



Arabic Simplