathered
Bezalel.

²¹ 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 And Segub fathered Jair, who had twenty-three cities in the land of Gilead.

²³ But Geshur and Aram took from them Havvoth-jair, Kenath, and its villages, sixty towns. All these were descendants of Machir, the father of Gilead.

²⁴ After the death of Hezron, Caleb went in to Ephrathah, the wife of Hezron his father, and she bore him Ashhur, the father of Tekoa.

²⁵ The sons of Jerahmeel, the firstborn of Hezron: Ram, his firstborn, Bunah, Oren, Ozem, and Ahijah.

²⁶ Jerahmeel also had another wife, whose name was Atarah; she was the mother of Onam.

²⁷ The sons of Ram, the firstborn of Jerahmeel: Maaz, Jamin, and Eker.

²⁸ The sons of Onam: Shammai and Jada. The sons of Shammai: Nadab and Abishur.

²⁹ The name of Abishur's wife was Abihail, and she bore him Ahban and Molid.

³⁰ The sons of Nadab: Seled and Appaim; and Seled died childless.

³¹ The son of Appaim: Ishi. The son of Ishi: Sheshan. The son of Sheshan: Ahlai.

³² The sons of Jada, Shammai's brother: Jether and Jonathan; and Jether died childless.

³³ The sons of Jonathan: Peleth and Zaza. These were the descendants of Jerahmeel.

³⁴ Now Sheshan had no sons, only daughters, but Sheshan had an Egyptian slave whose name was Jarha.

³⁵ So Sheshan gave his daughter in marriage to Jarha his slave, and she bore him Attai.

³⁶ Attai fathered Nathan, and Nathan fathered Zabad.

³⁷ Zabad fathered Ephlal, and Ephlal fathered Obed.

³⁸ Obed fathered Jehu, and Jehu fathered Azariah.

³⁹ Azariah fathered Helez, and Helez fathered Eleasah.

⁴⁰ Eleasah fathered Sismai, and Sismai fathered Shallum.

⁴¹ Shallum fathered Jekamiah, and Jekamiah fathered Elishama.

⁴² The sons of Caleb the brother of Jerahmeel: Mareshah his firstborn, who fathered Ziph. The son of Mareshah: Hebron.

⁴³ The sons of Hebron: Korah, Tappuah, Rekem and Shema.

⁴⁴ Shema fathered Raham, the father of Jorkeam; and Rekem fathered Shammai.

⁴⁵ The son of Shammai: Maon; and Maon fathered Beth-zur.

⁴⁶ Ephah also, Caleb's concubine, bore Haran, Moza, and Gazez; and Haran fathered Gazez.

⁴⁷ The sons of Jahdai: Regem, Jotham, Geshan, Pelet, Ephah, and Shaaph.

⁴⁸ Maacah, 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 Gibeaz; and the daughter of Caleb was Achsah.

⁵⁰ These were the descendants of Caleb. The sons of Hur the firstborn of Ephrathah: Shobal the father of Kiriath-jearim,

⁵¹ Salma, the father of Bethlehem, and Hareph the father of Beth-gader.

⁵² Shobal the father of Kiriath-jearim had other sons: Haroeh, half of the Menuhoth.

⁵³ And the clans of Kiriath-jearim: the Ithrites, the Puthites, the Shumathites,

and the Mishraites; from these came the Zorathites and the Eshtaolites.

⁵⁴ The sons of Salma: Bethlehem, the Netophathites, Atroth-beth-joab and half of the Manahathites, the Zorites.

⁵⁵ The clans also of the scribes who lived at Jabez: the Tirathites, the Shimeathites and the Sucathites. These are the Kenites who came from Hammath, the father of the house of Rechab.

3 ¹ These are the sons of David who were born to him in Hebron: the firstborn, Amnon, by Ahinoam the Jezreelite; the second, Daniel, by Abigail the Carmelite,

² the third, Absalom, whose mother was Maacah, the daughter of Talmai, king of Geshur; the fourth, Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith;

³ the fifth, Shephatiah, by Abital; the sixth, Ithream, by his wife Eglah;

⁴ six were born to him in Hebron, where he reigned for seven years and six months. And he reigned thirty-three years in Jerusalem.

⁵ These were born to him in Jerusalem: Shimea, Shobab, Nathan and Solomon, four by Bath-shua, the daughter of Ammiel;

⁶ then Ibhar, Elishama, Eliphelet,

⁷ Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia,

⁸ Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet, nine.

⁹ All these were David's sons, besides the sons of the concubines, and Tamar was their sister.

¹⁰ The son of Solomon was Rehoboam, Abijah 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, Josiah his son.

¹⁵ The sons of Josiah: Johanan the firstborn, the second Jehoiakim, the third Zedekiah, the fourth Shallum.

¹⁶ The descendants of Jehoiakim:
Jeconiah his son, Zedekiah his son;

¹⁷ and the sons of Jeconiah, the captive:
Shealtiel his son,

¹⁸ Malchiram, Pedaiah, Shenazzar,
Jekamiah, Hoshama and Nedabiah;

¹⁹ and the sons of Pedaiah: Zerubbabel
and Shimei; and the sons of Zerubbabel:
Meshullam and Hananiah, and
Shelomith was their sister;

²⁰ and Hashubah, Ohel, Berechiah,
Hasadiah, and Jushab-hesed, five.

²¹ The sons of Hananiah: Pelatiah
and Jeshaiah, his son Rephaiah, his
son Arnan, his son Obadiah, his son
Shecaniah.

²² The son of Shecaniah: Shemaiah.
And the sons of Shemaiah: Hattush, Igal,
Bariah, Neariah, and Shaphat, six.

²³ The sons of Neariah: Elioenai,
Hizkiah, and Azrikam, three.

²⁴ The sons of Elioenai: Hodaviah,
Eliashib, Pelaiah, Akkub, Johanan,
Delaiah, and Anani, seven.

4 ¹ The sons of Judah: Perez, Hezron,
Carmi, Hur, and Shobal.

² Reaiah the son of Shobal fathered
Jahath, and Jahath fathered Ahumai
and Lahad. These were the clans of the
Zorathites.

³ These were the sons of Etam: Jezreel,
Ishma, and Idbash; and the name of
their sister was Hazzelelponi,

⁴ and Penuel fathered Gedor, and Ezer
fathered Hushah. These were the sons
of Hur, the firstborn of Ephrathah, the
father of Bethlehem.

⁵ Ashhur, the father of Tekoa, had two wives, Helah and Naarah;

⁶ Naarah bore him Ahuzzam, Hephher, Temeni, and Haahashtari. These were the sons of Naarah.

⁷ The sons of Helah: Zereth, Izhar, and Ethnan.

⁸ Koz fathered Anub, Zobebah, and the clans of Aharhel, the son of Harum.

⁹ Jabez was more honorable than his brothers; and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, "Because I bore him in pain."

¹⁰ Jabez called upon the God of Israel, saying, "Oh that you would bless me and enlarge my border, and that your hand might be with me, and that you would keep me from harm so that it might not bring me pain!" And God granted what he asked.

¹¹ Chelub, the brother of Shuhah, fathered Mehir, who fathered Eshton.

¹² Eshton fathered Beth-rapha, Paseah, and Tehinnah, the father of Ir-nahash. These are the men of Recah.

¹³ The sons of Kenaz: Othniel and Seraiah; and the sons of Othniel: Hathath and Meonothai.

¹⁴ Meonothai fathered Ophrah; and Seraiah fathered Joab, the father of Ge-harashim, so-called because they were craftsmen.

¹⁵ The sons of Caleb the son of Jephunneh: Iru, Elah, and Naam; and the son of Elah: Kenaz.

¹⁶ The sons of Jehallelel: Ziph, Ziphah, Tiria, and Asarel.

¹⁷ The sons of Ezrah: Jether, Mered, Ephraim, and Jalon. These are the sons of Bithiah, the daughter of Pharaoh, whom Mered married; and she conceived and bore Miriam, Shammai, and Ishbah, the father of Eshtemoa.

¹⁸ And his Judahite wife bore Jered the father of Gedor, Heber the father of Soco, and Jekuthiel the father of Zanoah.

¹⁹ The sons of the wife of Hodiah, the sister of Naham, were the fathers of Keilah the Garmite and Eshtemoa the Maacathite.

²⁰ The sons of Shimon: Amnon, Rinnah, Ben-hanan, and Tilon. The sons of Ishi: Zoheth and Ben-zoheth.

²¹ The sons of Shelah the son of Judah: Er the father of Lecah, Laadah the father of Mareshah, and the clans of the house of linen workers at Beth-ashbea;

²² and Jokim, and the men of Cozeba, and Joash, and Saraph, who ruled in Moab and returned to Lehem (now the records are ancient).

²³ These were the potters who were inhabitants of Netaim and Gederah. They lived there in the king's service.

²⁴ The sons of Simeon: Nemuel, Jamin, Jarib, Zerah, Shaul;

²⁵ Shallum was his son, Mibsam his son, Mishma his son.

²⁶ The sons of Mishma: Hammuel his son, Zaccur his son, Shimei his son.

²⁷ Shimei had sixteen sons and six daughters; but his brothers did not have many children, nor did all their clan multiply like the men of Judah.

²⁸ They lived in Beersheba, Moladah, Hazar-shual,

²⁹ Bilhah, Ezem, Tolad,

³⁰ Bethuel, Hormah, Ziklag,

³¹ Beth-marcaboth, Hazar-susim, Beth-biri, and Shaaraim. These were their cities until David reigned.

³² And their villages were Etam, Ain, Rimmon, Tochen, and Ashan, five cities,

³³ along with all their villages that were around these cities as far as Baal. These

were their settlements, and they kept a genealogical record.

³⁴ Meshobab, Jamlech, Joshah the son of Amaziah,

³⁵ Joel, Jehu the son of Joshibiah, son of Seraiah, son of Asiel,

³⁶ Elioenai, Jaakobah, Jeshohaiah, Asaiah, Adiel, Jesimiel, Benaiah,

³⁷ Ziza the son of Shiphi, son of Allon, son of Jedaiah, son of Shimri, son of Shemaiah--

³⁸ these mentioned by name were princes in their clans, and their fathers' houses increased greatly.

³⁹ They journeyed to the entrance of Gedor, to the east side of the valley, to seek pasture for their flocks,

⁴⁰ where they found rich, good pasture, and the land was very broad, quiet, and peaceful, for the former inhabitants there belonged to Ham.

⁴¹ These, registered by name, came in the days of Hezekiah, king of Judah, and destroyed their tents and the Meunites who were found there, and marked them for destruction to this day, and settled in their place, because there was pasture there for their flocks.

⁴² And some of them, five hundred men of the Simeonites, went to Mount Seir, having as their leaders Pelatiah, Neariah, Rephaiah, and Uzziel, the sons of Ishi.

⁴³ And they defeated the remnant of the Amalekites who had escaped, and they have lived there to this day.

5 ¹ The sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel (for he was the firstborn, but because he defiled his father's couch, his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph the son of Israel, so that he could not be enrolled as the oldest son;

² though Judah became strong among his brothers and a chief came from him, yet the birthright belonged to Joseph),

³ the sons of Reuben, the firstborn of Israel: Hanoah, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi.

⁴ The sons of Joel: Shemaiah his son, Gog his son, Shimei his son,

⁵ Micah his son, Reaiah his son, Baal his son,

⁶ Beerah his son, whom Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria carried away into exile; he was a chief of the Reubenites.

⁷ And his kinsmen by their clans, when the genealogy of their generations was recorded: the chief, Jeiel, and Zechariah,

⁸ and Bela the son of Azaz, son of Shema, son of Joel, who lived in Aroer, as far as Nebo and Baal-meon.

⁹ He also lived to the east as far as the entrance of the desert this side of the Euphrates, because their livestock had multiplied in the land of Gilead.

¹⁰ And in the days of Saul they waged war against the Hagarites, who fell into their hand. And they lived in their tents throughout all the region east of Gilead.

¹¹ The sons of Gad lived over against them in the land of Bashan as far as Salecah:

¹² Joel the chief, Shapham the second, Janai, and Shaphat in Bashan.

¹³ And their kinsmen according to their fathers' houses: Michael, Meshullam, Sheba, Jorai, Jacan, Zia and Eber, seven.

¹⁴ These were the sons of Abihail the son of Huri, son of Jaroah, son of Gilead, son of Michael, son of Jeshishai, son of Jahdo, son of Buz.

¹⁵ Ahi the son of Abdiel, son of Guni, was chief in their fathers' houses,

¹⁶ and they lived in Gilead, in Bashan and in its towns, and in all the pasturelands of Sharon to their limits.

¹⁷ All of these were recorded in genealogies in the days of Jotham king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam king of Israel.

¹⁸ The Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh had valiant men who carried shield and sword, and drew the bow, expert in war, 44,760, able to go to war.

¹⁹ They waged war against the Hagarites, Jetur, Naphish, and Nodab.

²⁰ And when they prevailed over them, the Hagarites and all who were with them were given into their hands, for they cried out to God in the battle, and he granted their urgent plea because they trusted in him.

²¹ They carried off their livestock: 50,000 of their camels, 250,000 sheep, 2,000 donkeys, and 100,000 men alive.

²² For many fell, because the war was of God. And they lived in their place until the exile.

²³ The members of the half-tribe of Manasseh lived in the land. They were very numerous from Bashan to Baal-hermon, Senir, and Mount Hermon.

²⁴ These were the heads of their fathers' houses: Ephraim, Ishi, Eliel, Azriel, Jeremiah, Hodaviah, and Jahdiel, mighty warriors, famous men, heads of their fathers' houses.

²⁵ But they broke faith with the God of their fathers, and whored 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, the spirit of Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, and he took them into exile, namely, the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh, and brought

them to Halah, Habor, Hara, and the river Gozan, to this day.

6 ¹ The sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

² The sons of Kohath: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel.

³ The children of Amram: Aaron, Moses, and Miriam. The sons of Aaron: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

⁴ Eleazar fathered Phinehas, Phinehas fathered Abishua,

⁵ Abishua fathered Bukki, Bukki fathered Uzzi,

⁶ Uzzi fathered Zerahiah, Zerahiah fathered Meraioth,

⁷ Meraioth fathered Amariah, Amariah fathered Ahitub,

⁸ Ahitub fathered Zadok, Zadok fathered Ahimaaz,

⁹ Ahimaaz fathered Azariah, Azariah fathered Johanan,

¹⁰ and Johanan fathered Azariah (it was he who served as priest in the house that Solomon built in Jerusalem).

¹¹ Azariah fathered Amariah, Amariah fathered Ahitub,

¹² Ahitub fathered Zadok, Zadok fathered Shallum,

¹³ Shallum fathered Hilkiah, Hilkiah fathered Azariah,

¹⁴ Azariah fathered Seraiah, Seraiah fathered Jehozadak;

¹⁵ and Jehozadak went into exile when the LORD sent Judah and Jerusalem into exile by the hand of Nebuchadnezzar.

¹⁶ The sons of Levi: Gershom, Kohath, and Merari.

¹⁷ And these are the names of the sons of Gershom: Libni and Shimei.

¹⁸ The sons of Kohath: Amram, Izhar, Hebron and Uzziel.

¹⁹ The sons of Merari: Mahli and Mushi. These are the clans of the Levites according to their fathers.

²⁰ Of Gershom: Libni his son, Jahath his son, Zimmah his son,

²¹ Joah his son, Iddo his son, Zerah his son, Jeatherai his son.

²² The sons of Kohath: 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: Amasai and Ahimoth,

²⁶ Elkanah his son, Zophai his son, Nahath his son,

²⁷ Eliab his son, Jeroham his son, Elkanah his son.

²⁸ The sons of Samuel: Joel his firstborn, the second Abijah.

²⁹ The sons of Merari: Mahli, Libni his son, Shimei his son, Uzzah his son,

³⁰ Shimea his son, Haggiah his son, and Asaiah his son.

³¹ These are the men whom David put in charge of the service of song in the house of the LORD after the ark rested there.

³² They ministered with song before the tabernacle of the tent of meeting until Solomon built the house of the LORD in Jerusalem, and they performed their service according to their order.

³³ These are the men who served and their sons. Of the sons of the Kohathites: Heman the singer the son of Joel, son of Samuel,

³⁴ son of Elkanah, son of Jeroham, son of Eliel, son of Toah,

³⁵ son of Zuph, son of Elkanah, son of Mahath, son of Amasai,

³⁶ son of Elkanah, son of Joel, son of Azariah, son of Zephaniah,

³⁷ son of Tahath, son of Assir, son of Ebiasaph, son of Korah,

³⁸ son of Izhar, son of Kohath, son of Levi, son of Israel;

³⁹ and his brother Asaph, who stood on his right hand, namely, Asaph the son of Berechiah, son of Shimea,

⁴⁰ son of Michael, son of Baaseiah, son of Malchijah,

⁴¹ son of Ethni, son of Zerah, son of Adaiah,

⁴² son of Ethan, son of Zimmah, son of Shimei,

⁴³ son of Jahath, son of Gershom, son of Levi.

⁴⁴ On the left hand were their brothers, the sons of Merari: Ethan the son of Kishi, son of Abdi, son of Malluch,

⁴⁵ son of Hashabiah, son of Amaziah, son of Hilkiah,

⁴⁶ son of Amzi, son of Bani, son of Shemer,

⁴⁷ son of Mahli, son of Mushi, son of Merari, son of Levi.

⁴⁸ And their brothers the Levites were appointed for all the service of the tabernacle of the house of God.

⁴⁹ But Aaron and his sons made offerings 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 These are the sons of Aaron: Eleazar his son, Phinehas his son, Abishua his son,

⁵¹ Bukki his son, Uzzi his son, Zerahiah his son,

⁵² Meraioth his son, Amariah his son, Ahitub his son,

⁵³ Zadok his son, Ahimaaz his son.

⁵⁴ These are their dwelling places according to their settlements within their borders: to the sons of Aaron of the clans of Kohathites, for theirs was the first lot,

⁵⁵ to them they gave Hebron in the land of Judah and its surrounding pasturelands,

⁵⁶ but the fields of the city and its villages they gave to Caleb the son of Jephunneh.

⁵⁷ To the sons of Aaron they gave the cities of refuge: Hebron, Libnah with its pasturelands, Jattir, Eshtemoa with its pasturelands,

⁵⁸ Hilen with its pasturelands, Debir with its pasturelands,

⁵⁹ Ashan with its pasturelands, and Beth-shemesh with its pasturelands;

⁶⁰ and from the tribe of Benjamin, Gibeon, Geba with its pasturelands, Alemeth with its pasturelands, and

Anathoth with its pasturelands. All their cities throughout their clans were thirteen.

⁶¹ To the rest of the Kohathites were given by lot out of the clan of the tribe, out of the half-tribe, the half of Manasseh, ten cities.

⁶² To the Gershomites according to their clans were allotted thirteen cities out of the tribes of Issachar, Asher, Naphtali and Manasseh in Bashan.

⁶³ To the Merarites according to their clans were allotted twelve cities out of the tribes of Reuben, Gad and Zebulun.

⁶⁴ So the people of Israel gave the Levites the cities with their pasturelands.

⁶⁵ They gave by lot out of the tribes of Judah, Simeon, and Benjamin these cities that are mentioned by name.

⁶⁶ And some of the clans of the sons of Kohath had cities of their territory out of the tribe of Ephraim.

⁶⁷ They were given the cities of refuge:
Shechem with its pasturelands in the
hill country of Ephraim, Gezer with its
pasturelands,

⁶⁸ Jokmeam with its pasturelands,
Beth-horon with its pasturelands,

⁶⁹ Aijalon with its pasturelands,
Gath-rimmon with its pasturelands,

⁷⁰ and out of the half-tribe of Manasseh,
Aner with its pasturelands, and Bileam
with its pasturelands, for the rest of the
clans of the Kohathites.

⁷¹ To the Gershomites were given out of
the clan of the half-tribe of Manasseh:
Golan in Bashan with its pasturelands
and Ashtaroth with its pasturelands;

⁷² and out of the tribe of Issachar:
Kedesh with its pasturelands, Daberath
with its pasturelands,

⁷³ Ramoth with its pasturelands, and
Anem with its pasturelands;

⁷⁴ out of the tribe of Asher: Mashal with its pasturelands, Abdon with its pasturelands,

⁷⁵ Hukok with its pasturelands, and Rehob with its pasturelands;

⁷⁶ and out of the tribe of Naphtali: Kedesh in Galilee with its pasturelands, Hammon with its pasturelands, and Kiriathaim with its pasturelands.

⁷⁷ To the rest of the Merarites were allotted out of the tribe of Zebulun: Rimmono with its pasturelands, Tabor with its pasturelands,

⁷⁸ and beyond the Jordan at Jericho, on the east side of the Jordan, out of the tribe of Reuben: Bezer in the wilderness with its pasturelands, Jahzah with its pasturelands,

⁷⁹ Kedemoth with its pasturelands, and Mephaath with its pasturelands;

⁸⁰ and out of the tribe of Gad: Ramoth in Gilead with its pasturelands, Mahanaim with its pasturelands,

⁸¹ Heshbon with its pasturelands, and Jazer with its pasturelands.

7 ¹ The sons of Issachar: Tola, Puah, Jashub, and Shimron, four.

² The sons of Tola: Uzzi, Rephaiah, Jeriel, Jahmai, Ibsam, and Shemuel, heads of their fathers' houses, namely of Tola, mighty warriors of their generations, their number in the days of David being 22,600.

³ The son of Uzzi: Izrahiah. And the sons of Izrahiah: Michael, Obadiah, Joel, and Isshiah, all five of them were chief men.

⁴ And along with them, by their generations, according to their fathers' houses, were units of the army for war, 36,000, for they had many wives and sons.

⁵ Their kinsmen belonging to all the clans of Issachar were in all 87,000 mighty warriors, enrolled by genealogy.

⁶ The sons of Benjamin: Bela, Becher, and Jediahel, three.

⁷ The sons of Bela: Ezbon, Uzzi, Uzziel, Jerimoth, and Iri, five, heads of fathers' houses, mighty warriors. And their enrollment by genealogies was 22,034.

⁸ The sons of Becher: Zemirah, Joash, Eliezer, Elioenai, Omri, Jeremoth, Abijah, Anathoth, and Alemeth. All these were the sons of Becher.

⁹ And their enrollment by genealogies, according to their generations, as heads of their fathers' houses, mighty warriors, was 22,200.

¹⁰ The son of Jediahel: Bilhan. And the sons of Bilhan: Jeush, Benjamin, Ehud, Chenaanah, Zethan, Tarshish, and Ahishahar.

¹¹ All these were the sons of Jediahel according to the heads of their fathers' houses, mighty warriors, 17,200, able to go to war.

¹² And Shuppmim and Huppmim were the sons of Ir, Hushim the son of Aher.

¹³ The sons of Naphtali: Jahziel, Guni, Jezer and Shallum, the descendants of Bilhah.

¹⁴ The sons of Manasseh: Asriel, whom his Aramean concubine bore; she bore Machir the father of Gilead.

¹⁵ And Machir took a wife for Huppmim and for Shuppmim. The name of his sister was Maacah. And the name of the second was Zelophehad, and Zelophehad had daughters.

¹⁶ And Maacah the wife of Machir bore a son, and she called his name Peresh; and the name of his brother was Sheresh; and his sons were Ulam and Rakem.

¹⁷ The son of Ulam: Bedan. These were the sons of Gilead the son of Machir, son of Manasseh.

¹⁸ And his sister Hammolecheth bore Ishhod, Abiezer and Mahlah.

¹⁹ The sons of Shemida were Ahian, Shechem, Likhi, and Aniam.

²⁰ The sons of Ephraim: Shuthelah, and Bered his son, Tahath his son, Eleadah his son, Tahath his son,

²¹ Zabad his son, Shuthelah his son, and Ezer and Elead, whom the men of Gath who were born in the land killed, because they came down to raid their livestock.

²² And Ephraim their father mourned many days, and his brothers came to comfort him.

²³ And Ephraim went in to his wife, and she conceived and bore a son. And he called his name Beriah, because disaster had befallen his house.

²⁴ His daughter was Sheerah, who built both Lower and Upper Beth-horon, and Uzzen-sheerah.

²⁵ Rephah was his son, Resheph his son, Telah his son, Tahan his son,

²⁶ Ladan his son, Ammihud his son, Elishama his son,

²⁷ Nun his son, Joshua his son.

²⁸ Their possessions and settlements were Bethel and its towns, and to the east Naaran, and to the west Gezer and its towns, Shechem and its towns, and Ayyah and its towns;

²⁹ also in possession of the Manassites, Beth-shean and its towns, Taanach and its towns, Megiddo and its towns, Dor and its towns. In these lived the sons of Joseph the son of Israel.

³⁰ The sons of Asher: Imnah, Ishvah, Ishvi, Beriah, and their sister Serah.

³¹ The sons of Beriah: Heber, and Malchiel, who fathered Birzaith.

³² Heber fathered Japhlet, Shomer, Hotham, and their sister Shua.

³³ The sons of Japhlet: Pasach, Bimhal, and Ashvath. These are the sons of Japhlet.

³⁴ The sons of Shemer his brother: Rohgah, Jehubbah, and Aram.

³⁵ The sons of Helem his brother: Zophah, Imna, Shelesh, and Amal.

³⁶ The sons of Zophah: Suah, Harnepher, Shual, Beri, Imrah.

³⁷ Bezer, Hod, Shamma, Shilshah, Ithran, and Beera.

³⁸ The sons of Jether: Jephunneh, Pispah, and Ara.

³⁹ The sons of Ulla: Arah, Hanniel, and Rizia.

⁴⁰ All of these were men of Asher, heads of fathers' houses, approved, mighty warriors, chiefs of the princes. Their number enrolled by genealogies, for service in war, was 26,000 men.

8 ¹ Benjamin fathered Bela his firstborn, Ashbel the second, Aharah the third,

² Nohah the fourth, and Rapha the fifth.

³ And Bela had sons: Addar, Gera, Abihud,

⁴ Abishua, Naaman, Ahoah,

⁵ Gera, Shephuphan, and Huram.

⁶ These are the sons of Ehud (they were heads of fathers' houses of the inhabitants of Geba, and they were carried into exile to Manahath):

⁷ Naaman, Ahijah, and Gera, that is, Heglam, who fathered Uzza and Ahihud.

⁸ And Shaharaim fathered sons in the country of Moab after he had sent away Hushim and Baara his wives.

⁹ He fathered sons by Hodesh his wife: Jobab, Zibia, Mesha, Malcam,

¹⁰ Jeuz, Sachia, and Mirmah. These were his sons, heads of fathers' houses.

¹¹ He also fathered sons by Hushim: Abitub and Elpaal.

¹² The sons of Elpaal: Eber, Misham, and Shemed, who built Ono and Lod with its towns,

¹³ and Beriah and Shema (they were heads of fathers' houses of the inhabitants of Aijalon, who caused the inhabitants of Gath to flee);

¹⁴ and Ahio, Shashak, and Jeremoth.

¹⁵ Zebadiah, Arad, Eder,

¹⁶ Michael, Ishpah, and Joha were sons of Beriah.

¹⁷ Zebadiah, Meshullam, Hizki, Heber,

¹⁸ Ishmerai, Izliah, 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, Anthothijah,

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 the heads of fathers' houses, according to their generations, chief men. These lived in Jerusalem.

²⁹ Jeiel the father of Gibeon lived in Gibeon, and the name of his wife was Maacah.

³⁰ His firstborn son: Abdon, then Zur, Kish, Baal, Nadab,

³¹ Gedor, Ahio, Zecher,

³² and Mikloth (he fathered Shimeah). Now these also lived opposite their kinsmen in Jerusalem, with their kinsmen.

³³ Ner was the father of Kish, Kish of Saul, Saul of Jonathan, Malchi-shua, Abinadab and Eshbaal;

³⁴ and the son of Jonathan was Merib-baal; and Merib-baal was the father of Micah.

³⁵ The sons of Micah: Pithon, Melech, Tarea, and Ahaz.

³⁶ Ahaz fathered Jehoaddah, and Jehoaddah fathered Alemeth, Azmaveth, and Zimri. Zimri fathered Moza.

³⁷ Moza fathered Binea; Raphah was his son, Eleasah his son, Azel his son.

³⁸ Azel had six sons, and these are their names: Azrikam, Bocheru, Ishmael, Sheariah, Obadiah, and Hanan. All these were the sons of Azel.

³⁹ The sons of Eshek his brother: Ulam his firstborn, Jeush the second, and Eliphelet the third.

⁴⁰ The sons of Ulam were men who were mighty warriors, bowmen, having many sons and grandsons, 150. All these were Benjaminites.

9¹ So all Israel was recorded in genealogies, and these are written in the Book of the Kings of Israel. And Judah was taken into exile in Babylon because of their breach of faith.

² Now the first to dwell again in their possessions in their cities were Israel, the priests, the Levites, and the temple servants.

³ And some of the people of Judah, Benjamin, Ephraim, and Manasseh lived in Jerusalem:

⁴ Uthai the son of Ammihud, son of Omri, son of Imri, son of Bani, from the sons of Perez the son of Judah.

⁵ And of the Shilonites: Asaiah the firstborn, and his sons.

⁶ Of the sons of Zerah: Jeuel and their kinsmen, 690.

⁷ Of the Benjaminites: Sallu the son of Meshullam, son of Hodaviah, son of Hassenuah,

⁸ Ibneiah the son of Jeroham, Elah the son of Uzzi, son of Michri, and Meshullam the son of Shephatiah, son of Reuel, son of Ibnijah;

⁹ and their kinsmen according to their generations, 956. All these were heads of fathers' houses according to their fathers' houses.

¹⁰ Of the priests: Jedaiah, Jehoiarib, Jachin,

¹¹ and Azariah the son of Hilkiah, son of Meshullam, son of Zadok, son of Meraioth, son of Ahitub, the chief officer of the house of God;

¹² and Adaiah the son of Jeroham, son of Pashhur, son of Malchijah, and Maasai the son of Adiel, son of Jahzerah, son of Meshullam, son of Meshillemith, son of Immer;

¹³ besides their kinsmen, heads of their fathers' houses, 1,760, mighty men for

the work of the service of the house of God.

¹⁴ Of the Levites: Shemaiah the son of Hasshub, son of Azrikam, son of Hashabiah, of the sons of Merari;

¹⁵ and Bakbakkar, Heresh, Galal and Mattaniah the son of Mica, son of Zichri, son of Asaph;

¹⁶ and Obadiah the son of Shemaiah, son of Galal, son of Jeduthun, and Berechiah the son of Asa, son of Elkanah, who lived in the villages of the Netophathites.

¹⁷ The gatekeepers were Shallum, Akkub, Talmon, Ahiman, and their kinsmen (Shallum was the chief);

¹⁸ until then they were in the king's gate on the east side as the gatekeepers of the camps of the Levites.

¹⁹ Shallum the son of Kore, son of Ebiasaph, son of Korah, and his kinsmen of his fathers' house, the Korahites, were

in charge of the work of the service, keepers of the thresholds of the tent, as their fathers had been in charge of the camp of the LORD, keepers of the entrance.

²⁰ And Phinehas the son of Eleazar was the chief officer over them in time past; the LORD was with him.

²¹ Zechariah the son of Meshelemiah was gatekeeper at the entrance of the tent of meeting.

²² All these, who were chosen as gatekeepers at the thresholds, were 212. They were enrolled by genealogies in their villages. David and Samuel the seer established them in their office of trust.

²³ So they and their sons were in charge of the gates of the house of the LORD, that is, the house of the tent, as guards.

²⁴ The gatekeepers were on the four sides, east, west, north, and south.

²⁵ And their kinsmen who were in their villages were obligated to come in every seven days, in turn, to be with these,

²⁶ for the four chief gatekeepers, who were Levites, were entrusted to be over the chambers and the treasures of the house of God.

²⁷ And they lodged around the house of God, for on them lay the duty of watching, and they had charge of opening it every morning.

²⁸ Some of them had charge of the utensils of service, for they were required to count them when they were brought in and taken out.

²⁹ Others of them were appointed over the furniture and over all the holy utensils, also over the fine flour, the wine, the oil, the incense, and the spices.

³⁰ Others, of the sons of the priests, prepared the mixing of the spices,

³¹ and Mattithiah, one of the Levites, the firstborn of Shallum the Korahite, was entrusted with making the flat cakes.

³² Also some of their kinsmen of the Kohathites had charge of the showbread, to prepare it every Sabbath.

³³ Now these, the singers, the heads of fathers' houses of the Levites, were in the chambers of the temple free from other service, for they were on duty day and night.

³⁴ These were heads of fathers' houses of the Levites, according to their generations, leaders. These lived in Jerusalem.

³⁵ In Gibeon lived the father of Gibeon, Jeiel, and the name of his wife was Maacah,

³⁶ and his firstborn son Abdon, then Zur, Kish, Baal, Ner, Nadab,

³⁷ Gedor, Ahio, Zechariah, and Mikloth;

³⁸ and Mikloth was the father of Shimeam; and these also lived opposite their kinsmen in Jerusalem, with their kinsmen.

³⁹ Ner fathered Kish, Kish fathered Saul, Saul fathered Jonathan, Malchi-shua, Abinadab, and Eshbaal.

⁴⁰ And the son of Jonathan was Merib-baal, and Merib-baal fathered Micah.

⁴¹ The sons of Micah: Pithon, Melech, Tahrea, and Ahaz.

⁴² And Ahaz fathered Jarah, and Jarah fathered Alemeth, Azmaveth, and Zimri. And Zimri fathered Moza.

⁴³ Moza fathered Binea, and Rephaiah was his son, Eleasah his son, Azel his son.

⁴⁴ Azel had six sons and these are their names: 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 before the Philistines and fell slain on Mount Gilboa.

² And the Philistines overtook Saul and his sons, and the Philistines struck down Jonathan and Abinadab and Malchi-shua, the sons of Saul.

³ The battle pressed hard against Saul, and the archers found him, and he was wounded by the archers.

⁴ Then Saul said to his armor-bearer, "Draw your sword and thrust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised come and mistreat me." But his armor-bearer would not, for he feared greatly. Therefore Saul took his own sword and fell upon it.

⁵ And when his armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell upon his sword and died.

⁶ Thus Saul died; he and his three sons and all his house died together.

⁷ And when all the men of Israel who were in the valley saw that the army had fled and that Saul and his sons were dead, they abandoned their cities and fled, and the Philistines came and lived in them.

⁸ The next day, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, they found Saul and his sons fallen on Mount Gilboa.

⁹ And they stripped him and took his head and his armor, and sent messengers throughout the land of the Philistines to carry the good news to their idols and to the people.

¹⁰ And they put his armor in the temple of their gods and fastened his head in the temple of Dagon.

¹¹ But when all Jabesh-gilead heard all that the Philistines had done to Saul,

¹² all the valiant men arose and took away the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons, and brought them to Jabesh. And they buried their bones under the oak in Jabesh and fasted seven days.

¹³ So Saul died for his breach of faith. He broke faith with the LORD in that he did not keep the command of the LORD, and also consulted a medium, seeking guidance.

¹⁴ He did not seek guidance from the LORD. Therefore the LORD put him to death and turned the kingdom over to David the son of Jesse.

11 ¹ Then all Israel gathered together to David at Hebron and said, "Behold, we are your bone and flesh.

² In times past, even when Saul was king, it was you who led out and brought in Israel. And the LORD your God said to you, 'You shall be shepherd of my people

Israel, and you shall be prince over my people Israel."

³ So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD. And they anointed David king over Israel, according to the word of the LORD by Samuel.

⁴ And David and all Israel went to Jerusalem, that is Jebus, where the Jebusites were, the inhabitants of the land.

⁵ The inhabitants of Jebus said to David, "You will not come in here." Nevertheless, David took the stronghold of Zion, that is, the city of David.

⁶ David said, "Whoever strikes the Jebusites first shall be chief and commander." And Joab the son of Zeruiah went up first, so he became chief.

⁷ And David lived in the stronghold; therefore it was called the city of David.

⁸ And he built the city all around from the Millo in complete circuit, and Joab repaired the rest of the city.

⁹ And David became greater and greater, for the LORD of hosts was with him.

¹⁰ Now these are the chiefs of David's mighty men, who gave him strong support in his kingdom, together with all Israel, to make him king, according to the word of the LORD concerning Israel.

¹¹ This is an account of David's mighty men: Jashobeam, a Hachmonite, was chief of the three. He wielded his spear against 300 whom he killed at one time.

¹² And next to him among the three mighty men was Eleazar the son of Dodo, the Ahohite.

¹³ He was with David at Pas-dammim when the Philistines were gathered

there for battle. There was a plot of ground full of barley, and the men fled from the Philistines.

¹⁴ But he took his stand in the midst of the plot and defended it and killed the Philistines. And the LORD saved them by a great victory.

¹⁵ Three of the thirty chief men went down to the rock to David at the cave of Adullam, when the army of Philistines was encamped in the Valley of Rephaim.

¹⁶ David was then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then at Bethlehem.

¹⁷ And David said longingly, "Oh that someone would give me water to drink from the well of Bethlehem that is by the gate!"

¹⁸ Then the three mighty men broke through the camp of the Philistines and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate and took it and

brought it to David. But David would not drink it. He poured it out to the LORD

¹⁹ and said, "Far be it from me before my God that I should do this. Shall I drink the lifeblood of these men? For at the risk of their lives they brought it." Therefore he would not drink it. These things did the three mighty men.

²⁰ Now Abishai, the brother of Joab, was chief of the thirty. And he wielded his spear against 300 men and killed them and won a name beside the three.

²¹ He was the most renowned of the thirty and became their commander, but he did not attain to the three.

²² And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was a valiant man of Kabzeel, a doer of great deeds. He struck down two heroes of Moab. He also went down and struck down a lion in a pit on a day when snow had fallen.

²³ And he struck down an Egyptian, a man of great stature, five cubits tall. The Egyptian had in his hand a spear like a weaver's beam, but Benaiah went down to him with a staff and snatched the spear out of the Egyptian's hand and killed him with his own spear.

²⁴ These things did Benaiah the son of Jehoiada and won a name beside the three mighty men.

²⁵ He was renowned among the thirty, but he did not attain to the three. And David set him over his bodyguard.

²⁶ The mighty men were Asahel the brother of Joab, Elhanan the son of Dodo of Bethlehem,

²⁷ Shammoth of Harod, Helez the Pelonite,

²⁸ Ira the son of Ikkes of Tekoa, Abiezer of Anathoth,

²⁹ Sibbecai the Hushathite, Ilai the Ahohite,

³⁰ Maharai of Netophah, Heled the son of Baanah of Netophah,

³¹ Ithai the son of Ribai of Gibeah of the people of Benjamin, Benaiah of Pirathon,

³² Hurai of the brooks of Gaash, Abiel the Arbathite,

³³ Azmaveth of Baharum, Eliahba the Shaalbonite,

³⁴ Hashem the Gizonite, Jonathan the son of Shagee the Hararite,

³⁵ Ahiam the son of Sachar the Hararite, Eliphal the son of Ur,

³⁶ Hephher the Mecherathite, Ahijah the Pelonite,

³⁷ Hezro of Carmel, Naarai the son of Ezbai,

³⁸ Joel the brother of Nathan, Mibhar the son of Hagri,

³⁹ Zelek the Ammonite, Naharai of Beeroth, the armor-bearer of Joab the son of Zeruiah,

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 leader of the Reubenites, and thirty with him,

⁴³ Hanan the son of Maacah, and 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, and Jeribai, and Joshaviah, the sons of Elnaam, and Ithmah the Moabite,

⁴⁷ Eliel, and Obed, and Jaasiel the Mezobaite.

12 ¹ Now these are the men who came to David at Ziklag, while he could not move about freely because of Saul the son of Kish. And they were

among the mighty men who helped him in war.

² They were bowmen and could shoot arrows and sling stones with either the right or the left hand; they were Benjaminites, Saul's kinsmen.

³ The chief was Ahiezer, then Joash, both sons of Shemaah of Gibeah; also Jeziel and Pelet, the sons of Azmaveth; Beracah, Jehu of Anathoth,

⁴ Ishmaiah of Gibeon, a mighty man among the thirty and a leader over the thirty; Jeremiah, Jahaziel, Johanan, Jozabad of Gederah,

⁵ Eluzai, Jerimoth, Bealiah, Shemariah, Shephatiah the Haruphite;

⁶ Elkanah, Isshiah, Azarel, Joezer, and Jashobeam, the Korahites;

⁷ And Joelah and Zebadiah, the sons of Jeroham of Gedor.

⁸ From the Gadites there went over to David at the stronghold in the wilderness

mighty and experienced warriors, expert with shield and spear, whose faces were like the faces of lions and who were swift as gazelles upon the mountains:

⁹ Ezer the chief, Obadiah second, Eliab third,

¹⁰ Mishmannah fourth, Jeremiah fifth,

¹¹ Attai sixth, Eliel seventh,

¹² Johanan eighth, Elzabad ninth,

¹³ Jeremiah tenth, Machbannai eleventh.

¹⁴ These Gadites were officers of the army; the least was a match for a hundred men and the greatest for a thousand.

¹⁵ These are the men who crossed the Jordan in the first month, when it was overflowing all its banks, and put to flight all those in the valleys, to the east and to the west.

¹⁶ And some of the men of Benjamin and Judah came to the stronghold to David.

¹⁷ David went out to meet them and said to them, "If you have come to me in friendship to help me, my heart will be joined to you; but if to betray me to my adversaries, although there is no wrong in my hands, then may the God of our fathers see and rebuke you."

¹⁸ Then the Spirit clothed Amasai, chief of the thirty, and he said, "We are yours, O David, and with you, O son of Jesse! Peace, peace to you, and peace to your helpers! For your God helps you." Then David received them and made them officers of his troops.

¹⁹ Some of the men of Manasseh deserted to David when he came with the Philistines for the battle against Saul. (Yet he did not help them, for the rulers of the Philistines took counsel and sent

him away, saying, "At peril to our heads he will desert to his master Saul.")

²⁰ As he went to Ziklag, these men of Manasseh deserted to him: Adnah, Jozabad, Jediael, Michael, Jozabad, Elihu, and Zillethai, chiefs of thousands in Manasseh.

²¹ They helped David against the band of raiders, for they were all mighty men of valor and were commanders in the army.

²² For from day to day men came to David to help him, until there was a great army, like an army of God.

²³ These are the numbers of the divisions of the armed troops who came to David in Hebron to turn the kingdom of Saul over to him, according to the word of the LORD.

²⁴ The men of Judah bearing shield and spear were 6,800 armed troops.

²⁵ Of the Simeonites, mighty men of valor for war, 7,100.

²⁶ Of the Levites 4,600.

²⁷ The prince Jehoiada, of the house of Aaron, and with him 3,700.

²⁸ Zadok, a young man mighty in valor, and twenty-two commanders from his own fathers' house.

²⁹ Of the Benjaminites, the kinsmen of Saul, 3,000, of whom the majority had to that point kept their allegiance to the house of Saul.

³⁰ Of the Ephraimites 20,800, mighty men of valor, famous men in their fathers' houses.

³¹ Of the half-tribe of Manasseh 18,000, who were expressly named to come and make David king.

³² Of Issachar, men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, 200 chiefs, and all their kinsmen under their command.

³³ Of Zebulun 50,000 seasoned troops, equipped for battle with all the weapons of war, to help David with singleness of purpose.

³⁴ Of Naphtali 1,000 commanders with whom were 37,000 men armed with shield and spear.

³⁵ Of the Danites 28,600 men equipped for battle.

³⁶ Of Asher 40,000 seasoned troops ready for battle.

³⁷ Of the Reubenites and Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh from beyond the Jordan, 120,000 men armed with all the weapons of war.

³⁸ All these, men of war, arrayed in battle order, came to Hebron with full intent to make David king over all Israel. Likewise, all the rest of Israel were of a single mind to make David king.

³⁹ And they were there with David for three days, eating and drinking, for

their brothers had made preparation for them.

⁴⁰ And also their relatives, from as far as Issachar and Zebulun and Naphtali, came bringing food on donkeys and on camels and on mules and on oxen, abundant provisions of flour, cakes of figs, clusters of raisins, and wine and oil, oxen and sheep, for there was joy in Israel.

13 ¹ David consulted with the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, with every leader.

² And David said to all the assembly of Israel, "If it seems good to you and from the LORD our God, let us send abroad to our brothers who remain in all the lands of Israel, as well as to the priests and Levites in the cities that have pasturelands, that they may be gathered to us.

³ Then let us bring again the ark of our God to us, for we did not seek it in the days of Saul."

⁴ All the assembly agreed to do so, for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people.

⁵ So David assembled all Israel from the Nile of Egypt to Lebo-hamath, to bring the ark of God from Kiriath-jearim.

⁶ And David and all Israel went up to Baalah, that is, to Kiriath-jearim that belongs to Judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the LORD who sits enthroned above the cherubim.

⁷ And they carried the ark of God on a new cart, from the house of Abinadab, and Uzzah and Ahio were driving the cart.

⁸ And David and all Israel were rejoicing before God with all their might,

with song and lyres and harps and tambourines and cymbals and trumpets.

⁹ And when they came to the threshing floor of Chidon, Uzzah put out his hand to take hold of the ark, for the oxen stumbled.

¹⁰ And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah, and he struck him down because he put out his hand to the ark, and he died there before God.

¹¹ And David was angry because the LORD had broken out against Uzzah. And that place is called Perez-uzza to this day.

¹² And David was afraid of God that day, and he said, "How can I bring the ark of God home to me?"

¹³ So David did not take the ark home into the city of David, but took it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite.

¹⁴ And the ark of God remained with the household of Obed-edom in his house three months. And the LORD

blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that he had.

14 ¹ And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, also masons and carpenters to build a house for him.

² And David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel, and that his kingdom was highly exalted for the sake of his people Israel.

³ And David took more wives in Jerusalem, and David fathered more sons and daughters.

⁴ These are the names of the children born to him in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon,

⁵ Ibhar, Elishua, Elpelet,

⁶ Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia,

⁷ Elishama, Beeliada and Eliphelet.

⁸ When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over all Israel, all the Philistines went up to search for

David. But David heard of it and went out against them.

⁹ Now the Philistines had come and made a raid in the Valley of Rephaim.

¹⁰ And David inquired of God, "Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will you give them into my hand?" And the LORD said to him, "Go up, and I will give them into your hand."

¹¹ And he went up to Baal-perazim, and David struck them down there. And David said, "God has broken through my enemies by my hand, like a bursting flood." Therefore the name of that place is called Baal-perazim.

¹² And they left their gods there, and David gave command, and they were burned.

¹³ And the Philistines yet again made a raid in the valley.

¹⁴ And when David again inquired of God, God said to him, "You shall not

go up after them; go around and come against them opposite the balsam trees.

¹⁵ And when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, then go out to battle, for God has gone out before you to strike down the army of the Philistines."

¹⁶ And David did as God commanded him, and they struck down the Philistine army from Gibeon to Gezer.

¹⁷ And 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 that no one but the Levites may carry the ark of God, for the LORD had chosen them to carry the ark of the LORD and to minister to him forever.

³ And David assembled all Israel at Jerusalem to bring up the ark of the LORD to its place, which he had prepared for it.

⁴ And David gathered together the sons of Aaron and the Levites:

⁵ of the sons of Kohath, Uriel the chief, with 120 of his brothers;

⁶ of the sons of Merari, Asaiah the chief, with 220 of his brothers;

⁷ of the sons of Gershon, Joel the chief, with 130 of his brothers;

⁸ of the sons of Elizaphan, Shemaiah the chief, with 200 of his brothers;

⁹ of the sons of Hebron, Eliel the chief, with 80 of his brothers;

¹⁰ of the sons of Uzziel, Amminadab the chief, with 112 of his brothers.

¹¹ Then David summoned the priests Zadok and Abiathar, and the Levites Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel, and Amminadab,

¹² and said to them, "You are the heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites. Consecrate yourselves, you and your brothers, so that you may bring up the ark of the LORD, the God of Israel, to the place that I have prepared for it.

¹³ Because you did not carry it the first time, the LORD our God broke out against us, because we did not seek him according to the rule."

¹⁴ So the priests and the Levites consecrated themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD, the God of Israel.

¹⁵ And the Levites carried the ark of God on their shoulders with the poles, as Moses had commanded according to the word of the LORD.

¹⁶ David also commanded the chiefs of the Levites to appoint their brothers as the singers who should play loudly on musical instruments, on harps and lyres and cymbals, to raise sounds of joy.

¹⁷ So the Levites appointed Heman the son of Joel; and of his brothers Asaph the son of Berechiah; and of the sons of Merari, their brothers, Ethan the son of Kushaiah;

¹⁸ and with them their brothers of the second order, Zechariah, Jaaziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattithiah, Eliphelehu, and Mikneiah, and the gatekeepers Obed-edom and Jeiel.

¹⁹ The singers, Heman, Asaph, and Ethan, were to sound bronze cymbals;

²⁰ Zechariah, Aziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Maaseiah, and Benaiah were to play harps according to Alamoth;

²¹ but Mattithiah, Eliphelehu, Mikneiah, Obed-edom, Jeiel, and Azaziah were to lead with lyres according to the Sheminith.

²² Chenaniah, leader of the Levites in music, should direct the music, for he understood it.

²³ Berechiah and Elkanah were to be gatekeepers for the ark.

²⁴ Shebaniah, Joshaphat, Nethanel, Amasai, Zechariah, Benaiah, and Eliezer, the priests, should blow the trumpets before the ark of God. Obed-edom and Jehiah were to be gatekeepers for the ark.

²⁵ So David and the elders of Israel and the commanders of thousands went to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD from the house of Obed-edom with rejoicing.

²⁶ And because God helped the Levites who were carrying the ark of the covenant of the LORD, they sacrificed seven bulls and seven rams.

²⁷ David was clothed with a robe of fine linen, as also were all the Levites who

were carrying the ark, and the singers and Chenaniah the leader of the music of the singers. And David wore a linen ephod.

²⁸ So all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the LORD with shouting, to the sound of the horn, trumpets, and cymbals, and made loud music on harps and lyres.

²⁹ And as the ark of the covenant of the LORD came to the city of David, Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David dancing and rejoicing, and she despised him in her heart.

16 ¹ And they brought in the ark of God and set it inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and 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 and distributed to all Israel, both men and women, to each a loaf of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins.

⁴ Then he appointed some of the Levites as ministers before the ark of the LORD, to invoke, to thank, and to praise the LORD, the God of Israel.

⁵ Asaph was the chief, and second to him were Zechariah, Jeiel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, Obed-edom, and Jeiel, who were to play harps and lyres; Asaph was to sound the cymbals,

⁶ and Benaiah and Jahaziel the priests were to blow trumpets regularly before the ark of the covenant of God.

⁷ Then on that day David first appointed that thanksgiving be sung to the LORD by Asaph and his brothers.

⁸ Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!

⁹ Sing to him; sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works!

¹⁰ Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

¹¹ Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!

¹² Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles and the judgments he uttered,

¹³ O offspring of Israel his servant, sons 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 that he commanded, for a thousand generations,

¹⁶ the covenant that he made with Abraham, his sworn promise to Isaac,

¹⁷ which he confirmed as a statute to Jacob, as an everlasting covenant to Israel,

¹⁸ saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan, as your portion for an inheritance."

¹⁹ When you were few in number, and of little account, and sojourners in it,

²⁰ wandering from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another people,

²¹ he allowed no one to oppress them; he rebuked kings on their account,

²² saying, "Touch not my anointed ones, do my prophets no harm!"

²³ Sing to the LORD, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day.

²⁴ Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!

²⁵ For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and he is to be held in awe above all gods.

²⁶ For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

²⁷ Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and joy are in his place.

²⁸ Ascribe to the LORD, O clans of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

²⁹ Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him! Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;

³⁰ tremble before him, all the earth; yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved.

³¹ Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!"

³² Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it!

³³ Then shall the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth.

³⁴ Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

³⁵ Say also: "Save us, O God of our salvation, and gather and deliver us from among the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name, and glory in your praise.

³⁶ Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting!" Then all the people said, "Amen!" and praised the LORD.

³⁷ So David left Asaph and his brothers there before the ark of the covenant of the LORD to minister regularly before the ark as each day required,

³⁸ and also Obed-edom and his sixty-eight brothers, while Obed-edom, the son of Jeduthun, and Hosah were to be gatekeepers.

³⁹ And he left Zadok the priest and his brothers the priests before the

tabernacle of the LORD in 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, to do all that is written in the Law of the LORD that he commanded Israel.

⁴¹ With them were Heman and Jeduthun and the rest of those chosen and expressly named to give thanks to the LORD, for his steadfast love endures forever.

⁴² Heman and Jeduthun had trumpets and cymbals for the music and instruments for sacred song. The sons of Jeduthun were appointed to the gate.

⁴³ Then all the people departed each to his house, and David went home to bless his household.

17 ¹ Now when David lived in his house, David said to Nathan the prophet, "Behold, I dwell in a house of

cedar, but the ark of the covenant of the LORD is under a tent."

² And Nathan said to David, "Do all that is in your heart, for God is with you."

³ But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan,

⁴ "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: It is not you who will build me a house to dwell in.

⁵ For I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up Israel to this day, but I have gone from tent to tent and from dwelling to dwelling.

⁶ In all places where I have moved with all Israel, did I speak a word with 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 pasture, from

following the sheep, to be prince 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 I will make for you a name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.

⁹ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall waste them no more, as formerly,

¹⁰ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will subdue all your enemies. Moreover, I declare to you that the LORD will build you a house.

¹¹ When your days are fulfilled to walk with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom.

¹² He shall build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever.

¹³ I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from him who was before you,

¹⁴ but I will confirm him in my house and in my kingdom forever, and his throne shall be established forever."

¹⁵ In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

¹⁶ Then King David went in and sat before the LORD and said, "Who am I, O LORD God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far?

¹⁷ And this was a small thing in your eyes, O God. You have also spoken of your servant's house for a great while to come, and have shown me future generations, O LORD God!

¹⁸ And what more can David say to you for honoring your servant? For you know your servant.

¹⁹ For your servant's sake, O LORD, and according to your own heart, you have done all this greatness, in making known all these great things.

²⁰ There is none like you, O LORD, and there is no 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 earth whom God went to redeem to be his people, making for yourself a name for great and awesome things, in driving out nations before your people whom you redeemed from Egypt?

²² And you made your people Israel to be your people forever, and you, O LORD, became their God.

²³ And now, O LORD, let the word that you have spoken concerning your servant and concerning his house be established forever, and do as you have spoken,

²⁴ and your name will be established and magnified forever, saying, 'The LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, is Israel's God,' and the house of your servant David will be established before you.

²⁵ For you, my God, have revealed to your servant that you will build a house for him. Therefore your servant has found courage to pray before you.

²⁶ And now, O LORD, you are God, and you have promised this good thing to your servant.

²⁷ Now you have been pleased to bless the house of your servant, that it may continue forever before you, for it is you, O LORD, who have blessed, and it is blessed forever."

18 ¹ After this David defeated the Philistines and subdued them, and he took Gath and its villages out of the hand of the Philistines.

² And he defeated Moab, and the Moabites became servants to David and brought tribute.

³ David also defeated Hadadezer king of Zobah-Hamath, as he went to set up his monument at the river Euphrates.

⁴ And David took from him 1,000 chariots, 7,000 horsemen and 20,000 foot soldiers. And David hamstringed all the chariot horses, but left enough for 100 chariots.

⁵ And when the Syrians of Damascus came to help Hadadezer king of Zobah, David struck down 22,000 men of the Syrians.

⁶ Then David put garrisons in Syria of Damascus, and the Syrians became servants to David and brought tribute. And the LORD gave victory to David wherever he went.

⁷ And David took the shields of gold that were carried by the servants

of Hadadezer and brought them to Jerusalem.

⁸ And from Tibhath and from Cun, cities of Hadadezer, David took a large amount of bronze. With it Solomon made the bronze sea and the pillars and the vessels of bronze.

⁹ When Tou king of Hamath heard that David had defeated the whole army of Hadadezer, king of Zobah,

¹⁰ he sent his son Hadoram to King David, to ask about his health and to bless him because he had fought against Hadadezer and defeated him; for Hadadezer had often been at war with Tou. And he sent all sorts of articles of gold, of silver, and of bronze.

¹¹ These also King David dedicated to the LORD, together with the silver and gold that he had carried off from all the nations, from Edom, Moab, the Ammonites, the Philistines and Amalek.

¹² And Abishai, the son of Zeruiah, killed 18,000 Edomites in the Valley of Salt.

¹³ Then he put garrisons in Edom, and all the Edomites became David's servants. And the LORD gave victory to David wherever he went.

¹⁴ So David reigned over all Israel, and he administered justice and equity to all his people.

¹⁵ And Joab the son of Zeruiah was over the army; and Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud was recorder;

¹⁶ and Zadok the son of Ahitub and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar were priests; and Shavsha was secretary;

¹⁷ and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the Cherethites and the Pelethites; and David's sons were the chief officials in the service of the king.

19 ¹ Now after this Nahash the king of the Ammonites died, and his son reigned in his place.

² And David said, "I will deal kindly with Hanun the son of Nahash, for his father dealt kindly with me." So David sent messengers to console him concerning his father. And David's servants came to the land of the Ammonites to Hanun to console him.

³ But the princes of the Ammonites said to Hanun, "Do you think, because David has sent comforters to you, that he is honoring your father? Have not his servants come to you to search and to overthrow and to spy out the land?"

⁴ So Hanun took David's servants and shaved them and cut off their garments in the middle, at their hips, and sent them away;

⁵ and they departed. When David was told concerning the men, he sent messengers to meet them, for the men were greatly ashamed. And the king said,

"Remain at Jericho until your beards have grown and then return."

⁶ When the Ammonites saw that they had become a stench to David, Hanun and the Ammonites sent 1,000 talents of silver to hire chariots and horsemen from Mesopotamia, from Aram-maacah and from Zobah.

⁷ They hired 32,000 chariots and the king of Maacah with his army, who came and encamped before Medeba. And the Ammonites were mustered from their cities and came to battle.

⁸ When David heard of it, he sent Joab and all the army of the mighty men.

⁹ And the Ammonites came out and drew up in battle array at the entrance of the city, and the kings who had come were by themselves in the open country.

¹⁰ When Joab saw that the battle was set against him both in front and in the rear, he chose some of the best men

of Israel and arrayed them against the Syrians.

¹¹ The rest of his men he put in the charge of Abishai his brother, and they were arrayed against the Ammonites.

¹² And he said, "If the Syrians are too strong for me, then you shall help me, but if the Ammonites are too strong for you, then I will help you.

¹³ Be strong, and let us use our strength for our people and for the cities of our God, and may the LORD do what seems good to him."

¹⁴ So Joab and the people who were with him drew near before the Syrians for battle, and they fled before him.

¹⁵ And when the Ammonites saw that the Syrians fled, they likewise fled before Abishai, Joab's brother, and entered the city. Then Joab came to Jerusalem.

¹⁶ But when the Syrians saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they sent

messengers and brought out the Syrians who were beyond the Euphrates, with Shophach the commander of the army of Hadadezer at their head.

¹⁷ And when it was told to David, he gathered all Israel together and crossed the Jordan and came to them and drew up his forces against them. And when David set the battle in array against the Syrians, they fought with him.

¹⁸ And the Syrians fled before Israel, and David killed of the Syrians the men of 7,000 chariots and 40,000 foot soldiers, and put to death also Shophach the commander of their army.

¹⁹ And when the servants of Hadadezer saw that they had been defeated by Israel, they made peace with David and became subject to him. So the Syrians were not willing to save the Ammonites any more.

20 ¹ In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, Joab led out the army and ravaged the country of the Ammonites and came and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. And Joab struck down Rabbah and overthrew it.

² And David took the crown of their king from his head. He found that it weighed a talent of gold, and in it was a precious stone. And it was placed on David's head. And he brought out the spoil of the city, a very great amount.

³ And he brought out the people who were in it and set them to labor with saws and iron picks and axes. And thus David did to all the cities of the Ammonites. Then David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.

⁴ And after this there arose war with the Philistines at Gezer. Then Sibbecai the Hushathite struck down Sippai, who was

one of the descendants of the giants, and the Philistines were subdued.

⁵ And there was again war with the Philistines, and Elhanan the son of Jair struck down Lahmi the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam.

⁶ And there was again 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 descended from the giants.

⁷ And when he taunted Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimea, David's brother, struck him down.

⁸ These were descended from the giants in Gath, and they fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants.

21 ¹ Then Satan stood against Israel and incited David to number Israel.

² So David said to Joab and the commanders of the army, "Go, number Israel, from Beersheba to Dan, and bring me a report, that I may know their number."

³ But Joab said, "May the LORD add to his people a hundred times as many as they are! Are they not, my lord the king, all of them my lord's servants? Why then should my lord require this? Why should it be a cause of guilt for Israel?"

⁴ But the king's word prevailed against Joab. So Joab departed and went throughout all Israel and came back to Jerusalem.

⁵ And Joab gave the sum of the numbering of the people to David. In all Israel there were 1,100,000 men who drew the sword, and in Judah 470,000 who drew the sword.

⁶ But he did not include Levi and Benjamin in the numbering, for the king's command was abhorrent to Joab.

⁷ But God was displeased with this thing, and he struck Israel.

⁸ And David said to God, "I have sinned greatly in that I have done this thing. But now, please take away the iniquity of your servant, for I have acted very foolishly."

⁹ And the LORD spoke to Gad, David's seer, saying,

¹⁰ "Go and say to David, 'Thus says the LORD, Three things I offer you; choose one of them, that I may do it to you.'"

¹¹ So Gad came to David and said to him, "Thus says the LORD, 'Choose what you will:

¹² either three years of famine, or three months of devastation by your foes while the sword of your enemies overtakes you, or else three days of

the sword of the LORD, pestilence on the land, with the angel of the LORD destroying throughout all the territory of Israel.' Now decide what answer I shall return to him who sent me."

¹³ Then David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Let me fall into the hand of the LORD, for his mercy is very great, but do not let me fall into the hand of man."

¹⁴ So the LORD sent a pestilence on Israel, and 70,000 men of Israel fell.

¹⁵ And God sent the angel to Jerusalem to destroy it, but as he was about to destroy it, the LORD saw, and he relented from the calamity. And he said to the angel who was working destruction, "It is enough; now stay your hand." And the angel of the LORD was standing by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

¹⁶ And David lifted his eyes and saw the angel of the LORD standing between earth and heaven, and in his hand

a drawn sword stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders, clothed in sackcloth, fell upon their faces.

¹⁷ And David said to God, "Was it not I who gave command to number the people? It is I who have sinned and done great evil. But these sheep, what have they done? Please let your hand, O LORD my God, be against me and against my father's house. But do not let the plague be on your people."

¹⁸ Now the angel of the LORD had commanded Gad to say to David that David should go up and raise an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

¹⁹ So David went up at Gad's word, which he had spoken in the name of the LORD.

²⁰ Now Ornan was threshing wheat. He turned and saw the angel, and his four sons who were with him hid themselves.

²¹ As David came to Ornan, Ornan looked and saw David and went out from the threshing floor and paid homage to David with his face to the ground.

²² And David said to Ornan, "Give me the site of the threshing floor that I may build on it an altar to the LORD--give it to me at its full price--that the plague may be averted from the people."

²³ Then Ornan said to David, "Take it, and let my lord the king do what seems good to him. See, I give the oxen for burnt offerings and the threshing sledges for the wood and the wheat for a grain offering; I give it all."

²⁴ But King David said to Ornan, "No, but I will buy them for the full price. I will not take for the LORD what is yours,

nor offer burnt offerings that cost me nothing."

²⁵ So David paid Ornan 600 shekels of gold by weight for the site.

²⁶ And David built there an altar to the LORD and presented burnt offerings and peace offerings and called on the LORD, and the LORD answered him with fire from heaven upon the altar of burnt offering.

²⁷ Then the LORD commanded the angel, and he put his sword back into its sheath.

²⁸ At that time, when David saw that the LORD had answered him at the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, he sacrificed there.

²⁹ For the tabernacle of the LORD, which Moses had made in the wilderness, and the altar of burnt offering were at that time in the high place at 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, "Here shall be the house of the LORD God and here the altar of burnt offering for Israel."

² David commanded to gather together the resident aliens who were in the land of Israel, and he set stonecutters to prepare dressed stones for building the house of God.

³ David also provided great quantities of iron for nails for the doors of the gates and for clamps, as well as bronze in quantities beyond weighing,

⁴ and cedar timbers without number, for the Sidonians and Tyrians brought great quantities of cedar to David.

⁵ For David said, "Solomon my son is young and inexperienced, and the house that is to be built for the LORD

must be exceedingly magnificent, of fame and glory throughout all lands. I will therefore make preparation for it." So David provided materials in great quantity before his death.

⁶ Then he called for Solomon his son and charged him to build a house for the LORD, the God of Israel.

⁷ David said to Solomon, "My son, I had it in my heart 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 waged great wars. You shall not build a house to my name, because you have shed so much blood before me on the earth.

⁹ Behold, a son shall be born to you who shall be a man of rest. I will give him rest from all his surrounding enemies. For his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quiet to Israel in his days.

¹⁰ He shall build a house for my name. He shall be my son, and I will be his father, and I will establish his royal throne in Israel forever.'

¹¹ "Now, my son, the LORD be with you, so that you may succeed in building the house of the LORD your God, as he has spoken concerning you.

¹² Only, may the LORD grant you discretion and understanding, that when he gives you charge over Israel you may keep the law of the LORD your God.

¹³ Then you will prosper if you are careful to observe the statutes and the rules that the LORD commanded Moses for Israel. Be strong and courageous. Fear not; do not be dismayed.

¹⁴ With great pains I have provided for the house of the LORD 100,000 talents of gold, a million talents of silver, and bronze and iron beyond weighing, for there is so much of it; timber and stone,

too, I have provided. To these you must add.

¹⁵ You have an abundance of workmen: stonecutters, masons, carpenters, and all kinds of craftsmen without number, skilled in working

¹⁶ gold, silver, bronze, and iron. Arise and work! 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 peace on every side? For he has delivered the inhabitants of the land into my hand, and the land is subdued before the LORD and his people.

¹⁹ Now set your mind and heart to seek the LORD your God. Arise and build the sanctuary of the LORD God, so that the ark of the covenant of the LORD and the

holy vessels of God may be brought into a house built for the name of the LORD."

23 ¹ When David was old and full of days, he made Solomon his son king over Israel.

² David assembled all the leaders of Israel and the priests and the Levites.

³ The Levites, thirty years old and upward, were numbered, and the total was 38,000 men.

⁴ "Twenty-four thousand of these," David said, "shall have charge of the work in the house of the LORD, 6,000 shall be officers and judges,

⁵ 4,000 gatekeepers, and 4,000 shall offer praises to the LORD with the instruments that I have made for praise."

⁶ And David organized them in divisions corresponding to the sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

⁷ The sons of Gershon were Ladan and Shimei.

⁸ The sons of Ladan: Jehiel the chief, and Zetham, and Joel, three.

⁹ The sons of Shimei: Shelomoth, Haziël, and Haran, three. These were the heads of the fathers' houses of Ladan.

¹⁰ And the sons of Shimei: Jahath, Zina, and Jeush and Beriah. These four were the sons of Shimei.

¹¹ Jahath was the chief, and Zizah the second; but Jeush and Beriah did not have many sons, therefore they became counted as a single father's house.

¹² The sons of Kohath: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel, four.

¹³ The sons of Amram: Aaron and Moses. Aaron was set apart to dedicate the most holy things, that he and his sons forever should make offerings before the LORD and minister to him and pronounce blessings in his name forever.

¹⁴ But the sons of Moses the man of God were named among the tribe of Levi.

¹⁵ The sons of Moses: Gershom and Eliezer.

¹⁶ The sons of Gershom: Shebuel the chief.

¹⁷ The sons of Eliezer: Rehabiah the chief. Eliezer had no other sons, but the sons of Rehabiah were very many.

¹⁸ The sons of Izhar: Shelomith the chief.

¹⁹ The sons of Hebron: Jeriah the chief, Amariah the second, Jahaziel the third, and Jekameam the fourth.

²⁰ The sons of Uzziel: Micah the chief and Isshiah the second.

²¹ The sons of Merari: Mahli and Mushi. The sons of Mahli: Eleazar and Kish.

²² Eleazar died having no sons, but only daughters; their kinsmen, the sons of Kish, married them.

²³ The sons of Mushi: Mahli, Eder, and Jeremoth, three.

²⁴ These were the sons of Levi by their fathers' houses, the heads of fathers' houses as they were listed according to the number of the names of the individuals from twenty years old and upward who were to do the work for the service of the house of the LORD.

²⁵ For David said, "The LORD, the God of Israel, has given rest to his people, and he dwells in Jerusalem forever.

²⁶ And so the Levites no longer need to carry the tabernacle or any of the things for its service."

²⁷ For by the last words of David the sons of Levi were numbered from twenty years old and upward.

²⁸ For their duty was to assist the sons of Aaron for the service of the house of the LORD, having the care of the courts and the chambers, the cleansing of all

that is holy, and any work for the service of the house of God.

²⁹ Their duty was also to assist with the showbread, the flour for the grain offering, the wafers of unleavened bread, the baked offering, the offering mixed with oil, and all measures of quantity or size.

³⁰ And they were to stand every morning, thanking and praising the LORD, and likewise at evening,

³¹ and whenever burnt offerings were offered to the LORD on Sabbaths, new moons and feast days, according to the number required of them, regularly before the LORD.

³² Thus they were to keep charge of the tent of meeting and the sanctuary, and to attend the sons of Aaron, their brothers, for the service of the house of the LORD.

24 ¹ The divisions of the sons of Aaron were these. The sons of Aaron: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

² But Nadab and Abihu died before their father and had no children, so Eleazar and Ithamar became the priests.

³ With the help of Zadok of the sons of Eleazar, and Ahimelech of the sons of Ithamar, David organized them according to the appointed duties in their service.

⁴ Since more chief men were found among the sons of Eleazar than among the sons of Ithamar, they organized them under sixteen heads of fathers' houses of the sons of Eleazar, and eight of the sons of Ithamar.

⁵ They divided them by lot, all alike, for there were sacred officers and officers of God among both the sons of Eleazar and the sons of Ithamar.

⁶ And the scribe Shemaiah, the son of Nethanel, a Levite, recorded them in the presence of the king and the princes and Zadok the priest and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar and the heads of the fathers' houses of the priests and of the Levites, one father's house being chosen for Eleazar and one chosen for Ithamar.

⁷ The first lot fell to Jehoiarib, the second to Jedaiah,

⁸ the third to Harim, the fourth to Seorim,

⁹ the fifth to Malchijah, the sixth to Mijamin,

¹⁰ the seventh to Hakkoz, the eighth to Abijah,

¹¹ the ninth to Jeshua, the tenth to Shecaniah,

¹² the eleventh to Eliashib, the twelfth to Jakim,

¹³ the thirteenth to Huppah, the fourteenth to Jeshebeab,

¹⁴ the fifteenth to Bilgah, the sixteenth to Immer,

¹⁵ the seventeenth to Hezir, the eighteenth to Happizzetz,

¹⁶ the nineteenth to Pethahiah, the twentieth to Jehezkel,

¹⁷ the twenty-first to Jachin, the twenty-second to Gamul,

¹⁸ the twenty-third to Delaiah, the twenty-fourth to Maaziah.

¹⁹ These had as their appointed duty in their service to come into the house of the LORD according to the procedure established for them by Aaron their father, as the LORD God of Israel had commanded him.

²⁰ And of the rest of the sons of Levi: of the sons of Amram, Shubael; of the sons of Shubael, Jehdeiah.

²¹ Of Rehabiah: of the sons of Rehabiah, Isshiah the chief.

²² Of the Izharites, Shelomoth; of the sons of Shelomoth, Jahath.

²³ The sons of Hebron: Jeriah the chief, Amariah the second, Jahaziel the third, Jekameam the fourth.

²⁴ The sons of Uzziel, Micah; of the sons of Micah, Shamir.

²⁵ The brother of Micah, Isshiah; of the sons of Isshiah, Zechariah.

²⁶ The sons of Merari: Mahli and Mushi. The sons of Jaaziah: Beno.

²⁷ The sons of Merari: of Jaaziah, Beno, Shoham, Zaccur and Ibri.

²⁸ Of Mahli: Eleazar, who had no sons.

²⁹ Of Kish, the sons of Kish: Jerahmeel.

³⁰ The sons of Mushi: Mahli, Eder, and Jerimoth. These were the sons of the Levites according to their fathers' houses.

³¹ These also, the head of each father's house and his younger brother alike, cast lots, just as their brothers the sons

of Aaron, in the presence of King David, Zadok, Ahimelech, and the heads of fathers' houses of the priests and of the Levites.

25 ¹ David and the chiefs of the service also set apart for the service the sons of Asaph, and of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who prophesied with lyres, with harps, and with cymbals. The list of those who did the work and of their duties was:

² Of the sons of Asaph: Zaccur, Joseph, Nethaniah, and Asharelah, sons of Asaph, under the direction of Asaph, who prophesied under the direction 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 the lyre in thanksgiving and praise to the LORD.

⁴ Of Heman, the sons of Heman: Bukkiah, Mattaniah, Uzziel, Shebuel and Jerimoth, Hananiah, Hanani, Eliathah, Giddalti, and Romamti-ezer, Joshbekashah, Mallothi, Hothir, Mahazioth.

⁵ All these were the sons of Heman the king's seer, according to the promise of God to exalt him, for God had given Heman fourteen sons and three daughters.

⁶ They were all under the direction of their father in the music in the house of the LORD with cymbals, harps, and lyres for the service of the house of God. Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman were under the order of the king.

⁷ The number of them along with their brothers, who were trained in singing to the LORD, all who were skillful, was 288.

⁸ And they cast lots for their duties, small and great, teacher and pupil alike.

⁹ The first lot fell for Asaph to Joseph; the second to Gedaliah, to him and his brothers and his sons, twelve;

¹⁰ the third to Zaccur, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

¹¹ the fourth to Izri, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

¹² the fifth to Nethaniah, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

¹³ the sixth to Bukkiah, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

¹⁴ the seventh to Jesharelah, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

¹⁵ the eighth to Jeshaiiah, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

¹⁶ the ninth to Mattaniah, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

¹⁷ the tenth to Shimei, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

¹⁸ the eleventh to Azarel, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

¹⁹ the twelfth to Hashabiah, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

²⁰ to the thirteenth, Shubael, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

²¹ to the fourteenth, Mattithiah, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

²² to the fifteenth, to Jeremoth, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

²³ to the sixteenth, to Hananiah, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

²⁴ to the seventeenth, to Joshbekashah, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

²⁵ to the eighteenth, to Hanani, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

²⁶ to the nineteenth, to Mallothi, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

²⁷ to the twentieth, to Eliathah, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

²⁸ to the twenty-first, to Hothir, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

²⁹ to the twenty-second, to Giddalti, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

³⁰ to the twenty-third, to Mahazioth, his sons and his brothers, twelve;

³¹ to the twenty-fourth, to Romamtizer, his sons and his brothers, twelve.

26 ¹ As for the divisions of the gatekeepers: of the Korahites, Meshelemiah the son of Kore, of the sons of Asaph.

² And Meshelemiah had sons: Zechariah the firstborn, Jediahel the second, Zebadiah the third, Jathniel the fourth,

³ Elam the fifth, Jehohanan the sixth, Eliehoenai the seventh.

⁴ And Obed-edom had sons: Shemaiah the firstborn, Jehozabad the second, Joah the third, Sachar the fourth, Nethanel the fifth,

⁵ Ammiel the sixth, Issachar the seventh, Peullethai the eighth, for God blessed him.

⁶ Also to his son Shemaiah were sons born who were rulers in their fathers' houses, for they were men of great ability.

⁷ The sons of Shemaiah: Othni, Rephael, Obed and Elzabad, whose brothers were able men, Elihu and Semachiah.

⁸ All these were of the sons of Obed-edom with their sons and brothers, able men qualified for the service; sixty-two of Obed-edom.

⁹ And Meshelemiah had sons and brothers, able men, eighteen.

¹⁰ And Hosah, of the sons of Merari, had sons: Shimri the chief (for though he was not the firstborn, his father made him chief),

¹¹ Hilkiah the second, Tebaliah the third, Zechariah the fourth: all the sons and brothers of Hosah were thirteen.

¹² These divisions of the gatekeepers, corresponding to their chief men,

had duties, just as their brothers did, ministering in the house of the LORD.

¹³ And they cast lots by fathers' houses, small and great alike, for their gates.

¹⁴ The lot for the east fell to Shelemiah. They cast lots also for his son Zechariah, a shrewd counselor, and his lot came out for the north.

¹⁵ Obed-edom's came out for the south, and to his sons was allotted the gatehouse.

¹⁶ For Shuppim and Hosah it came out for the west, at the gate of Shallecheth on the road that goes up. Watch corresponded to watch.

¹⁷ On the east there were six each day, on the north four each day, on the south four each day, as well as two and two at the gatehouse.

¹⁸ And for the colonnade on the west there were four at the road and two at the colonnade.

¹⁹ These were the divisions of the gatekeepers among the Korahites and the sons of Merari.

²⁰ And of the Levites, Ahijah had charge of the treasuries of the house of God and the treasuries of the dedicated gifts.

²¹ The sons of Ladan, the sons of the Gershonites belonging to Ladan, the heads of the fathers' houses belonging to Ladan the Gershonite: Jehieli.

²² The sons of Jehieli, Zetham, and Joel his brother, were in charge of the treasuries of the house of the LORD.

²³ Of the Amramites, the Izharites, the Hebronites, and the Uzzielites--

²⁴ and Shebuel the son of Gershom, son of Moses, was chief officer in charge of the treasuries.

²⁵ His brothers: from Eliezer were his son Rehabiah, and his son Jeshaiiah, and his son Joram, and his son Zichri, and his son Shelomoth.

²⁶ This Shelomoth and his brothers were in charge of all the treasuries of the dedicated gifts that David the king and the heads of the fathers' houses and the officers of the thousands and the hundreds and the commanders of the army had dedicated.

²⁷ From spoil won in battles they dedicated gifts for the maintenance of the house of the LORD.

²⁸ Also all that Samuel the seer and Saul the son of Kish and Abner the son of Ner and Joab the son of Zeruiah had dedicated--all dedicated gifts were in the care of Shelomoth and his brothers.

²⁹ Of the Izharites, Chenaniah and his sons were appointed to external duties for Israel, as officers and judges.

³⁰ Of the Hebronites, Hashabiah and his brothers, 1,700 men of ability, had the oversight of Israel westward of the

Jordan for all the work of the LORD and for the service of the king.

³¹ Of the Hebronites, Jerijah was chief of the Hebronites of whatever genealogy or fathers' houses. (In the fortieth year of David's reign search was made and men of great ability among them were found at Jazer in Gilead.)

³² King David appointed him and his brothers, 2,700 men of ability, heads of fathers' houses, to have the oversight of the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of the Manassites for everything pertaining to God and for the affairs of the king.

27 ¹ This is the number of the people of Israel, the heads of fathers' houses, the commanders of thousands and hundreds, and their officers who served the king in all matters concerning the divisions that came and went, month

after month throughout the year, each division numbering 24,000:

² Jashobeam the son of Zabdiel was in charge of the first division in the first month; in his division were 24,000.

³ He was a descendant of Perez and was chief of all the commanders. He served for the first month.

⁴ Dodai the Ahohite was in charge of the division of the second month; in his division were 24,000.

⁵ The third commander, for the third month, was Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada the chief priest; in his division were 24,000.

⁶ This is the Benaiah who was a mighty man of the thirty and in command of the thirty; Ammizabad his son was in charge of his division.

⁷ Asahel the brother of Joab was fourth, for the fourth month, and his son

Zebadiah after him; in his division were 24,000.

⁸ The fifth commander, for the fifth month, was Shamhuth the Izrahite; in his division were 24,000.

⁹ Sixth, for the sixth month, was Ira, the son of Ikkesh the Tekoite; in his division were 24,000.

¹⁰ Seventh, for the seventh month, was Helez the Pelonite, of the sons of Ephraim; in his division were 24,000.

¹¹ Eighth, for the eighth month, was Sibbecai the Hushathite, of the Zerahites; in his division were 24,000.

¹² Ninth, for the ninth month, was Abiezer of Anathoth, a Benjaminite; in his division were 24,000.

¹³ Tenth, for the tenth month, was Maharai of Netophah, of the Zerahites; in his division were 24,000.

¹⁴ Eleventh, for the eleventh month, was Benaiah of Pirathon, of the sons of Ephraim; in his division were 24,000.

¹⁵ Twelfth, for the twelfth month, was Heldai the Netophathite, of Othniel; in his division were 24,000.

¹⁶ Over the tribes of Israel, for the Reubenites, Eliezer the son of Zichri was chief officer; for the Simeonites, Shephatiah the son of Maacah;

¹⁷ for Levi, Hashabiah the son of Kemuel; for Aaron, Zadok;

¹⁸ for Judah, Elihu, one of David's brothers; for Issachar, Omri the son of Michael;

¹⁹ for Zebulun, Ishmaiah the son of Obadiah; for Naphtali, Jeremoth the son of Azriel;

²⁰ for the Ephraimites, Hoshea the son of Azaziah; for the half-tribe of Manasseh, Joel the son of Pedaiah;

²¹ for the half-tribe of Manasseh in Gilead, Iddo the son of Zechariah; for Benjamin, Jaasiel the son of Abner;

²² for Dan, Azarel the son of Jeroham. These were the leaders of the tribes of Israel.

²³ David did not count those below twenty years of age, for the LORD had promised to make Israel as many as the stars of heaven.

²⁴ Joab the son of Zeruiah began to count, but did not finish. Yet wrath came upon Israel for this, and the number was not entered in the chronicles of King David.

²⁵ Over the king's treasures was Azmaveth the son of Adiel; and over the treasures in the country, in the cities, in the villages and in the towers, was Jonathan the son of Uzziah;

²⁶ and over those who did the work of the field for tilling the soil was Ezri the son of Chelub;

²⁷ and over the vineyards was Shimei the Ramathite; and over the produce of the vineyards for the wine cellars was Zabdi the Shiphmite.

²⁸ Over the olive and sycamore trees in the Shephelah was Baal-hanan the Gederite; and over the stores of oil was Joash.

²⁹ Over the herds that pastured in Sharon was Shitrai the Sharonite; over the herds in the valleys was Shaphat the son of Adlai.

³⁰ Over the camels was Obil the Ishmaelite; and over the donkeys was Jehdeiah the Meronothite. Over the flocks was Jaziz the Hagrite.

³¹ All these were stewards of King David's property.

³² Jonathan, David's uncle, was a counselor, being a man of understanding and a scribe. He and Jehiel the son of Hachmoni attended the king's sons.

³³ Ahithophel was the king's counselor, and Hushai the Archite was the king's friend.

³⁴ Ahithophel was succeeded by Jehoiada the son of Benaiah, and Abiathar. Joab was commander of the king's army.

28 ¹ David assembled at Jerusalem all the officials of Israel, the officials of the tribes, the officers of the divisions that served the king, the commanders of thousands, the commanders of hundreds, the stewards of all the property and livestock of the king and his sons, together with the palace officials, the mighty men and all the seasoned warriors.

² Then King David rose to his feet and said: "Hear me, my brothers 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 I made preparations for building.

³ But God said to me, 'You may not build a house for my name, for you are a man of war and have shed blood.'

⁴ Yet the LORD God of Israel chose me from all my father's house to be king over Israel forever. For he chose Judah as leader, and in the house of Judah my father's house, and among my father's sons he took pleasure in 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 Solomon my son to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel.

⁶ He said to me, 'It is Solomon your son who shall build my house and my courts, for I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father.

⁷ I will establish his kingdom forever if he continues strong in keeping my commandments and my rules, as he is today.'

⁸ Now therefore in the sight of all Israel, the assembly of the LORD, and in the hearing of our God, observe and seek out all the commandments of the LORD your God, that you may possess this good land and leave it for an inheritance to your children after you forever.

⁹ "And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a whole heart and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you,

but if you forsake him, he will cast you off forever.

¹⁰ Be careful now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong and do it."

¹¹ Then David gave Solomon his son the plan of the vestibule of the temple, and of its houses, its treasuries, its upper rooms, and its inner chambers, and of the room for the mercy seat;

¹² and the plan of all that he had in mind for the courts of the house of the LORD, all the surrounding chambers, the treasuries of the house of God, and the treasuries for dedicated gifts;

¹³ for the divisions of the priests and of the Levites, and all the work of the service in the house of the LORD; for all the vessels for the service in the house of the LORD,

¹⁴ the weight of gold for all golden vessels for each service, the weight of silver vessels for each service,

¹⁵ the weight of the golden lampstands and their lamps, the weight of gold for each lampstand and its lamps, the weight of silver for a lampstand and its lamps, according to the use of each lampstand in the service,

¹⁶ the weight of gold for each table for the showbread, the silver for the silver tables,

¹⁷ and pure gold for the forks, the basins and the cups; for the golden bowls and the weight of each; for the silver bowls and the weight of each;

¹⁸ for the altar of incense made of refined gold, and its weight; also his plan for the golden chariot of the cherubim that spread their wings and covered the ark of the covenant of the LORD.

¹⁹ All this he made clear to me in writing from the hand of the LORD, all the work to be done according to the plan.

²⁰ Then David said to Solomon his son, "Be strong and courageous and do it. Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed, for the LORD God, even my God, is with you. He will not leave you or forsake you, until all the work for the service of the house of the LORD is finished.

²¹ And behold the divisions of the priests and the Levites for all the service of the house of God; and with you in all the work will be every willing man who has skill for any kind of service; also the officers and all the people will be wholly at your command."

29 ¹ And David the king said to all the assembly, "Solomon my son, whom alone God has chosen, is young and inexperienced, and the work is

great, for the palace will not be for man but for the LORD God.

² So I have provided for the house of my God, so far as I was able, the gold for the things of gold, the silver for the things of silver, and the bronze for the things of bronze, the iron for the things of iron, and wood for the things of wood, besides great quantities of onyx and stones for setting, antimony, colored stones, all sorts of precious stones and marble.

³ Moreover, in addition to all that I have provided for the holy house, I have a treasure of my own of gold and silver, and because of my devotion to the house of my God I give it to the house of my God:

⁴ 3,000 talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and 7,000 talents of refined silver, for overlaying the walls of the house,

⁵ and for all the work to be done by craftsmen, gold for the things of gold and silver for the things of silver. Who then will offer willingly, consecrating himself today to the LORD?"

⁶ Then the leaders of fathers' houses made their freewill offerings, as did also the leaders of the tribes, the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, and the officers over the king's work.

⁷ They gave for the service of the house of God 5,000 talents and 10,000 darics of gold, 10,000 talents of silver, 18,000 talents of bronze and 100,000 talents of iron.

⁸ And whoever had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the house of the LORD, in the care of Jehiel the Gershonite.

⁹ Then the people rejoiced because they had given willingly, for with a

whole heart they had offered freely to the LORD. David the king also rejoiced greatly.

¹⁰ Therefore David blessed the LORD in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: "Blessed are you, O LORD, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever.

¹¹ Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all.

¹² Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.

¹³ And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.

¹⁴ "But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.

¹⁵ For we are strangers before you and sojourners, as all our fathers were. Our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no abiding.

¹⁶ O LORD our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own.

¹⁷ I know, my God, that you test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. In the uprightness of my heart I have freely offered all these things, and now I have seen your people, who are present here, offering freely and joyously to you.

¹⁸ O LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our fathers, keep forever such purposes and thoughts in the hearts

of your people, and direct their hearts toward you.

¹⁹ Grant to Solomon my son a whole heart that he may keep your commandments, your testimonies, and your statutes, performing all, and that he may build the palace for which I have made provision."

²⁰ Then David said to all the assembly, "Bless the LORD your God." And all the assembly blessed the LORD, the God of their fathers, and bowed their heads and paid homage to the LORD and to the king.

²¹ And they offered sacrifices to the LORD, and on the next day offered burnt offerings to the LORD, 1,000 bulls, 1,000 rams, and 1,000 lambs, with their drink offerings, and sacrifices in abundance for all Israel.

²² And they ate and drank before the LORD on that day with great gladness.

And they made Solomon the son of David king the second time, and they anointed him as prince for the LORD, and Zadok as priest.

²³ Then Solomon sat on the throne of the LORD as king in place of David his father. And he prospered, and all Israel obeyed him.

²⁴ All the leaders and the mighty men, and also all the sons of King David, pledged their allegiance to King Solomon.

²⁵ And the LORD made Solomon very great 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 The time that he reigned over Israel was forty years. He reigned seven years

in Hebron and thirty-three years in Jerusalem.

²⁸ Then he died at a good age, full of days, riches, and honor. And Solomon his son reigned in his place.

²⁹ Now the acts of King David, from first to last, are written in the Chronicles of Samuel the seer, and in the Chronicles of Nathan the prophet, and in the Chronicles of Gad the seer,

³⁰ with accounts of all his rule and his might and of the circumstances that came upon him and upon Israel and upon all the kingdoms of the countries.

2 Chronicles

1 ¹ Solomon the son of David established himself in his kingdom, and the LORD his God was with him and made him exceedingly great.

² Solomon spoke to all Israel, to the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, to the judges, and to all the leaders in all Israel, the heads of fathers' houses.

³ And Solomon, and all the assembly with him, went to the high place that was at Gibeon, for the tent of meeting of God, which Moses the servant of the LORD had made in the wilderness, was there.

⁴ (But David had brought up the ark of God from Kiriath-jearim to the place that

David had prepared for it, for he had pitched a tent for it in Jerusalem.)

⁵ Moreover, the bronze altar that Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, had made, was there before the tabernacle of the LORD. And Solomon and the assembly resorted to it.

⁶ And Solomon went up there to the bronze altar before the LORD, which was at the tent of meeting, and offered a thousand burnt offerings on it.

⁷ In that night God appeared to Solomon, and said to him, "Ask what I shall give you."

⁸ And Solomon said to God, "You have shown great and steadfast love to David my father, and have made me king in his place.

⁹ O LORD God, let your word to David my father be now fulfilled, for you have made me king over a people as numerous as the dust of the earth.

¹⁰ Give me now wisdom and knowledge to go out and come in before this people, for who can govern this people of yours, which is so great?"

¹¹ God answered Solomon, "Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked possessions, wealth, honor, or the life of those who hate you, and have not even asked long life, but have asked wisdom and knowledge for yourself that you may govern my people over whom I have made you king,

¹² wisdom and knowledge are granted to you. I will also give you riches, possessions, and honor, such as none of the kings had who were before you, and none after you shall have the like."

¹³ So Solomon came from the high place at Gibeon, from before the tent of meeting, to Jerusalem. And he reigned over Israel.

¹⁴ Solomon gathered together chariots and horsemen. He had 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horsemen, whom he stationed in the chariot cities and with the king in Jerusalem.

¹⁵ And the king made silver and gold as common in Jerusalem as stone, and he made cedar as plentiful as the sycamore of the Shephelah.

¹⁶ And Solomon's import of horses was from Egypt and Kue, and the king's traders would buy them from Kue for a price.

¹⁷ They imported a chariot from Egypt for 600 shekels of silver, and a horse for 150. Likewise through them these were exported to all the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Syria.

2¹ Now Solomon purposed to build a temple for the name of the LORD, and a royal palace for himself.

² And Solomon assigned 70,000 men to bear burdens and 80,000 to quarry in the hill country, and 3,600 to oversee them.

³ And Solomon sent word to Hiram the king of Tyre: "As you dealt with David my father and sent him cedar to build himself a house to dwell in, so deal with me.

⁴ Behold, I am about to build a house for the name of the LORD my God and dedicate it to him for the burning of incense of sweet spices before him, and for the regular arrangement of the showbread, and for burnt offerings morning and evening, on the Sabbaths and the new moons and the appointed feasts of the LORD our God, as ordained forever for Israel.

⁵ The house that I am to build will be great, for our God is greater than all gods.

⁶ But who is able to build him a house, since heaven, even highest heaven, cannot contain him? Who am I to build a house for him, except as a place to make offerings before him?

⁷ So now send me a man skilled to work in gold, silver, bronze, and iron, and in purple, crimson, and blue fabrics, trained also in engraving, to be with the skilled workers who are with me in Judah and Jerusalem, whom David my father provided.

⁸ Send me also cedar, cypress, and algum timber from Lebanon, for I know that your servants know how to cut timber in Lebanon. And my servants will be with your servants,

⁹ to prepare timber for me in abundance, for the house I am to build will be great and wonderful.

¹⁰ I will give for your servants, the woodsmen who cut timber, 20,000 cors

of crushed wheat, 20,000 cors of barley, 20,000 baths of wine, and 20,000 baths of oil."

¹¹ Then Hiram the king of Tyre answered in a letter that 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, who has given King David a wise son, who has discretion and understanding, who will build a temple for the LORD and a royal palace for himself.

¹³ "Now I have sent a skilled man, who has understanding, Hiram-abi,

¹⁴ the son of a woman of the daughters of Dan, and his father was a man of Tyre. He is trained to work in gold, silver, bronze, iron, stone, and wood, and in purple, blue, and crimson fabrics and fine linen, and to do all sorts of engraving

and execute any design that may be assigned him, with your craftsmen, the craftsmen of my lord, David your father.

¹⁵ Now therefore the wheat and barley, oil and wine, of which my lord has spoken, let him send to his servants.

¹⁶ And we will cut whatever timber you need from Lebanon and bring it to you in rafts by sea to Joppa, so that you may take it up to Jerusalem."

¹⁷ Then Solomon counted all the resident aliens who were in the land of Israel, after the census of them that David his father had taken, and there were found 153,600.

¹⁸ Seventy thousand of them he assigned to bear burdens, 80,000 to quarry in the hill country, and 3,600 as overseers to make the people work.

3 ¹ Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the LORD had

appeared to David his father, at the place that David had appointed, on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

² He began to build in the second month of the fourth year of his reign.

³ These are Solomon's measurements for building the house of God: the length, in cubits of the old standard, was sixty cubits, and the breadth twenty cubits.

⁴ The vestibule in front of the nave of the house was twenty cubits long, equal to the width of the house, and its height was 120 cubits. He overlaid it on the inside with pure gold.

⁵ The nave he lined with cypress and covered it with fine gold and made palms and chains on it.

⁶ He adorned the house with settings of precious stones. The gold was gold of Parvaim.

⁷ So he lined the house with gold--its beams, its thresholds, its walls, and its doors--and he carved cherubim on the walls.

⁸ And he made the Most Holy Place. Its length, corresponding to the breadth of the house, was twenty cubits, and its breadth was twenty cubits. He overlaid it with 600 talents of fine gold.

⁹ The weight of gold for the nails was fifty shekels. And he overlaid the upper chambers with gold.

¹⁰ In the Most Holy Place he made two cherubim of wood and overlaid them with gold.

¹¹ The wings of the cherubim together extended twenty cubits: one wing of the one, of five cubits, touched the wall of the house, and its other wing, of five cubits, touched the wing of the other cherub;

¹² and of this cherub, one wing, of five cubits, touched the wall of the house, and the other wing, also of five cubits, was joined to the wing of the first cherub.

¹³ The wings of these cherubim extended twenty cubits. The cherubim stood on their feet, facing the nave.

¹⁴ And he made the veil of blue and purple and crimson fabrics and fine linen, and he worked cherubim on it.

¹⁵ In front of the house he made two pillars thirty-five cubits high, with a capital of five cubits on the top of each.

¹⁶ He made chains like a necklace and put them on the tops of the pillars, and he made a hundred pomegranates and put them on the chains.

¹⁷ He set up the pillars in front of the temple, one on the south, the other on the north; that on the south he called Jachin, and that on the north Boaz.

4 ¹ He made an altar of bronze, twenty cubits long and twenty cubits wide and ten cubits high.

² Then he made the sea of cast metal. It was round, ten cubits from brim to brim, and five cubits high, and a line of thirty cubits measured its circumference.

³ Under it were figures of gourds, for ten cubits, compassing the sea all around. The gourds were in two rows, cast with it when it was cast.

⁴ It stood on twelve oxen, three facing north, three facing west, three facing south, and three facing east. The sea was set on them, and all their rear parts were inward.

⁵ Its thickness was a handbreadth. And its brim was made like the brim of a cup, like the flower of a lily. It held 3,000 baths.

⁶ He also made ten basins in which to wash, and set five on the south side,

and five on the north side. In these they were to rinse off what was used for the burnt offering, and the sea was for the priests to wash in.

⁷ And he made ten golden lampstands as prescribed, and set them in the temple, five on the south side and five on the north.

⁸ He also made ten tables and placed them in the temple, five on the south side and five on the north. And he made a hundred basins of gold.

⁹ He made the court of the priests and the great court and doors for the court and overlaid their doors with bronze.

¹⁰ And he set the sea at the southeast corner of the house.

¹¹ Hiram also made the pots, the shovels, and the basins. So Hiram finished the work that he did for King Solomon on the house of God:

¹² the two pillars, the bowls, and the two capitals on the top of the pillars; and the two latticeworks to cover the two bowls of the capitals that were on the top of the pillars;

¹³ and the 400 pomegranates for the two latticeworks, two rows of pomegranates for each latticework, to cover the two bowls of the capitals that were on the pillars.

¹⁴ He made the stands also, and the basins on the stands,

¹⁵ and the one sea, and the twelve oxen underneath it.

¹⁶ The pots, the shovels, the forks, and all the equipment for these Hiram-abi made of burnished bronze for King Solomon for the house of the LORD.

¹⁷ In the plain of the Jordan the king cast them, in the clay ground between Succoth and Zeredah.

¹⁸ Solomon made all these things in great quantities, for the weight of the bronze was not sought.

¹⁹ So Solomon made all the vessels that were in the house of God: the golden altar, the tables for the bread of the Presence,

²⁰ the lampstands and their lamps of pure gold to burn before the inner sanctuary, as prescribed;

²¹ the flowers, the lamps, and the tongs, of purest gold;

²² the snuffers, basins, dishes for incense, and fire pans, of pure gold, and the sockets of the temple, for the inner doors to the Most Holy Place and for the doors of the nave of the temple were of gold.

5 ¹ Thus all the work that Solomon did for the house of the LORD was finished. And Solomon brought in the things that David his father had

dedicated, and stored the silver, the gold, and all the vessels in the treasuries of the house of God.

² Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the fathers' houses of the people of Israel, in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion.

³ And all the men of Israel assembled before the king at the feast that is in the seventh month.

⁴ And all the elders of Israel came, and the Levites took up the ark.

⁵ And they brought up the ark, the tent of meeting, and all the holy vessels that were in the tent; the Levitical priests brought them up.

⁶ And King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel, who had assembled before him, were before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and

oxen that they could not be counted or numbered.

⁷ Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the Most Holy Place, underneath the wings of the cherubim.

⁸ The cherubim spread out their wings over the place of the ark, so that the cherubim made a covering above the ark and its poles.

⁹ And the poles were so long that the ends of the poles were seen from the Holy Place before the inner sanctuary, but they could not be seen from outside. And they are there to this day.

¹⁰ There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets that Moses put there at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the people of Israel, when they came out of Egypt.

¹¹ And when the priests came out of the Holy Place (for all the priests who were present had consecrated themselves, without regard to their divisions,

¹² and all the Levitical singers, Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun, their sons and kinsmen, arrayed in fine linen, with cymbals, harps, and lyres, stood east of the altar with 120 priests who were trumpeters;

¹³ and it was the duty of the trumpeters and singers to make themselves heard in unison in praise and thanksgiving to the LORD), and when the song was raised, with trumpets and cymbals and other musical instruments, in praise to the LORD, "For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever," the house, the house of the LORD, was filled with a cloud,

¹⁴ so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the

glory of the LORD filled the house of God.

6 ¹ Then Solomon said, "The LORD has said that he would dwell in thick darkness.

² But I have built you an exalted house, a place for you to dwell in forever."

³ Then the king turned around and blessed all the assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel stood.

⁴ And he said, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who with his hand has fulfilled what he promised with his mouth to David my father, saying,

⁵ 'Since the day that I brought my people out of the land of Egypt, I chose no city out of all the tribes of Israel in which to build a house, that my name might be there, and I chose no man as prince over my people Israel;

⁶ but 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 David my father to build a house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel.

⁸ But the LORD said to David my father, 'Whereas it was in your heart to build a house for my name, you did well that it was in your heart.

⁹ Nevertheless, it is not you who shall build the house, but your son who shall be born to you shall build the house for my name.'

¹⁰ Now the LORD has fulfilled his promise that he made. For I have risen in the place of David my father and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and I have built the house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel.

¹¹ And there I have set the ark, in which is the covenant of the LORD that he made with the people 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 Solomon had made a bronze platform five cubits long, five cubits wide, and three cubits high, and had set it in the court, and he stood on it. Then he knelt on his knees in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven,

¹⁴ and said, "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven or on earth, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart,

¹⁵ who have kept with your servant David my father what you declared to

him. You spoke with your mouth, and with your hand have fulfilled it this day.

¹⁶ Now therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant David my father what you have promised him, saying, 'You shall not lack a man to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk in my law as you have walked before me.'

¹⁷ Now therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you have spoken to your servant David.

¹⁸ "But will God indeed dwell with man on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, how much less this house that I have built!

¹⁹ Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O LORD my God, listening to the cry and to the prayer that your servant prays before you,

²⁰ that your eyes may be open day and night toward this house, the place where you have promised to set your name, that you may listen to the prayer that your servant offers toward this place.

²¹ And listen to the pleas of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. And listen from heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.

²² "If a man sins against his neighbor and is made to take an oath and comes and swears his oath before your altar in this house,

²³ then hear from heaven and act and judge your servants, repaying the guilty by bringing his conduct on his own head, and vindicating the righteous by rewarding him according to his righteousness.

²⁴ "If your people Israel are defeated before the enemy because they have

sinned against you, and they turn again and acknowledge your name and pray and plead with you in this house,

²⁵ then hear from heaven and forgive the sin of your people Israel and bring them again to the land that you gave to them and to their fathers.

²⁶ "When heaven is shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against you, if they pray toward this place and acknowledge your name and turn from their sin, when you afflict them,

²⁷ then hear in heaven and forgive the sin of your servants, your people Israel, when you teach them the good way in which they should walk, and grant rain upon your land, which you have given to your people as an inheritance.

²⁸ "If there is famine in the land, if there is pestilence or blight or mildew or locust or caterpillar, if their enemies besiege

them in the land at their gates, whatever plague, whatever sickness there is,

²⁹ whatever prayer, whatever plea is made by any man or by all your people Israel, each knowing his own affliction and his own sorrow and stretching out his hands toward this house,

³⁰ then hear from heaven your dwelling place and forgive and render to each whose heart you know, according to all his ways, for you, you only, know the hearts of the children of mankind,

³¹ that they may fear you and walk in your ways all the days that they live in the land that you gave to our fathers.

³² "Likewise, when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a far country for the sake of your great name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm, when he comes and prays toward this house,

³³ hear from heaven your dwelling place and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to you, in order that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and that they may know that this house that I have built is called by your name.

³⁴ "If your people go out to battle against their enemies, by whatever way you shall send them, and they pray to you toward this city that you have chosen and the house that I have built for your name,

³⁵ then hear from heaven their prayer and their plea, and maintain their cause.

³⁶ "If they sin against you--for there is no one who does not sin--and you are angry with them and give them to an enemy, so that they are carried away captive to a land far or near,

³⁷ yet if they turn their heart in the land to which they have been carried captive, and repent and plead with you in the land of their captivity, saying, 'We have sinned and have acted perversely and wickedly,'

³⁸ if they repent with all their mind and with all their heart in the land of their captivity to which they were carried captive, and pray toward their land, which you gave to their fathers, the city that you have chosen and the house that I have built for your name,

³⁹ then hear from heaven your dwelling place their prayer and their pleas, and maintain their cause and forgive your people who have sinned against you.

⁴⁰ Now, O my God, let your eyes be open and your ears attentive to the prayer of this place.

⁴¹ "And now arise, O LORD God, and go to your resting place, you and the ark

of your might. Let your priests, O LORD God, be clothed with salvation, and let your saints rejoice in your goodness.

⁴² O LORD God, do not turn away the face of your anointed one! Remember your steadfast love for David your servant."

7 ¹ As soon as Solomon finished his prayer, 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 filled the LORD's house.

³ When all the people of Israel saw the fire come down and the glory of the LORD on the temple, they bowed down with their faces to the ground on the pavement and worshiped and gave thanks to the LORD, saying, "For he is

good, for his steadfast love endures forever."

⁴ Then the king and all the people offered sacrifice before the LORD.

⁵ King Solomon offered as a sacrifice 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep. So the king and all the people dedicated the house of God.

⁶ The priests stood at their posts; the Levites also, with the instruments for music to the LORD that King David had made for giving thanks to the LORD--for his steadfast love endures forever--whenever David offered praises by their ministry; opposite them the priests sounded trumpets, and all Israel stood.

⁷ And Solomon consecrated the middle of the court that was before the house of the LORD, for there he offered the burnt offering and the fat of the peace offerings, because the bronze altar

Solomon had made could not hold the burnt offering and the grain offering and the fat.

⁸ At that time Solomon held the feast for seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great assembly, from Lebo-hamath to the Brook of Egypt.

⁹ And on the eighth day they held a solemn assembly, for they had kept 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 homes, joyful and glad of heart for the prosperity that the LORD had granted to David and to Solomon and to Israel his people.

¹¹ Thus Solomon finished the house of the LORD and the king's house. All that Solomon had planned to do in the house of the LORD and in his own house he successfully accomplished.

¹² Then the LORD appeared to Solomon in the 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 the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people,

¹⁴ if my people who are called by my name 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 the prayer that is made in this place.

¹⁶ For now I have chosen and consecrated this house that my name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will be there for all time.

¹⁷ And as for you, if you will walk before me as David your father walked, doing

according to all that I have commanded you and keeping my statutes and my rules,

¹⁸ then I will establish your royal throne, as I covenanted with David your father, saying, 'You shall not lack a man to rule Israel.'

¹⁹ "But if you turn aside and forsake my statutes and my commandments that I have set before you, and go and serve other gods and worship them,

²⁰ then I will pluck you up from my land that I have given you, and this house that I have consecrated for my name, I will cast out of my sight, and I will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples.

²¹ And at this house, which was exalted, everyone passing by will be astonished and say, 'Why has the LORD done thus to this land and to this house?'

²² Then they will say, 'Because they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers who brought them out of the land of Egypt and laid hold on other gods and worshiped them and served them. Therefore he has brought all this disaster on them.'

8 ¹ At the end of twenty years, in which Solomon had built the house of the LORD and his own house,

² Solomon rebuilt the cities that Hiram had given to him, and settled the people of Israel in them.

³ And Solomon went to Hamath-zobah and took it.

⁴ He built Tadmor in the wilderness and all the store cities that he built in Hamath.

⁵ He also built Upper Beth-horon and Lower Beth-horon, fortified cities with walls, gates, and bars,

⁶ and Baalath, and all the store cities that Solomon had and all the cities for his chariots and the cities for his horsemen, and whatever 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, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, who were not of Israel,

⁸ from their descendants who were left after them in the land, whom the people of Israel had not destroyed--these Solomon drafted as forced labor, and so they are to this day.

⁹ But of the people of Israel Solomon made no slaves for his work; they were soldiers, and his officers, the commanders of his chariots, and his horsemen.

¹⁰ And these were the chief officers of King Solomon, 250, who exercised authority over the people.

¹¹ Solomon brought Pharaoh's daughter up from the city of David to the house that he had built for her, for he said, "My wife shall not live in the house of David king of Israel, for the places to which the ark of the LORD has come are holy."

¹² Then Solomon offered up burnt offerings to the LORD on the altar of the LORD that he had built before the vestibule,

¹³ as the duty of each day required, offering according to the commandment of Moses for the Sabbaths, the new moons, and the three annual feasts--the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks, and the Feast of Booths.

¹⁴ According to the ruling of David his father, he appointed the divisions of the priests for their service, and the Levites

for their offices of praise and ministry before the priests as the duty of each day required, and the gatekeepers in their divisions at each gate, for so David the man of God had commanded.

¹⁵ And they did not turn aside from what the king had commanded the priests and Levites concerning any matter and concerning the treasuries.

¹⁶ Thus was accomplished all the work of Solomon from the day the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid until it was finished. So the house of the LORD was completed.

¹⁷ Then Solomon went to Ezion-geber and Eloth on the shore of the sea, in the land of Edom.

¹⁸ And Hiram sent to him by the hand of his servants ships and servants familiar with the sea, and they went to Ophir together with the servants of Solomon

and brought from there 450 talents of gold and brought it to King Solomon.

9¹ Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, she came to Jerusalem to test him with hard questions, having a very great retinue and camels bearing spices and very much gold and precious stones. And when she came to Solomon, she told him all that was on her mind.

² And Solomon answered all her questions. There was nothing hidden from Solomon that he could not explain to her.

³ And when the queen of Sheba had seen the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built,

⁴ the food of his table, the seating of his officials, and the attendance of his servants, and their clothing, his cupbearers, and their clothing, and his burnt offerings that he offered at the

house of the LORD, there was no more breath in her.

⁵ And she said to the king, "The report was true that I heard in my own land of your words and of your wisdom,

⁶ but I did not believe the reports until I came and my own eyes had seen it. And behold, half the greatness of your wisdom was not told me; you surpass the report that I heard.

⁷ Happy are your wives! Happy are these your servants, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom!

⁸ Blessed be the LORD your God, who has delighted in you and set you on his throne as king for the LORD your God! Because your God loved Israel and would establish them forever, he has made you king over them, that you may execute justice and righteousness."

⁹ Then she gave the king 120 talents of gold, and a very great quantity of

spices, and precious stones. There were no spices such as those that the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

¹⁰ Moreover, 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 from the algum wood supports for the house of the LORD and for the king's house, lyres also and harps for the singers. There never was seen the like of them before in the land of Judah.

¹² And King Solomon gave to the queen of Sheba all that she desired, whatever she asked besides what she had brought to the king. So she turned and went back to her own land with her servants.

¹³ Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was 666 talents of gold,

¹⁴ besides that which the explorers and merchants brought. And all the kings of Arabia and the governors of the land brought gold and silver to Solomon.

¹⁵ King Solomon made 200 large shields of beaten gold; 600 shekels of beaten gold went into each shield.

¹⁶ And he made 300 shields of beaten gold; 300 shekels of gold went into each shield; and the king put them in the House of the Forest of Lebanon.

¹⁷ The king also made a great ivory throne and overlaid it with pure gold.

¹⁸ The throne had six steps and a footstool of gold, which were attached to the throne, and on each side of the seat were arm rests and two lions standing beside the arm rests,

¹⁹ while twelve lions stood there, one on each end of a step on the six steps. Nothing like it was ever made for any kingdom.

²⁰ All King Solomon's drinking vessels were of gold, and all the vessels of the House of the Forest of Lebanon were of pure gold. Silver was not considered as anything in the days of Solomon.

²¹ For the king's ships went to Tarshish with the servants of Hiram. Once every three years the ships of Tarshish used to come bringing gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks.

²² Thus King Solomon excelled all the kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom.

²³ And all the kings of the earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put into his mind.

²⁴ Every one of them brought his present, articles of silver and of gold, garments, myrrh, spices, horses, and mules, so much year by year.

²⁵ And Solomon had 4,000 stalls for horses and chariots, and 12,000 horsemen, whom he stationed in the chariot cities and with the king in Jerusalem.

²⁶ And he ruled over all the kings from the Euphrates to the land of the Philistines and to the border of Egypt.

²⁷ And the king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stone, and he made cedar as plentiful as the sycamore of the Shephelah.

²⁸ And horses were imported for Solomon from Egypt and from all lands.

²⁹ Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, from first to last, are they not written in the history of Nathan the prophet, and 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 And Solomon slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of David his father, and Rehoboam his son reigned in his place.

10 ¹ Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king.

² And as soon as Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard of it (for he was in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon), then Jeroboam returned from Egypt.

³ And they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all Israel came and said to Rehoboam,

⁴ "Your father made our yoke heavy. Now therefore lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke on us, and we will serve you."

⁵ He said to them, "Come to me again in three days." So the people went away.

⁶ Then King Rehoboam took counsel with the old men, who had stood before

Solomon his father while he was yet alive, saying, "How do you advise me to answer this people?"

⁷ And they said to him, "If you will be good to this people and please them and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever."

⁸ But he abandoned the counsel that the old men gave him, and took counsel with the young men who had grown up with him and stood before him.

⁹ And he said to them, "What do you advise that we answer this people who have said to me, 'Lighten the yoke that your father put on us'?"

¹⁰ And the young men who had grown up with him said to him, "Thus shall you speak to the people who said to you, 'Your father made our yoke heavy, but you lighten it for us'; thus shall you say to them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's thighs.

¹¹ And now, whereas my father laid on you a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions."

¹² So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king said, "Come to me again the third day."

¹³ And the king answered them harshly; and forsaking the counsel of the old men,

¹⁴ King Rehoboam spoke to them according to the counsel of the young men, saying, "My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to it. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions."

¹⁵ So the king did not listen to the people, for it was a turn of affairs brought about by God that the LORD might fulfill his word, which he spoke by Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat.

¹⁶ And when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, "What portion have we in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. Each of you to your tents, O Israel! Look now to your own house, David." So all Israel went to their tents.

¹⁷ But Rehoboam reigned over the people of Israel who lived in the cities of Judah.

¹⁸ Then King Rehoboam sent Hadoram, who was taskmaster over the forced labor, and the people of Israel stoned him to death with stones. And King Rehoboam quickly mounted his chariot to flee to Jerusalem.

¹⁹ So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day.

11 ¹ When Rehoboam came to Jerusalem, he assembled the house of Judah and Benjamin, 180,000

chosen warriors, to fight against Israel, to restore the kingdom to Rehoboam.

² But the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah the man of God:

³ "Say to Rehoboam the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and to all Israel in Judah and Benjamin,

⁴ 'Thus says the LORD, You shall not go up or fight against your relatives. Return every man to his home, for this thing is from me.'" So they listened to the word of the LORD and returned and did not go against Jeroboam.

⁵ Rehoboam lived in Jerusalem, and he built cities for defense in Judah.

⁶ He built Bethlehem, Etam, Tekoa,

⁷ Beth-zur, Soco, Adullam,

⁸ Gath, Mareshah, Ziph,

⁹ Adoraim, Lachish, Azekah,

¹⁰ Zorah, Aijalon, and Hebron, fortified cities that are in Judah and in Benjamin.

¹¹ He made the fortresses strong, and put commanders in them, and stores of food, oil, and wine.

¹² And he put shields and spears in all the cities and made them very strong. So he held Judah and Benjamin.

¹³ And the priests and the Levites who were in all Israel presented themselves to him from all places where they lived.

¹⁴ For the Levites left their common lands and their holdings and came to Judah and Jerusalem, because Jeroboam and his sons cast them out from serving as priests of the LORD,

¹⁵ and he appointed his own priests for the high places and for the goat idols and for the calves that he had made.

¹⁶ And those who had set their hearts to seek the LORD God of Israel came after them from all the tribes of Israel to Jerusalem to sacrifice to the LORD, the God of their fathers.

¹⁷ They strengthened the kingdom of Judah, and for three years they made Rehoboam the son of Solomon secure, for they walked for three years in the way of David and Solomon.

¹⁸ Rehoboam took as wife Mahalath the daughter of Jerimoth the son of David, and of Abihail the daughter of Eliab the son of Jesse,

¹⁹ and she bore him sons, Jeush, Shemariah, and Zaham.

²⁰ After her he took Maacah the daughter of Absalom, who bore him Abijah, Attai, Ziza, and Shelomith.

²¹ Rehoboam loved Maacah the daughter of Absalom above all his wives and concubines (he took eighteen wives and sixty concubines, and fathered twenty-eight sons and sixty daughters).

²² And Rehoboam appointed Abijah the son of Maacah as chief prince among his

brothers, for he intended to make him king.

²³ And he dealt wisely and distributed some of his sons through all the districts of Judah and Benjamin, in all the fortified cities, and he gave them abundant provisions and procured wives for them.

12 ¹ When the rule of Rehoboam was established and he was strong, he abandoned the law of the LORD, and all Israel with him.

² In the fifth year of King Rehoboam, because they had been unfaithful to the LORD, Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem

³ with 1,200 chariots and 60,000 horsemen. And the people were without number who came with him from Egypt--Libyans, Sukkiim, and Ethiopians.

⁴ And he took the fortified cities of Judah and came as far as Jerusalem.

⁵ Then Shemaiah the prophet came to Rehoboam and to the princes of Judah, who had gathered at Jerusalem because of Shishak, and said to them, "Thus says the LORD, 'You abandoned me, so I have abandoned you to the hand of Shishak.'"

⁶ Then the princes of Israel and the king humbled themselves and said, "The LORD is righteous."

⁷ When the LORD saw that they humbled themselves, the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah: "They have humbled themselves. I will not destroy them, but I will grant them some deliverance, and my wrath shall not be poured out on Jerusalem by the hand of Shishak.

⁸ Nevertheless, they shall be servants to him, that they may know my service and the service of the kingdoms of the countries."

⁹ So Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem. 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 the shields of gold that Solomon had made,

¹⁰ and King Rehoboam made in their place shields of bronze and committed them to the hands of the officers of the guard, who kept the door of the king's house.

¹¹ And as often as the king went into the house of the LORD, the guard came and carried them and brought them back to the guardroom.

¹² And when he humbled himself the wrath of the LORD turned from him, so as not to make a complete destruction. Moreover, conditions were good in Judah.

¹³ So King Rehoboam grew strong in Jerusalem and reigned. Rehoboam was forty-one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city that the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel to put his name there. His mother's name was Naamah the Ammonite.

¹⁴ And he did evil, for he did not set his heart to seek the LORD.

¹⁵ Now the acts of Rehoboam, from first to last, are they not written in the chronicles of Shemaiah the prophet and of Iddo the seer? There were continual wars between Rehoboam and Jeroboam.

¹⁶ And Rehoboam slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of David, and Abijah his son reigned in his place.

13 ¹ In the eighteenth year of King Jeroboam, Abijah began to reign over Judah.

² He reigned for three years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Micaiah the daughter of Uriel of Gibeah. Now there was war between Abijah and Jeroboam.

³ Abijah went out to battle, having an army of valiant men of war, 400,000 chosen men. And Jeroboam drew up his line of battle against him with 800,000 chosen mighty warriors.

⁴ Then Abijah stood up on Mount Zemaraim that is in the hill country of Ephraim and said, "Hear me, O Jeroboam and all Israel!

⁵ Ought you not to know that the LORD God of Israel gave the kingship over Israel forever to David and his sons by a covenant of salt?

⁶ Yet Jeroboam the son of Nebat, a servant of Solomon the son of David, rose up and rebelled against his lord,

⁷ and certain worthless scoundrels gathered about him and defied Rehoboam the son of Solomon, when Rehoboam was young and irresolute and could not withstand them.

⁸ "And now you think to withstand the kingdom of the LORD in the hand of the sons of David, because you are a great multitude and have with you the golden calves that Jeroboam made you for gods.

⁹ Have you not driven out the priests of the LORD, the sons of Aaron, and the Levites, and made priests for yourselves like the peoples of other lands? Whoever comes for ordination with a young bull or seven rams becomes a priest of what are no gods.

¹⁰ But as for us, the LORD is our God, and we have not forsaken him. We have priests ministering to the LORD who are sons of Aaron, and Levites for their service.

¹¹ They offer to the LORD every morning and every evening burnt offerings and incense of sweet spices, set out the showbread on the table of pure gold, and care for the golden lampstand that its lamps may burn every evening. For we keep the charge of the LORD our God, but you have forsaken him.

¹² Behold, God is with us at our head, and his priests with their battle trumpets to sound the call to battle against you. O sons of Israel, do not fight against the LORD, the God of your fathers, for you cannot succeed."

¹³ Jeroboam had sent an ambush around to come upon them from behind. Thus his troops were in front of Judah, and the ambush was behind them.

¹⁴ And when Judah looked, behold, the battle was in front of and behind them. And they cried to the LORD, and the priests blew the trumpets.

¹⁵ Then the men of Judah raised the battle shout. And when the men of Judah shouted, God defeated Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah.

¹⁶ The men of Israel fled before Judah, and God gave them into their hand.

¹⁷ Abijah and his people struck them with great force, so there fell slain of Israel 500,000 chosen men.

¹⁸ Thus the men of Israel were subdued at that time, and the men of Judah prevailed, because they relied on the LORD, the God of their fathers.

¹⁹ And Abijah pursued Jeroboam and took cities from him, Bethel with its villages and Jeshanah with its villages and Ephron with its villages.

²⁰ Jeroboam did not recover his power in the days of Abijah. And the LORD struck him down, and he died.

²¹ But Abijah grew mighty. And he took fourteen wives and had twenty-two sons and sixteen daughters.

²² The rest of the acts of Abijah, his ways and his sayings, are written in the story of the prophet Iddo.

14 ¹ Abijah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David. And Asa his son reigned in his place. In his days the land had rest for ten years.

² And Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God.

³ He took away the foreign altars and the high places and broke down the pillars and cut down the Asherim

⁴ and commanded Judah to seek the LORD, the God of their fathers, and to keep the law and the commandment.

⁵ He also took out of all the cities of Judah the high places and the incense

altars. And the kingdom had rest under him.

⁶ He built fortified cities in Judah, for the land had rest. He had no war in those years, for the LORD gave him peace.

⁷ And he said to Judah, "Let us build these cities and surround them with walls and towers, gates and bars. The land is still ours, because we have sought the LORD our God. We have sought him, and he has given us peace on every side." So they built and prospered.

⁸ And Asa had an army of 300,000 from Judah, armed with large shields and spears, and 280,000 men from Benjamin that carried shields and drew bows. All these were mighty men of valor.

⁹ Zerah the Ethiopian came out against them with an army of a million men and 300 chariots, and came as far as Mareshah.

¹⁰ And Asa went out to meet him, and they drew up their lines of battle in the Valley of Zephathah at Mareshah.

¹¹ And Asa cried to the LORD his God, "O LORD, there is none like you to help, between the mighty and the weak. Help us, O LORD our God, for we rely on you, and in your name we have come against this multitude. O LORD, you are our God; let not man prevail against you."

¹² So the LORD defeated the Ethiopians before Asa and before Judah, and the Ethiopians fled.

¹³ Asa and the people who were with him pursued them as far as Gerar, and the Ethiopians fell until none remained alive, for they were broken before the LORD and his army. The men of Judah carried away very much spoil.

¹⁴ And they attacked all the cities around Gerar, for the fear of the LORD was upon them. They plundered all the

cities, for there was much plunder in them.

¹⁵ And they struck down the tents of those who had livestock and carried away sheep in abundance and camels. Then they returned to Jerusalem.

15 ¹ 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 was without the true God, and without a teaching priest and without law,

⁴ but when in their distress they turned to the LORD, the God of Israel, and sought him, he was found by them.

⁵ In those times there was no peace to him who went out or to him who came

in, for great disturbances afflicted all the inhabitants of the lands.

⁶ They were broken in pieces. Nation was crushed by nation and city by city, for God troubled them with every sort of distress.

⁷ But you, take courage! Do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded."

⁸ As soon as Asa heard these words, the prophecy of Azariah the son of Oded, he took courage and put away the detestable idols from all the land of Judah and Benjamin and from the cities that he had taken in the hill country of Ephraim, and he repaired the altar of the LORD that was in front of the vestibule of the house of the LORD.

⁹ And he gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and those from Ephraim, Manasseh, and Simeon who were residing with them, for great numbers

had deserted to him from Israel when they saw that the LORD his God was with him.

¹⁰ They were gathered at Jerusalem in the third month of the fifteenth year of the reign of Asa.

¹¹ They sacrificed to the LORD on that day from the spoil that they had brought 700 oxen and 7,000 sheep.

¹² And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD, the God of their fathers, with all their heart and with all their soul,

¹³ but that whoever would not seek the LORD, the God of Israel, should be put to death, whether young or old, man or woman.

¹⁴ They swore an oath to the LORD with a loud voice and with shouting and with trumpets and with horns.

¹⁵ And all Judah rejoiced over the oath, for they had sworn with all their heart

and had sought him with their whole desire, and he was found by them, and the LORD gave them rest all around.

¹⁶ Even Maacah, his mother, King Asa removed from being queen mother because she had made a detestable image for Asherah. Asa cut down her image, crushed it, and burned it at the brook Kidron.

¹⁷ But the high places were not taken out of Israel. Nevertheless, the heart of Asa was wholly true all his days.

¹⁸ And he brought into the house of God the sacred gifts of his father and his own sacred gifts, silver, and gold, and vessels.

¹⁹ And there was no more 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 went up against Judah and built Ramah,

that he might permit no one to go out or come in to Asa king of Judah.

² Then Asa took silver and gold from the treasures of the house of the LORD and the king's house and sent them to Ben-hadad king of Syria, who lived in Damascus, saying,

³ "There is a covenant between me and you, as there was between my father and your father. Behold, I am sending to you silver and gold. Go, break your covenant with Baasha king of Israel, that he may withdraw from me."

⁴ And Ben-hadad listened to King Asa and sent the commanders of his armies against the cities of Israel, and they conquered Ijon, Dan, Abel-maim, and all the store cities of Naphtali.

⁵ And when Baasha heard of it, he stopped building Ramah and let his work cease.

⁶ Then King Asa took all Judah, and they carried away the stones of Ramah and its timber, with which Baasha had been building, and with them he built Geba and Mizpah.

⁷ At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him, "Because you relied on the king of Syria, and did not rely on the LORD your God, the army of the king of Syria has escaped you.

⁸ Were not the Ethiopians and the Libyans a huge army with very many chariots and horsemen? Yet because you relied on the LORD, he gave them into your hand.

⁹ For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him. You have done foolishly in this, for from now on you will have wars."

¹⁰ Then Asa was angry with the seer and put him in the stocks in prison, for he was in a rage with him because of this. And Asa inflicted cruelties upon some of the people at the same time.

¹¹ The acts of Asa, from first to last, are written in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel.

¹² In the thirty-ninth year of his reign Asa was diseased in his feet, and his disease became severe. Yet even in his disease he did not seek the LORD, but sought help from physicians.

¹³ And Asa slept with his fathers, dying in the forty-first year of his reign.

¹⁴ They buried him in the tomb that he had cut for himself in the city of David. They laid him on a bier that had been filled with various kinds of spices prepared by the perfumer's art, and they made a very great fire in his honor.

17 ¹ Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his place and strengthened himself against Israel.

² He placed forces in all the fortified cities of Judah and set garrisons in the land of Judah, and in the cities of Ephraim that Asa his father had captured.

³ The LORD was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the earlier 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 practices of Israel.

⁵ Therefore the LORD established the kingdom in his hand. And all Judah brought tribute to Jehoshaphat, and he had great riches and honor.

⁶ His heart was courageous in the ways of the LORD. And furthermore, he took

the high places and the Asherim out of Judah.

⁷ In the third year of his reign he sent his officials, Ben-hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nethanel, and Micaiah, to teach in the cities of Judah;

⁸ and with them the Levites, Shemaiah, Nethaniah, Zebadiah, Asahel, Shemiramoth, Jehonathan, Adonijah, Tobijah, and Tobadonijah; and with these Levites, the priests Elishama and Jehoram.

⁹ And they taught in Judah, having the Book of the Law of the LORD with them. They went about through all the cities of Judah and taught among the people.

¹⁰ And the fear of the LORD fell upon all the kingdoms of the lands that were around Judah, and they made no war against Jehoshaphat.

¹¹ Some of the Philistines brought Jehoshaphat presents and silver for

tribute, and the Arabians also brought him 7,700 rams and 7,700 goats.

¹² And Jehoshaphat grew steadily greater. He built in Judah fortresses and store cities,

¹³ and he had large supplies in the cities of Judah. He had soldiers, mighty men of valor, in Jerusalem.

¹⁴ This was the muster of them by fathers' houses: Of Judah, the commanders of thousands: Adnah the commander, with 300,000 mighty men of valor;

¹⁵ and next to him Jehohanan the commander, with 280,000;

¹⁶ and next to him Amasiah the son of Zichri, a volunteer for the service of the LORD, with 200,000 mighty men of valor.

¹⁷ Of Benjamin: Eliada, a mighty man of valor, with 200,000 men armed with bow and shield;

¹⁸ and next to him Jehozabad with 180,000 armed for war.

¹⁹ These were in the service of the king, besides those whom the king had placed in the fortified cities throughout all Judah.

18 ¹ Now Jehoshaphat had great riches and honor, and he made a marriage alliance with Ahab.

² After some years he went down to Ahab in Samaria. And Ahab killed an abundance of sheep and oxen for him and for the people who were with him, and induced him to go up against Ramoth-gilead.

³ Ahab king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat king of Judah, "Will you go with me to Ramoth-gilead?" He answered him, "I am as you are, my people as your people. We will be with you in the war."

⁴ And Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, "Inquire first for the word of the LORD."

⁵ Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, four hundred men, and said to them, "Shall we go to battle against Ramoth-gilead, or shall I refrain?" And they said, "Go up, for God will give it into the hand of the king."

⁶ But Jehoshaphat said, "Is there not here another prophet of the LORD of whom we may inquire?"

⁷ And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "There is yet one man by whom we may inquire of the LORD, Micaiah the son of Imlah; but I hate him, for he never prophesies good concerning me, but always evil." And Jehoshaphat said, "Let not the king say so."

⁸ Then the king of Israel summoned an officer and said, "Bring quickly Micaiah the son of Imlah."

⁹ Now the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah were sitting on their thrones, arrayed in their robes. And they were sitting at the threshing floor at the entrance of the gate of Samaria, and all the prophets were prophesying before them.

¹⁰ And Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah made for himself horns of iron and said, "Thus says the LORD, 'With these you shall push the Syrians until they are destroyed.'"

¹¹ And all the prophets prophesied so and said, "Go up to Ramoth-gilead and triumph. The LORD will give it into the hand of the king."

¹² And the messenger who went to summon Micaiah said to him, "Behold, the words of the prophets with one accord are favorable to the king. Let your word be like the word of one of them, and speak favorably."

¹³ But Micaiah said, "As the LORD lives, what my God says, that I will speak."

¹⁴ And when he had come to the king, the king said to him, "Micaiah, shall we go to Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall I refrain?" And he answered, "Go up and triumph; they will be given into your hand."

¹⁵ But the king said to him, "How many times shall I make you swear that you speak to me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?"

¹⁶ And 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 home in peace.'"

¹⁷ And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "Did I not tell you that he would not prophesy good concerning me, but evil?"

¹⁸ And 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 on his left.

¹⁹ And the LORD said, 'Who will entice Ahab the king of Israel, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?' And one said one thing, and another said another.

²⁰ Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD, saying, 'I will entice him.' And the LORD said to him, 'By what means?'

²¹ And he said, 'I will go out, and will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' And he said, 'You are to entice him, and you shall succeed; go out and do so.'

²² Now therefore behold, the LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouth of these your prophets. The LORD has declared disaster concerning you."

²³ Then Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah came near and struck Micaiah on the cheek and said, "Which way did the Spirit of the LORD go from me to speak to you?"

²⁴ And Micaiah said, "Behold, you shall see on that day when you go into an inner chamber to hide yourself."

²⁵ And the king of Israel said, "Seize Micaiah and take him back 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 meager rations of bread and water until I return in peace.'"

²⁷ And Micaiah said, "If you return in peace, the LORD has not spoken by me." And he said, "Hear, all you peoples!"

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 wear your robes." And the king of Israel disguised himself, and they went into battle.

³⁰ Now the king of Syria had commanded the captains of his chariots, "Fight with neither small nor great, but only with the king of Israel."

³¹ As soon as the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, they said, "It is the king of Israel." So they turned to fight against him. And Jehoshaphat cried out, and the LORD helped him; God drew them away from him.

³² For as soon as the captains of the chariots saw that it was not the king of Israel, they turned back from pursuing him.

³³ But a certain man drew his bow at random and struck the king of Israel between the scale armor and the

breastplate. Therefore he said to the driver of his chariot, "Turn around and carry me out of the battle, for I am wounded."

³⁴ And the battle continued that day, and the king of Israel was propped up in his chariot facing the Syrians until evening. Then at sunset he died.

19 ¹ Jehoshaphat the king of Judah returned in safety to his house in Jerusalem.

² But 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? Because of this, wrath has gone out against you from the LORD.

³ Nevertheless, some good is found in you, for you destroyed the Asherahs out of the land, and have set your heart to seek God."

⁴ Jehoshaphat lived at Jerusalem. And he went out again among the people, from Beersheba to the hill country of Ephraim, and brought them back to the LORD, the God of their fathers.

⁵ He appointed judges in the land in all the fortified cities of Judah, city by city,

⁶ and said to the judges, "Consider what you do, for you judge not for man but for the LORD. He is with you in giving judgment.

⁷ Now then, let the fear of the LORD be upon you. Be careful what you do, for there is no injustice with the LORD our God, or partiality or taking bribes."

⁸ Moreover, in Jerusalem Jehoshaphat appointed certain Levites and priests and heads of families of Israel, to give judgment for the LORD and to decide disputed cases. They had their seat at Jerusalem.

⁹ And he charged them: "Thus you shall do in the fear of the LORD, in faithfulness, and with your whole heart:

¹⁰ whenever a case comes to you from your brothers who live in their cities, concerning bloodshed, law or commandment, statutes or rules, then you shall warn them, that they may not incur guilt before the LORD and wrath may not come upon you and your brothers. Thus you shall do, and you will not incur guilt.

¹¹ And behold, Amariah the chief priest is over you in all matters of the LORD; and Zebadiah the son of Ishmael, the governor of the house of Judah, in all the king's matters, and the Levites will serve you as officers. Deal courageously, and may the LORD be with the upright!"

20 ¹ After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them

some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle.

² Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, "A great multitude is coming against you from Edom, from beyond the sea; and, behold, they are in Hazazon-tamar" (that is, Engedi).

³ Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

⁴ And Judah assembled to seek help from the LORD; from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD.

⁵ And 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? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you.

⁷ Did you not, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel, and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend?

⁸ And they have lived in it and have built for you in it a sanctuary for your name, saying,

⁹ 'If disaster comes upon us, the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before you--for your name is in this house--and cry out to you in our affliction, and you will hear and save.'

¹⁰ And now behold, the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom you would not let Israel invade when they came from the land of Egypt, and whom they avoided and did not destroy--

¹¹ behold, they reward us by coming to drive us out of your possession, which you have given us to inherit.

¹² O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you."

¹³ Meanwhile all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children.

¹⁴ And the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly.

¹⁵ And he said, "Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the LORD to you, 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's.

¹⁶ Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end

of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel.

¹⁷ You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.' Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the LORD will be with you."

¹⁸ Then Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the LORD, worshiping the LORD.

¹⁹ And the Levites, of the Kohathites and the Korahites, stood up to praise the LORD, the God of Israel, with a very loud voice.

²⁰ And they rose early in the morning and went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. And when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me,

Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem!
Believe in the LORD your God, and you
will be established; believe his prophets,
and you will succeed."

²¹ And when he had taken counsel with
the people, he appointed those who
were to sing to the LORD and praise him
in holy attire, as they went before the
army, and say, "Give thanks to the LORD,
for his steadfast love endures forever."

²² And when they began to sing and
praise, the LORD set an ambush against
the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount
Seir, who had come against Judah, so
that they were routed.

²³ For the men of Ammon and Moab
rose against the inhabitants of Mount
Seir, devoting them to destruction, and
when they had made an end of the
inhabitants of Seir, they all helped to
destroy one another.

²⁴ When Judah came to the watchtower of the wilderness, they looked toward the horde, and behold, there were dead bodies lying on the ground; none had escaped.

²⁵ When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take their spoil, they found among them, in great numbers, goods, clothing, and precious things, which they took for themselves until they could carry no more. They were three days in taking the spoil, it was so much.

²⁶ On the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Beracah, for there they blessed the LORD. Therefore the name of that place has been called the Valley of Beracah to this day.

²⁷ Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat at their head, returning to Jerusalem with joy, for the LORD had made them rejoice over their enemies.

²⁸ They came to Jerusalem with harps and lyres and trumpets, to the house of the LORD.

²⁹ And the fear of God came on all the kingdoms of the countries when they heard that the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel.

³⁰ So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet, for his God gave him rest all around.

³¹ Thus Jehoshaphat reigned over Judah. He was thirty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Azubah the daughter of Shilhi.

³² He walked in the way of Asa his father and did not turn aside from it, doing what was right in the sight of the LORD.

³³ The high places, however, were not taken away; the people had not yet

set their hearts upon the God of their fathers.

³⁴ Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, from first to last, are written in the chronicles of Jehu the son of Hanani, which are recorded in the Book of the Kings of Israel.

³⁵ After this Jehoshaphat king of Judah joined with Ahaziah king of Israel, who acted wickedly.

³⁶ He joined him in building ships to go to Tarshish, and they built the ships in Ezion-geber.

³⁷ Then Eliezer the son of Dodavahu of Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, "Because you have joined with Ahaziah, the LORD will destroy what you have made." And the ships were wrecked and were not able to go to Tarshish.

21 ¹ Jehoshaphat slept with his fathers and was buried with his

fathers in the city of David, and Jehoram his son reigned in his place.

² He had brothers, the sons of Jehoshaphat: Azariah, Jehiel, Zechariah, Azariah, Michael, and Shephatiah; all these were the sons of Jehoshaphat king of Judah.

³ Their father gave them great gifts of silver, gold, and valuable possessions, together with fortified cities in Judah, but he gave the kingdom to Jehoram, because he was the firstborn.

⁴ When Jehoram had ascended the throne of his father and was established, he killed all his brothers with the sword, and also some 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, as the house of Ahab had done, for the daughter of Ahab was his wife.

And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD.

⁷ Yet the LORD was not willing to 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 Edom revolted from the rule of Judah and set up a king of their own.

⁹ Then Jehoram passed over with his commanders and all his chariots, and he rose by night and struck the Edomites who had surrounded him and his chariot commanders.

¹⁰ So Edom revolted from the rule of Judah to this day. At that time Libnah also revolted from his rule, because he had forsaken the LORD, the God of his fathers.

¹¹ Moreover, he made high places in the hill country of Judah and led the

inhabitants of Jerusalem into whoredom and made Judah go astray.

¹² And a letter came to him from Elijah the prophet, saying, "Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father, '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 enticed Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem into whoredom, as the house of Ahab led Israel into whoredom, and also you have killed your brothers, of your father's house, who were better than yourself,

¹⁴ behold, the LORD will bring a great plague on your people, your children, your wives, and all your possessions,

¹⁵ and you yourself will have a severe sickness with a disease of your bowels, until your bowels come out because of the disease, day by day.'"

¹⁶ And the LORD stirred up against Jehoram the anger of the Philistines and of the Arabians who are near the Ethiopians.

¹⁷ And they came up against Judah and invaded it and carried away all the possessions they found that belonged to the king's house, and also his sons and his wives, so that no son was left to him except Jehoahaz, his youngest son.

¹⁸ And after all this the LORD struck him in his bowels with an incurable disease.

¹⁹ In course of time, at the end of two years, his bowels came out because of the disease, and he died in great agony. His people made no fire in his honor, like the fires made for his fathers.

²⁰ He was thirty-two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem. And he departed with no one's regret. They buried him in

the city of David, but not in the tombs of the kings.

22 ¹ And the inhabitants of Jerusalem made Ahaziah his youngest son king in his place, for the band of men that came with the Arabians to the camp had killed all the older sons. So Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah reigned.

² Ahaziah was twenty-two years old when he began to reign, 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 was his counselor in doing wickedly.

⁴ He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, as the house of Ahab had done. For after the death of his father they were his counselors, to his undoing.

⁵ He even followed their counsel and went with Jehoram the son of Ahab king of Israel to make war against Hazael king of Syria at Ramoth-gilead. And the Syrians wounded Joram,

⁶ and he returned to be healed in Jezreel of the wounds that he had received 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 wounded.

⁷ But it was ordained by God that the downfall of Ahaziah should come about through his going to visit Joram. For when he came there, he went out with Jehoram to meet Jehu the son of Nimshi, whom the LORD had anointed to destroy the house of Ahab.

⁸ And when Jehu was executing judgment on the house of Ahab, he met the princes of Judah and the sons

of Ahaziah's brothers, who attended Ahaziah, and he killed them.

⁹ He searched for Ahaziah, and he was captured while hiding in Samaria, and he was brought to Jehu and put to death. They buried him, for they said, "He is the grandson of Jehoshaphat, who sought the LORD with all his heart." And the house of Ahaziah had no one able to rule the kingdom.

¹⁰ Now when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal family 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 about to be put to death, and she put him and his nurse in a bedroom. Thus Jehoshabeath, the daughter of King Jehoram and wife of Jehoiada the priest, because she was a

sister of Ahaziah, hid him from Athaliah, so that she did not put him to death.

¹² And he remained with them six years, hidden in the house of God, while Athaliah reigned over the land.

23 ¹ But in the seventh year Jehoiada took courage and entered into a covenant with the commanders 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 about through Judah and gathered the Levites from all the cities of Judah, and the heads of fathers' houses of Israel, and they came to Jerusalem.

³ And all the assembly made a covenant with the king in the house of God. And Jehoiada said to them, "Behold, the king's son! Let him reign, as the LORD spoke concerning the sons of David.

⁴ This is the thing that you shall do: of you priests and Levites who come off duty on the Sabbath, one third shall be gatekeepers,

⁵ and one third shall be at the king's house and one third at the Gate of the Foundation. And all the people shall be in the courts of the house of the LORD.

⁶ Let no one enter the house of the LORD except the priests and ministering Levites. They may enter, for they are holy, but all the people shall keep the charge of the LORD.

⁷ The Levites shall surround the king, each with his weapons in his hand. And whoever enters the house shall be put to death. Be with the king when he comes in and when he goes out."

⁸ The Levites and all Judah did according to all that Jehoiada the priest commanded, and they each brought his men, who were to go off duty on the

Sabbath, with those who were to come on duty on the Sabbath, for Jehoiada the priest did not dismiss the divisions.

⁹ And Jehoiada the priest gave to the captains the spears and the large and small shields that had been King David's, which were in the house of God.

¹⁰ And he set all the people as a guard for the king, every man with his weapon in his hand, from the south side of the house to the north side of the house, around the altar and the house.

¹¹ Then they brought out the king's son and put the crown on him and gave him the testimony. And they proclaimed him king, and Jehoiada and his sons anointed him, and they said, "Long live the king."

¹² When Athaliah heard the noise of the people running and praising the king, she went into the house of the LORD to the people.

¹³ And when she looked, there was the king standing by his pillar at the entrance, and the captains and the trumpeters beside the king, and all the people of the land rejoicing and blowing trumpets, and the singers with their musical instruments leading in the celebration. And Athaliah tore her clothes and cried, "Treason! Treason!"

¹⁴ Then Jehoiada the priest brought out the captains who were set over the army, saying to them, "Bring her out between the ranks, and anyone who follows her is to be put to death with the sword." For the priest said, "Do not put her to death in the house of the LORD."

¹⁵ So they laid hands on her, and she went into the entrance of the horse gate of the king's house, and they put her to death there.

¹⁶ And Jehoiada made a covenant between himself and all the people and

the king that they should be the LORD's people.

¹⁷ Then all the people went to the house of Baal and tore it down; his altars and his images they broke in pieces, and they killed Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars.

¹⁸ And Jehoiada posted watchmen for the house of the LORD under the direction of the Levitical priests and the Levites whom David had organized to be in charge of the house of the LORD, to offer burnt offerings to the LORD, as it is written in the Law of Moses, with rejoicing and with singing, according to the order of David.

¹⁹ He stationed the gatekeepers at the gates of the house of the LORD so that no one should enter who was in any way unclean.

²⁰ And he took the captains, the nobles, the governors of the people, and all the

people of the land, and they brought the king down from the house of the LORD, marching through the upper gate to the king's house. And they set the king on the royal throne.

²¹ So all the people of the land rejoiced, and the city was quiet after Athaliah had been put to death with the sword.

24 ¹ Joash was seven years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zibiah of Beersheba.

² And Joash did what was right in the eyes of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest.

³ Jehoiada got for him two wives, and he had sons and daughters.

⁴ After this Joash decided to restore the house of the LORD.

⁵ And 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 act quickly." But the Levites did not act quickly.

⁶ So the king summoned Jehoiada the chief and said to him, "Why have you not required the Levites to bring in from Judah and Jerusalem the tax levied by Moses, the servant of the LORD, and the congregation of Israel for the tent of testimony?"

⁷ For the sons of Athaliah, that wicked woman, had broken into the house of God, and had also used all the dedicated things of the house of the LORD for the Baals.

⁸ So the king commanded, and they made a chest and set it outside the gate of the house of the LORD.

⁹ And proclamation was made throughout Judah and Jerusalem to bring in for the LORD the tax that Moses

the servant of God laid on Israel in the wilderness.

¹⁰ And all the princes and all the people rejoiced and brought their tax and dropped it into the chest until they had finished.

¹¹ And whenever the chest was brought to the king's officers by the Levites, when they saw that there was much money in it, the king's secretary and the officer of the chief priest would come and empty the chest and take it and return it to its place. Thus they did day after day, and collected money in abundance.

¹² And the king and Jehoiada gave it to those who had charge of the work of the house of the LORD, and they hired masons and carpenters to restore the house of the LORD, and also workers in iron and bronze to repair the house of the LORD.

¹³ So those who were engaged in the work labored, and the repairing went forward in their hands, and they restored the house of God to its proper condition and strengthened it.

¹⁴ And when they had finished, they brought the rest of the money before the king and Jehoiada, and with it were made utensils for the house of the LORD, both for the service and for the burnt offerings, and dishes for incense and vessels of gold and silver. And they offered burnt offerings in the house of the LORD regularly all the days of Jehoiada.

¹⁵ But Jehoiada grew old and full of days, and died. He was 130 years old at his death.

¹⁶ And they buried him in the city of David among the kings, because he had done good in Israel, and toward God and his house.

¹⁷ Now after the death of Jehoiada the princes of Judah came and paid homage to the king. Then the king listened to them.

¹⁸ And they abandoned the house of the LORD, the God of their fathers, and served the Asherim and the idols. And wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this guilt of theirs.

¹⁹ Yet he sent prophets among them to bring them back to the LORD. These testified against them, but they would not pay attention.

²⁰ Then the Spirit of God clothed Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, and he stood above the people, and said to them, "Thus says God, 'Why do you break the commandments of the LORD, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, he has forsaken you.'"

²¹ But they conspired against him, and by 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 that Jehoiada, Zechariah's father, had shown him, but killed his son. And when he was dying, he said, "May the LORD see and avenge!"

²³ At the end of the year the army of the Syrians came up against Joash. They came to Judah and Jerusalem and destroyed all the princes of the people from among the people and sent all their spoil to the king of Damascus.

²⁴ Though the army of the Syrians had come with few men, the LORD delivered into their hand a very great army, because Judah had forsaken the LORD, the God of their fathers. Thus they executed judgment on Joash.

²⁵ When they had departed from him, leaving him severely wounded, his servants conspired against him because of the blood of the son 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 Those who conspired against him were Zabad the son of Shimeath the Ammonite, and Jehozabad the son of Shimrith the Moabite.

²⁷ Accounts of his sons and of the many oracles against him and of the rebuilding of the house of God are written in the Story of the Book of the Kings. And Amaziah his son reigned in his place.

25 ¹ Amaziah was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, 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 eyes of the LORD, yet not with a whole heart.

³ And as soon as the royal power was firmly his, he killed his servants who had struck down the king his father.

⁴ But he did not put their children to death, according to what is written in the Law, in the Book of Moses, where the LORD commanded, "Fathers shall not die because of their children, nor children die because of their fathers, but each one shall die for his own sin."

⁵ Then Amaziah assembled the men of Judah and set them by fathers' houses under commanders of thousands and of hundreds for all Judah and Benjamin. He mustered those twenty years old and upward, and found that they were 300,000 choice men, fit for war, able to handle spear and shield.

⁶ He hired also 100,000 mighty men of valor from Israel for 100 talents of silver.

⁷ But a man of God came to him and said, "O king, do not let the army of Israel go with you, for the LORD is not with Israel, with all these Ephraimites.

⁸ But go, act, be strong for the battle. Why should you suppose that God will cast you down before the enemy? For God has power to help or to cast down."

⁹ And Amaziah said to the man of God, "But what shall we do about the hundred talents that I have given to the army of Israel?" The man of God answered, "The LORD is able to give you much more than this."

¹⁰ Then Amaziah discharged the army that had come to him from Ephraim to go home again. And they became very angry with Judah and returned home in fierce anger.

¹¹ But Amaziah took courage and led out his people and went to the Valley of Salt and struck down 10,000 men of Seir.

¹² The men of Judah captured another 10,000 alive and took them to the top of a rock and threw them down from the top of the rock, and they were all dashed to pieces.

¹³ But the men of the army whom Amaziah sent back, not letting them go with him to battle, raided the cities of Judah, from Samaria to Beth-horon, and struck down 3,000 people in them and took much spoil.

¹⁴ After Amaziah came from striking down the Edomites, he brought the gods of the men of Seir and set them up as his gods and worshiped them, making offerings to them.

¹⁵ Therefore the LORD was angry with Amaziah and sent to him a prophet, who said to him, "Why have you sought the gods of a people who did not deliver their own people from your hand?"

¹⁶ But as he was speaking, the king said to him, "Have we made you a royal counselor? Stop! Why should you be struck down?" So the prophet stopped, but said, "I know that God has determined to destroy you, because you have done this and have not listened to my counsel."

¹⁷ Then Amaziah king of Judah took counsel and sent to Joash the son of Jehoahaz, son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, "Come, let us look one another in the face."

¹⁸ And Joash the king of Israel sent word to Amaziah king of Judah, "A thistle on Lebanon sent to a cedar on Lebanon, saying, 'Give your daughter to my son for a wife,' and a wild beast of Lebanon passed by and trampled down the thistle.

¹⁹ You say, 'See, I have struck down Edom,' and your heart has lifted you up

in boastfulness. But now stay at home. Why should you provoke trouble so that you fall, you and Judah with you?"

²⁰ But Amaziah would not listen, for it was of God, in order that he might give them into the hand of their enemies, because they had sought the gods of Edom.

²¹ So Joash king of Israel went up, and he and Amaziah king of Judah faced one another in battle at Beth-shemesh, which belongs to Judah.

²² And Judah was defeated by Israel, and every man fled to his home.

²³ And Joash king of Israel captured Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Joash, son of Ahaziah, at Beth-shemesh, and brought him to Jerusalem and broke down the wall of Jerusalem for 400 cubits, from the Ephraim Gate to the Corner Gate.

²⁴ And he seized all the gold and silver, and all the vessels that were found in the house of God, in the care of Obed-edom. He seized also the treasures of the king's house, also hostages, and he 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 deeds of Amaziah, from first to last, are they not written in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel?

²⁷ From the time when he turned away from the LORD they made a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem, and he fled to Lachish. But they sent after him to Lachish and put him to death there.

²⁸ And they brought him upon horses, and he was buried with his fathers in the city of David.

26 ¹ And all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king instead of his father Amaziah.

² He built Eloth and restored it to Judah, after the king slept with his fathers.

³ Uzziah was sixteen years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty-two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jecoliah of Jerusalem.

⁴ And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah had done.

⁵ He set himself to seek God in the days of Zechariah, who instructed him in the fear of God, and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him prosper.

⁶ He went out and made war against the Philistines and broke through the wall of Gath and the wall of Jabneh and the wall of Ashdod, and he built cities in

the territory of Ashdod and elsewhere among the Philistines.

⁷ God helped him against the Philistines and against the Arabians who lived in Gurbaal and against the Meunites.

⁸ The Ammonites paid tribute to Uzziah, and his fame spread even to the border of Egypt, for he became very strong.

⁹ Moreover, Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the Corner Gate and at the Valley Gate and at the Angle, and fortified them.

¹⁰ And he built towers in the wilderness and cut out many cisterns, for he had large herds, both in the Shephelah and in the plain, and he had farmers and vinedressers in the hills and in the fertile lands, for he loved the soil.

¹¹ Moreover, Uzziah had an army of soldiers, fit for war, in divisions according to the numbers in the muster made by Jeiel the secretary and Maaseiah the

officer, under the direction of Hananiah, one of the king's commanders.

¹² The whole number of the heads of fathers' houses of mighty men of valor was 2,600.

¹³ Under their command was an army of 307,500, who could make war with mighty power, to help the king against the enemy.

¹⁴ And Uzziah prepared for all the army shields, spears, helmets, coats of mail, bows, and stones for slinging.

¹⁵ In Jerusalem he made engines, invented by skillful men, to be on the towers and the corners, to shoot arrows and great stones. And his fame spread far, for he was marvelously helped, till he was strong.

¹⁶ But when he was strong, he grew proud, to his destruction. For he was unfaithful to the LORD his God and

entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense.

¹⁷ But Azariah the priest went in after him, with eighty priests of the LORD who were men of valor,

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. Go out of the sanctuary, for you have done wrong, and it will bring you no honor from the LORD God."

¹⁹ Then Uzziah was angry. Now he had a censer in his hand to burn incense, and when he became angry with the priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead in the presence of the priests in the house of the LORD, by the altar of incense.

²⁰ And Azariah the chief priest and all the priests looked at him, and behold, he was leprous in his forehead! And they

rushed him out quickly, and he himself hurried to go out, because the LORD had struck him.

²¹ And King Uzziah was a leper to the day of his death, and being a leper lived in a separate house, for he was excluded from the house of the LORD. And Jotham his son was over the king's household, governing the people of the land.

²² Now the rest of the acts of Uzziah, from first to last, Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz wrote.

²³ And Uzziah slept with his fathers, and they buried him with his fathers in the burial field that belonged to the kings, for they said, "He is a leper." And Jotham his son reigned in his place.

27 ¹ Jotham was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, 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 eyes of the LORD according to all that his father Uzziah had done, except he did not enter the temple of the LORD. But the people still followed corrupt practices.

³ He built the upper gate of the house of the LORD and did much building on the wall of Ophel.

⁴ Moreover, he built cities in the hill country of Judah, and forts and towers on the wooded hills.

⁵ He fought with the king of the Ammonites and prevailed against them. And the Ammonites gave him that year 100 talents of silver, and 10,000 cors of wheat and 10,000 of barley. The Ammonites paid him the same amount in the second and the third years.

⁶ So Jotham became mighty, because he ordered his ways before the LORD his God.

⁷ Now the rest of the acts of Jotham, and all his wars and his ways, behold, they are written in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah.

⁸ He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem.

⁹ And Jotham slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David, and Ahaz his son reigned in his place.

28 ¹ Ahaz was twenty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. And he did not do what was right in the eyes of the LORD, as his father David had done,

² but he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel. He even made metal images for the Baals,

³ and he made offerings in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom and burned his sons as an offering, according to the abominations of the nations whom the

LORD drove out before the people of Israel.

⁴ And he sacrificed and made offerings on the high places and on the hills and under every green tree.

⁵ Therefore the LORD his God gave him into the hand of the king of Syria, who defeated him and took captive a great number of his people and brought them to Damascus. He was also given into the hand of the king of Israel, who struck him with great force.

⁶ For Pekah the son of Remaliah killed 120,000 from Judah in one day, all of them men of valor, because they had forsaken the LORD, the God of their fathers.

⁷ And Zichri, a mighty man of Ephraim, killed Maaseiah the king's son and Azrikam the commander of the palace and Elkanah the next in authority to the king.

⁸ The men of Israel took captive 200,000 of their relatives, women, sons, and daughters. They also took 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 to meet the army that came to Samaria and said to them, "Behold, because the LORD, the God of your fathers, was angry with Judah, he gave them into your hand, but you have killed them in a rage that has reached up to heaven.

¹⁰ And now you intend to subjugate the people of Judah and Jerusalem, male and female, as your slaves. Have you not sins of your own against the LORD your God?

¹¹ Now hear me, and send back the captives from your relatives whom you have taken, for the fierce wrath of the LORD is upon you."

¹² Certain chiefs also of the men 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 were coming from the war

¹³ and said to them, "You shall not bring the captives in here, for you propose to bring upon us guilt against the LORD in addition to our present sins and guilt. For our guilt is already great, and there is fierce wrath against Israel."

¹⁴ So the armed men left the captives and the spoil before the princes and all the assembly.

¹⁵ And the men who have been mentioned by name rose and took the captives, and with the spoil they clothed all who were naked among them. They clothed them, gave them sandals, provided them with food and drink, and anointed them, and carrying

all the feeble among them on donkeys, they brought them to their kinsfolk at Jericho, the city of palm trees. Then they returned to Samaria.

¹⁶ At that time King Ahaz sent to the king of Assyria for help.

¹⁷ For the Edomites had again invaded and defeated Judah and carried away captives.

¹⁸ And the Philistines had made raids on the cities in the Shephelah and the Negeb of Judah, and had taken Beth-shemesh, Aijalon, Gederoth, Soco with its villages, Timnah with its villages, and Gimzo with its villages. And they settled there.

¹⁹ For the LORD humbled Judah because of Ahaz king of Israel, for he had made Judah act sinfully and had been very unfaithful to the LORD.

²⁰ So Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria came against him and afflicted him instead of strengthening him.

²¹ For Ahaz took a portion from the house of the LORD and the house of the king and of the princes, and gave tribute to the king of Assyria, but it did not help him.

²² In the time of his distress he became yet more faithless to the LORD--this same King Ahaz.

²³ For he sacrificed to the gods of Damascus that had defeated him and said, "Because the gods of the kings of Syria helped them, I will sacrifice to them that they may help me." But they were the ruin of him and of all Israel.

²⁴ And Ahaz gathered together the vessels of the house of God and cut in pieces the vessels of the house of God, and he shut up the doors of the house of

the LORD, and he made himself altars in every corner of Jerusalem.

²⁵ In every city of Judah he made high places to make offerings to other gods, provoking to anger the LORD, the God of his fathers.

²⁶ Now the rest of his acts and all his ways, from first to last, behold, they are written in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel.

²⁷ And Ahaz slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city, in Jerusalem, for they did not bring him into the tombs of the kings of Israel. And Hezekiah his son reigned in his place.

29 ¹ Hezekiah began to reign 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 eyes of the LORD, according to all that David his father 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 He brought in the priests and the Levites and assembled them in the square on the east

⁵ and said to them, "Hear me, Levites! Now consecrate yourselves, and consecrate the house of the LORD, the God of your fathers, and carry out the filth from the Holy Place.

⁶ For our fathers have been unfaithful and have done what was evil in the sight of the LORD our God. They have forsaken him and have turned away their faces from the habitation of the LORD and turned their backs.

⁷ They also shut the doors of the vestibule and 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 came on Judah and Jerusalem, and he has made them an object of horror, of astonishment, and of hissing, as you see with your own eyes.

⁹ For behold, our fathers have fallen by the sword, and our sons and our daughters and our wives are in captivity for this.

¹⁰ Now it is in my heart to make a covenant with the LORD, the God of Israel, in order that his fierce anger may turn away from us.

¹¹ My sons, do not now be negligent, for the LORD has chosen you to stand in his presence, to minister to him and to be his ministers and make offerings to him."

¹² Then the Levites arose, Mahath the son of Amasai, and Joel the son of Azariah, of the sons of the Kohathites; and of the sons of Merari, Kish the son of Abdi, and Azariah the son of Jehallelel; and of the Gershonites, Joah the son of Zimmah, and Eden the son of Joah;

¹³ and of the sons of Elizaphan, Shimri and Jeuel; and of the sons of Asaph, Zechariah and Mattaniah;

¹⁴ and of the sons of Heman, Jehuel and Shimei; and of the sons of Jeduthun, Shemaiah and Uzziel.

¹⁵ They gathered their brothers and consecrated themselves and went in as the king had commanded, by the words of the LORD, to cleanse the house of the LORD.

¹⁶ The priests went into the inner part of the house of the LORD to cleanse it, and they brought out all the uncleanness that they found in the temple of the

LORD into the court of the house of the LORD. And the Levites took it and carried it out to the brook Kidron.

¹⁷ They began to consecrate 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 for eight days they consecrated the house of the LORD, and on the sixteenth day of the first month they finished.

¹⁸ Then they went in to Hezekiah the king and said, "We have cleansed all the house of the LORD, the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, and the table for the showbread and all its utensils.

¹⁹ All the utensils that King Ahaz discarded in his reign when he was faithless, we have made ready and consecrated, and behold, they are before the altar of the LORD."

²⁰ Then Hezekiah the king rose early and gathered the officials 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 and for the sanctuary and for Judah. And he commanded the priests the sons of Aaron to offer them on the altar of the LORD.

²² So they slaughtered the bulls, and the priests received the blood and threw it against the altar. And they slaughtered the rams and their blood was thrown against the altar. And they slaughtered the lambs and their blood was thrown against the altar.

²³ Then the goats for the sin offering were brought to the king and the assembly, and they laid their hands on them,

²⁴ and the priests slaughtered them and made a sin offering with their blood on the altar, to make atonement for all Israel. For the king commanded that the burnt offering and the sin offering should be made for all Israel.

²⁵ And he stationed the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, harps, and lyres, according to the commandment of David and of Gad the king's seer and of Nathan the prophet, for the commandment was from the LORD through his prophets.

²⁶ The Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets.

²⁷ Then Hezekiah commanded that the burnt offering be offered on the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the song to the LORD began also, and the trumpets, accompanied by the instruments of David king of Israel.

²⁸ The whole assembly worshiped, and the singers sang and the trumpeters sounded. All this continued until the burnt offering was finished.

²⁹ When the offering was finished, the king and all who were present with him bowed themselves and worshiped.

³⁰ And Hezekiah the king and the officials commanded the Levites to sing praises to the LORD with the words of David and of Asaph the seer. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed down and worshiped.

³¹ Then Hezekiah said, "You have now consecrated yourselves to the LORD. Come near; bring sacrifices and thank offerings to the house of the LORD." And the assembly brought sacrifices and thank offerings, and all who were of a willing heart brought burnt offerings.

³² The number of the burnt offerings that the assembly brought was 70 bulls,

100 rams, and 200 lambs; all these were for a burnt offering to the LORD.

³³ And the consecrated offerings were 600 bulls and 3,000 sheep.

³⁴ But the priests were too few and could not flay all the burnt offerings, so until other priests had consecrated themselves, their brothers the Levites helped them, until the work was finished--for the Levites were more upright in heart than the priests in consecrating themselves.

³⁵ Besides the great number of burnt offerings, there was the fat of the peace offerings, and there were the drink offerings for the burnt offerings. Thus the service of the house of the LORD was restored.

³⁶ And Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced because God had prepared for the people, for the thing came about suddenly.

30 ¹ Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and wrote letters also to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of the LORD at Jerusalem to keep the Passover to the LORD, the God of Israel.

² For the king and his princes and all the assembly in Jerusalem had taken counsel to keep the Passover in the second month--

³ for they could not keep it at that time because the priests had not consecrated themselves in sufficient number, nor had the people assembled in Jerusalem--

⁴ and the plan seemed right to the king and all the assembly.

⁵ So they decreed to make a proclamation throughout all Israel, from Beersheba to Dan, that the people should come and keep the Passover to the LORD, the God of Israel, at

Jerusalem, for they had not kept it as often as prescribed.

⁶ So couriers went throughout all Israel and Judah with letters from the king and his princes, as the king had commanded, saying, "O people of Israel, return to the LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, that he may turn again to the remnant of you who have escaped from the hand of the kings of Assyria.

⁷ Do not be like your fathers and your brothers, who were faithless to the LORD God of their fathers, so that he made them a desolation, as you see.

⁸ Do not now be stiff-necked as your fathers were, but yield yourselves to the LORD and come to his sanctuary, which he has consecrated forever, and serve the LORD your God, that his fierce anger may turn away from you.

⁹ For if you return to the LORD, your brothers and your children will find

compassion with their captors and return to this land. For the LORD your God is gracious and merciful and will not turn away his face from you, if you return to him."

¹⁰ So the couriers went from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh, and as far as Zebulun, but they laughed them to scorn and mocked them.

¹¹ However, some men of Asher, of Manasseh, and of Zebulun humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem.

¹² The hand of God was also on Judah to give them one heart to do what the king and the princes commanded by the word of the LORD.

¹³ And many people came together in Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread in the second month, a very great assembly.

¹⁴ They set to work and removed the altars that were in Jerusalem, and all the altars for burning incense they took away and threw into the Kidron valley.

¹⁵ And they slaughtered the Passover lamb on the fourteenth day of the second month. And the priests and the Levites were ashamed, so that they consecrated themselves and brought burnt offerings into the house of the LORD.

¹⁶ They took their accustomed posts according to the Law of Moses the man of God. The priests threw the blood that they received from the hand of the Levites.

¹⁷ For there were many in the assembly who had not consecrated themselves. Therefore the Levites had to slaughter the Passover lamb for everyone who was not clean, to consecrate it to the LORD.

¹⁸ For a majority of the people, many of them from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not cleansed themselves, yet they ate the Passover otherwise than as prescribed. For Hezekiah had prayed for them, saying, "May the good LORD pardon everyone

¹⁹ who sets his heart to seek God, the LORD, the God of his fathers, even though not according to the sanctuary's rules of cleanness."

²⁰ And the LORD heard Hezekiah and healed the people.

²¹ And the people 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 with all their might to the LORD.

²² And Hezekiah spoke encouragingly to all the Levites who showed good skill in the service of the LORD. So they ate

the food of the festival for seven days, sacrificing peace offerings and giving thanks to the LORD, the God of their fathers.

²³ Then the whole assembly agreed together to keep the feast for another seven days. So they kept it for another seven days with gladness.

²⁴ For Hezekiah king of Judah gave the assembly 1,000 bulls and 7,000 sheep for offerings, and the princes gave the assembly 1,000 bulls and 10,000 sheep. And the priests consecrated themselves in great numbers.

²⁵ The whole assembly of Judah, and the priests and the Levites, and the whole assembly that came out of Israel, and the sojourners who came out of the land of Israel, and the sojourners who lived in Judah, rejoiced.

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 and the Levites arose and blessed the people, and their voice was heard, and their prayer came to his holy habitation in heaven.

31 ¹ Now when all this was finished, all Israel who were present went out to the cities of Judah and broke in pieces the pillars and cut down the Asherim and broke down the high places and the altars throughout all Judah and Benjamin, and in Ephraim and Manasseh, until they had destroyed them all. Then all the people of Israel returned to their cities, every man to his possession.

² And Hezekiah appointed the divisions of the priests and of the Levites, division by division, each according to his service, the priests and the Levites, for burnt offerings and peace offerings, to minister

in the gates of the camp of the LORD and to give thanks and praise.

³ The contribution of the king from his own possessions was for the burnt offerings: the burnt offerings of morning and evening, and the burnt offerings for the Sabbaths, the new moons, and the appointed feasts, as it is written in the Law of the LORD.

⁴ And he commanded the people who lived in Jerusalem to give the portion due to the priests and the Levites, that they might give themselves to the Law of the LORD.

⁵ As soon as the command was spread abroad, the people of Israel gave in abundance the firstfruits of grain, wine, oil, honey, and of all the produce of the field. And they brought in abundantly the tithe of everything.

⁶ And the people of Israel and Judah who lived in the cities of Judah also

brought in the tithe of cattle and sheep, and the tithe of the dedicated things that had been dedicated to the LORD their God, and laid them in heaps.

⁷ In the third month they began to pile up the heaps, and finished them in the seventh month.

⁸ When Hezekiah and the princes came and saw the heaps, they blessed the LORD and his people Israel.

⁹ And Hezekiah questioned the priests and the Levites about the heaps.

¹⁰ Azariah the chief priest, who was of the house of Zadok, answered him, "Since they began to bring the contributions into the house of the LORD, we have eaten and had enough and have plenty left, for the LORD has blessed his people, so that we have this large amount left."

¹¹ Then Hezekiah commanded them to prepare chambers in the house of the LORD, and they prepared them.

¹² And they faithfully brought in the contributions, the tithes, and the dedicated things. The chief officer in charge of them was Conaniah the Levite, with Shimei his brother as second,

¹³ while Jehiel, Azaziah, Nahath, Asahel, Jerimoth, Jozabad, Eliel, Ismachiah, Mahath, and Benaiah were overseers assisting Conaniah and Shimei his brother, by the appointment of Hezekiah the king and Azariah the chief officer of the house of God.

¹⁴ And Kore the son of Imnah the Levite, keeper of the east gate, was over the freewill offerings to God, to apportion the contribution reserved for the LORD and the most holy offerings.

¹⁵ Eden, Miniamin, Jeshua, Shemaiah, Amariah, and Shecaniah were faithfully

assisting him in the cities of the priests, to distribute the portions to their brothers, old and young alike, by divisions,

¹⁶ except those enrolled by genealogy, males from three years old and upward--all who entered the house of the LORD as the duty of each day required--for their service according to their offices, by their divisions.

¹⁷ The enrollment of the priests was according to their fathers' houses; that of the Levites from twenty years old and upward was according to their offices, by their divisions.

¹⁸ They were enrolled with all their little children, their wives, their sons, and their daughters, the whole assembly, for they were faithful in keeping themselves holy.

¹⁹ And for the sons of Aaron, the priests, who were in the fields of common land

belonging to their cities, there were men in the several cities who were designated by name to distribute portions to every male among the priests and to everyone among the Levites who was enrolled.

²⁰ Thus Hezekiah did throughout all Judah, and he did what was good and right and faithful before the LORD his God.

²¹ And every work that he undertook in the service of the house of God and in accordance with the law and the commandments, seeking his God, he did with all his heart, and prospered.

32 ¹ After these things and these acts of faithfulness, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and invaded Judah and encamped against the fortified cities, thinking to win them for himself.

² And when Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come and intended to fight against Jerusalem,

³ he planned with his officers and his mighty men to stop the water of the springs that were outside the city; and they helped him.

⁴ A great many people were gathered, and they stopped all the springs and the brook that flowed through the land, saying, "Why should the kings of Assyria come and find much water?"

⁵ He set to work resolutely and built up all the wall that was broken down and raised towers upon it, and outside it he built another wall, and he strengthened the Millo in the city of David. He also made weapons and shields in abundance.

⁶ And he set combat commanders over the people and gathered them together to him in the square at the gate of the city and spoke encouragingly to them, saying,

⁷ "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or dismayed before the king of Assyria and all the horde 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 took confidence from the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

⁹ After this, Sennacherib, king of Assyria, who was besieging Lachish with all his forces, sent his servants to Jerusalem to Hezekiah king of Judah and to all the people of Judah who were in Jerusalem, saying,

¹⁰ "Thus says Sennacherib king of Assyria, 'On what are you trusting, that you endure the siege in Jerusalem?

¹¹ Is not Hezekiah misleading you, that he may give you over to die by famine and by thirst, when he tells you, "The

LORD our God will deliver us from the hand of the king of Assyria"?

¹² Has not this same Hezekiah taken away his high places and his altars and commanded Judah and Jerusalem, "Before one altar you shall worship, and on it you shall burn your sacrifices"?

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 at all able to deliver their lands out of my hand?

¹⁴ Who among all the gods of those nations that my fathers devoted to destruction was able to 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 mislead you in this fashion, and do not believe him, for no god of any nation or kingdom has been

able to deliver his people from my hand or from the hand of my fathers. How much less will your God deliver you out of my hand!"

¹⁶ And his servants said still more against the Lord GOD and against his servant Hezekiah.

¹⁷ And he wrote letters to cast contempt on the LORD, the God of Israel and to speak against him, saying, "Like the gods of the nations of the lands who have not delivered their people from my hands, so the God of Hezekiah will not deliver his people from my hand."

¹⁸ And they shouted it with a loud voice in the language of Judah to the people of Jerusalem who were on the wall, to frighten and terrify them, in order that they might take the city.

¹⁹ And they spoke of the God of Jerusalem as they spoke of the gods of

the peoples of the earth, which are the work of men's hands.

²⁰ Then Hezekiah the king and Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, prayed because of this and cried to heaven.

²¹ And the LORD sent an angel, who cut off all the mighty warriors and commanders and officers in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned with shame of face to his own land. And when he came into the house of his god, some of his own sons struck him down there with the sword.

²² So the LORD saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib king of Assyria and from the hand of all his enemies, and he provided for them on every side.

²³ And many brought gifts to the LORD to Jerusalem and precious things to Hezekiah king of Judah, so that he was

exalted in the sight of all nations from that time onward.

²⁴ In those days Hezekiah became sick and was at the point of death, and he prayed to the LORD, and he answered him and gave him a sign.

²⁵ But Hezekiah did not make return according to the benefit done to him, for his heart was proud. Therefore wrath came upon him and Judah and Jerusalem.

²⁶ But Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, both he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the LORD did not come upon them in the days of Hezekiah.

²⁷ And Hezekiah had very great riches and honor, and he made for himself treasuries for silver, for gold, for precious stones, for spices, for shields, and for all kinds of costly vessels;

²⁸ storehouses also for the yield of grain, wine, and oil; and stalls for all kinds of cattle, and sheepfolds.

²⁹ He likewise provided cities for himself, and flocks and herds in abundance, for God had given him very great possessions.

³⁰ This same Hezekiah closed the upper outlet of the waters of Gihon and directed them down to the west side of the city of David. And Hezekiah prospered in all his works.

³¹ And so in the matter of the envoys of the princes of Babylon, who had been sent to him to inquire about the sign that had been done in the land, God left him to himself, in order to test him and to know all that was in his heart.

³² Now the rest of the acts of Hezekiah and his good deeds, behold, they are written in the vision of Isaiah the

prophet the son of Amoz, in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel.

³³ And Hezekiah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the upper part of the tombs of the sons of David, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem did him honor at his death. And Manasseh his son reigned in his place.

33 ¹ Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem.

² And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD drove out before the people of Israel.

³ For he rebuilt the high places that his father Hezekiah had broken down, and he erected altars to the Baals, and made Asherahs, and worshiped all the host of heaven and served them.

⁴ And he 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 And he burned his sons as an offering in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, and used fortune-telling and omens and sorcery, and dealt with mediums and with wizards. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking him to anger.

⁷ And the carved image of the idol that he had made he set in the house of God, of which God 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 no more remove the foot of Israel from the land that I appointed for

your fathers, if only they will be careful to do all that I have commanded them, all the law, the statutes, and the rules given through Moses."

⁹ Manasseh led Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem astray, to do more evil than the nations whom the LORD destroyed before the people of Israel.

¹⁰ The LORD spoke to Manasseh and to his people, but they paid no attention.

¹¹ Therefore the LORD brought upon them the commanders of the army of the king of Assyria, who captured Manasseh with hooks and bound him with chains of bronze and brought him to Babylon.

¹² And when he was in distress, he entreated the favor of the LORD his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers.

¹³ He prayed to him, and God was moved by his entreaty and heard his plea and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD was God.

¹⁴ Afterward he built an outer wall for the city of David west of Gihon, in the valley, and for the entrance into the Fish Gate, and carried it around Ophel, and raised it to a very great height. He also put commanders of the army in all the fortified cities in Judah.

¹⁵ And he took away the foreign gods and the idol from the house of the LORD, and all the altars that he had built on the mountain of the house of the LORD and in Jerusalem, and he threw them outside of the city.

¹⁶ He also restored the altar of the LORD and offered on it sacrifices of peace offerings and of thanksgiving,

and he commanded Judah to serve the LORD, the God of Israel.

¹⁷ Nevertheless, the people still sacrificed at the high places, but only to the LORD their God.

¹⁸ Now the rest of the acts of Manasseh, and his prayer to his God, and the words of the seers who spoke to him in the name of the LORD, the God of Israel, behold, they are in the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel.

¹⁹ And his prayer, and how God was moved by his entreaty, and all his sin and his faithlessness, and the sites on which he built high places and set up the Asherim and the images, before he humbled himself, behold, they are written in the Chronicles of the Seers.

²⁰ So Manasseh slept with his fathers, and they buried him in his house, and Amon his son reigned in his place.

²¹ Amon was twenty-two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem.

²² And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, as Manasseh his father had done. Amon sacrificed to all the images that Manasseh his father had made, and served them.

²³ And he did not humble himself before the LORD, as Manasseh his father had humbled himself, but this Amon incurred guilt more and more.

²⁴ And his servants conspired against him and put him to death in his house.

²⁵ But the people of the land struck down all those who had conspired against King Amon. And the people of the land made Josiah his son king in his place.

34 ¹ Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem.

² And he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, and walked in the ways of David his father; and 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 yet a boy, he began to seek the God of David his father, and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the Asherim, and the carved and the metal images.

⁴ And they chopped down the altars of the Baals in his presence, and he cut down the incense altars that stood above them. And he broke in pieces the Asherim and the carved and the metal images, and he made dust of them and scattered it over 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 in the cities of Manasseh, Ephraim, and Simeon, and as far as Naphtali, in their ruins all around,

⁷ he broke down the altars and beat the Asherim and the images into powder and cut down all the incense altars throughout all the land of Israel. Then he returned to Jerusalem.

⁸ Now in the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had cleansed the land and the house, he sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, and Maaseiah the governor of the city, and Joah the son of Joahaz, the recorder, to repair the house of the LORD his God.

⁹ They came to Hilkiah the high priest and gave him the money that had been brought into the house of God, which the Levites, the keepers of the threshold, had collected from Manasseh and Ephraim and from all the remnant of

Israel and from all Judah and Benjamin and from the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

¹⁰ And they gave it to the workmen who were working in the house of the LORD. And the workmen who were working in the house of the LORD gave it for repairing and restoring the house.

¹¹ They gave it to the carpenters and the builders to buy quarried stone, and timber for binders and beams for the buildings that the kings of Judah had let go to ruin.

¹² And the men did the work faithfully. Over them were set Jahath and Obadiah the Levites, of the sons of Merari, and Zechariah and Meshullam, of the sons of the Kohathites, to have oversight. The Levites, all who were skillful with instruments of music,

¹³ were over the burden-bearers and directed all who did work in every kind

of service, and some of the Levites were scribes and officials and gatekeepers.

¹⁴ While they were bringing out the money that had been brought into the house of the LORD, Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the Law of the LORD given through Moses.

¹⁵ Then Hilkiah answered and said to Shaphan the secretary, "I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the LORD." And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan.

¹⁶ Shaphan brought the book to the king, and further reported to the king, "All that was committed to your servants they are doing.

¹⁷ They have emptied out the money that was found in the house of the LORD and have given it into the hand of the overseers and the workmen."

¹⁸ Then Shaphan the secretary told the king, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a

book." And Shaphan read from it before the king.

¹⁹ And when the king heard the words of the Law, he tore his clothes.

²⁰ And the king commanded Hilkiah, Ahikam the son of Shaphan, Abdon the son of Micah, Shaphan the secretary, and Asaiah the king's servant, saying,

²¹ "Go, inquire of the LORD for me and for those who are left in Israel and in Judah, concerning the words of the book that has been 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 whom the king had sent went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tokhath, son of Hasrah, keeper of the wardrobe (now she lived in Jerusalem in the

Second Quarter) and spoke to her to that effect.

²³ And she said to them, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: 'Tell the man who sent you to me,

²⁴ Thus says the LORD, behold, I will bring disaster upon this place and upon its inhabitants, all the curses that are written in the book that was read before the king of Judah.

²⁵ Because they have forsaken me and have made offerings 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 will not be quenched.

²⁶ But to the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, thus shall you say to him, Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Regarding the words that you have heard,

²⁷ because your heart was tender and you humbled yourself before God when you heard his words against this place and its inhabitants, and you have humbled yourself before me and have torn your clothes and wept before me, I also have heard you, declares the LORD.

²⁸ Behold, 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 disaster that I will bring upon this place and its inhabitants.'" And they brought back word to the king.

²⁹ Then the king sent and gathered together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem.

³⁰ And the king went up to the house of the LORD, with all the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the priests and the Levites, all the people both great and small. And he read in their hearing all the words of the Book

of the Covenant that had been found in the house of the LORD.

³¹ And the king stood in his place and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after 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 Then he made all who were present in Jerusalem and in Benjamin stand to it. And the inhabitants of Jerusalem did according to the covenant of God, the God of their fathers.

³³ And Josiah took away all the abominations from all the territory that belonged to the people of Israel and made all who were present in Israel serve the LORD their God. All his days they did not turn away from following the LORD, the God of their fathers.

35 ¹ Josiah kept a Passover to the LORD in Jerusalem. And they slaughtered the Passover lamb on the fourteenth day of the first month.

² He appointed the priests to their offices and encouraged them in the service of the house of the LORD.

³ And he said to the Levites who taught all Israel and who were holy to the LORD, "Put the holy ark in the house that Solomon the son of David, king of Israel, built. You need not carry it on your shoulders. Now serve the LORD your God and his people Israel.

⁴ Prepare yourselves according to your fathers' houses by your divisions, as prescribed in the writing of David king of Israel and the document of Solomon his son.

⁵ And stand in the Holy Place according to the groupings of the fathers' houses of your brothers the lay people, and

according to the division of the Levites by fathers' household.

⁶ And slaughter the Passover lamb, and consecrate yourselves, and prepare for your brothers, to do according to the word of the LORD by Moses."

⁷ Then Josiah contributed to the lay people, as Passover offerings for all who were present, lambs and young goats from the flock to the number of 30,000, and 3,000 bulls; these were from the king's possessions.

⁸ And his officials contributed willingly to the people, to the priests, and to the Levites. Hilkiah, Zechariah, and Jehiel, the chief officers of the house of God, gave to the priests for the Passover offerings 2,600 Passover lambs and 300 bulls.

⁹ Conaniah also, and Shemaiah and Nethanel his brothers, and Hashabiah and Jeiel and Jozabad, the chiefs of

the Levites, gave to the Levites for the Passover offerings 5,000 lambs and young goats and 500 bulls.

¹⁰ When the service had been prepared for, the priests stood in their place, and the Levites in their divisions according to the king's command.

¹¹ And they slaughtered the Passover lamb, and the priests threw the blood that they received from them while the Levites flayed the sacrifices.

¹² And they set aside the burnt offerings that they might distribute them according to the groupings 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 bulls.

¹³ And they roasted the Passover lamb with fire according to the rule; and they boiled the holy offerings in pots, in cauldrons, and in pans, and carried them quickly to all the lay people.

¹⁴ And afterward they prepared for themselves and for the priests, because the priests the sons of Aaron were offering the burnt offerings and the fat parts until night; so the Levites prepared for themselves and for the priests the sons of Aaron.

¹⁵ The singers, the sons of Asaph, were in their place according to the command of David, and Asaph, and Heman, and Jeduthun the king's seer; and the gatekeepers were at each gate. They did not need to depart from their service, for their brothers the Levites prepared for them.

¹⁶ So all the service of the LORD was prepared that 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 people of Israel who were present kept the Passover at that time,

and the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days.

¹⁸ No Passover like it had been kept in Israel since the days of Samuel the prophet. None of the kings of Israel had kept such a Passover as was kept by Josiah, and the priests and the Levites, and 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, Neco king of Egypt went up to fight at Carchemish on the Euphrates and Josiah went out to meet him.

²¹ But he sent envoys to him, saying, "What have we to do with each other, king of Judah? I am not coming against you this day, but against the house with which I am at war. And God

has commanded me to hurry. Cease opposing God, who is with me, lest he destroy you."

²² Nevertheless, Josiah did not turn away from him, but disguised himself in order to fight with him. He did not listen to the words of Neco from the mouth of God, but came to fight in the plain of Megiddo.

²³ And the archers shot King Josiah. And the king said to his servants, "Take me away, for I am badly wounded."

²⁴ So his servants took him out of the chariot and carried him in his second chariot and brought him to Jerusalem. And he died and was buried in the tombs of his fathers. All Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah.

²⁵ Jeremiah also uttered a lament for Josiah; and all the singing men and singing women have spoken of Josiah in their laments to this day. They made

these a rule in Israel; behold, they are written in the Laments.

²⁶ Now the rest of the acts of Josiah, and his good deeds according to what is written in the Law of the LORD,

²⁷ and his acts, first and last, behold, they are written in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah.

36 ¹ 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 began to reign, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem.

³ Then the king of Egypt deposed him in Jerusalem and laid on the land a tribute of a hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold.

⁴ And the king of Egypt made Eliakim his brother king over Judah and Jerusalem, and changed his name to Jehoiakim.

But Neco took Jehoahaz his brother and carried him to Egypt.

⁵ Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD his God.

⁶ Against him came up Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and bound him in chains to take him to Babylon.

⁷ Nebuchadnezzar also carried part of the vessels of the house of the LORD to Babylon and put them in his palace in Babylon.

⁸ Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim, and the abominations that he did, and what was found against him, behold, they are written in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah. And Jehoiachin his son reigned in his place.

⁹ Jehoiachin was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned three months and ten days in Jerusalem. He

did what was evil in the sight of the LORD.

¹⁰ In the spring of the year King Nebuchadnezzar sent and brought him to Babylon, with the precious vessels of the house of the LORD, and made his brother Zedekiah king over Judah and Jerusalem.

¹¹ Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem.

¹² He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD his God. He did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet, who spoke from the mouth of the LORD.

¹³ He also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God. He stiffened his neck and hardened his heart against turning to the LORD, the God of Israel.

¹⁴ All the officers of the priests and the people likewise were exceedingly

unfaithful, following all the abominations of the nations. And they polluted the house of the LORD that he had made holy in Jerusalem.

¹⁵ The LORD, the God of their fathers, sent persistently to them by his messengers, because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place.

¹⁶ But they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words and scoffing at his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD rose against his people, until there was no remedy.

¹⁷ Therefore he brought up 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, old man or aged. He gave them all into his hand.

¹⁸ And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures

of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king and of his princes, all these he brought to Babylon.

¹⁹ And they burned the house of God and broke down the wall of Jerusalem and burned all its palaces with fire and destroyed all its precious vessels.

²⁰ He took into exile in Babylon those who had escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and to his sons until the establishment of the kingdom of Persia,

²¹ to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths. All the days that it lay desolate it 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:

²³ "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, 'The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever is among you of all his people, may the LORD his God be with him. Let him go up.'"

Ezra

1 ¹ 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:

² "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

³ Whoever 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 rebuild the house of the LORD, the God of Israel--he is the God who is in Jerusalem.

⁴ And let each survivor, in whatever place he sojourns, be assisted by the men of his place with silver and gold, with goods and with beasts, besides freewill offerings for the house of God that is in Jerusalem."

⁵ Then rose up the heads of the fathers' houses of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and the Levites, everyone whose spirit God had stirred to go up to rebuild the house of the LORD that is in Jerusalem.

⁶ And all who were about them aided them with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, with beasts, and with costly wares, besides all that was freely offered.

⁷ Cyrus the king also brought out the vessels of the house of the LORD that Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Jerusalem and placed in the house of his gods.

⁸ Cyrus king of Persia brought these out in charge of Mithredath the treasurer, who counted them out to Sheshbazzar the prince of Judah.

⁹ And this was the number of them: 30 basins of gold, 1,000 basins of silver, 29 censers,

¹⁰ 30 bowls of gold, 410 bowls of silver, and 1,000 other vessels;

¹¹ all the vessels of gold and of silver were 5,400. All these did Sheshbazzar bring up, when the exiles were brought up from Babylonia to Jerusalem.

2¹ Now these were the people of the province who came up out of the captivity of those exiles whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried captive to Babylonia. They returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his own town.

² They came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai,

Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, and Baanah. The number of the men of the people of Israel:

³ the sons of Parosh, 2,172.

⁴ The sons of Shephatiah, 372.

⁵ The sons of Arah, 775.

⁶ The sons of Pahath-moab, namely the sons of Jeshua and Joab, 2,812.

⁷ The sons of Elam, 1,254.

⁸ The sons of Zattu, 945.

⁹ The sons of Zaccai, 760.

¹⁰ The sons of Bani, 642.

¹¹ The sons of Bebai, 623.

¹² The sons of Azgad, 1,222.

¹³ The sons of Adonikam, 666.

¹⁴ The sons of Bigvai, 2,056.

¹⁵ The sons of Adin, 454.

¹⁶ The sons of Ater, namely of Hezekiah, 98.

¹⁷ The sons of Bezai, 323.

¹⁸ The sons of Jorah, 112.

¹⁹ The sons of Hashum, 223.

- 20 The sons of Gibbar, 95.
- 21 The sons of Bethlehem, 123.
- 22 The men of Netophah, 56.
- 23 The men of Anathoth, 128.
- 24 The sons of Azmaveth, 42.
- 25 The sons of Kiriath-arim, Chephirah,
and Beeroth, 743.
- 26 The sons of Ramah and Geba, 621.
- 27 The men of Michmas, 122.
- 28 The men of Bethel and Ai, 223.
- 29 The sons of Nebo, 52.
- 30 The sons of Magbish, 156.
- 31 The sons of the other Elam, 1,254.
- 32 The sons of Harim, 320.
- 33 The sons of Lod, Hadid, and Ono,
725.
- 34 The sons of Jericho, 345.
- 35 The sons of Senaah, 3,630.
- 36 The priests: the sons of Jedaiah, of
the house of Jeshua, 973.
- 37 The sons of Immer, 1,052.
- 38 The sons of Pashhur, 1,247.

³⁹ The sons of Harim, 1,017.

⁴⁰ The Levites: the sons of Jeshua and Kadmiel, of the sons of Hodaviah, 74.

⁴¹ The singers: the sons of Asaph, 128.

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, in all 139.

⁴³ The temple servants: 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 Shamlai, 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 Nephisim,

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 Temah,

⁵⁴ the sons of Neziah, and the sons of
Hatipha.

⁵⁵ The sons of Solomon's servants: the
sons of Sotai, the sons of Hassophereth,
the sons of Peruda,

⁵⁶ the sons of Jaalah, the sons of
Darkon, the sons of Giddel,

⁵⁷ the sons of Shephatiah, the sons of
Hattil, the sons of Pochereth-hazzebaim,
and the sons of Ami.

⁵⁸ All the temple servants and the sons
of Solomon's servants were 392.

⁵⁹ The following were those who came up from Tel-melah, Tel-harsha, Cherub, Addan, and Immer, though they could not prove their fathers' houses or their descent, whether they belonged to Israel:

⁶⁰ the sons of Delaiah, the sons of Tobiah, and the sons of Nekoda, 652.

⁶¹ Also, of the sons of the priests: the sons of Habaiah, the sons of Hakkoz, and the sons of Barzillai (who had taken a wife from the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called by their name).

⁶² These sought their registration among those enrolled in the genealogies, but they were not found there, and so they were excluded from the priesthood as unclean.

⁶³ The governor told them that they were not to partake of the most holy food, until there should be a priest to consult Urim and Thummim.

⁶⁴ The whole assembly together was 42,360,

⁶⁵ besides their male and female servants, of whom there were 7,337, and they had 200 male and female singers.

⁶⁶ Their horses were 736, their mules were 245,

⁶⁷ their camels were 435, and their donkeys were 6,720.

⁶⁸ Some of the heads of families, when they came to the house of the LORD that is in Jerusalem, made freewill offerings for the house of God, to erect it on its site.

⁶⁹ According to their ability they gave to the treasury of the work 61,000 darics of gold, 5,000 minas of silver, and 100 priests' garments.

⁷⁰ Now the priests, the Levites, some of the people, the singers, the gatekeepers, and the temple servants lived in their

towns, and all the rest of Israel in their towns.

3¹ When the seventh month came, and the children of Israel were in the towns, the people gathered as one man to Jerusalem.

² Then arose Jeshua the son of Jozadak, with his fellow priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel with his kinsmen, and they 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 They set the altar in its place, for fear was on them because of the peoples of the lands, and they offered burnt offerings on it to the LORD, burnt offerings morning and evening.

⁴ And they kept the Feast of Booths, as it is written, and offered the daily burnt offerings by number according to the rule, as each day required,

⁵ and after that the regular burnt offerings, the offerings at the new moon and at all the appointed feasts of the LORD, and the offerings of everyone who made a freewill offering to the LORD.

⁶ From the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt offerings to the LORD. But the foundation of the temple of the LORD was not yet laid.

⁷ So they gave money to the masons and the carpenters, and food, drink, and oil to the Sidonians and the Tyrians to bring cedar trees from Lebanon to the sea, to Joppa, according to the grant that they had from Cyrus king of Persia.

⁸ Now in the second year after their coming to the house of God at Jerusalem, in the second month, Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak made a beginning, together with the rest of their kinsmen, the

priests and the Levites and all who had come to Jerusalem from the captivity. They appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, to supervise the work of the house of the LORD.

⁹ And Jeshua with his sons and his brothers, and Kadmiel and his sons, the sons of Judah, together supervised the workmen in the house of God, along with the sons of Henadad and the Levites, their sons and brothers.

¹⁰ And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests in their vestments came forward with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the LORD, according to the directions of David king of Israel.

¹¹ And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the LORD, "For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel." And 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 fathers' houses, old men who had seen the first house, wept with a loud voice when they saw the foundation of this house being laid, though many shouted aloud for joy,

¹³ so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people's weeping, for the people shouted with a great shout, and the sound was heard far away.

4 ¹ Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the returned exiles were building a temple to the LORD, the God of Israel,

² they approached Zerubbabel and the heads of fathers' houses and said to

them, "Let us build with you, for we worship your God as you do, and we have been sacrificing to him ever since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assyria who brought us here."

³ But Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and the rest of the heads of fathers' houses in Israel said to them, "You have nothing to do with us in building a house to our God; but we alone will build to the LORD, the God of Israel, as King Cyrus the king of Persia has commanded us."

⁴ Then the people of the land discouraged the people of Judah and made them afraid to build

⁵ and bribed 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 And 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, Bishlam and Mithredath and Tabeel and the rest of their associates wrote to Artaxerxes king of Persia. The letter was written in Aramaic and translated.

⁸ Rehum the commander and Shimshai the scribe wrote a letter against Jerusalem to Artaxerxes the king as follows:

⁹ Rehum the commander, Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of their associates, the judges, the governors, the officials, the Persians, the men of Erech, the Babylonians, the men of Susa, that is, the Elamites,

¹⁰ and the rest of the nations whom the great and noble Osnappar deported and settled in the cities of Samaria and in the rest of the province Beyond the River.

¹¹ (This is a copy of the letter that they sent.) "To Artaxerxes the king: Your servants, the men of the province Beyond the River, send greeting. And now

¹² be it known to the king that the Jews who came up from you to us have gone to Jerusalem. They are rebuilding that rebellious and wicked city. They are finishing the walls and repairing the foundations.

¹³ Now be it known to the king that if this city is rebuilt and the walls finished, they will not pay tribute, custom, or toll, and the royal revenue will be impaired.

¹⁴ Now because we eat the salt of the palace and it is not fitting for us to witness the king's dishonor, therefore we send and inform the king,

¹⁵ in order that search may be made in the book of the records of your fathers. You will find in the book of the records

and learn that this city is a rebellious city, hurtful to kings and provinces, and that sedition was stirred up in it from of old. That was why this city was laid waste.

¹⁶ We make known to the king that if this city is rebuilt and its walls finished, you will then have no possession in the province Beyond the River."

¹⁷ The king sent an answer: "To Rehum the commander and Shimshai the scribe and the rest of their associates who live in Samaria and in the rest of the province Beyond the River, greeting. And now

¹⁸ the letter that you sent to us has been plainly read before me.

¹⁹ And I made a decree, and search has been made, and it has been found that this city from of old has risen against kings, and that rebellion and sedition have been made in it.

²⁰ And mighty kings have been over Jerusalem, who ruled over the whole

province Beyond the River, to whom tribute, custom, and toll were paid.

²¹ Therefore make a decree that these men be made to cease, and that this city be not rebuilt, until a decree is made by me.

²² And take care not to be slack in this matter. Why should damage grow to the hurt of the king?"

²³ Then, when the copy of King Artaxerxes' letter was read before Rehum and Shimshai the scribe and their associates, they went in haste to the Jews at Jerusalem and by force and power made them cease.

²⁴ Then the work on the house of God that is in Jerusalem stopped, and it ceased until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.

5 ¹ Now the prophets, Haggai and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews who were in

Judah and Jerusalem, in the name of the God of Israel who was over them.

² Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak arose and began to rebuild the house of God that is in Jerusalem, and the prophets of God were with them, supporting them.

³ At the same time Tattenai the governor of the province Beyond the River and Shethar-bozenai and their associates came to them and spoke to them thus, "Who gave you a decree to build this house and to finish this structure?"

⁴ They also asked them this: "What are the names of the men who are building this building?"

⁵ But the eye of their God was on the elders of the Jews, and they did not stop them until the report should reach Darius and then an answer be returned by letter concerning it.

⁶ This is a copy of the letter that Tattenai the governor of the province Beyond the River and Shethar-bozenai and his associates the governors who were in the province Beyond the River sent to Darius the king.

⁷ They sent him a report, in which was written as follows: "To Darius the king, all peace.

⁸ Be it known to the king that we went to the province of Judah, to the house of the great God. It is being built with huge stones, and timber is laid in the walls. This work goes on diligently and prospers in their hands.

⁹ Then we asked those elders and spoke to them thus, 'Who gave you a decree to build this house and to finish this structure?'

¹⁰ We also asked them their names, for your information, that we might write down the names of their leaders.

¹¹ And this was their reply to us: 'We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth, and we are rebuilding the house that was built many years ago, which a great king of Israel built and finished.

¹² But because our fathers had angered the God of heaven, he gave them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the Chaldean, who destroyed this house and carried away the people to Babylonia.

¹³ However, in the first year of Cyrus king of Babylon, Cyrus the king made a decree that this house of God should be rebuilt.

¹⁴ And the gold and silver vessels of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple that was in Jerusalem and brought into the temple of Babylon, these Cyrus the king took out of the temple of Babylon, and they were delivered to one whose name

was Sheshbazzar, whom he had made governor;

¹⁵ and he said to him, "Take these vessels, go and put them in the temple that is in Jerusalem, and let the house of God be rebuilt on its site."

¹⁶ Then this Sheshbazzar came and laid the foundations of the house of God that is in Jerusalem, and from that time until now it has been in building, and it is not yet finished.'

¹⁷ Therefore, if it seems good to the king, let search be made in the royal archives there in Babylon, to see whether a decree was issued by Cyrus the king for the rebuilding of this house of God in Jerusalem. And let the king send us his pleasure in this matter."

6 ¹ Then Darius the king made a decree, and search was made in Babylonia, in the house of the archives where the documents were stored.

² And in Ecbatana, the capital that is in the province of Media, a scroll was found on which this was written: "A record.

³ In the first year of Cyrus the king, Cyrus the king issued a decree: Concerning the house of God at Jerusalem, let the house be rebuilt, the place where sacrifices were offered, and let its foundations be retained. Its height shall be sixty cubits and its breadth sixty cubits,

⁴ with three layers of great stones and one layer of timber. Let the cost be paid from the royal treasury.

⁵ And also let the gold and silver vessels of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took out of the temple that is in Jerusalem and brought to Babylon, be restored and brought back to the temple that is in Jerusalem, each to its place. You shall put them in the house of God.

⁶ "Now therefore, Tattenai, governor of the province Beyond the River, Shethar-bozenai, and your associates the governors who are in the province Beyond the River, keep away.

⁷ Let the work on this house of God alone. Let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews rebuild this house of God on its site.

⁸ Moreover, I make a decree regarding what you shall do for these elders of the Jews for the rebuilding of this house of God. The cost is to be paid to these men in full and without delay from the royal revenue, the tribute of the province from Beyond the River.

⁹ And whatever is needed--bulls, rams, or sheep for burnt offerings to the God of heaven, wheat, salt, wine, or oil, as the priests at Jerusalem require--let that be given to them day by day without fail,

¹⁰ that they may offer pleasing sacrifices to the God of heaven and pray for the life of the king and his sons.

¹¹ Also I make a decree that if anyone alters this edict, a beam shall be pulled out of his house, and he shall be impaled on it, and his house shall be made a dunghill.

¹² May the God who has caused his name to dwell there overthrow any king or people who shall put out a hand to alter this, or to destroy this house of God that is in Jerusalem. I Darius make a decree; let it be done with all diligence."

¹³ Then, according to the word sent by Darius the king, Tattenai, the governor of the province Beyond the River, Shethar-bozenai, and their associates did with all diligence what Darius the king had ordered.

¹⁴ And the elders of the Jews built and prospered through the prophesying

of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. They finished their building by decree of the God of Israel and by decree of Cyrus and Darius and Artaxerxes king of Persia;

¹⁵ and this house was finished on the third day of the month of Adar, in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king.

¹⁶ And the people of Israel, the priests and the Levites, and the rest of the returned exiles, celebrated the dedication of this house of God with joy.

¹⁷ They offered at the dedication of this house of God 100 bulls, 200 rams, 400 lambs, and as a sin offering for all Israel 12 male goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel.

¹⁸ And they set the priests in their divisions and the Levites in their divisions, for the service of God at Jerusalem, as it is written in the Book of Moses.

¹⁹ On the fourteenth day of the first month, the returned exiles kept the Passover.

²⁰ For the priests and the Levites had purified themselves together; all of them were clean. So they slaughtered the Passover lamb for all the returned exiles, for their fellow priests, and for themselves.

²¹ It was eaten by the people of Israel who had returned from exile, and also by everyone who had joined them and separated himself from the uncleanness of the peoples of the land to worship the LORD, the God of Israel.

²² And they kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with joy, for the LORD had made them joyful and had turned the heart of the king of Assyria to them, so that he aided them in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel.

7¹ Now after this, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra the son of Seraiah, son of Azariah, son of Hilkiah,

² son of Shallum, son of Zadok, son of Ahitub,

³ son of Amariah, son of Azariah, son of Meraioth,

⁴ son of Zerahiah, son of Uzzi, son of Bukki,

⁵ son of Abishua, son of Phinehas, son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the chief priest--

⁶ this Ezra went up from Babylonia. He was a scribe skilled in the Law of Moses that the LORD the God of Israel had given, and the king granted him all that he asked, for the hand of the LORD his God was on him.

⁷ And there went up also to Jerusalem, in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king, some of the people of Israel, and some of the priests and Levites, the

singers and gatekeepers, and the temple servants.

⁸ And he came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king.

⁹ For on the first day of the first month he began to go up from Babylonia, and on the first day of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, for the good hand of his God was on him.

¹⁰ For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the LORD, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.

¹¹ This is a copy of the letter that King Artaxerxes gave to Ezra the priest, the scribe, a man learned in matters of the commandments of the LORD and his statutes for Israel:

¹² "Artaxerxes, king of kings, to Ezra the priest, the scribe of the Law of the God of heaven. Peace. And now

¹³ I make a decree that anyone of the people of Israel or their priests or Levites in my kingdom, who freely offers to go to Jerusalem, may go with you.

¹⁴ For you are sent by the king and his seven counselors to make inquiries about Judah and Jerusalem according to the Law of your God, which is in your hand,

¹⁵ and also to carry the silver and gold that the king and his counselors have freely offered to the God of Israel, whose dwelling is in Jerusalem,

¹⁶ with all the silver and gold that you shall find in the whole province of Babylonia, and with the freewill offerings of the people and the priests, vowed willingly for the house of their God that is in Jerusalem.

¹⁷ With this money, then, you shall with all diligence buy bulls, rams, and lambs, with their grain offerings and their drink

offerings, and you shall offer them on the altar of the house of your God that is in Jerusalem.

¹⁸ Whatever seems good to you and your brothers to do with the rest of the silver and gold, you may do, according to the will of your God.

¹⁹ The vessels that have been given you for the service of the house of your God, you shall deliver before the God of Jerusalem.

²⁰ And whatever else is required for the house of your God, which it falls to you to provide, you may provide it out of the king's treasury.

²¹ "And I, Artaxerxes the king, make a decree to all the treasurers in the province Beyond the River: Whatever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the Law of the God of heaven, requires of you, let it be done with all diligence,

²² up to 100 talents of silver, 100 cors of wheat, 100 baths of wine, 100 baths of oil, and salt without prescribing how much.

²³ Whatever is decreed by the God of heaven, let it be done in full for the house of the God of heaven, lest his wrath be against the realm of the king and his sons.

²⁴ We also notify you that it shall not be lawful to impose tribute, custom, or toll on anyone of the priests, the Levites, the singers, the doorkeepers, the temple servants, or other servants of this house of God.

²⁵ "And you, Ezra, according to the wisdom of your God that is in your hand, appoint magistrates and judges who may judge all the people in the province Beyond the River, all such as know the laws of your God. And those who do not know them, you shall teach.

²⁶ Whoever will not obey the law of your God and the law of the king, let judgment be strictly executed on him, whether for death or for banishment or for confiscation of his goods or for imprisonment."

²⁷ Blessed be the LORD, the God of our fathers, who put such a thing as this into the heart of the king, to beautify the house of the LORD that is in Jerusalem,

²⁸ and who extended to me his steadfast love before the king and his counselors, and before all the king's mighty officers. I took courage, for the hand of the LORD my God was on me, and I gathered leading men from 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 Babylonia, in the reign of Artaxerxes the king:

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, who was of the sons of Parosh, Zechariah, with whom were registered 150 men.

⁴ Of the sons of Pahath-moab, Eliehoenai the son of Zerahiah, and with him 200 men.

⁵ Of the sons of Zattu, Shecaniah the son of Jahaziel, and with him 300 men.

⁶ Of the sons of Adin, Ebed the son of Jonathan, and with him 50 men.

⁷ Of the sons of Elam, Jeshaiiah the son of Athaliah, and with him 70 men.

⁸ Of the sons of Shephatiah, Zebadiah the son of Michael, and with him 80 men.

⁹ Of the sons of Joab, Obadiah the son of Jehiel, and with him 218 men.

¹⁰ Of the sons of Bani, Shelomith the son of Josiphiah, and with him 160 men.

¹¹ Of the sons of Bebai, Zechariah, the son of Bebai, and with him 28 men.

¹² Of the sons of Azgad, Johanan the son of Hakkatan, and with him 110 men.

¹³ Of the sons of Adonikam, those who came later, their names being Eliphelet, Jeuel, and Shemaiah, and with them 60 men.

¹⁴ Of the sons of Bigvai, Uthai and Zaccur, and with them 70 men.

¹⁵ I gathered them to the river that runs to Ahava, and there we camped three days. As I reviewed the people and the priests, I found there none of the sons of Levi.

¹⁶ Then I sent for Eliezer, Ariel, Shemaiah, Elnathan, Jarib, Elnathan, Nathan, Zechariah, and Meshullam, leading men, and for Joiarib and Elnathan, who were men of insight,

¹⁷ and sent them to Iddo, the leading man at the place Casiphia, telling them

what to say to Iddo and his brothers and the temple servants at the place Casiphia, namely, to send us ministers for the house of our God.

¹⁸ And by the good hand of our God on us, they brought us a man of discretion, of the sons of Mahli the son of Levi, son of Israel, namely Sherebiah with his sons and kinsmen, 18;

¹⁹ also Hashabiah, and with him Jeshaiiah of the sons of Merari, with his kinsmen and their sons, 20;

²⁰ besides 220 of the temple servants, whom David and his officials had set apart to attend the Levites. These were all mentioned by name.

²¹ Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from him a safe journey for ourselves, our children, and all our goods.

²² For I was ashamed to ask the king for a band of soldiers and horsemen to protect us against the enemy on our way, since we had told the king, "The hand of our God is for good on all who seek him, and the power of his wrath is against all who forsake him."

²³ So we fasted and implored our God for this, and he listened to our entreaty.

²⁴ Then I set apart twelve of the leading priests: Sherebiah, Hashabiah, and ten of their kinsmen with them.

²⁵ And I weighed out to them the silver and the gold and the vessels, the offering for the house of our God that the king and his counselors and his lords and all Israel there present had offered.

²⁶ I weighed out into their hand 650 talents of silver, and silver vessels worth 200 talents, and 100 talents of gold,

²⁷ 20 bowls of gold worth 1,000 darics, and two vessels of fine bright bronze as precious as gold.

²⁸ And I said to them, "You are holy to the LORD, and the vessels are holy, and the silver and the gold are a freewill offering to the LORD, the God of your fathers.

²⁹ Guard them and keep them until you weigh them before the chief priests and the Levites and the heads of fathers' houses in Israel at Jerusalem, within the chambers of the house of the LORD."

³⁰ So the priests and the Levites took over the weight of the silver and the gold and the vessels, to bring them to Jerusalem, to the house of our God.

³¹ Then we departed from the river Ahava on the twelfth day of the first month, to go to Jerusalem. The hand of our God was on us, and he delivered us

from the hand of the enemy and from ambushes by the way.

³² We came to Jerusalem, and there we remained three days.

³³ On the fourth day, within the house of our God, the silver and the gold and the vessels were weighed into the hands of Meremoth the priest, son of Uriah, and with him was Eleazar the son of Phinehas, and with them were the Levites, Jozabad the son of Jeshua and Noadiah the son of Binnui.

³⁴ The whole was counted and weighed, and the weight of everything was recorded.

³⁵ At that time those who had come from captivity, the returned exiles, offered burnt offerings to the God of Israel, twelve bulls for all Israel, ninety-six rams, seventy-seven lambs, and as a sin offering twelve male goats. All this was a burnt offering to the LORD.

³⁶ They also delivered the king's commissions to the king's satraps and to the governors of the province Beyond the River, and they aided the people and the house of God.

9 ¹ After these things had been done, the officials approached me and said, "The people of Israel and the priests and the Levites have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands with their abominations, from 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 to be wives for themselves and for their sons, so that the holy race has mixed itself with the peoples of the lands. And in this faithlessness the hand of the officials and chief men has been foremost."

³ As soon as I heard this, I tore my garment and my cloak and pulled hair from my head and beard and sat appalled.

⁴ Then all who trembled at the words of the God of Israel, because of the faithlessness of the returned exiles, gathered around me while I sat appalled until the evening sacrifice.

⁵ And at the evening sacrifice I rose from my fasting, with my garment and my cloak torn, and fell upon my knees and spread out my hands to the LORD my God,

⁶ saying: "O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift my face to you, my God, for our iniquities have risen higher than our heads, and our guilt has mounted up to the heavens.

⁷ From the days of our fathers to this day we have been in great guilt. And for our iniquities we, our kings, and our

priests have been given into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, to plundering, and to utter shame, as it is today.

⁸ But now for a brief moment favor has been shown by the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant and to give us a secure hold within his holy place, that our God may brighten our eyes and grant us a little reviving in our slavery.

⁹ For we are slaves. Yet our God has not forsaken us in our slavery, but has extended to us his steadfast love before the kings of Persia, to grant us some reviving to set up the house of our God, to repair its ruins, and to give us protection in Judea 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

that you are entering, to take possession of it, is a land impure with the impurity of the peoples of the lands, with their abominations that have filled it from end to end with their uncleanness.

¹² Therefore do not give your daughters to their sons, neither take their daughters for your sons, and never seek their peace or prosperity, that you may be strong and eat the good of the land and leave it for an inheritance to your children forever.'

¹³ And after all that has come upon us for our evil deeds and for our great guilt, seeing that you, our God, have punished us less than our iniquities deserved and have given us such a remnant as this,

¹⁴ shall we break your commandments again and intermarry with the peoples who practice these abominations? Would you not be angry with us until

you consumed us, so that there should be no remnant, nor any to escape?

¹⁵ O LORD the God of Israel, you are just, for we are left a remnant that has escaped, as it is today. Behold, we are before you in our guilt, for none can stand before you because of this."

10 ¹ While Ezra prayed and made confession, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, a very great assembly of men, women, and children, gathered to him out of Israel, for the people wept bitterly.

² And Shecaniah the son of Jehiel, of the sons of Elam, addressed Ezra: "We have broken faith with our God and have married foreign women from the peoples of the land, but even now there is hope for Israel in spite of this.

³ Therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all these wives and their children, according to the counsel

of my lord and of those who tremble at the commandment of our God, and let it be done according to the Law.

⁴ Arise, for it is your task, and we are with you; be strong and do it."

⁵ Then Ezra arose and made the leading priests and Levites and all Israel take oath that they would do as had been said. So they took the oath.

⁶ Then Ezra withdrew from before the house of God and went to the chamber of Jehohanan the son of Eliashib, where he spent the night, neither eating bread nor drinking water, for he was mourning over the faithlessness of the exiles.

⁷ And a proclamation was made throughout Judah and Jerusalem to all the returned exiles that they should assemble at Jerusalem,

⁸ and that if anyone did not come within three days, by order of the officials and the elders all his property should be

forfeited, and he himself banned from the congregation of the exiles.

⁹ Then all the men of Judah and Benjamin assembled at Jerusalem within the three days. It was the ninth month, on the twentieth day of the month. And all the people sat in the open square before the house of God, trembling because of this matter and because of the heavy rain.

¹⁰ And Ezra the priest stood up and said to them, "You have broken faith and married foreign women, and so increased the guilt of Israel.

¹¹ Now then make confession to the LORD, the God of your fathers and do his will. Separate yourselves from the peoples of the land and from the foreign wives."

¹² Then all the assembly answered with a loud voice, "It is so; we must do as you have said.

¹³ But the people are many, and it is a time of heavy rain; we cannot stand in the open. Nor is this a task for one day or for two, for we have greatly transgressed in this matter.

¹⁴ Let our officials stand for the whole assembly. Let all in our cities who have taken foreign wives come at appointed times, and with them the elders and judges of every city, until the fierce wrath of our God over this matter is turned away from us."

¹⁵ Only Jonathan the son of Asahel and Jahzeiah the son of Tikvah opposed this, and Meshullam and Shabbethai the Levite supported them.

¹⁶ Then the returned exiles did so. Ezra the priest selected men, heads of fathers' houses, according to their fathers' houses, each of them designated by name. On the first day of the tenth

month they sat down to examine the matter;

¹⁷ and by the first day of the first month they had come to the end of all the men who had married foreign women.

¹⁸ Now there were found some of the sons of the priests who had married foreign women: Maaseiah, Eliezer, Jarib, and Gedaliah, some of the sons of Jeshua the son of Jozadak and his brothers.

¹⁹ They pledged themselves to put away their wives, and their guilt offering was a ram of the flock for their guilt.

²⁰ 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 Of the Levites: Jozabad, Shimei, Kelaiah (that is, Kelita), Pethahiah, Judah, and Eliezer.

²⁴ Of the singers: Eliashib. Of the gatekeepers: Shallum, Telem, and Uri.

²⁵ And of Israel: of the sons of Parosh: Ramiah, Izziah, Malchijah, Mijamin, Eleazar, Hashabiah, and Benaiah.

²⁶ Of the sons of Elam: Mattaniah, Zechariah, Jehiel, Abdi, Jeremoth, and Elijah.

²⁷ Of the sons of Zattu: Elioenai, Eliashib, Mattaniah, Jeremoth, Zabad, and Aziza.

²⁸ Of the sons of Bebai were Jehohanan, Hananiah, Zabbai, and Athlai.

²⁹ Of the sons of Bani were Meshullam, Malluch, Adaiah, Jashub, Sheal, and Jeremoth.

³⁰ Of the sons of Pahath-moab: Adna, Chelal, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattaniah, Bezalel, Binnui, and Manasseh.

³¹ Of the sons of Harim: Eliezer, Isshijah, 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, Cheluhi,

³⁶ Vaniah, Meremoth, Eliashib,

³⁷ Mattaniah, Mattenai, Jaasu.

³⁸ Of the sons of 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 married foreign women, and some of the women had even borne children.

Nehemiah

1 ¹ The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah. Now it happened in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the capital,

² that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem.

³ And they said to me, "The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire."

⁴ As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

⁵ And I said, "O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments,

⁶ let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father's house have sinned.

⁷ We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses.

⁸ Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples,

⁹ but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your dispersed be under the farthest skies, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.'

¹⁰ They are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand.

¹¹ O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name, and give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man." Now I was cupbearer to the king.

2 ¹ In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence.

² And the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of the heart." Then I was very much afraid.

³ I said to the king, "Let the king live forever! Why should not my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' graves, lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?"

⁴ Then the king said to me, "What are you requesting?" 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, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' graves, that I may rebuild it."

⁶ And the king said to me (the queen sitting beside him), "How long will you be gone, and when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me when I had given him a time.

⁷ And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors of the province Beyond the River, that they may let me pass through until I come to Judah,

⁸ and a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress of the temple, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall occupy." And the king granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me.

⁹ Then I came to the governors of the province Beyond the River and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent with me officers of the army and horsemen.

¹⁰ But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah, the Ammonite servant, heard this, it displeased them greatly that

someone had come to seek the welfare of the people of Israel.

¹¹ So I went to Jerusalem and was there three days.

¹² Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me. And I told no one what my God had put into my heart to do for Jerusalem. There was no animal with me but the one on which I rode.

¹³ I went out by night by the Valley Gate to the Dragon Spring and to the Dung Gate, and I inspected the walls of Jerusalem that were broken down and its gates that had been destroyed by fire.

¹⁴ Then I went on to the Fountain Gate and to the King's Pool, but there was no room for the animal that was under me to pass.

¹⁵ Then I went up in the night by the valley and inspected the wall, and 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 was doing, and I had not yet told the Jews, the priests, the nobles, the officials, and the rest who were to do the work.

¹⁷ Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer suffer derision."

¹⁸ And I told them of the hand of my God that had been upon me for good, and also of the words that the king had spoken to me. And they said, "Let us rise up and build." So they strengthened their hands for the good work.

¹⁹ But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant and Geshem the Arab heard of it, they jeered at us and despised us and said, "What is this thing that you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?"

²⁰ Then I replied to them, "The God of heaven will make us prosper, and we his servants will arise and build, but you have no portion or right or claim in Jerusalem."

3 ¹ Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brothers the priests, and they built the Sheep Gate. They consecrated it and set its doors. They consecrated it as far as the Tower of the Hundred, as far as the Tower of Hananel.

² And next to him the men of Jericho built. And next to them Zaccur the son of Imri built.

³ The sons of Hassenaah built the Fish Gate. They laid its beams and set its doors, its bolts, and its bars.

⁴ And next to them Meremoth the son of Uriah, son of Hakkoz repaired. And next to them Meshullam the son of Berechiah, son of Meshezabel repaired.

And next to them Zadok the son of Baana repaired.

⁵ And next to them the Tekoites repaired, but their nobles would not stoop to serve their Lord.

⁶ Joiada the son of Paseah and Meshullam the son of Besodeiah repaired the Gate of Yeshanah. They laid its beams and set its doors, its bolts, and its bars.

⁷ And next to them repaired Melatiah the Gibeonite and Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon and of Mizpah, the seat of the governor of the province Beyond the River.

⁸ Next to them Uzziel the son of Harhaiah, goldsmiths, repaired. Next to him Hananiah, one of the perfumers, repaired, and they restored Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall.

⁹ Next to them Rephaiah the son of Hur, ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, repaired.

¹⁰ Next to them Jedaiah the son of Harumaph repaired opposite his house. And next to him Hattush the son of Hashabneiah repaired.

¹¹ Malchijah the son of Harim and Hasshub the son of Pahath-moab repaired another section and the Tower of the Ovens.

¹² Next to him Shallum the son of Hallohesh, ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, repaired, he and his daughters.

¹³ Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah repaired the Valley Gate. They rebuilt it and set its doors, its bolts, and its bars, and repaired a thousand cubits of the wall, as far as the Dung Gate.

¹⁴ Malchijah the son of Rechab, ruler of the district of Beth-haccherem, repaired

the Dung Gate. He rebuilt it and set its doors, its bolts, and its bars.

¹⁵ And Shallum the son of Col-hozeh, ruler of the district of Mizpah, repaired the Fountain Gate. He rebuilt it and covered it and set its doors, its bolts, and its bars. And he built the wall of the Pool of Shelah of 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, ruler of half the district of Beth-zur, repaired to a point opposite the tombs of David, as far as the artificial pool, and as far as the house of the mighty men.

¹⁷ After him the Levites repaired: Rehum the son of Bani. Next to him Hashabiah, ruler of half the district of Keilah, repaired for his district.

¹⁸ After him their brothers repaired: Bavvai the son of Henadad, ruler of half the district of Keilah.

¹⁹ Next to him Ezer the son of Jeshua, ruler of Mizpah, repaired another section opposite the ascent to the armory at the buttress.

²⁰ After him Baruch the son of Zabbai repaired another section from the buttress to the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest.

²¹ After him Meremoth the son of Uriah, son of Hakkoz repaired another section from the door of the house of Eliashib to the end of the house of Eliashib.

²² After him the priests, the men of the surrounding area, repaired.

²³ After them Benjamin and Hasshub repaired opposite their house. After them Azariah the son of Maaseiah, son

of Ananiah repaired beside his own house.

²⁴ After him Binnui the son of Henadad repaired another section, from the house of Azariah to the buttress

²⁵ and to the corner. Palal the son of Uzai repaired opposite the buttress and the tower projecting from the upper house of the king at the court of the guard. After him Pedaiah the son of Parosh

²⁶ and the temple servants living on Ophel repaired to a point opposite the Water Gate on the east and the projecting tower.

²⁷ After him the Tekoites repaired another section opposite the great projecting tower as far as the wall of Ophel.

²⁸ Above the Horse Gate the priests repaired, each one opposite his own house.

²⁹ After them Zadok the son of Immer repaired opposite his own house. After him Shemaiah the son of Shecaniah, the keeper of the East Gate, repaired.

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 repaired opposite his chamber.

³¹ After him Malchijah, one of the goldsmiths, repaired as far as the house of the temple servants and of the merchants, opposite the Muster Gate, and to the upper chamber of the corner.

³² And between the upper chamber of the corner and the Sheep Gate the goldsmiths and the merchants repaired.

4 ¹ Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he jeered at the Jews.

² And he said in the presence of his brothers and of the army of Samaria, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?"

³ Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, "Yes, what they are building--if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!"

⁴ Hear, O our God, for we are despised. Turn back their taunt on their own heads and give them up to be plundered in a land where they are captives.

⁵ Do not cover their guilt, and let not their sin be blotted out from your sight, for they have provoked you to anger in the presence of the builders.

⁶ So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.

⁷ But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry.

⁸ And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it.

⁹ And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night.

¹⁰ In Judah it was said, "The strength of those who bear the burdens is failing. There is too much rubble. By ourselves we will not be able to rebuild the wall."

¹¹ And our enemies said, "They will not know or see till we come among them and kill them and stop the work."

¹² At that time the Jews who lived near them came from all directions and said to us ten times, "You must return to us."

¹³ So in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, in open places, I stationed the people by their clans, with their swords, their spears, and their bows.

¹⁴ And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes."

¹⁵ When our enemies heard that it was known to us and that God had frustrated their plan, we all returned to the wall, each to his work.

¹⁶ From that day on, half of my servants worked on construction, and half held the spears, shields, bows, and coats of

mail. And the leaders stood behind the whole house of Judah,

¹⁷ who were building on the wall. Those who carried burdens were loaded in such a way that each labored on the work with one hand and held his weapon with the other.

¹⁸ And each of the builders had his sword strapped at his side while he built. The man who sounded the trumpet was beside me.

¹⁹ And I said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, "The work is great and widely spread, and we are separated on the wall, far from one another.

²⁰ In the place where you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us."

²¹ So we labored at the work, and half of them held the spears from the break of dawn until the stars came out.

²² I also said to the people at that time, "Let every man and his servant pass the night within Jerusalem, that they may be a guard for us by night and may labor by day."

²³ So neither I nor my brothers nor my servants nor the men of the guard who followed me, none of us took off our clothes; each kept his weapon at his right hand.

5 ¹ Now there arose a great outcry of the people and of their wives against their Jewish brothers.

² For there were those who said, "With our sons and our daughters, we are many. So let us get grain, that we may eat and keep alive."

³ There were also those who said, "We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards, and our houses to get grain because of the famine."

⁴ And there were those who said, "We have borrowed money for the king's tax on our fields and our vineyards.

⁵ Now our flesh is as the flesh of our brothers, our children are as their children. Yet we are forcing our sons and our daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters have already been enslaved, but it is not in our power to help it, for other men have our fields and our vineyards."

⁶ I was very angry when I heard their outcry and these words.

⁷ I took counsel with myself, and I brought charges against the nobles and the officials. I said to them, "You are exacting interest, each from his brother." And I held a great assembly against them

⁸ and said to them, "We, as far as we are able, have bought back our Jewish brothers who have been sold to the nations, but you even sell your brothers

that they may be sold to us!" They were silent and could not find a word to say.

⁹ So I said, "The thing that you are doing is not good. Ought you not to walk in the fear of our God to prevent the taunts of the nations our enemies?"

¹⁰ Moreover, I and my brothers and my servants are lending them money and grain. Let us abandon this exacting of interest.

¹¹ Return to them this very day their fields, their vineyards, their olive orchards, and their houses, and the percentage of money, grain, wine, and oil that you have been exacting from them."

¹² Then they said, "We will restore these and require nothing from them. We will do as you say." And I called the priests and made them swear to do as they had promised.

¹³ I also shook out the fold of my garment and said, "So may God shake out every man from his house and from his labor who does not keep this promise. So may he be shaken out and emptied." And all the assembly said "Amen" and praised the LORD. And the people did as they had promised.

¹⁴ Moreover, from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year to the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes the king, twelve years, neither I nor my brothers ate the food allowance of the governor.

¹⁵ The former governors who were before me laid heavy burdens on the people and took from them for their daily ration forty shekels of silver. Even their servants lorded it over the people. But I did not do so, because of the fear of God.

¹⁶ I also persevered in the work on this wall, and we acquired no land, and all my servants were gathered there for the work.

¹⁷ Moreover, there were at my table 150 men, Jews and officials, besides those who came to us from the nations that were around us.

¹⁸ Now what was prepared at my expense for each day was one ox and six choice sheep and birds, and every ten days all kinds of wine in abundance. Yet for all this I did not demand the food allowance of the governor, because the service was too heavy on this people.

¹⁹ Remember for my good, O my God, all that I have done for this people.

6¹ Now when Sanballat and Tobiah and Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies heard that I had built the wall and that there was no breach left in

it (although up to that time I had not set up the doors in the gates),

² Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, "Come and let us meet together at Hakkephirim in the plain of Ono." But they intended to do me harm.

³ And I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?"

⁴ And they sent to me four times in this way, and I answered them in the same manner.

⁵ In the same way Sanballat for the fifth time sent his servant to me with an open letter in his hand.

⁶ In it was written, "It is reported among the nations, and Geshem also says it, that you and the Jews intend to rebel; that is why you are building the wall.

And according to these reports you wish to become their king.

⁷ And you have also set up prophets to proclaim concerning you in Jerusalem, 'There is a king in Judah.' And now the king will hear of these reports. So now come and let us take counsel together."

⁸ Then I sent to him, saying, "No such things as you say have been done, for you are inventing them out of your own mind."

⁹ For they all wanted to frighten us, thinking, "Their hands will drop from the work, and it will not be done." But now, O God, strengthen my hands.

¹⁰ Now when I went into the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, son of Mehetabel, who was confined to his home, he said, "Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple. Let us close the doors of the temple,

for they are coming to kill you. They are coming to kill you by night."

¹¹ But I said, "Should such a man as I run away? And what man such as I could go into the temple and live? I will not go in."

¹² And I understood and saw that God had not sent him, but he had pronounced the prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.

¹³ For this purpose he was hired, that I should be afraid and act in this way and sin, and so they could give me a bad name in order to taunt me.

¹⁴ Remember Tobiah and Sanballat, O my God, according to these things that they did, and also the prophetess Noadiah and the rest of the prophets who wanted to make me afraid.

¹⁵ So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty-two days.

¹⁶ And when all our enemies heard of it, all the nations around us were afraid and fell greatly in their own esteem, for they perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God.

¹⁷ Moreover, in those days the nobles of Judah sent many letters to Tobiah, and Tobiah's letters came to them.

¹⁸ For many in Judah were bound by oath to him, because he was the son-in-law of Shecaniah the son of Arah: and his son Jehohanan had taken the daughter of Meshullam the son of Berechiah as his wife.

¹⁹ Also they spoke of his good deeds in my presence and reported my words to him. And Tobiah sent letters to make me afraid.

7¹ Now when the wall had been built and I had set up the doors, and the gatekeepers, the singers, and the Levites had been appointed,

² I gave my brother Hanani and Hananiah the governor of the castle charge over Jerusalem, for he was a more faithful and God-fearing man than many.

³ And I said to them, "Let not the gates of Jerusalem be opened until the sun is hot. And while they are still standing guard, let them shut and bar the doors. Appoint guards from among the inhabitants of Jerusalem, some at their guard posts and some in front of their own homes."

⁴ The city was wide and large, but the people within it were few, and no houses had been rebuilt.

⁵ Then my God put it into my heart to assemble the nobles and the officials and

the people to be enrolled by genealogy. And I found the book of the genealogy of those who came up at the first, and I found written in it:

⁶ These were the people of the province who came up out of the captivity of those exiles whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried into exile. They returned to Jerusalem and Judah, each to his town.

⁷ They came with Zerubbabel, Jeshua, Nehemiah, Azariah, Raamiah, Nahamani, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispereth, Bigvai, Nehum, Baanah. The number of the men of the people of Israel:

⁸ the sons of Parosh, 2,172.

⁹ The sons of Shephatiah, 372.

¹⁰ The sons of Arah, 652.

¹¹ The sons of Pahath-moab, namely the sons of Jeshua and Joab, 2,818.

¹² The sons of Elam, 1,254.

¹³ The sons of Zattu, 845.

- 14 The sons of Zaccai, 760.
- 15 The sons of Binnui, 648.
- 16 The sons of Bebai, 628.
- 17 The sons of Azgad, 2,322.
- 18 The sons of Adonikam, 667.
- 19 The sons of Bigvai, 2,067.
- 20 The sons of Adin, 655.
- 21 The sons of Ater, namely of Hezekiah,
98.
- 22 The sons of Hashum, 328.
- 23 The sons of Bezai, 324.
- 24 The sons of Hariph, 112.
- 25 The sons of Gibeon, 95.
- 26 The men of Bethlehem and
Netophah, 188.
- 27 The men of Anathoth, 128.
- 28 The men of Beth-azmaveth, 42.
- 29 The men of Kiriath-jearim, Chephirah,
and Beeroth, 743.
- 30 The men of Ramah and Geba, 621.
- 31 The men of Michmas, 122.
- 32 The men of Bethel and Ai, 123.

³³ The men of the other Nebo, 52.

³⁴ The sons of the other Elam, 1,254.

³⁵ The sons of Harim, 320.

³⁶ The sons of Jericho, 345.

³⁷ The sons of Lod, Hadid, and Ono,
721.

³⁸ The sons of Senaah, 3,930.

³⁹ The priests: the sons of Jedaiah,
namely the house of Jeshua, 973.

⁴⁰ The sons of Immer, 1,052.

⁴¹ The sons of Pashhur, 1,247.

⁴² The sons of Harim, 1,017.

⁴³ The Levites: the sons of Jeshua,
namely of Kadmiel of the sons of
Hodevah, 74.

⁴⁴ The singers: the sons of Asaph, 148.

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, 138.

⁴⁶ The temple servants: 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 Shalmal,

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 Nephushesim,

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 Temah,

⁵⁶ the sons of Neziah, 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-hazzebaim, the sons of Amon.

⁶⁰ All the temple servants and the sons of Solomon's servants were 392.

⁶¹ The following were those who came up from Tel-melah, Tel-harsha, Cherub, Addon, and Immer, but they could not prove their fathers' houses nor their descent, whether they belonged to Israel:

⁶² the sons of Delaiah, the sons of Tobiah, the sons of Nekoda, 642.

⁶³ Also, of the priests: the sons of Hobaiah, the sons of Hakkoz, the sons

of Barzillai (who had taken a wife of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite and was called by their name).

⁶⁴ These sought their registration among those enrolled in the genealogies, but it was not found there, so they were excluded from the priesthood as unclean.

⁶⁵ The governor told them that they were not to partake of the most holy food until a priest with Urim and Thummim should arise.

⁶⁶ The whole assembly together was 42,360,

⁶⁷ besides their male and female servants, of whom there were 7,337. And they had 245 singers, male and female.

⁶⁸ Their horses were 736, their mules 245,

⁶⁹ their camels 435, and their donkeys 6,720.

⁷⁰ Now some of the heads of fathers' houses gave to the work. The governor gave to the treasury 1,000 darics of gold, 50 basins, 30 priests' garments and 500 minas of silver.

⁷¹ And some of the heads of fathers' houses gave into the treasury of the work 20,000 darics of gold and 2,200 minas of silver.

⁷² And what the rest of the people gave was 20,000 darics of gold, 2,000 minas of silver, and 67 priests' garments.

⁷³ So the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, some of the people, the temple servants, and all Israel, lived in their towns. And when the seventh month had come, the people of Israel were in their towns.

8¹ And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of

Moses that the LORD had commanded Israel.

² So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month.

³ And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law.

⁴ And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that they had made for the purpose. And beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand, and Pedaiah, Mishaël, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand.

⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood.

⁶ And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," 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, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law, while the people remained in their places.

⁸ They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and 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 or weep." For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law.

¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

¹¹ So the Levites calmed all the people, saying, "Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved."

¹² And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

¹³ On the second day the heads of fathers' houses of all the people, with the priests and the Levites, came

together to Ezra the scribe in order to study the words of the Law.

¹⁴ And they found it written in the Law that the LORD had commanded by Moses that the people of Israel should dwell in booths during the feast of the seventh month,

¹⁵ and that they should proclaim it and publish it in all their towns and in Jerusalem, "Go out to the hills and bring branches of olive, wild olive, myrtle, palm, and other leafy trees to make booths, as it is written."

¹⁶ So the people went out and brought them and made booths for themselves, each on his roof, and in their courts and in the courts of the house of God, and in the square at the Water Gate and in the square at the Gate of Ephraim.

¹⁷ And all the assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths and lived in the booths, for from

the days of Jeshua the son of Nun to that day the people of Israel had not done so. And there was very great rejoicing.

¹⁸ And day by day, from the first day to the last day, he read from the Book of the Law of God. They kept the feast seven days, and on the eighth day there was a solemn assembly, according to the rule.

9¹ Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the people of Israel were assembled with fasting and in sackcloth, and with earth on their heads.

² And the Israelites separated themselves from all foreigners and 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 a quarter of the day; for another quarter of it they made

confession and worshiped the LORD their God.

⁴ On the stairs of the Levites stood Jeshua, Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and Chenani; and they cried with a loud voice to the LORD their God.

⁵ Then the Levites, Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah, said, "Stand up and bless the LORD your God from everlasting to everlasting. Blessed be your glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise.

⁶ "You are the LORD, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you.

⁷ You are the LORD, the 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 with him the covenant to give to his offspring the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Perizzite, the Jebusite, and the Girgashite. And you have kept your promise, for you are righteous.

⁹ "And you saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt and heard their cry at the Red Sea,

¹⁰ and performed signs and wonders against Pharaoh and all his servants and all the people of his land, for you knew that they acted arrogantly against our fathers. And you made a name for yourself, as it is to this day.

¹¹ And you divided the sea before them, so that they went through the midst of the sea on dry land, and you cast their

pursuers into the depths, as a stone into mighty waters.

¹² By a pillar of cloud you led them in the day, and by a pillar of fire in the night to light for them the way in which they should go.

¹³ You came down on Mount Sinai and spoke with them from heaven and gave them right rules and true laws, good statutes and commandments,

¹⁴ and you made known to them your holy Sabbath and commanded them commandments and statutes and a law by Moses your servant.

¹⁵ You gave them bread from heaven for their hunger and brought water for them out of the rock for their thirst, and you told them to go in to possess the land that you had sworn to give them.

¹⁶ "But they and our fathers acted presumptuously and stiffened their neck and did not obey your commandments.

¹⁷ They refused to obey and were not mindful of the wonders that you performed among them, but they stiffened their neck and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt. But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and did not forsake them.

¹⁸ Even when they had made for themselves a golden calf and said, 'This is your God who brought you up out of Egypt,' and had committed great blasphemies,

¹⁹ you in your great mercies did not forsake them in the wilderness. The pillar of cloud to lead them in the way did not depart from them by day, nor the pillar of fire by night to light for them the way by which they should go.

²⁰ You 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, and they lacked nothing. Their clothes did not wear out and their feet did not swell.

²² "And you gave them kingdoms and peoples and allotted to them every corner. So they took possession of the land of Sihon king of Heshbon and the land of Og king of Bashan.

²³ You multiplied their children as the stars of heaven, and you brought them into the land that you had told their fathers to enter and possess.

²⁴ So the descendants went in and possessed the land, and you subdued before them the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, and gave them into their hand, with their kings and the peoples of the land, that they might do with them as they would.

²⁵ And they captured fortified cities and a rich land, and took possession of houses full of all good things, cisterns already hewn, vineyards, olive orchards and fruit trees in abundance. So they ate and were filled and became fat and delighted themselves in your great goodness.

²⁶ "Nevertheless, they were disobedient and rebelled against you and cast your law behind their back and killed your prophets, who had warned them in order to turn them back to you, and they committed great blasphemies.

²⁷ Therefore you gave them into the hand of their enemies, who made them suffer. And in the time of their suffering they cried out to you and you heard them from heaven, and according to your great mercies you gave them saviors who saved them from the hand of their enemies.

²⁸ But after they had rest they did evil again before you, and you abandoned them to the hand of their enemies, so that they had dominion over them. Yet when they turned and cried to you, you heard from heaven, and many times you delivered them according to your mercies.

²⁹ And you warned them in order to turn them back to your law. Yet they acted presumptuously and did not obey your commandments, but sinned against your rules, which if a person does them, he shall live by them, and turned a stubborn shoulder and stiffened their neck and would not obey.

³⁰ Many years you bore with them and warned them by your Spirit through your prophets. Yet they would not give ear. Therefore you gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands.

³¹ Nevertheless, in your great mercies you did not make an end of them or forsake them, for you are a gracious and merciful God.

³² "Now, therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love, let not all the hardship seem little to you that has come upon us, upon our kings, our princes, our priests, our prophets, our fathers, and all your people, since the time of the kings of Assyria until this day.

³³ Yet you have been righteous in all that has come upon us, for you have dealt faithfully and we have acted wickedly.

³⁴ Our kings, our princes, our priests, and our fathers have not kept your law or paid attention to your commandments and your warnings that you gave them.

³⁵ Even in their own kingdom, enjoying your great goodness that you gave them, and in the large and rich land that you set before them, they did not serve you or turn from their wicked works.

³⁶ Behold, we are slaves this day; in the land that you gave to our fathers to enjoy its fruit and its good gifts, behold, we are slaves.

³⁷ And its rich yield goes to the kings whom you have set over us because of our sins. They rule over our bodies and over our livestock as they please, and we are in great distress.

³⁸ "Because of all this we make a firm covenant in writing; on the sealed document are the names of our princes, our Levites, and our priests."

10 ¹ On the seals are the names of Nehemiah the governor, the son of Hacaliah, 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, Shemaiah; these are
the priests.

⁹ And the Levites: Jeshua the son of
Azaniah, Binnui of the sons of Henadad,
Kadmiel;

¹⁰ and their brothers, Shebaniah,
Hodiah, Kelita, Pelaiah, Hanan,

¹¹ Mica, Rehob, Hashabiah,

¹² Zaccur, Sherebiah, Shebaniah,

¹³ Hodiah, Bani, Beninu.

¹⁴ The chiefs of the people: Parosh,
Pahath-moab, Elam, Zattu, Bani,

¹⁵ Bunni, Azgad, Bebai,

¹⁶ Adonijah, Bigvai, Adin,

¹⁷ Ater, Hezekiah, Azzur,

¹⁸ Hodiah, Hashum, Bezai,

¹⁹ Hariph, Anathoth, Nebai,

²⁰ Magpiash, Meshullam, Hezir,

²¹ Meshezabel, Zadok, Jaddua,

²² Pelatiah, Hanan, Anaiah,

²³ Hoshea, Hananiah, Hasshub,

²⁴ Hallohesh, Pilha, Shobek,

²⁵ Rehum, Hashabnah, Maaseiah,

²⁶ Ahiah, Hanan, Anan,

²⁷ Malluch, Harim, Baanah.

²⁸ The rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the temple servants, and all who have separated themselves from the peoples of the lands to the Law of God, their wives, their sons, their daughters, all who have knowledge and understanding,

²⁹ join with their brothers, their nobles, and enter into a curse and an oath to walk in God's Law that was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the LORD our Lord and his rules and his statutes.

³⁰ "We will not give our daughters to the peoples of the land or take their daughters for our sons.

³¹ And if the peoples of the land bring in goods or any grain on the Sabbath day to sell, we will not buy from them on the Sabbath or on a holy day. And we will forego the crops of the seventh year and the exaction of every debt.

³² "We also take on ourselves the obligation to give yearly a third part of a shekel for the service of the house of our God:

³³ for the showbread, the regular grain offering, the regular burnt offering, the Sabbaths, the new moons, the appointed feasts, the holy things, and the sin offerings to make atonement for Israel, and for all the work of the house of our God.

³⁴ We, the priests, the Levites, and the people, have likewise cast lots for the

wood offering, to bring it into the house of our God, according to our fathers' houses, at times appointed, year by year, to burn on the altar of the LORD our God, as it is written in the Law.

³⁵ We obligate ourselves to bring the firstfruits of our ground and the firstfruits of all fruit of every tree, year by year, to the house of the LORD;

³⁶ also to bring to the house of our God, to the priests who minister in the house of our God, the firstborn of our sons and of our cattle, as it is written in the Law, and the firstborn of our herds and of our flocks;

³⁷ and to bring the first of our dough, and our contributions, the fruit of every tree, the wine and the oil, to the priests, to the chambers of the house of our God; and to bring to the Levites the tithes from our ground, for it is the

Levites who collect the tithes in all our towns where we labor.

³⁸ And the priest, the son of Aaron, shall be with the Levites when the Levites receive the tithes. And the Levites shall bring up the tithe of the tithes to the house of our God, to the chambers of the storehouse.

³⁹ For the people of Israel and the sons of Levi shall bring the contribution of grain, wine, and oil to the chambers, where the vessels of the sanctuary are, as well as the priests who minister, and the gatekeepers and the singers. We will not neglect the house of our God."

11 ¹ Now the leaders of the people lived in Jerusalem. And the rest of the people cast lots to bring one out of ten to live in Jerusalem the holy city, while nine out of ten remained in the other towns.

² And the people blessed all the men who willingly offered to live in Jerusalem.

³ These are the chiefs of the province who lived in Jerusalem; but in the towns of Judah everyone lived on his property in their towns: Israel, the priests, the Levites, the temple servants, and the descendants of Solomon's servants.

⁴ And in Jerusalem lived certain of the sons of Judah and of the sons of Benjamin. Of the sons of Judah: Athaiah the son of Uzziah, son of Zechariah, son of Amariah, son of Shephatiah, son of Mahalalel, of the sons of Perez;

⁵ and Maaseiah the son of Baruch, son of Col-hozeh, son of Hazaiah, son of Adaiah, son of Joiarib, son of Zechariah, son of the Shilonite.

⁶ All the sons of Perez who lived in Jerusalem were 468 valiant men.

⁷ And these are the sons of Benjamin: Sallu the son of Meshullam, son of Joed,

son of Pedaiah, son of Kolaiah, son of Maaseiah, son of Ithiel, son of Jeshaiiah,
⁸ and his brothers, men of valor, 928.

⁹ Joel the son of Zichri was their overseer; and Judah the son of Hassenuah was second over the city.

¹⁰ Of the priests: Jedaiah the son of Joiarib, Jachin,

¹¹ Seraiah the son of Hilkiah, son of Meshullam, son of Zadok, son of Meraioth, son of Ahitub, ruler of the house of God,

¹² and their brothers who did the work of the house, 822; and Adaiah the son of Jeroham, son of Pelaliah, son of Amzi, son of Zechariah, son of Pashhur, son of Malchijah,

¹³ and his brothers, heads of fathers' houses, 242; and Amashsai, the son of Azarel, son of Ahzai, son of Meshillemoth, son of Immer,

¹⁴ and their brothers, mighty men of valor, 128; their overseer was Zabdiel the son of Haggadolim.

¹⁵ And of the Levites: Shemaiah the son of Hasshub, son of Azrikam, son of Hashabiah, son of Bunni;

¹⁶ and Shabbethai and Jozabad, of the chiefs of the Levites, who were over the outside work of the house of God;

¹⁷ and Mattaniah the son of Mica, son of Zabdi, son of Asaph, who was the leader of the praise, who gave thanks, and Bakbukiah, the second among his brothers; and Abda the son of Shammua, son of Galal, son of Jeduthun.

¹⁸ All the Levites in the holy city were 284.

¹⁹ The gatekeepers, Akkub, Talmon and their brothers, who kept watch at the gates, were 172.

²⁰ And the rest of Israel, and of the priests and the Levites, were in all

the towns of Judah, every one in his inheritance.

²¹ But the temple servants lived on Ophel; and Ziha and Gishpa were over the temple servants.

²² The overseer of the Levites in Jerusalem was Uzzi the son of Bani, son of Hashabiah, son of Mattaniah, son of Mica, of the sons of Asaph, the singers, over the work of the house of God.

²³ For there was a command from the king concerning them, and a fixed provision for the singers, as every day required.

²⁴ And Pethahiah the son of Meshezabel, of the sons of Zerah the son of Judah, was at the king's side in all matters concerning the people.

²⁵ And as for the villages, with their fields, some of the people of Judah lived in Kiriath-arba and its villages, and in

Dibon and its villages, and in Jekabzeel and its villages,

²⁶ and in Jeshua and in Moladah and Beth-pelet,

²⁷ in Hazar-shual, in Beersheba and its villages,

²⁸ in Ziklag, in Meconah and its villages,

²⁹ in En-rimmon, in Zorah, in Jarmuth,

³⁰ Zanoah, Adullam, and their villages, Lachish and its fields, and Azekah and its villages. So they encamped from Beersheba to the valley of Hinnom.

³¹ The people of Benjamin also lived from Geba onward, at Michmash, Aiija, Bethel and its villages,

³² Anathoth, Nob, Ananiah,

³³ Hazor, Ramah, Gittaim,

³⁴ Hadid, Zeboim, Neballat,

³⁵ Lod, and Ono, the valley of craftsmen.

³⁶ And certain divisions of the Levites in Judah were assigned to Benjamin.

12 ¹ 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 Shecaniah, Rehum, Meremoth,

⁴ Iddo, Ginnethoi, Abijah,

⁵ Mijamin, Maadiah, Bilgah,

⁶ Shemaiah, Joiarib, Jedaiah,

⁷ Sallu, Amok, Hilkiyah, Jedaiah. These were the chiefs of the priests and of their brothers in the days of Jeshua.

⁸ And the Levites: Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, and Mattaniah, who with his brothers was in charge of the songs of thanksgiving.

⁹ And Bakbukiah and Unni and their brothers stood opposite them in the service.

¹⁰ And Jeshua was the father of Joiakim, Joiakim the father of Eliashib, Eliashib the father of Joiada,

¹¹ Joiada the father of Jonathan, and Jonathan the father of Jaddua.

¹² And in the days of Joiakim were priests, heads of fathers' houses: of Seraiah, Meraiah; of Jeremiah, Hananiah;

¹³ of Ezra, Meshullam; of Amariah, Jehohanan;

¹⁴ of Malluchi, Jonathan; of Shebaniah, Joseph;

¹⁵ of Harim, Adna; of Meraioth, Helkai;

¹⁶ of Iddo, Zechariah; of Ginnethon, Meshullam;

¹⁷ of Abijah, Zichri; of Miniamin, 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; of Jedaiah, Nethanel.

²² In the days of Eliashib, Joiada, Johanan, and Jaddua, the Levites were recorded as heads of fathers' houses; so too were the priests in the reign of Darius the Persian.

²³ As for the sons of Levi, their heads of fathers' houses were written in the Book of the Chronicles until the days of Johanan the son of Eliashib.

²⁴ And the chiefs of the Levites: Hashabiah, Sherebiah, and Jeshua the son of Kadmiel, with their brothers who stood opposite them, to praise and to give thanks, according to the commandment of David the man of God, watch by watch.

²⁵ Mattaniah, Bakbukiah, Obadiah, Meshullam, Talmon, and Akkub were gatekeepers standing guard at the storehouses of the gates.

²⁶ These were in the days of Joiakim the son of Jeshua son of Jozadak, and in the

days of Nehemiah the governor and of Ezra, the priest and scribe.

²⁷ And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites in all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with gladness, with thanksgivings and with singing, with cymbals, harps, and lyres.

²⁸ And the sons of the singers gathered together from the district surrounding Jerusalem and from the villages of the Netophathites;

²⁹ also from Beth-gilgal and from the region of Geba and Azmaveth, for the singers had built for themselves villages around Jerusalem.

³⁰ And the priests and the Levites purified themselves, and they purified the people and the gates and the wall.

³¹ Then I brought the leaders of Judah up onto the wall and appointed two

great choirs that gave thanks. One went to the south on the wall to the Dung Gate.

³² And after them went Hoshaiah and half of the leaders of Judah,

³³ and Azariah, Ezra, Meshullam,

³⁴ Judah, Benjamin, Shemaiah, and Jeremiah,

³⁵ and certain of the priests' sons with trumpets: Zechariah the son of Jonathan, son of Shemaiah, son of Mattaniah, son of Micaiah, son of Zaccur, son of Asaph;

³⁶ and his relatives, Shemaiah, Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel, Judah, and Hanani, with the musical instruments of David the man of God. And Ezra the scribe went before them.

³⁷ At the Fountain Gate they went up straight before them by the stairs of the city of David, at the ascent of the wall, above the house of David, to the Water Gate on the east.

³⁸ The other choir of those who gave thanks went to the north, and I followed them with half of the people, on the wall, above the Tower of the Ovens, to the Broad Wall,

³⁹ and above the Gate of Ephraim, and by the Gate of Yeshanah, and by the Fish Gate and the Tower of Hananel and the Tower of the Hundred, to the Sheep Gate; and they came to a halt at the Gate of the Guard.

⁴⁰ So both choirs of those who gave thanks stood in the house of God, and I and half of the officials with me;

⁴¹ and the priests Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Micaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah, and Hananiah, with trumpets;

⁴² and Maaseiah, Shemaiah, Eleazar, Uzzi, Jehohanan, Malchijah, Elam, and Ezer. And the singers sang with Jezrahiah as their leader.

⁴³ And they offered great sacrifices that day and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy; the women and children also rejoiced. And the joy of Jerusalem was heard far away.

⁴⁴ On that day men were appointed over the storerooms, the contributions, the firstfruits, and the tithes, to gather into them the portions required by the Law for the priests and for the Levites according to the fields of the towns, for Judah rejoiced over the priests and the Levites who ministered.

⁴⁵ And they performed the service of their God and the service of purification, as did the singers and the gatekeepers, according to the command of David and his son Solomon.

⁴⁶ For long ago in the days of David and Asaph there were directors of the singers, and there were songs of praise and thanksgiving to God.

⁴⁷ And all Israel in the days of Zerubbabel and in the days of Nehemiah gave the daily portions for the singers and the gatekeepers; and they set apart that which was for the Levites; and the Levites set apart that which was for the sons 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 enter the assembly of God,

² for they did not meet the people of Israel with bread and water, but hired Balaam against them to curse them--yet our God turned the curse into a blessing.

³ As soon as the people heard the law, they separated from Israel all those of foreign descent.

⁴ Now before this, Eliashib the priest, who was appointed over the chambers

of the house of our God, and who was related to Tobiah,

⁵ prepared for Tobiah a large chamber where they had previously put the grain offering, the frankincense, the vessels, and the tithes of grain, wine, and oil, which were given by commandment to the Levites, singers, and gatekeepers, and the contributions for the priests.

⁶ While this was taking place, I was not in Jerusalem, for in the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon I went to the king. And after some time I asked leave of the king

⁷ and came to Jerusalem, and I then discovered the evil that Eliashib had done for Tobiah, preparing for him a chamber in the courts of the house of God.

⁸ And I was very angry, and I threw all the household furniture of Tobiah out of the chamber.

⁹ Then I gave orders, and they cleansed the chambers, and I brought back there the vessels of the house of God, with the grain offering and the frankincense.

¹⁰ I also found out that the portions of the Levites had not been given to them, so that the Levites and the singers, who did the work, had fled each to his field.

¹¹ So I confronted the officials and said, "Why is the house of God forsaken?" And I gathered them together and set them in their stations.

¹² Then all Judah brought the tithe of the grain, wine, and oil into the storehouses.

¹³ And I appointed as treasurers over the storehouses Shelemiah the priest, Zadok the scribe, and Pedaiah of the Levites, and as their assistant Hanan the son of Zaccur, son of Mattaniah, for they were considered reliable, and their duty was to distribute to their brothers.

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 his service.

¹⁵ In those days I saw in Judah people treading winepresses on the Sabbath, and bringing in heaps of grain and loading them on donkeys, and also wine, grapes, figs, and all kinds of loads, which they brought into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day. And I warned them on the day when they sold food.

¹⁶ Tyrians also, who lived in the city, brought in fish and all kinds of goods and sold them on the Sabbath to the people of Judah, in Jerusalem itself!

¹⁷ Then I confronted the nobles of Judah and said to them, "What is this evil thing that you are doing, profaning the Sabbath day?

¹⁸ Did not your fathers act in this way, and did not our God bring all this

disaster on us and on this city? Now you are bringing more wrath on Israel by profaning the Sabbath."

¹⁹ As soon as it began to grow dark at the gates of Jerusalem before the Sabbath, I commanded that the doors should be shut and gave orders that they should not be opened until after the Sabbath. And I stationed some of my servants at the gates, that no load might be brought in on the Sabbath day.

²⁰ Then the merchants and sellers of all kinds of wares lodged outside Jerusalem once or twice.

²¹ But I warned them and said to them, "Why do you lodge outside the wall? If you do so again, I will lay hands on you." From that time on they did not come on the Sabbath.

²² Then I commanded the Levites that they should purify themselves and come and guard the gates, to keep the Sabbath

day holy. Remember this also in my favor, O my God, and spare me according to the greatness of your steadfast love.

²³ In those days also I saw the Jews who had married women of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab.

²⁴ And half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and they could not speak the language of Judah, but the language of each people.

²⁵ And I confronted them and cursed them and beat some of them and pulled out their hair. And I made them take oath in the name of God, saying, "You shall not give your daughters to their sons, or take their daughters for your sons or for yourselves.

²⁶ Did not Solomon king of Israel sin on account of such women? Among the many nations there was no king like him, and he was beloved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel.

Nevertheless, foreign women made even him to sin.

²⁷ Shall we then listen to you and do all this great evil and act treacherously against our God by marrying foreign women?"

²⁸ And one of the sons of Jehoiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was the son-in-law of Sanballat the Horonite. Therefore I chased him from me.

²⁹ Remember them, O my God, because they have desecrated the priesthood and the covenant of the priesthood and the Levites.

³⁰ Thus I cleansed them from everything foreign, and I established the duties of the priests and Levites, each in his work;

³¹ and I provided for the wood offering at appointed times, and for the firstfruits. Remember me, O my God, for good.

Esther

1 ¹ Now in the days of Ahasuerus, the Ahasuerus who reigned from India to Ethiopia over 127 provinces,

² in those days when King Ahasuerus sat on his royal throne in Susa, the capital,

³ in the third year of his reign he gave a feast for all his officials and servants. The army of Persia and Media and the nobles and governors of the provinces were before him,

⁴ while he showed the riches of his royal glory and the splendor and pomp of his greatness for many days, 180 days.

⁵ And when these days were completed, the king gave for all the people present in Susa, the citadel, both great and small, a feast lasting for seven days in the court of the garden of the king's palace.

⁶ There were white cotton curtains and violet hangings fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rods and marble pillars, and also couches of gold and silver on a mosaic pavement of porphyry, marble, mother-of-pearl and precious stones.

⁷ Drinks were served in golden vessels, vessels of different kinds, and the royal wine was lavished according to the bounty of the king.

⁸ And drinking was according to this edict: "There is no compulsion." For the king had given orders to all the staff of his palace to do as each man desired.

⁹ Queen Vashti also gave a feast for the women in the palace that 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 and Abagtha,

Zethar and Carkas, the seven eunuchs who served in the presence of King Ahasuerus,

¹¹ to bring Queen Vashti before the king with her royal crown, in order to show the peoples and the princes her beauty, for she was lovely to look at.

¹² But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command delivered by the eunuchs. At this the king became enraged, and his anger burned within him.

¹³ Then the king said to the wise men who knew the times (for this was the king's procedure toward all who were versed in law and judgment,

¹⁴ the men next to him being Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media, who saw the king's face, and sat first in the kingdom):

¹⁵ "According to the law, what is to be done to Queen Vashti, because she has not performed the command of King Ahasuerus delivered by the eunuchs?"

¹⁶ Then Memucan said in the presence of the king and the officials, "Not only against the king has Queen Vashti done wrong, but also against all the officials and all the peoples who are in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus.

¹⁷ For the queen's behavior will be made known to all women, causing them to look at their husbands with contempt, since they will say, 'King Ahasuerus commanded Queen Vashti to be brought before him, and she did not come.'

¹⁸ This very day the noble women of Persia and Media who have heard of the queen's behavior will say the same to all the king's officials, and there will be contempt and wrath in plenty.

¹⁹ If it please the king, let a royal order go out from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes so that it may not be repealed, that Vashti is never again to come before King Ahasuerus. And let the king give her royal position to another who is better than she.

²⁰ So when the decree made by the king is proclaimed throughout all his kingdom, for it is vast, all women will give honor to their husbands, high and low alike."

²¹ This advice pleased the king and the princes, and the king did as Memucan proposed.

²² He sent letters to all the royal provinces, to every province in its own script and to every people in its own language, that every man be master in his own household and speak according to the language of his people.

2¹ After these things, when the anger of King Ahasuerus had abated, he remembered Vashti and what she had done and what had been decreed against her.

² Then the king's young men who attended him said, "Let beautiful young virgins be sought out for the king.

³ And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom to gather all the beautiful young virgins to the harem in Susa the capital, under custody of Hegai, the king's eunuch, who is in charge of the women. Let their cosmetics be given them.

⁴ And let the young woman who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti." This pleased the king, and he did so.

⁵ Now there was a Jew in Susa the citadel whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, son of Shimei, son of Kish, a Benjaminite,

⁶ who had been carried away from Jerusalem among the captives carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had carried away.

⁷ He was bringing up Hadassah, that is Esther, the daughter of his uncle, for she had neither father nor mother. The young woman had a beautiful figure and was lovely to look at, and when her father and her mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter.

⁸ So when the king's order and his edict were proclaimed, and when many young women were gathered in Susa the citadel in custody of Hegai, Esther also was taken into the king's palace and put in custody of Hegai, who had charge of the women.

⁹ And the young woman pleased him and won his favor. And he quickly provided her with her cosmetics and her

portion of food, and with seven chosen young women from the king's palace, and advanced her and her young women to the best place in the harem.

¹⁰ Esther had not made known her people or kindred, for Mordecai had commanded her not to make it known.

¹¹ And every day Mordecai walked in front of the court of the harem to learn how Esther was and what was happening to her.

¹² Now when the turn came for each young woman to go in to King Ahasuerus, after being twelve months under the regulations for the women, since this was the regular period of their beautifying, six months with oil of myrrh and six months with spices and ointments for women--

¹³ when the young woman went in to the king in this way, she was given

whatever she desired to take with her from the harem to the king's palace.

¹⁴ In the evening she would go in, and in the morning she would return to the second harem in custody of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch, who was in charge of the concubines. She would not go in to the king again, unless the king delighted in her and she was summoned by name.

¹⁵ When the turn came for Esther the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her as his own daughter, to go in to the king, she asked for nothing except what Hegai the king's eunuch, who had charge of the women, advised. Now Esther was winning favor in the eyes of all who saw her.

¹⁶ And when 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 women, and she won grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins, so that he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti.

¹⁸ Then the king gave a great feast for all his officials and servants; it was Esther's feast. He also granted a remission of taxes to the provinces and gave gifts with royal generosity.

¹⁹ Now when the virgins were gathered together the second time, Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate.

²⁰ Esther had not made known her kindred or her people, as Mordecai had commanded her, for Esther obeyed Mordecai just as when she was brought up by him.

²¹ In those days, as Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, who guarded

the threshold, became angry and sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus.

²² And this came to the knowledge of Mordecai, and he told it to Queen Esther, and Esther told the king in the name of Mordecai.

²³ When the affair was investigated and found to be so, the men were both hanged on the gallows. And it was recorded in the book of the chronicles in the presence of the king.

3 ¹ After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, and advanced him and set his throne above all the officials who were with him.

² And all the king's servants who were at the king's gate bowed down and paid homage to Haman, for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai did not bow down or pay homage.

³ Then the king's servants who were at the king's gate said to Mordecai, "Why do you transgress the king's command?"

⁴ And when they spoke to him day after day and he would not listen to them, they told Haman, in order to see whether Mordecai's words would stand, for he had told them that he was a Jew.

⁵ And when Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow down or pay homage to him, Haman was filled with fury.

⁶ But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone. So, as they had made known to him the people of Mordecai, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews, the people of Mordecai, throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus.

⁷ In the first month, which is the month of Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, they cast Pur (that is, they cast lots) before Haman day after day; and they cast it month after month till

the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar.

⁸ Then Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom. Their laws are different from those of every other people, and they do not keep the king's laws, so that it is not to the king's profit to tolerate them.

⁹ If it please the king, let it be decreed that they be destroyed, and I will pay 10,000 talents of silver into the hands of those who have charge of the king's business, that they may put it into the king's treasuries."

¹⁰ So the king took his signet ring from his hand and gave it to Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews.

¹¹ And the king said to Haman, "The money is given to you, the people also,

to do with them as it seems good to you."

¹² Then the king's scribes were summoned on the thirteenth day of the first month, and an edict, according to all that Haman commanded, was written to the king's satraps and to the governors over all the provinces and to the officials of all the peoples, to every province in its own script and every people in its own language. It was written in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed with the king's signet ring.

¹³ Letters were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with instruction to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all Jews, young and old, women and children, in one day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods.

¹⁴ A copy of the document was to be issued as a decree in every province by

proclamation to all the peoples to be ready for that day.

¹⁵ The couriers went out hurriedly by order of the king, and the decree was issued in Susa the citadel. And the king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Susa was thrown into confusion.

4 ¹ When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and he cried out with a loud and bitter cry.

² He went up to the entrance of the king's gate, for no one was allowed to enter the king's gate clothed in sackcloth.

³ And in every province, wherever the king's command and his decree reached, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and

lamenting, and many of them lay in sackcloth and ashes.

⁴ When Esther's young women and her eunuchs came and told her, the queen was deeply distressed. She sent garments to clothe Mordecai, so that he might take off his sackcloth, but he would not accept them.

⁵ Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs, who had been appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what this was and why it was.

⁶ Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate,

⁷ and Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the exact sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews.

⁸ Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther and explain it to her and command her to go to the king to beg his favor and plead with him on behalf of her people.

⁹ And Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said.

¹⁰ Then Esther spoke to Hathach and commanded him to go to Mordecai and say,

¹¹ "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law--to be put to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter so that he may live. But as for me, I have not been called to come in to the king these thirty days."

¹² And they told Mordecai what Esther had said.

¹³ Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews.

¹⁴ For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not 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 to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish."

¹⁷ Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

5 ¹ On the third day Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king's palace, in front of the king's quarters, while the king was sitting on his royal throne inside the throne room opposite the entrance to the palace.

² And when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, she won favor in his sight, and he held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. Then Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter.

³ And the king said to her, "What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? It shall be given you, even to the half of my kingdom."

⁴ And Esther said, "If it please the king, let the king and Haman come today to a feast that I have prepared for the king."

⁵ Then the king said, "Bring Haman quickly, so that we may do as Esther has asked." So the king and Haman came to the feast that Esther had prepared.

⁶ And as they were drinking wine after the feast, the king said to Esther, "What is your wish? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled."

⁷ Then Esther answered, "My wish and my request is:

⁸ If I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my wish and fulfill my request, let the king and Haman come to the feast that I will prepare for them, and tomorrow I will do as the king has said."

⁹ And Haman went out that day joyful and glad of heart. But when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he neither rose nor trembled before

him, he was filled with wrath against Mordecai.

¹⁰ Nevertheless, Haman restrained himself and went home, and he sent and brought his friends and his wife Zeresh.

¹¹ And Haman recounted to them the splendor of his riches, the number of his sons, all the promotions with which the king had honored him, and how he had advanced him above the officials and the servants of the king.

¹² Then Haman said, "Even Queen Esther let no one but me come with the king to the feast she prepared. And tomorrow also I am invited by her together with the king.

¹³ Yet all this is worth nothing to me, 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 fifty cubits high be made, and in the morning

tell the king to have Mordecai hanged upon it. Then go joyfully with the king to the feast." This idea pleased Haman, and he had the gallows made.

6¹ On that night the king could not sleep. And he gave orders to bring the book of memorable deeds, the chronicles, and they were read before the king.

² And it was found written how Mordecai had told about Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, who guarded the threshold, and who had sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus.

³ And the king said, "What honor or distinction has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?" The king's young men who attended him said, "Nothing has been done for him."

⁴ And the king said, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the king's palace to

speak to the king about having Mordecai hanged on the gallows that he had prepared for him.

⁵ And the king's young men told him, "Haman is there, standing in the court." And the king said, "Let him come in."

⁶ So Haman came in, and the king said to him, "What should be done to the man whom the king delights to honor?" And Haman said to himself, "Whom would the king delight to honor more than me?"

⁷ And Haman said to the king, "For the man whom the king delights to honor,

⁸ let royal robes be brought, which the king has worn, and the horse that the king has ridden, and on whose head a royal crown is set.

⁹ And let the robes and the horse be handed over to one of the king's most noble officials. Let them dress the man whom the king delights to honor, and let

them lead him on the horse through the square of the city, proclaiming 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 robes and the horse, as you have said, and do so to Mordecai the Jew who sits at the king's gate. Leave out nothing that you have mentioned."

¹¹ So Haman took the robes and the horse, and he dressed Mordecai and led him through the square of the city, proclaiming before him, "Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor."

¹² Then Mordecai returned to the king's gate. But Haman hurried to his house, mourning and with his head covered.

¹³ And Haman told his wife Zeresh and all his friends everything that had happened to him. Then his wise men and his wife Zeresh said to him, "If Mordecai,

before whom you have begun to fall, is of the Jewish people, you will not overcome him but will surely fall before him."

¹⁴ While they were yet talking with him, the king's eunuchs arrived and hurried to bring Haman to the feast that Esther had prepared.

7 ¹ So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther.

² And on the second day, as they were drinking wine after the feast, the king again said to Esther, "What is your wish, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled."

³ Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be granted me for my wish, and my people for my request.

⁴ For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have been silent, for our affliction is not to be compared with the loss to the king."

⁵ Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has dared to do this?"

⁶ And Esther said, "A foe and enemy! This wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

⁷ And the king arose in his wrath from the wine-drinking and went into the palace garden, but Haman stayed to beg for his life from Queen Esther, for he saw that harm was determined against him by the king.

⁸ And the king returned from the palace garden to the place where they were drinking wine, as Haman was falling

on the couch where Esther was. And the king said, "Will he even assault the queen in my presence, in my own house?" As the word left the mouth of the king, they covered Haman's face.

⁹ Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Moreover, the gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, is standing at Haman's house, fifty cubits high."

¹⁰ And the king said, "Hang him on that." So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the wrath of the king abated.

8 ¹ On that day King Ahasuerus gave to Queen Esther the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews. And Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had told what he was to her.

² And the king took off his signet ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.

³ Then Esther spoke again to the king. She fell at his feet and wept and pleaded with him to avert the evil plan of Haman the Agagite and the plot that he had devised against the Jews.

⁴ When the king held out the golden scepter to Esther,

⁵ Esther rose and stood before the king. And she said, "If it please the king, and if I have found favor in his sight, and if the thing seems right before the king, and I am pleasing in his eyes, let an order be written to revoke the letters devised by Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, which he wrote to destroy the Jews who are in all the provinces of the king.

⁶ For how can I bear to see the calamity that is coming to my people? Or how can I bear to see the destruction of my kindred?"

⁷ Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther and to Mordecai the Jew, "Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and they have hanged him on the gallows, because he intended to lay hands on the Jews.

⁸ But you may write as you please with regard to the Jews, in the name of the king, and seal it with the king's ring, for an edict written in the name of the king and sealed with the king's ring cannot be revoked."

⁹ The king's scribes were summoned at that time, in the third month, which is the month of Sivan, on the twenty-third day. And an edict was written, according to all that Mordecai commanded concerning the Jews, to the satraps and

the governors and the officials of the provinces from India to Ethiopia, 127 provinces, to each province in its own script and to each people in its own language, and also to the Jews in their script and their language.

¹⁰ And he wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus and sealed it with the king's signet ring. Then he sent the letters by mounted couriers riding on swift horses that were used in the king's service, bred from the royal stud,

¹¹ saying that the king allowed the Jews who were in every city to gather and defend their lives, to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate any armed force of any people or province that might attack them, children and women included, and to plunder their goods,

¹² on one day throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, on the

thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar.

¹³ A copy of what was written was to be issued as a decree in every province, being publicly displayed to all peoples, and the Jews were to be ready on that day to take vengeance on their enemies.

¹⁴ So the couriers, mounted on their swift horses that were used in the king's service, rode out hurriedly, urged by the king's command. And the decree was issued in Susa the citadel.

¹⁵ Then Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal robes of blue and white, with a great golden crown and a robe of fine linen and purple, and the city of Susa shouted and rejoiced.

¹⁶ The Jews had light and gladness and joy and honor.

¹⁷ And in every province and in every city, wherever the king's command and

his edict reached, there was gladness and joy among the Jews, a feast and a holiday. And many from the peoples of the country declared themselves Jews, for fear of the Jews had fallen on them.

9¹ Now in the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, on the thirteenth day of the same, when the king's command and edict were about to be carried out, on the very day when the enemies of the Jews hoped to gain the mastery over them, the reverse occurred: the Jews gained mastery over those who hated them.

² The Jews gathered in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus to lay hands on those who sought their harm. And no one could stand against them, for the fear of them had fallen on all peoples.

³ All the officials of the provinces and the satraps and the governors and the

royal agents also helped the Jews, for the fear of Mordecai had fallen on them.

⁴ For Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame spread throughout all the provinces, for the man Mordecai grew more and more powerful.

⁵ The Jews struck all their enemies with the sword, killing and destroying them, and did as they pleased to those who hated them.

⁶ In Susa the citadel itself the Jews killed and destroyed 500 men,

⁷ and also killed Parshandatha and Dalphon and Aspatha

⁸ and Poratha and Adalia and Aridatha

⁹ and Parmashta and Arisai and Aridai and Vaizatha,

¹⁰ the ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews, but they laid no hand on the plunder.

¹¹ That very day the number of those killed in Susa the citadel was reported to the king.

¹² And the king said to Queen Esther, "In Susa the citadel the Jews have killed and destroyed 500 men and also the ten sons of Haman. What then have they done in the rest of the king's provinces! Now what is your wish? It shall be granted you. And what further is your request? It shall be fulfilled."

¹³ And Esther said, "If it please the king, let the Jews who are in Susa be allowed tomorrow also to do according to this day's edict. And let the ten sons of Haman be hanged on the gallows."

¹⁴ So the king commanded this to be done. A decree was issued in Susa, and the ten sons of Haman were hanged.

¹⁵ The Jews who were in Susa gathered also on the fourteenth day of the month

of Adar and they killed 300 men in Susa, but they laid no hands on the plunder.

¹⁶ Now the rest of the Jews who were in the king's provinces also gathered to defend their lives, and got relief from their enemies and killed 75,000 of those who hated them, but they laid no hands on the plunder.

¹⁷ This was on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar, and on the fourteenth day they rested and made that a day of feasting and gladness.

¹⁸ But the Jews who were in Susa gathered on the thirteenth day and on the fourteenth, and rested on the fifteenth day, making that a day of feasting and gladness.

¹⁹ Therefore the Jews of the villages, who live in the rural towns, hold the fourteenth day of the month of Adar as a day for gladness and feasting, as a

holiday, and as a day on which they send gifts of food to one another.

²⁰ And Mordecai recorded these things and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far,

²¹ obliging them to keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same, year by year,

²² as the days on which the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and gifts to the poor.

²³ So the Jews accepted what they had started to do, and what Mordecai had written to them.

²⁴ For Haman the Agagite, the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of all the Jews,

had plotted against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast Pur (that is, cast lots), to crush and to destroy them.

²⁵ But when it came before the king, he gave orders in writing that his evil plan that he had devised against the Jews should return on his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows.

²⁶ Therefore they called these days Purim, after the term Pur. Therefore, because of all that was written in this letter, and of what they had faced in this matter, and of what had happened to them,

²⁷ the Jews firmly obligated themselves and their offspring and all who joined them, that without fail they would keep these two days according to what was written and at the time appointed every year,

²⁸ that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, in every clan, province, and city, and that these days of Purim should never fall into disuse among the Jews, nor should the commemoration of these days cease among their descendants.

²⁹ Then Queen Esther, the daughter of Abihail, and Mordecai the Jew gave full written authority, confirming this second letter about Purim.

³⁰ Letters were sent to all the Jews, to the 127 provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, in words of peace and truth,

³¹ that these days of Purim should be observed at their appointed seasons, as Mordecai the Jew and Queen Esther obligated them, and as they had obligated themselves and their offspring, with regard to their fasts and their lamenting.

³² The command of Queen Esther confirmed these practices of Purim, and it was recorded in writing.

10 ¹ King Ahasuerus imposed tax on the land and on the coastlands of the sea.

² And all the acts of his power and might, and the full account of the high honor 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 in rank to King Ahasuerus, and he was great among the Jews and popular with the multitude of his brothers, for he sought the welfare of his people and spoke peace to all his people.

Job

1 ¹ There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.

² There were born to him seven sons and three daughters.

³ He possessed 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 female donkeys, and very many servants, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east.

⁴ His sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them.

⁵ And when the days of the feast had run their course, Job would send and consecrate 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 children have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did continually.

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 The LORD said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it."

⁸ And 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, who fears God and turns away from evil?"

⁹ Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for no reason?

¹⁰ Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and 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 stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face."

¹² And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand." 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 there came a messenger to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them,

¹⁵ and the Sabeans fell upon them and took them and struck down the servants

with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you."

¹⁶ While he was yet speaking, there came another 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 yet speaking, there came another and said, "The Chaldeans formed three groups and made a raid on the camels and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you."

¹⁸ While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house,

¹⁹ and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the

young people, and they are dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you."

²⁰ Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped.

²¹ And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD."

²² In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

2¹ Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD.

² And the LORD said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it."

³ And 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, who fears God and turns away from evil? He still holds fast his integrity, although you incited me against him to destroy him without reason."

⁴ Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life."

⁵ But stretch out your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face."

⁶ And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life."

⁷ So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and struck Job with loathsome sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.

⁸ And he took a piece of broken pottery with which to scrape himself while he sat in the ashes.

⁹ Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die."

¹⁰ But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

¹¹ Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that had come upon him, they came each from his own place, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. They made an appointment together to come to show him sympathy and comfort him.

¹² And when they saw him from a distance, they did not recognize him. And they raised their voices and wept,

and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads toward heaven.

¹³ And they sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.

3 ¹ After this Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth.

² And Job said:

³ "Let the day perish on which I was born, and the night that said, 'A man is conceived.'

⁴ Let that day be darkness! May God above not seek it, nor light shine upon it.

⁵ Let gloom and deep darkness claim it. Let clouds dwell upon it; let the blackness of the day terrify it.

⁶ That night--let thick darkness seize it! Let it not rejoice among the days of the year; let it not come into the number of the months.

⁷ Behold, let that night be barren; let no joyful cry enter it.

⁸ Let those curse it who curse the day, who are ready to rouse up Leviathan.

⁹ Let the stars of its dawn be dark; let it hope for light, but have none, nor see the eyelids of the morning,

¹⁰ because it did not shut the doors of my mother's womb, nor hide trouble from my eyes.

¹¹ "Why did I not die at birth, come out from the womb and expire?

¹² Why did the knees receive me? Or why the breasts, that I should nurse?

¹³ For then I would have lain down and been quiet; I would have slept; then I would have been at rest,

¹⁴ with kings and counselors of the earth who rebuilt ruins for themselves,

¹⁵ or with princes who had gold, who filled their houses with silver.

¹⁶ Or why was I not as a hidden stillborn child, as infants who never see the light?

¹⁷ There the wicked cease from troubling, and there the weary are at rest.

¹⁸ There the prisoners are at ease together; they hear not the voice of the taskmaster.

¹⁹ The small and the great are there, and the slave is free from his master.

²⁰ "Why is light given to him who is in misery, and life to the bitter in soul,

²¹ who long for death, but it comes not, and dig for it more than for hidden treasures,

²² who rejoice exceedingly and are glad when they find the grave?

²³ Why is light given to a man whose way is hidden, whom God has hedged in?

²⁴ For my sighing comes instead of my bread, and my groanings are poured out like water.

²⁵ For the thing that I fear comes upon me, and what I dread befalls me.

²⁶ I am not at ease, nor am I quiet; I have no rest, but trouble comes."

4 ¹ Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said:

² "If one ventures a word with you, will you be impatient? Yet who can keep from speaking?

³ Behold, you have instructed many, and you have strengthened the weak hands.

⁴ Your words have upheld him who was stumbling, and you have made firm the feeble knees.

⁵ But now it has come to you, and you are impatient; it touches you, and you are dismayed.

⁶ Is not your fear of God your confidence, and the integrity of your ways your hope?

⁷ "Remember: who that was innocent ever perished? Or where were the upright cut off?

⁸ As I have seen, those who plow iniquity and sow trouble reap the same.

⁹ By the breath of God they perish, and by the blast of his anger they are consumed.

¹⁰ The roar of the lion, the voice of the fierce lion, the teeth of the young lions are broken.

¹¹ The strong lion perishes for lack of prey, and the cubs of the lioness are scattered.

¹² "Now a word was brought to me stealthily; my ear received the whisper of it.

¹³ Amid thoughts from visions of the night, when deep sleep falls on men,

¹⁴ dread came upon me, and trembling, which made all my bones shake.

¹⁵ A spirit glided past my face; the hair of my flesh 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:

¹⁷ 'Can mortal man be in the right before God? Can a man be pure before his Maker?

¹⁸ Even in his servants he puts no trust, and his angels he charges with error;

¹⁹ how much more those who dwell in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust, who are crushed like the moth.

²⁰ Between morning and evening they are beaten to pieces; they perish forever without anyone regarding it.

²¹ Is not their tent-cord plucked up within them, do they not die, and that without wisdom?'

5¹ "Call now; is there anyone who will answer you? To which of the holy ones will you turn?

² Surely vexation kills the fool, and jealousy slays the simple.

³ I have seen the fool taking root, but suddenly I cursed his dwelling.

⁴ His children are far from safety; they are crushed in the gate, and there is no one to deliver them.

⁵ The hungry eat his harvest, and he takes it even out of thorns, and the thirsty pant after his wealth.

⁶ For affliction does not come from the dust, nor does trouble sprout from the ground,

⁷ but man is born to trouble as the sparks fly upward.

⁸ "As for me, I would seek God, and to God would I 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 achieve no
success.

¹³ He catches the wise in their own
craftiness, and the schemes of the wily
are brought to a quick end.

¹⁴ They meet with darkness in the
daytime and grope at noonday as in the
night.

¹⁵ But he saves the needy from the
sword of their mouth and from the hand
of the mighty.

¹⁶ So the poor have hope, and injustice
shuts her mouth.

¹⁷ "Behold, blessed is the one whom God reproves; therefore despise not the discipline of the Almighty.

¹⁸ For he wounds, but he binds up; he shatters, but his hands heal.

¹⁹ He will deliver you from six troubles; in seven no evil shall touch you.

²⁰ In famine he will redeem you from death, and in war from the power of the sword.

²¹ You shall be hidden from the lash of the tongue, and shall not fear destruction when it comes.

²² At destruction and famine you shall laugh, and shall not fear the beasts of the earth.

²³ For you shall be in league 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 at peace, and you shall inspect your fold and miss nothing.

²⁵ You shall know also that your offspring shall be many, and your descendants as the grass of the earth.

²⁶ You shall come to your grave in ripe old age, like a sheaf gathered up in its season.

²⁷ Behold, this we have searched out; it is true. Hear, and know it for your good."

6 ¹ Then Job answered and said:

² "Oh that my vexation were weighed, and all my calamity laid in the balances!

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 in me; my spirit drinks their poison; the terrors of God are arrayed against me.

⁵ Does the wild donkey bray when he has grass, or the ox low over his fodder?

⁶ Can that which is tasteless be eaten without salt, or is there any taste in the juice of the mallow?

⁷ My appetite refuses to touch them; they are as food that is loathsome to me.

⁸ "Oh that I might have my request, and that God would fulfill my hope,

⁹ that it would please God to crush me, that he would let loose his hand and cut me off!

¹⁰ This would be my comfort; I would even exult in pain unsparing, for I have not denied the words of the Holy One.

¹¹ What is my strength, that I should wait? And what is my end, that I should be patient?

¹² Is my strength the strength of stones, or is my flesh bronze?

¹³ Have I any help in me, when resource is driven from me?

¹⁴ "He who withholds kindness from a friend forsakes the fear of the Almighty.

¹⁵ My brothers are treacherous as a torrent-bed, as torrential streams that pass away,

¹⁶ which are dark with ice, and where the snow hides itself.

¹⁷ When they melt, they disappear; when it is hot, they vanish from their place.

¹⁸ The caravans turn aside from their course; they go up into the waste and perish.

¹⁹ The caravans of Tema look, the travelers of Sheba hope.

²⁰ They are ashamed because they were confident; they come there and are disappointed.

²¹ For you have now become nothing; you see my calamity and are afraid.

²² Have I said, 'Make me a gift'? Or, 'From your wealth offer a bribe for me'?

²³ Or, 'Deliver me from the adversary's hand'? Or, 'Redeem me from the hand of the ruthless'?

²⁴ "Teach me, and I will be silent; make me understand how I have gone astray.

²⁵ How forceful are upright words! But what does reproof from you reprove?

²⁶ Do you think that you can reprove words, when the speech of a despairing man is wind?

²⁷ You would even cast lots over the fatherless, and bargain over your friend.

²⁸ "But now, be pleased to look at me, for I will not lie to your face.

²⁹ Please turn; let no injustice be done. Turn now; my vindication is at stake.

³⁰ Is there any injustice on my tongue? Cannot my palate discern the cause of calamity?

7 ¹ "Has not man a hard service on earth, and are not his days like the days of a hired hand?

² Like a slave who longs for the shadow,
and like a hired hand who looks for his
wages,

³ so I am allotted months of emptiness,
and nights of misery are apportioned to
me.

⁴ When I lie down I say, 'When shall I
arise?' But the night is long, and I am full
of tossing till the dawn.

⁵ My flesh is clothed with worms and
dirt; my skin hardens, then breaks out
afresh.

⁶ My days are swifter than a weaver's
shuttle and come to their end without
hope.

⁷ "Remember that my life is a breath;
my eye will never again see good.

⁸ The eye of him who sees me will
behold me no more; while your eyes are
on me, I shall be gone.

⁹ As the cloud fades and vanishes, so he who goes down to Sheol does not come up;

¹⁰ he returns no more to his house, nor does 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 the sea, or a sea monster, 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 I would choose strangling and death rather than my bones.

¹⁶ I loathe my life; I would not live forever. Leave me alone, for my days are a breath.

¹⁷ What is man, that you make so much of him, and that you set your heart on him,

¹⁸ visit him every morning and test him every moment?

¹⁹ How long will you not look away from me, nor leave me alone till I swallow my spit?

²⁰ If I sin, what do I do to you, you watcher of mankind? Why have you made me your mark? Why have I become a burden to you?

²¹ Why do you not pardon my transgression and take away my iniquity? For now I shall lie in the earth; you will seek me, but I shall not be."

8 ¹ Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said:

² "How long will you say these things, and the words of your mouth be a great wind?

³ Does God pervert justice? Or does the Almighty pervert the right?

⁴ If your children have sinned against him, he has delivered them into the hand of their transgression.

⁵ If you will seek God and plead with the Almighty for mercy,

⁶ if you are pure and upright, surely then he will rouse himself for you and restore your rightful habitation.

⁷ And though your beginning was small, your latter days will be very great.

⁸ "For inquire, please, of bygone ages, and consider what the fathers have searched out.

⁹ For we are but of yesterday and know nothing, for our days on earth are a shadow.

¹⁰ Will they not teach you and tell you and utter words out of their understanding?

¹¹ "Can papyrus grow where there is no marsh? Can reeds flourish where there is no water?

¹² While yet in flower and not cut down, they wither before any other plant.

¹³ Such are the paths of all who forget God; the hope of the godless shall perish.

¹⁴ His confidence is severed, and his trust is a spider's web.

¹⁵ He leans against his house, but it does not stand; he lays hold of it, but it does not endure.

¹⁶ He is a lush plant before the sun, and his shoots spread over his garden.

¹⁷ His roots entwine the stone heap; he looks upon a house of stones.

¹⁸ If he is destroyed from his place, then it will deny him, saying, 'I have never seen you.'

¹⁹ Behold, this is the joy of his way, and out of the soil others will spring.

²⁰ "Behold, God will not reject a blameless man, nor take the hand of evildoers.

²¹ He will yet fill your mouth with laughter, and your lips with shouting.

²² Those who hate you will be clothed with shame, and the tent of the wicked will be no more."

9 ¹ Then Job answered and said:

² "Truly I know that it is so: But how can a man be in the right before God?

³ If one wished to contend with him, one could not answer him once in a thousand times.

⁴ He is wise in heart and mighty in strength --who has hardened himself against him, and succeeded?--

⁵ he who removes mountains, and they know it not, when he overturns them in his anger,

⁶ who shakes the earth out of its place, and its pillars tremble;

⁷ who commands the sun, and it does not rise; who seals up the stars;

⁸ who alone stretched out the heavens and trampled the waves of the sea;

⁹ who made the Bear and Orion, the Pleiades and the chambers of the south;

¹⁰ who does great things beyond searching out, and marvelous things beyond number.

¹¹ Behold, he passes by me, and I see him not; he moves on, but I do not perceive him.

¹² Behold, he snatches away; who can turn him back? Who will say to him, 'What are you doing?'

¹³ "God will not turn back his anger; beneath him bowed the helpers of Rahab.

¹⁴ How then can I answer him, choosing my words with him?

¹⁵ Though I am in the right, I cannot answer him; I must appeal for mercy to my accuser.

¹⁶ If I summoned him 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 let me get my breath, but fills me with bitterness.

¹⁹ If it is a contest of strength, behold, he is mighty! If it is a matter of justice, who can summon him?

²⁰ Though I am in the right, my own mouth would condemn me; though I am blameless, he would prove me perverse.

²¹ I am blameless; I regard not myself; I loathe my life.

²² It is all one; therefore I say, He destroys both the blameless and the wicked.

²³ When disaster brings sudden death,
he mocks at the calamity 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 then is it?

²⁵ "My days are swifter than a runner;
they flee away; they see no good.

²⁶ They go by like skiffs of reed, like an
eagle swooping on the prey.

²⁷ If I say, 'I will forget my complaint, I
will put off my sad face, and be of good
cheer,'

²⁸ I become afraid of all my suffering,
for I know you will not hold me innocent.

²⁹ I shall be condemned; why then do I
labor in vain?

³⁰ If I wash myself with snow and
cleanse my hands with lye,

³¹ yet you will plunge me into a pit, and
my own clothes will abhor me.

³² For he is not a man, as I am, that I might answer him, that we should come to trial together.

³³ There is no arbiter between us, who might lay his hand on us both.

³⁴ Let him take his rod away from me, and let not dread of him terrify me.

³⁵ Then I would speak without fear of him, for I am not so in myself.

10 ¹ "I loathe my life; I will give free utterance to my complaint; I will speak in the bitterness of my soul.

² I will say to God, Do not condemn me; let me know why you contend against me.

³ Does it seem good to you to oppress, to despise the work of your hands and favor the designs of the wicked?

⁴ Have you eyes of flesh? Do you see as man sees?

⁵ Are your days as the days of man, or your years as a man's years,

⁶ that you seek out my iniquity and search for my sin,

⁷ although you know that I am not guilty, and there is none to deliver out of your hand?

⁸ Your hands fashioned and made me, and now you have destroyed me altogether.

⁹ Remember that you have made me like clay; and will you return me to the dust?

¹⁰ Did you not pour me out like milk and curdle me like cheese?

¹¹ You clothed me with skin and flesh, and knit me together with bones and sinews.

¹² You have granted me life and steadfast love, and your care has preserved my spirit.

¹³ Yet these things you hid in your heart; I know that this was your purpose.

¹⁴ If I sin, you watch me and do not acquit me of my iniquity.

¹⁵ If I am guilty, woe to me! If I am in the right, I cannot lift up my head, for I am filled with disgrace and look on my affliction.

¹⁶ And were my head lifted up, you would hunt me like a lion and again work wonders against me.

¹⁷ You renew your witnesses against me and increase your vexation toward me; you bring fresh troops against me.

¹⁸ "Why did you bring me out from the womb? Would that I had died before any eye had seen me

¹⁹ and were as though I had not been, carried from the womb to the grave.

²⁰ Are not my days few? Then cease, and leave me alone, that I may find a little cheer

²¹ before I go--and I shall not return-- to the land of darkness and deep shadow,

²² the land of gloom like thick darkness, like deep shadow without any order, where light is as thick darkness."

11 ¹ Then Zophar the Naamathite answered and said:

² "Should a multitude of words go unanswered, and a man full of talk be judged right?

³ Should your babble silence men, and when you mock, shall no one shame you?

⁴ For you say, 'My doctrine is pure, and I am clean in God's eyes.'

⁵ But oh, that God would speak and open his lips to you,

⁶ and that he would tell you the secrets of wisdom! For he is manifold in understanding. Know then that God exacts of you less than your guilt deserves.

⁷ "Can you find out the deep things of God? Can you find out the limit of the Almighty?

⁸ It is higher than heaven--what can you do? Deeper than Sheol--what can you know?

⁹ Its measure is longer than the earth and broader than the sea.

¹⁰ If he passes through and imprisons and summons the court, who can turn him back?

¹¹ For he knows worthless men; when he sees iniquity, will he not consider it?

¹² But a stupid man will get understanding when a wild donkey's colt is born a man!

¹³ "If you prepare your heart, you will stretch out your hands toward him.

¹⁴ If iniquity is in your hand, put it far away, and let not injustice dwell in your tents.

¹⁵ Surely then you will lift up your face without blemish; you will be secure and will not fear.

¹⁶ You will forget your misery; you will remember it as waters that have passed away.

¹⁷ And your life will be brighter than the noonday; its darkness will be like the morning.

¹⁸ And you will feel secure, because there is hope; you will look around and take your rest in security.

¹⁹ You will lie down, and none will make you afraid; many will court your favor.

²⁰ But the eyes of the wicked will fail; all way of escape will be lost to them, and their hope is to breathe their last."

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. Who does not know such things as these?

⁴ I am a laughingstock to my friends; I, who called to God and he answered me, a just and blameless man, am a laughingstock.

⁵ In the thought of one who is at ease there is contempt for misfortune; it is ready for those whose feet slip.

⁶ The tents of robbers are at peace, and those who provoke God are secure, who bring their god in their hand.

⁷ "But ask the beasts, and they will teach you; the birds of the heavens, and they will tell you;

⁸ or the bushes of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you.

⁹ Who among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this?

¹⁰ In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.

¹¹ Does not the ear test words as the palate tastes food?

¹² Wisdom is with the aged, and understanding in length of days.

¹³ "With God are wisdom and might; he has counsel and understanding.

¹⁴ If he tears down, none can rebuild; if he shuts a man in, none can open.

¹⁵ If he withholds the waters, they dry up; if he sends them out, they overwhelm the land.

¹⁶ With him are strength and sound wisdom; the deceived and the deceiver are his.

¹⁷ He leads counselors away stripped, and judges he makes fools.

¹⁸ He looses the bonds of kings and binds a waistcloth on their hips.

¹⁹ He leads priests away stripped and overthrows the mighty.

²⁰ He deprives of speech those who are trusted and takes away the discernment of the elders.

²¹ He pours contempt on princes and loosens the belt of the strong.

²² He uncovers the deeps out of darkness and brings deep darkness to light.

²³ He makes nations great, and he destroys them; he enlarges nations, and leads them away.

²⁴ He takes away understanding from the chiefs of the people of the earth and makes them wander in a pathless waste.

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 argue my case with God.

⁴ As for you, you whitewash with lies; worthless physicians are you all.

⁵ Oh that you would keep silent, and it would be your wisdom!

⁶ Hear now my argument and listen to the pleadings of my lips.

⁷ Will you speak falsely for God and speak deceitfully for him?

⁸ Will you show partiality toward him? Will you plead the case for God?

⁹ Will it be well with you when he searches you out? Or can you deceive him, as one deceives a man?

¹⁰ He will surely rebuke you if in secret you show partiality.

¹¹ Will not his majesty terrify you, and the dread of him fall upon you?

¹² Your maxims are proverbs of ashes; your defenses are defenses of clay.

¹³ "Let me have silence, and I will speak,
and let come on me what may.

¹⁴ Why should I take my flesh in my
teeth and put my life in my hand?

¹⁵ Though he slay me, I will hope in him;
yet I will argue my ways to his face.

¹⁶ This will be my salvation, that the
godless shall not come before him.

¹⁷ Keep listening to my words, and let
my declaration be in your ears.

¹⁸ Behold, I have prepared my case; I
know that I shall be in the right.

¹⁹ Who is there who will contend with
me? For then I would be silent and die.

²⁰ Only grant me two things, then I will
not hide myself from your face:

²¹ withdraw your hand far from me,
and let not dread of you terrify me.

²² Then call, and I will answer; or let me
speak, and you reply to me.

²³ How many are my iniquities and my sins? Make me know my transgression and my sin.

²⁴ Why do you hide your face and count me as your enemy?

²⁵ Will you frighten a driven leaf and pursue dry chaff?

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 all my paths; you set a limit for the soles of my feet.

²⁸ Man wastes away like a rotten thing, like a garment that is moth-eaten.

14 ¹ "Man who is born of a woman is few of days and full of trouble.

² He comes out like a flower and withers; he flees like a shadow and continues not.

³ And do you open your eyes on such a one and bring me into judgment with you?

⁴ Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? There is not one.

⁵ Since his days are determined, and the number of his months is with you, and you have appointed his limits that he cannot pass,

⁶ look away from him and leave him alone, that he may enjoy, like a hired hand, his day.

⁷ "For there is hope for a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its shoots will not cease.

⁸ Though its root grow old in the earth, and its stump die in the soil,

⁹ yet at the scent of water it will bud and put out branches like a young plant.

¹⁰ But a man dies and is laid low; man breathes his last, and where is he?

¹¹ As waters fail from a lake and a river wastes away and dries up,

¹² so a man lies down and rises not again; till the heavens are no more he will not awake or be roused out of his sleep.

¹³ Oh that you would hide me in Sheol, that you would conceal me until your wrath be 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 service I would wait, till my renewal should come.

¹⁵ You would call, and I would answer you; you would long for the work of your hands.

¹⁶ For then you would number my steps; you would not keep watch over my sin;

¹⁷ my transgression would be sealed up in a bag, and you would cover over my iniquity.

¹⁸ "But the mountain falls and crumbles away, and the rock is removed from its place;

¹⁹ the waters wear away the stones; the torrents wash away the soil of the earth; so you destroy the hope of man.

²⁰ You prevail forever against him, and he passes; 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 perceives it not.

²² He feels only the pain of his own body, and he mourns only for himself."

15 ¹ Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said:

² "Should a wise man answer with windy knowledge, and fill his belly with the east wind?

³ Should he argue in unprofitable talk, or in words with which he can do no good?

⁴ But you are doing away with the fear of God and hindering meditation 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; your own lips testify against you.

⁷ "Are you the first man who was born? Or were you brought forth before the hills?

⁸ Have you listened in the council of God? And do you limit wisdom to yourself?

⁹ What do you know that we do not know? What do you understand that is not clear to us?

¹⁰ Both the gray-haired and the aged are among us, older than your father.

¹¹ Are the comforts of God too small for you, or the word that deals gently with you?

¹² Why does your heart carry you away,
and why do your eyes flash,

¹³ that you turn your spirit against
God and bring such words out of your
mouth?

¹⁴ What is man, that he can be pure? Or
he who is born of a woman, that he can
be righteous?

¹⁵ Behold, God puts no trust in his holy
ones, and the heavens are not pure in
his sight;

¹⁶ how much less one who is
abominable and corrupt, a man who
drinks injustice like water!

¹⁷ "I will show you; hear me, and what I
have seen I will declare

¹⁸ (what wise men have told, without
hiding it from their fathers,

¹⁹ to whom alone the land was given,
and no stranger passed among them).

²⁰ The wicked man writhes in pain all his days, through all the years that are laid up for the ruthless.

²¹ Dreadful sounds are in his ears; in prosperity the destroyer will come upon him.

²² He does not believe that he will return out of darkness, and he is marked for the sword.

²³ He wanders abroad for bread, saying, 'Where is it?' He knows that a day of darkness is ready at his hand;

²⁴ distress and anguish terrify him; they prevail against him, like a king ready for battle.

²⁵ Because he has stretched out his hand against God and defies the Almighty,

²⁶ running stubbornly against him with a thickly bossed shield;

²⁷ because he has covered his face with his fat and gathered fat upon his waist

²⁸ and has lived in desolate cities, in houses that none should inhabit, which were ready to become heaps of ruins;

²⁹ he will not be rich, and his wealth will not endure, nor will his possessions spread over the earth;

³⁰ he will not depart from darkness; the flame will dry up his shoots, and by the breath of his mouth he will depart.

³¹ Let him not trust in emptiness, deceiving himself, for emptiness will be his payment.

³² It will be paid in full before his time, and his branch will not be green.

³³ He will shake off his unripe grape like the vine, and cast off his blossom like the olive tree.

³⁴ For the company of the godless is barren, and fire consumes the tents of bribery.

³⁵ They conceive trouble and give birth to evil, and 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 windy words have an end? Or what provokes you that you answer?

⁴ I also could speak as you do, if you were in my place; I could join words together against you and shake my head at you.

⁵ I could strengthen you with my mouth, and the solace of my lips would assuage your pain.

⁶ "If I speak, my pain is not assuaged, and if I forbear, how much of it leaves me?

⁷ Surely now God has worn me out; he has made desolate all my company.

⁸ And he has shriveled me up, which is a witness against me, and my leanness has risen up against me; it testifies to my face.

⁹ He has torn me in his wrath and hated me; he has gnashed his teeth at me; my adversary sharpens his eyes against me.

¹⁰ Men have gaped at me with their mouth; they have struck me insolently on the cheek; they mass themselves together against me.

¹¹ God gives me up to the ungodly and casts me into the hands of the wicked.

¹² I was at ease, and he broke me apart; he seized me by the neck and dashed me to pieces; he set me up as his target;

¹³ his archers surround me. He slashes open my kidneys and does not spare; he pours out my gall on the ground.

¹⁴ He breaks me with breach upon breach; he runs upon me like a warrior.

¹⁵ I have sewed sackcloth upon my skin and have laid my strength in the dust.

¹⁶ My face is red with weeping, and on my eyelids is deep darkness,

¹⁷ although there is no violence in my hands, and my prayer is pure.

¹⁸ "O earth, cover not my blood, and let my cry find no resting place.

¹⁹ Even now, behold, my witness is in heaven, and he who testifies for me is on high.

²⁰ My friends scorn me; my eye pours out tears to God,

²¹ that he would argue the case of a man with God, as a son of man does with his neighbor.

²² For when a few years have come I shall go the way from which I shall not return.

17 ¹ My spirit is broken; my days are extinct; the graveyard is ready for me.

² Surely there are mockers about me, and my eye dwells on their provocation.

³ "Lay down a pledge for me with yourself; who is there who will put up security for me?

⁴ Since you have closed their hearts to understanding, therefore you will not let them triumph.

⁵ He who informs against his friends to get a share of their property-- the eyes of his children will fail.

⁶ "He has made me a byword of the peoples, and I am one before whom men spit.

⁷ My eye has grown dim from vexation, and all my members are like a shadow.

⁸ The upright are appalled at this, and the innocent stirs himself up against the godless.

⁹ Yet the righteous holds to his way, and he who has clean hands grows stronger and stronger.

¹⁰ But you, come on again, all of you, and I shall not find a wise man among you.

¹¹ My days are past; my plans are broken off, the desires of my heart.

¹² They make night into day; 'The light,' they say, 'is near to the darkness.'

¹³ If I hope for Sheol as my house, if I make my bed in darkness,

¹⁴ if I say to the pit, 'You are my father,' and to the worm, 'My mother,' or 'My sister,'

¹⁵ where then is my hope? Who will see my hope?

¹⁶ Will it go down to the bars of Sheol? Shall we descend together into the dust?"

18 ¹ Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said:

² "How long will you hunt for words? Consider, and then we will speak.

³ Why are we counted as cattle? Why are we stupid in your sight?

⁴ You who tear yourself in your anger, shall the earth be forsaken for you, or the rock be removed out of its place?

⁵ "Indeed, the light of the wicked is put out, and the flame of his fire does not shine.

⁶ The light is dark in his tent, and his lamp above him is put out.

⁷ His strong steps are shortened, and his own schemes throw him down.

⁸ For he is cast into a net by his own feet, and he walks on its mesh.

⁹ A trap seizes him by the heel; a snare lays hold of him.

¹⁰ A rope is hidden for him in the ground, a trap for him in the path.

¹¹ Terrors frighten him on every side, and chase him at his heels.

¹² His strength is famished, and calamity is ready for his stumbling.

¹³ It consumes the parts of his skin; the firstborn of death consumes his limbs.

¹⁴ He is torn from the tent in which he trusted and is brought to the king of terrors.

¹⁵ In his tent dwells that which is none of his; sulfur is scattered over his habitation.

¹⁶ His roots dry up beneath, and his branches wither above.

¹⁷ His memory perishes from the earth, and he has no name in the street.

¹⁸ He is thrust from light into darkness, and driven out of the world.

¹⁹ He has no posterity or progeny among his people, and no survivor where he used to live.

²⁰ They of the west are appalled at his day, and horror seizes them of the east.

²¹ Surely such are the dwellings of the unrighteous, such is the place of him who knows not God."

19 ¹ Then Job answered and said:
² "How long will you torment me
and break me in pieces with words?

³ These ten times you have cast
reproach upon me; are you not ashamed
to wrong me?

⁴ And even if it be true that I have erred,
my error remains with myself.

⁵ If indeed you magnify yourselves
against me and make my disgrace an
argument against me,

⁶ know then that God has put me in the
wrong and closed his net about me.

⁷ Behold, I cry out, 'Violence!' but I am
not answered; I call for help, but there is
no justice.

⁸ He has walled up my way, so that I
cannot pass, and he has set darkness
upon my paths.

⁹ He has stripped from me my glory and
taken the crown from my head.

¹⁰ He breaks me down on every side,
and I am gone, and my hope has he
pulled up like a tree.

¹¹ He has kindled his wrath against me
and counts me as his adversary.

¹² His troops come on together; they
have cast up their siege ramp against me
and encamp around my tent.

¹³ "He has put my brothers far from
me, and those who knew me are wholly
estranged from me.

¹⁴ My relatives have failed me, my close
friends have forgotten me.

¹⁵ The guests in my house and my
maidservants count me as a stranger; I
have become a foreigner in their eyes.

¹⁶ I call to my servant, but he gives me
no answer; I must plead with him with
my mouth for mercy.

¹⁷ My breath is strange to my wife, and
I am a stench to the children of my own
mother.

¹⁸ Even young children despise me;
when I rise they talk against me.

¹⁹ All my intimate friends abhor me,
and those whom I loved have turned
against me.

²⁰ My bones stick to my skin and to my
flesh, and I have escaped by the skin of
my teeth.

²¹ Have mercy on me, have mercy on
me, O you my friends, for the hand of
God has touched me!

²² Why do you, like God, pursue me?
Why are you not satisfied with my flesh?

²³ "Oh that my words were written! Oh
that they were inscribed in a book!

²⁴ Oh that with an iron pen and lead
they were engraved in the rock forever!

²⁵ For I know that my Redeemer lives,
and at the last he will stand upon the
earth.

²⁶ And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God,

²⁷ whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!

²⁸ If you say, 'How we will pursue him!' and, 'The root of the matter is found in him,'

²⁹ be afraid of the sword, 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 thoughts answer me, because of my haste within me.

³ I hear censure that insults me, and out of my understanding a spirit answers me.

⁴ Do you not know this from of old, since man was placed on earth,

⁵ that the exulting of the wicked is short, and the joy of the godless but for a moment?

⁶ Though his height mount up to the heavens, and his head reach to the clouds,

⁷ he will perish forever like his own dung; those who have seen him will say, 'Where is he?'

⁸ He will fly away like a dream and not be found; 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 any more behold him.

¹⁰ His children will seek the favor of the poor, and his hands will give back 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,
though he hides it under his tongue,

¹³ though he is loath to let it go and
holds it in his mouth,

¹⁴ yet his food is turned in his stomach;
it is the venom of cobras 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
tongue of a viper will kill him.

¹⁷ He will not look upon the rivers, the
streams flowing with honey and curds.

¹⁸ He will give back the fruit of his
toil and will not swallow it down; from
the profit of his trading he will get no
enjoyment.

¹⁹ For he has crushed and abandoned
the poor; he has seized a house that he
did not build.

²⁰ "Because he knew no contentment in his belly, he will not let anything in which he delights escape him.

²¹ There was nothing left after he had eaten; therefore his prosperity will not endure.

²² In the fullness of his sufficiency he will be in distress; the hand of everyone in misery will come against him.

²³ To fill his belly to the full God will send his burning anger against him and rain it upon him into his body.

²⁴ He will flee from an iron weapon; a bronze arrow will strike him through.

²⁵ It is drawn forth and comes out of his body; the glittering point comes out of his gallbladder; terrors come upon him.

²⁶ Utter darkness is laid up for his treasures; a fire not fanned will devour him; what is left in his tent will be consumed.

²⁷ The heavens will reveal his iniquity, and the earth will rise up against him.

²⁸ The possessions of his house will be carried away, dragged off in the day of God's wrath.

²⁹ This is the wicked man's portion from God, the heritage decreed for him by God."

21 ¹ Then Job answered and said:
² "Keep listening to my words, and let this be your comfort.

³ Bear with me, and I will speak, and after I have spoken, mock on.

⁴ As for me, is my complaint against man? Why should I not be impatient?

⁵ Look at me and be appalled, and lay your hand over your mouth.

⁶ When I remember I am dismayed, and shuddering seizes my flesh.

⁷ Why do the wicked live, reach old age, and grow mighty in power?

⁸ Their offspring are established in their presence, and their descendants before their eyes.

⁹ Their houses are safe from fear, and no rod of God is upon them.

¹⁰ Their bull breeds without fail; their cow calves and does not miscarry.

¹¹ They send out their little boys like a flock, and their children dance.

¹² They sing to the tambourine and the lyre and rejoice to the sound of the pipe.

¹³ They spend their days in prosperity, and in peace they go down to Sheol.

¹⁴ They say to God, 'Depart from us! We do not desire the knowledge of your ways.

¹⁵ What is the Almighty, that we should serve him? And what profit do we get if we pray to him?'

¹⁶ Behold, is not their prosperity in their hand? The counsel of the wicked is far from me.

¹⁷ "How often is it that the lamp of the wicked is put out? That their calamity comes upon them? That God distributes pains in his anger?

¹⁸ That they are like straw before the wind, and like chaff that the storm carries away?

¹⁹ You say, 'God stores up their iniquity for their children.' Let him pay it out to them, that they may know it.

²⁰ Let their own eyes see their destruction, and let them drink of the wrath of the Almighty.

²¹ For what do they care for their houses after them, when the number of their months is cut off?

²² Will any teach God knowledge, seeing that he judges those who are on high?

²³ One dies in his full vigor, being wholly at ease and secure,

²⁴ his pails full of milk and the marrow of his bones moist.

²⁵ Another dies in bitterness of soul, never having tasted of prosperity.

²⁶ They lie down alike in the dust, and the worms cover them.

²⁷ "Behold, I know your thoughts and your schemes to wrong me.

²⁸ For you say, 'Where is the house of the prince? Where is the tent in which the wicked lived?'

²⁹ Have you not asked those who travel the roads, and do you not accept their testimony

³⁰ that the evil man is spared in the day of calamity, that he is rescued in the day of wrath?

³¹ Who declares his way to his face, and who repays him for what he has done?

³² When he is carried to the grave, watch is kept over his tomb.

³³ The clods of the valley are sweet to him; all mankind follows after him, and those who go before him are innumerable.

³⁴ How then will you comfort me with empty nothings? There is nothing left of your answers but falsehood."

22 ¹ Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said:

² "Can a man be profitable to God? Surely he who is wise is profitable to himself.

³ Is it any pleasure to the Almighty if you are in the right, or is it gain to him if you make your ways blameless?

⁴ Is it for your fear of him that he reproves you and enters into judgment with you?

⁵ Is not your evil abundant? There is no end to your iniquities.

⁶ For you have exacted pledges of your brothers for nothing and stripped the naked of their clothing.

⁷ You have given no water to the weary to drink, and you have withheld bread from the hungry.

⁸ The man with power possessed the land, and the favored man lived in it.

⁹ You have sent widows away empty, and the arms of the fatherless were crushed.

¹⁰ Therefore snares are all around you, and sudden terror overwhelms you,

¹¹ or darkness, so that you cannot see, and a flood of water covers you.

¹² "Is not God high in the heavens? See the highest stars, how lofty they are!

¹³ But you say, 'What does God know? Can he judge through the deep darkness?

¹⁴ Thick clouds veil him, so that he does not see, and he walks on the vault of heaven.'

¹⁵ Will you keep to the old way that wicked men have trod?

¹⁶ They were snatched away before their time; their foundation was washed away.

¹⁷ They said to God, 'Depart from us,' and 'What can the Almighty do to us?'

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; the innocent one mocks at them,

²⁰ saying, 'Surely our adversaries are cut off, and what they left the fire has consumed.'

²¹ "Agree with God, and be at peace; thereby good will come to you.

²² Receive instruction from his mouth, and lay up his words in your heart.

²³ If you return to the Almighty you will be built up; if you remove injustice far from your tents,

²⁴ if you lay gold in the dust, and gold of Ophir among the stones of the torrent bed,

²⁵ then the Almighty will be your gold and your precious silver.

²⁶ For then you will delight yourself in the Almighty and lift up your face to God.

²⁷ You will make your prayer to him, and he will hear you, and you will pay your vows.

²⁸ You will decide on a matter, and it will be established for you, and light will shine on your ways.

²⁹ For when they are humbled you say, 'It is because of pride'; but he saves the lowly.

³⁰ He delivers even the one who is not innocent, who will be delivered through the cleanness of your hands."

23 ¹ Then Job answered and said:
² "Today also my complaint is bitter; my hand is heavy on account of my groaning.

³ Oh, that I knew where I might find him, that I might come even to his seat!

⁴ I would lay my case before him and fill my mouth with arguments.

⁵ I would know what he would answer me and understand what he would say to me.

⁶ Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power? No; he would pay attention to me.

⁷ There an upright man could argue with him, and I would be acquitted forever by my judge.

⁸ "Behold, I go forward, but he is not there, and backward, but I do not perceive him;

⁹ on the left hand when he is working, I do not behold him; he turns to the right hand, but I do not see him.

¹⁰ But he knows the way that I take; when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold.

¹¹ My foot has held fast to his steps; I have kept his way and have 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 portion of food.

¹³ But he is unchangeable, and who can turn him back? What he desires, that he does.

¹⁴ For he will complete what he appoints for me, and many such things are in his mind.

¹⁵ Therefore I am terrified at his presence; when I consider, I am in dread of him.

¹⁶ God has made my heart faint; the Almighty has terrified me;

¹⁷ yet I am not silenced because of the darkness, nor because thick darkness covers my face.

24 ¹ "Why are not times of judgment kept by the Almighty, and why do those who know him never see his days?

² Some move landmarks; they seize flocks and pasture them.

³ They drive away the donkey of the fatherless; they take the widow's ox for a pledge.

⁴ They thrust the poor off the road; the poor of the earth all hide themselves.

⁵ Behold, like wild donkeys in the desert the poor go out to their toil, seeking game; the wasteland yields food for their children.

⁶ They gather their fodder in the field, and they glean the vineyard of the wicked man.

⁷ They lie all night naked, without clothing, and have no covering in the cold.

⁸ They are wet with the rain of the mountains and cling to the rock for lack of shelter.

⁹ (There are those who snatch the fatherless child from the breast, and they take a pledge against the poor.)

¹⁰ They go about naked, without clothing; hungry, they carry the sheaves;

¹¹ among the olive rows of the wicked they make oil; they tread the winepresses, but suffer thirst.

¹² From out of the city the dying groan, and the soul of the wounded cries for help; yet God charges no one with wrong.

¹³ "There are those who rebel against the light, who are not acquainted with its ways, and do not stay in its paths.

¹⁴ The murderer rises before it is light, that he may kill the poor and needy, and in the night he is like a thief.

¹⁵ The eye of the adulterer also waits for the twilight, saying, 'No eye will see me'; and he veils his face.

¹⁶ In the dark they dig through houses; by day they shut themselves up; they do not know the light.

¹⁷ For deep darkness is morning to all of them; for they are friends with the terrors of deep darkness.

¹⁸ "You say, 'Swift are they on the face of the waters; their portion is cursed in the land; no treader turns toward their vineyards.

¹⁹ Drought and heat snatch away the snow waters; so does Sheol those who have sinned.

²⁰ The womb forgets them; the worm finds them sweet; they are no longer remembered, so wickedness is broken like a tree.'

²¹ "They wrong the barren childless woman, and do no good to the widow.

²² Yet God prolongs the life of the mighty by his power; they rise up when they despair of life.

²³ He gives them security, and they are supported, and his eyes are upon their ways.

²⁴ They are exalted a little while, and then are gone; they are brought low and gathered up like all others; they are cut off like the heads of grain.

²⁵ If it is not so, who will prove me a liar and show that there is nothing in what I say?"

25 ¹ Then Bildad the Shuhite answered and said:

² "Dominion and fear are with God; he makes peace in his high heaven.

³ Is there any number to his armies?
Upon whom does his light not arise?

⁴ How then can man be in the right before God? How can he who is born of woman be pure?

⁵ Behold, even the moon is not bright, and the stars are not pure in his eyes;

⁶ how much less man, who is a maggot, and the son of man, who is a worm!"

26 ¹ Then Job answered and said:

² "How you have helped him who has no power! How you have saved the arm that has no strength!

³ How you have counseled him who has no wisdom, and plentifully declared sound knowledge!

⁴ With whose help have you uttered words, and whose breath has come out from you?

⁵ The dead tremble under the waters and their inhabitants.

⁶ Sheol is naked before God, and Abaddon has no covering.

⁷ He stretches out the north over the void and hangs the earth on nothing.

⁸ He binds up the waters in his thick clouds, and the cloud is not split open under them.

⁹ He covers the face of the full moon and spreads over it his cloud.

¹⁰ He has inscribed a circle on the face of the waters at the boundary between light and darkness.

¹¹ The pillars of heaven tremble and are astounded at his rebuke.

¹² By his power he stilled the sea; by his understanding he shattered Rahab.

¹³ By his wind the heavens were made fair; his hand pierced the fleeing serpent.

¹⁴ Behold, these are but the outskirts of his ways, and how small a whisper do

we hear of him! But the thunder of his power who can understand?"

27 ¹ And Job again took up his discourse, and said:

² "As God lives, who has taken away my right, and the Almighty, who has made my soul bitter,

³ as long as my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils,

⁴ my lips will not speak falsehood, and my tongue will not utter deceit.

⁵ Far be it from me to say that you are right; till I die I will not put away my integrity from me.

⁶ I hold fast my righteousness and will not let it go; my heart does not reproach me for any of my days.

⁷ "Let my enemy be as the wicked, and let him who rises up against me be as the unrighteous.

⁸ For what is the hope of the godless when God cuts him off, when God takes away his life?

⁹ Will God hear his cry when distress comes upon him?

¹⁰ Will he take delight in the Almighty? Will he call upon God at all times?

¹¹ I will teach you concerning the hand of God; what is with the Almighty I will not conceal.

¹² Behold, all of you have seen it yourselves; why then have you become altogether vain?

¹³ "This is the portion of a wicked man with God, and the heritage that oppressors receive from the Almighty:

¹⁴ If his children are multiplied, it is for the sword, and his descendants have not enough bread.

¹⁵ Those who survive him the pestilence buries, and his widows do not weep.

¹⁶ Though he heap up silver like dust,
and pile up clothing like clay,

¹⁷ he may pile it up, but the righteous
will wear it, and the innocent will divide
the silver.

¹⁸ He builds his house like a moth's, like
a booth that a watchman makes.

¹⁹ He goes to bed rich, but will do so no
more; he opens his eyes, and his wealth
is gone.

²⁰ Terrors overtake him like a flood; in
the night a whirlwind carries him off.

²¹ The east wind lifts him up and he is
gone; it sweeps him out of his place.

²² It hurls at him without pity; he flees
from its power in headlong flight.

²³ It claps its hands at him and hisses at
him from its place.

28 ¹ "Surely there is a mine for silver,
and a place for gold that they
refine.

² Iron is taken out of the earth, and copper is smelted from the ore.

³ Man puts an end to darkness and searches out to the farthest limit the ore in gloom and deep darkness.

⁴ He opens shafts in a valley away from where anyone lives; they are forgotten by travelers; they hang in the air, far away from mankind; they swing to and fro.

⁵ As for the earth, out of it comes bread, but underneath it is turned up as by fire.

⁶ Its stones are the place of sapphires, and it has dust of gold.

⁷ "That path no bird of prey knows, and the falcon's eye has not seen it.

⁸ The proud beasts have not trodden it; the lion has not passed over it.

⁹ "Man puts his hand to the flinty rock and overturns mountains by the roots.

¹⁰ He cuts out channels in the rocks, and his eye sees every precious thing.

¹¹ He dams up the streams so that they do not trickle, and the thing that is hidden he brings out to light.

¹² "But where shall wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding?

¹³ Man does not know its worth, and it is not 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 bought for gold, and silver cannot be weighed as its price.

¹⁶ It cannot be valued in the gold of Ophir, in precious onyx or sapphire.

¹⁷ Gold and glass cannot equal it, nor can it be exchanged for jewels of fine gold.

¹⁸ No mention shall be made of coral or of crystal; the price of wisdom is above pearls.

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 Abaddon and Death say, 'We have heard a rumor of it with our ears.'

²³ "God understands the way to it, and he knows its place.

²⁴ For he looks to the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens.

²⁵ When he gave to the wind its weight and apportioned the waters by measure,

²⁶ when he made a decree for the rain and a way for the lightning of the thunder,

²⁷ then he saw it and declared it; he established it, and searched it out.

²⁸ And he said to man, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to turn away from evil is understanding.'"

29 ¹ And Job again took up his discourse, and said:

² "Oh, that I were as in the months of old, as in the days when God watched over me,

³ when his lamp shone upon my head, and by his light I walked through darkness,

⁴ as I was in my prime, when the friendship of God was upon my tent,

⁵ when the Almighty was yet with me, when my children were all around me,

⁶ when my steps were washed with butter, and the rock poured out for me streams of oil!

⁷ When I went out to the gate of the city, when I prepared my seat in the square,

⁸ the young men saw me and withdrew, and the aged rose and stood;

⁹ the princes refrained from talking and laid their hand on their mouth;

¹⁰ the voice of the nobles was hushed,
and their tongue stuck to the roof of
their mouth.

¹¹ When the ear heard, it called me
blessed, and when the eye saw, it
approved,

¹² because I delivered the poor who
cried for help, and the fatherless who
had none to help him.

¹³ The blessing of him who was about
to perish 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 feet to the
lame.

¹⁶ I was a father to the needy, and I
searched out the cause of him whom I
did not know.

¹⁷ I broke the fangs of the unrighteous and made him drop his prey from his teeth.

¹⁸ Then I thought, 'I shall die in my nest, and I shall multiply my days as the sand,

¹⁹ my roots spread out to the waters, with the dew all night on my branches,

²⁰ my glory fresh with me, and my bow ever new in my hand.'

²¹ "Men listened to me and waited and kept silence for my counsel.

²² After I spoke they did not speak again, and my word dropped upon them.

²³ They waited for me as for the rain, and they opened their mouths as for the spring rain.

²⁴ I smiled on them when they had no confidence, and the light of my face they did not cast down.

²⁵ I chose their way and sat as chief, and I lived like a king among his troops, like one who comforts mourners.

30¹ "But now they laugh at me, men who are younger than I, whose fathers I would have disdained to set with the dogs of my flock.

² What could I gain from the strength of their hands, men whose vigor is gone?

³ Through want and hard hunger they gnaw the dry ground by night in waste and desolation;

⁴ they pick saltwort and the leaves of bushes, and the roots of the broom tree for their food.

⁵ They are driven out from human company; they shout after them as after a thief.

⁶ In the gullies of the torrents they must dwell, in holes of the earth and of the rocks.

⁷ Among the bushes they bray; under the nettles they huddle together.

⁸ A senseless, a nameless brood, they have been whipped out of the land.

⁹ "And now I have become their song; I am a byword to them.

¹⁰ They abhor me; they keep aloof from me; they do not hesitate to spit at the sight of me.

¹¹ Because God has loosed my cord and humbled me, they have cast off restraint in my presence.

¹² On my right hand the rabble rise; they push away my feet; they cast up against me their ways of destruction.

¹³ They break up my path; they promote my calamity; they need no one to help them.

¹⁴ As through a wide breach they come; amid the crash they roll on.

¹⁵ Terrors are turned upon me; my honor is pursued as by the wind, and my prosperity has passed away like a cloud.

¹⁶ "And now my soul is poured out within me; days of affliction have taken hold of me.

¹⁷ The night racks my bones, and the pain that gnaws me takes no rest.

¹⁸ With great force my garment is disfigured; it binds me about like the collar of my tunic.

¹⁹ God has cast me into the mire, and I have become like dust and ashes.

²⁰ I cry to you for help and you do not answer me; I stand, and you only look at me.

²¹ You have turned cruel to me; with the might of your hand you persecute me.

²² You lift me up on the wind; you make me ride on it, and you toss me about in the roar of the storm.

²³ For I know that you will bring me to death and to the house appointed for all living.

²⁴ "Yet does not one in a heap of ruins stretch out his hand, and in his disaster cry for help?

²⁵ Did not I weep for him whose day was hard? Was not my soul grieved for the needy?

²⁶ But when I hoped for good, evil came, and when I waited for light, darkness came.

²⁷ My inward parts are in turmoil and never still; days of affliction come to meet me.

²⁸ I go about darkened, but not by the sun; I stand up in the assembly and cry for help.

²⁹ I am a brother of jackals and a companion of ostriches.

³⁰ My skin turns black and falls from me, and my bones burn with heat.

³¹ My lyre is turned to mourning, and my pipe to the voice of those who weep.

31 ¹ "I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I gaze at a virgin?

² What would be my portion from God above and my heritage from the Almighty on high?

³ Is not calamity for the unrighteous, and disaster for the workers of iniquity?

⁴ Does not he see my ways and number all my steps?

⁵ "If I have walked with falsehood and my foot has hastened to deceit;

⁶ (Let me be weighed in a just balance, and let God know my integrity!)

⁷ if my step has turned aside from the way and my heart has gone after my eyes, and if any spot has stuck to my hands,

⁸ then let me sow, and another eat, and let what grows for me be rooted out.

⁹ "If my heart has been enticed toward a woman, and I have lain in wait at my neighbor's door,

¹⁰ then let my wife grind for another, and let others bow down on her.

¹¹ For that would be a heinous crime;
that would be an iniquity to be punished
by the judges;

¹² for that would be a fire that
consumes as far as Abaddon, and it
would burn to the root all my increase.

¹³ "If I have rejected the cause of my
manservant or my maidservant, when
they brought a complaint against me,

¹⁴ what then shall I do when God rises
up? When he makes inquiry, what shall I
answer him?

¹⁵ Did not he who made me in the
womb make him? And did not one
fashion us in the womb?

¹⁶ "If I have withheld anything that the
poor desired, or have caused the eyes of
the widow to fail,

¹⁷ or have eaten my morsel alone, and
the fatherless has not eaten of it

¹⁸ (for from my youth the fatherless
grew up with me as with a father, and

from my mother's womb I guided the widow),

¹⁹ if I have seen anyone perish for lack of clothing, or the needy without covering,

²⁰ if his body 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, because I saw my help in the gate,

²² then let my shoulder blade fall from my shoulder, and let my arm be broken from its socket.

²³ For I was in terror of calamity from God, and I could not have faced his majesty.

²⁴ "If I have made gold my trust or called fine gold my confidence,

²⁵ if I have rejoiced because my wealth was abundant or because my hand had found much,

²⁶ if I have looked at the sun when it shone, or the moon moving in splendor,

²⁷ and my heart has been secretly enticed, and my mouth has kissed my hand,

²⁸ this also would be an iniquity to be punished by the judges, for I would have been false to God above.

²⁹ "If I have rejoiced at the ruin of him who hated me, or exulted when evil overtook him

³⁰ (I have not let my mouth sin by asking for his life with a curse),

³¹ if the men of my tent have not said, 'Who is there that has not been filled with his meat?'

³² (the sojourner has not lodged in the street; I have opened my doors to the traveler),

³³ if I have concealed my transgressions as others do by hiding my iniquity in my bosom,

³⁴ because I stood in great fear of the multitude, and the contempt of families terrified me, so that I kept silence, and did not go out of doors--

³⁵ Oh, that I had one to hear me! (Here is my signature! Let the Almighty answer me!) Oh, that I had the indictment written by my adversary!

³⁶ Surely I would carry it on my shoulder; I would bind it on me as a crown;

³⁷ I would give him an account of all my steps; like a prince I would approach him.

³⁸ "If my land has cried out against me and its furrows have wept together,

³⁹ if I have eaten its yield without payment and made its owners breathe their last,

⁴⁰ let thorns grow instead of wheat, and foul weeds instead of barley." The words of Job are ended.

32 ¹ So these three men ceased to answer Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes.

² Then Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram, burned with anger. He burned with anger at Job because he justified himself rather than God.

³ He burned with anger also at Job's three friends because they had found no answer, although they had declared Job to be in the wrong.

⁴ Now Elihu had waited to speak to Job because they were older than he.

⁵ And when Elihu saw that there was no answer in the mouth of these three men, he burned with anger.

⁶ And Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite answered and said: "I am young in years, and you are aged; therefore I was timid and afraid to declare my opinion to you.

⁷ I said, 'Let days speak, and many years teach wisdom.'

⁸ But it is the spirit in man, the breath of the Almighty, that makes him understand.

⁹ It is not the old who are wise, nor the aged who understand what is right.

¹⁰ Therefore I say, 'Listen to me; let me also declare my opinion.'

¹¹ "Behold, I waited for your words, I listened for your wise sayings, while you searched out what to say.

¹² I gave you my attention, and, behold, there was none among you who refuted Job or who answered his words.

¹³ Beware lest you say, 'We have found wisdom; God may vanquish him, not a man.'

¹⁴ He has not directed his words against me, and I will not answer him with your speeches.

¹⁵ "They are dismayed; they answer no more; they have not a word to say.

¹⁶ And shall I wait, because they do not speak, because they stand there, and answer no more?

¹⁷ I also will answer with my share; I also will declare my opinion.

¹⁸ For I am full of words; the spirit within me constrains me.

¹⁹ Behold, my belly is like wine that has no vent; like new wineskins ready to burst.

²⁰ I must speak, that I may find relief; I must open my lips and answer.

²¹ I will not show partiality to any man or use flattery toward any person.

²² For I do not know how to flatter, else my Maker would soon take me away.

33 ¹ "But now, hear my speech, O Job, and listen to all my words.

² Behold, I open my mouth; the tongue in my mouth speaks.

³ My words declare the uprightness of my heart, and what my lips know they speak sincerely.

⁴ The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

⁵ Answer me, if you can; set your words in order before me; take your stand.

⁶ Behold, I am toward God as you are; I too was pinched off from a piece of clay.

⁷ Behold, no fear of me need terrify you; my pressure will not be heavy upon you.

⁸ "Surely you have spoken in my ears, and I have heard the sound of your words.

⁹ You say, 'I am pure, without transgression; I am clean, and there is no iniquity in me.

¹⁰ Behold, he finds occasions against me, he counts me as his enemy,

¹¹ he puts my feet in the stocks and watches all my paths.'

¹² "Behold, in this you are not right. I will answer you, for God is greater than man.

¹³ Why do you contend against him, saying, 'He will answer none of man's words'?

¹⁴ For God speaks in one way, and in two, though man does not perceive it.

¹⁵ In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on men, while they slumber on their beds,

¹⁶ then he opens the ears of men and terrifies them with warnings,

¹⁷ that he may turn man aside from his deed and conceal pride from a man;

¹⁸ he keeps back his soul from the pit, his life from perishing by the sword.

¹⁹ "Man is also rebuked with pain on his bed and with continual strife in his bones,

²⁰ so that his life loathes bread, and his appetite the choicest food.

²¹ His flesh is so wasted away that it cannot be seen, and his bones that were not seen stick out.

²² His soul draws near the pit, and his life to those who bring death.

²³ If there be for him an angel, a mediator, one of the thousand, to declare to man what is right for him,

²⁴ and he is merciful to him, and says, 'Deliver him from going down into the pit; I have found a ransom;

²⁵ let his flesh become fresh with youth; let him return to the days of his youthful vigor';

²⁶ then man prays to God, and he accepts him; he sees his face with a shout of joy, and he restores to man his righteousness.

²⁷ He sings before men and says: 'I sinned and perverted what was right, and it was not repaid to me.

²⁸ He has redeemed my soul from going down into the pit, and my life shall look upon the light.'

²⁹ "Behold, God does all these things, twice, three times, with a man,

³⁰ to bring back his soul from the pit, that he may be lighted with the light of life.

³¹ Pay attention, O Job, listen to me; be silent, and I will speak.

³² If you have any words, answer me; speak, for I desire to justify you.

³³ If not, listen to me; be silent, and I will teach you wisdom."

34 ¹ Then Elihu answered and said:

² "Hear my words, you wise men, and give ear to me, you who know;

³ for the ear tests words as the palate tastes food.

⁴ Let us choose what is right; let us know among ourselves what is good.

⁵ For Job has said, 'I am in the right, and God has taken away my right;

⁶ in spite of my right I am counted a liar; my wound is incurable, though I am without transgression.'

⁷ What man is like Job, who drinks up scoffing like water,

⁸ who travels in company with evildoers and walks with wicked men?

⁹ For he has said, 'It profits a man nothing that he should take delight in God.'

¹⁰ "Therefore, hear me, you men of understanding: far be it from God that he should do wickedness, and from the Almighty that he should do wrong.

¹¹ For according to the work of a man he will repay him, and according to his ways he will make it befall him.

¹² Of a truth, God will not do wickedly, and the Almighty will not pervert justice.

¹³ Who gave him charge over the earth,
and who laid on him the whole world?

¹⁴ If he should set his heart to it and
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 what I say.

¹⁷ Shall one who hates justice govern?
Will you condemn him who is righteous
and mighty,

¹⁸ who says to a king, 'Worthless one,'
and to nobles, 'Wicked man,'

¹⁹ who shows no partiality to princes,
nor regards the rich more than the poor,
for they are all the work of his hands?

²⁰ In a moment they die; at midnight
the people are shaken and pass away,
and the mighty are taken away by no
human hand.

²¹ "For his eyes are on the ways of a man, and he sees all his steps.

²² There is no gloom or deep darkness where evildoers may hide themselves.

²³ For God has no need to consider a man further, that he should go before God in judgment.

²⁴ He shatters the mighty without investigation and sets others in their place.

²⁵ Thus, knowing their works, he overturns them in the night, and they are crushed.

²⁶ He strikes them for their wickedness in a place for all to see,

²⁷ because they turned aside from following him and had no regard for any of his ways,

²⁸ so that they caused the cry of the poor to come to him, and he heard the cry of the afflicted--

²⁹ When he is quiet, who can condemn?
When he hides his face, who can behold
him, whether it be a nation or a man?--

³⁰ that a godless man should not reign,
that he should not ensnare the people.

³¹ "For has anyone said to God, 'I have
borne punishment; I will not offend any
more;

³² teach me what I do not see; if I have
done iniquity, I will do it no more'?

³³ Will he then make repayment to suit
you, because you reject it? For you must
choose, and not I; therefore declare
what you know.

³⁴ Men of understanding will say to me,
and the wise man who hears me will say:

³⁵ 'Job speaks without knowledge; his
words are without insight.'

³⁶ Would that Job were tried to the end,
because he answers like wicked men.

³⁷ For he adds rebellion to his sin; he claps his hands among us and multiplies his words against God."

35 ¹ And Elihu answered and said:
² "Do you think this to be just?
Do you say, 'It is my right before God,'
³ that you ask, 'What advantage have I?
How am I better off than if I had sinned?'
⁴ I will answer you and your friends
with you.

⁵ Look at the heavens, and see; and behold the clouds, which are higher than you.

⁶ If you have sinned, what do you accomplish against him? And if your transgressions are multiplied, what do you do to him?

⁷ If you are righteous, what do you give to him? Or what does he receive from your hand?

⁸ Your wickedness concerns a man like yourself, and your righteousness a son of man.

⁹ "Because of the multitude of oppressions people cry out; they call for help because of the arm of the mighty.

¹⁰ But none 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 the heavens?'

¹² There they cry out, but he does not answer, because of the pride of evil men.

¹³ Surely God does not hear an empty cry, nor does the Almighty regard it.

¹⁴ How much less when you say that you do not see him, that the case is before him, and you are waiting for him!

¹⁵ And now, because his anger does not punish, and he does not take much note of transgression,

¹⁶ Job opens his mouth in empty talk; he multiplies words without knowledge."

36 ¹ And Elihu continued, and said:
² "Bear with me a little, and I will show you, for I have yet something to say on God's behalf.

³ I will get my knowledge from afar and 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, and does not despise any; he is mighty in strength of understanding.

⁶ He does not keep the wicked alive, but gives the afflicted their right.

⁷ He does not withdraw his eyes from the righteous, but with kings on the throne he sets them forever, and they are exalted.

⁸ And if they are bound in chains and caught in the cords of affliction,

⁹ then he declares to them their work and their transgressions, that they are behaving arrogantly.

¹⁰ He opens their ears to instruction and commands that they return from iniquity.

¹¹ If they listen and serve him, they complete their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasantness.

¹² But if they do not listen, they perish by the sword and die without knowledge.

¹³ "The godless in heart cherish anger; they do not cry for help when he binds them.

¹⁴ They die in youth, and their life ends among the cult prostitutes.

¹⁵ He delivers the afflicted by their affliction and opens their ear by adversity.

¹⁶ He also allured you out of distress into a broad place where there was no

cramping, and what was set on your table was full of fatness.

¹⁷ "But you are full of the judgment on the wicked; judgment and justice seize you.

¹⁸ Beware lest wrath entice you into scoffing, and let not the greatness of the ransom turn you aside.

¹⁹ Will your cry for help avail to keep you from distress, or all the force of your strength?

²⁰ Do not long for the night, when peoples vanish in their place.

²¹ Take care; do not turn to iniquity, for this you have chosen rather than affliction.

²² Behold, God is exalted in his power; who is a teacher like him?

²³ Who has prescribed for him his way, or who can say, 'You have done wrong'?

²⁴ "Remember to extol his work, of which men have sung.

²⁵ All mankind has looked on it; man beholds it from afar.

²⁶ Behold, God is great, and we know him not; the number of his years is unsearchable.

²⁷ For he draws up the drops of water; they distill his mist in rain,

²⁸ which the skies pour down and drop on mankind abundantly.

²⁹ Can anyone understand the spreading of the clouds, the thunderings of his pavilion?

³⁰ Behold, he scatters his lightning about him and covers the roots of the sea.

³¹ For by these he judges peoples; he gives food in abundance.

³² He covers his hands with the lightning and commands it to strike the mark.

³³ Its crashing declares his presence; the cattle also declare that he rises.

37 ¹ "At this also my heart trembles
and leaps out of its place.

² Keep listening to the thunder of his
voice and the rumbling that comes from
his mouth.

³ Under the whole heaven he lets it go,
and his lightning to the corners of the
earth.

⁴ After it his voice roars; he thunders
with his majestic voice, and he does not
restrain the lightnings when his voice is
heard.

⁵ God thunders wondrously with his
voice; he does great things that we
cannot comprehend.

⁶ For to the snow he says, 'Fall on the
earth,' likewise to the downpour, his
mighty downpour.

⁷ He seals up the hand of every man,
that all men whom he made may know
it.

⁸ Then the beasts go into their lairs, and remain in their dens.

⁹ From its chamber comes the whirlwind, and cold from the scattering winds.

¹⁰ By the breath of God ice is given, and the broad waters are frozen fast.

¹¹ He loads the thick cloud with moisture; the clouds scatter his lightning.

¹² They turn around and around by his guidance, to accomplish all that he commands them on the face of the habitable world.

¹³ Whether for correction or for his land or for love, he causes it to happen.

¹⁴ "Hear this, O Job; stop and consider the wondrous works of God.

¹⁵ Do you know how God lays his command upon them and causes the lightning of his cloud to shine?

¹⁶ Do you know the balancings of the clouds, the wondrous works of him who is perfect in knowledge,

¹⁷ you whose garments are hot when the earth is still because of the south wind?

¹⁸ Can you, like him, spread out the skies, hard as a cast metal mirror?

¹⁹ Teach us what we shall say to him; we cannot draw up our case because of darkness.

²⁰ Shall it be told him that I would speak? Did a man ever wish that he would be swallowed up?

²¹ "And now no one looks on the light when it is bright in the skies, when the wind has passed and cleared them.

²² Out of the north comes golden splendor; God is clothed with awesome majesty.

²³ The Almighty--we cannot find him; he is great in power; justice and abundant righteousness he will not violate.

²⁴ Therefore men fear him; he does not regard any who are wise in their own conceit."

38 ¹ Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said:

² "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

³ Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me.

⁴ "Where were you when I laid the foundation 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 On what were its bases sunk, 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 out from the womb,

⁹ when I made clouds its garment and
thick darkness its swaddling band,

¹⁰ and prescribed limits for it and set
bars and doors,

¹¹ and said, 'Thus far shall you come,
and no farther, and here shall your proud
waves be stayed'?

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 skirts of
the earth, and the wicked be shaken out
of it?

¹⁴ It is changed like clay under the seal,
and its features stand out like a garment.

¹⁵ From the wicked their light is
withheld, and their uplifted arm is
broken.

¹⁶ "Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep?

¹⁷ Have the gates of death been revealed to you, or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?

¹⁸ Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth? Declare, if you know all this.

¹⁹ "Where is the way to the dwelling of light, and where is the place of darkness,

²⁰ that you may take it to its territory and that you may discern the paths to its home?

²¹ You know, for you were born then, and the number of your days is great!

²² "Have you entered the storehouses of the snow, or have you seen the storehouses of the hail,

²³ which I have reserved for the time of trouble, for the day of battle and war?

²⁴ What is the way to the place where the light is distributed, or where the east wind is scattered upon the earth?

²⁵ "Who has cleft a channel for the torrents of rain and a way for the thunderbolt,

²⁶ to bring rain on a land where no man is, on the desert in which there is no man,

²⁷ to satisfy the waste and desolate land, and to make the ground sprout with grass?

²⁸ "Has the rain a father, or who has begotten the drops of dew?

²⁹ From whose womb did the ice come forth, and who has given birth to the frost of heaven?

³⁰ The waters become hard like stone, and the face of the deep is frozen.

³¹ "Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades or loose the cords of Orion?

³² Can you lead forth the Mazzaroth in their season, or can you guide the Bear with its children?

³³ Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you establish their rule on the earth?

³⁴ "Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, that a flood of waters may cover you?

³⁵ Can you send forth lightnings, that they may go and say to you, 'Here we are'?

³⁶ Who has put wisdom in the inward parts or given understanding to the mind?

³⁷ Who can number the clouds by wisdom? Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens,

³⁸ when the dust runs into a mass and the clods stick fast 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 lie in wait in their thicket?

⁴¹ Who provides for the raven its prey, when its young ones cry to God for help, and wander about for lack of food?

39 ¹ "Do you know when the mountain goats give birth? Do you observe the calving of the does?

² Can you number the months that they fulfill, and do you know the time when they give birth,

³ when they crouch, bring forth their offspring, and are delivered of their young?

⁴ Their young ones become strong; they grow up in the open; they go out and do not return to them.

⁵ "Who has let the wild donkey go free? Who has loosed the bonds of the swift donkey,

⁶ to whom I have given the arid plain for his home and the salt land for his dwelling place?

⁷ He scorns the tumult of the city; he hears not the shouts of the driver.

⁸ He ranges the mountains as his pasture, and he searches after every green thing.

⁹ "Is the wild ox willing to serve you? Will he spend the night at your manger?

¹⁰ Can you bind him in the furrow with ropes, or will he harrow the valleys after you?

¹¹ Will you depend on him because his strength is great, and will you leave to him your labor?

¹² Do you have faith in him that he will return your grain and gather it to your threshing floor?

¹³ "The wings of the ostrich wave proudly, but are they the pinions and plumage of love?

¹⁴ For she leaves her eggs to the earth
and lets them be warmed on the ground,
¹⁵ forgetting that a foot may crush them
and that the wild beast may trample
them.

¹⁶ She deals cruelly with her young, as
if they were not hers; though her labor
be in vain, yet she has no fear,

¹⁷ because God has made her forget
wisdom and given her no share in
understanding.

¹⁸ When she rouses herself to flee, she
laughs at the horse and his rider.

¹⁹ "Do you give the horse his might? Do
you clothe his neck with a mane?

²⁰ Do you make him leap like the locust?
His majestic snorting is terrifying.

²¹ He paws in the valley and exults in
his strength; he goes out to meet the
weapons.

²² He laughs at fear and is not dismayed;
he does not turn back from the sword.

²³ Upon him rattle the quiver, the flashing spear and the javelin.

²⁴ With fierceness and rage he swallows the ground; he cannot stand still at the sound of the trumpet.

²⁵ When the trumpet sounds, he says 'Aha!' He smells the battle from afar, the thunder of the captains, and the shouting.

²⁶ "Is it by your understanding that the hawk soars and spreads his wings toward the south?

²⁷ Is it at your command that the eagle mounts up and makes his nest on high?

²⁸ On the rock he dwells and makes his home, on the rocky crag and stronghold.

²⁹ From there he spies out the prey; his eyes behold it afar off.

³⁰ His young ones suck up blood, and where the slain are, there is he."

40 ¹ And the LORD said to Job:
² "Shall a faultfinder contend with the Almighty? He who argues with God, let him answer it."

³ Then Job answered the LORD and said:

⁴ "Behold, I am of small account; what shall I answer you? I lay my hand on my mouth.

⁵ I have spoken once, and I will not answer; twice, but I will proceed no further."

⁶ Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said:

⁷ "Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me.

⁸ Will you even put me in the wrong? Will you condemn me that you may be in the right?

⁹ Have you an arm like God, and can you thunder with a voice like his?

¹⁰ "Adorn yourself with majesty and dignity; clothe yourself with glory and splendor.

¹¹ Pour out the overflowings of your anger, and look on everyone who is proud and abase him.

¹² Look on everyone who is proud and bring him low and tread down the wicked where they stand.

¹³ Hide them all in the dust together; bind their faces in the world below.

¹⁴ Then will I also acknowledge to you that your own right hand can save you.

¹⁵ "Behold, Behemoth, which I made as I made you; he eats grass like an ox.

¹⁶ Behold, his strength in his loins, and his power in the muscles of his belly.

¹⁷ He makes his tail stiff like a cedar; the sinews of his thighs are knit together.

¹⁸ His bones are tubes of bronze, his limbs like bars of iron.

¹⁹ "He is the first of the works of God;
let him who made him bring near his
sword!

²⁰ For the mountains yield food for him
where all the wild beasts play.

²¹ Under the lotus plants he lies, in the
shelter of the reeds and in the marsh.

²² For his shade the lotus trees cover
him; the willows of the brook surround
him.

²³ Behold, if the river is turbulent he is
not frightened; he is confident though
Jordan rushes against his mouth.

²⁴ Can one take him by his eyes, or
pierce his nose with a snare?

41 ¹ "Can you draw out Leviathan
with a fishhook or press down his
tongue with a cord?

² Can you put a rope in his nose or
pierce his jaw with a hook?

³ Will he make many pleas to you? Will
he speak to you soft words?

⁴ Will he make a covenant with you to take him for your servant forever?

⁵ Will you play with him as with a bird, or will you put him on a leash for your girls?

⁶ Will traders bargain over him? Will they divide him up among the merchants?

⁷ Can you fill his skin with harpoons or his head with fishing spears?

⁸ Lay your hands on him; remember the battle--you will not do it again!

⁹ Behold, the hope of a man is false; he is laid low even at the sight of him.

¹⁰ No one is so fierce that he dares to stir him up. Who then is he who can stand before me?

¹¹ Who has first given to me, that I should repay him? Whatever is under the whole heaven is mine.

¹² "I will not keep silence concerning his limbs, or his mighty strength, or his goodly frame.

¹³ Who can strip off his outer garment? Who would come near him with a bridle?

¹⁴ Who can open the doors of his face? Around his teeth is terror.

¹⁵ His back is made of rows of shields, shut up closely as with a seal.

¹⁶ One is so near to another that no air can come between them.

¹⁷ They are joined one to another; they clasp each other and cannot be separated.

¹⁸ His sneezings flash forth light, and his eyes are like the eyelids of the dawn.

¹⁹ Out of his mouth go flaming torches; sparks of fire leap forth.

²⁰ Out of his nostrils comes forth smoke, as from a boiling pot and burning rushes.

²¹ His breath kindles coals, and a flame comes forth from his mouth.

²² In his neck abides strength, and terror dances before him.

²³ The folds of his flesh stick together, firmly cast on him and immovable.

²⁴ His heart is hard as a stone, hard as the lower millstone.

²⁵ When he raises himself up the mighty are afraid; at the crashing they are beside themselves.

²⁶ Though the sword reaches him, it does not avail, nor the spear, the dart, or the javelin.

²⁷ He counts iron as straw, and bronze as rotten wood.

²⁸ The arrow cannot make him flee; for him sling stones are turned to stubble.

²⁹ Clubs are counted as stubble; he laughs at the rattle of javelins.

³⁰ His underparts are like sharp potsherds; he spreads himself like a threshing sledge on the mire.

³¹ He makes the deep boil like a pot; he makes the sea like a pot of ointment.

³² Behind him he leaves a shining wake; one would think the deep to be white-haired.

³³ On earth there is not his like, a creature without fear.

³⁴ He sees everything that is high; he is king over all the sons of pride."

42 ¹ Then Job answered the LORD and said:

² "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

³ 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.

⁴ 'Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you make it known to me.'

⁵ I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you;

⁶ therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

⁷ After the LORD had spoken these words to Job, the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite: "My anger burns against you and against your two friends, for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has.

⁸ Now therefore take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and offer up a burnt offering for yourselves. And my servant Job shall pray for you, for I will accept his prayer not to deal with you according to your folly. For 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 what the LORD had told them, and the LORD accepted Job's prayer.

¹⁰ And the LORD restored the fortunes of Job, when he had prayed for his friends. And the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.

¹¹ Then came to him all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before, and ate bread with him in his house. And they showed him sympathy and comforted him for all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him. And each of them gave him a piece of money and a ring of gold.

¹² And the LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning. And he had 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 yoke of oxen, and 1,000 female donkeys.

¹³ He had also seven sons and three daughters.

¹⁴ And he called the name of the first daughter Jemimah, and the name of the second Keziah, and the name of the third Keren-happuch.

¹⁵ And in all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job's daughters. And their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers.

¹⁶ And after this Job lived 140 years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, four generations.

¹⁷ And Job died, an old man, and full of days.

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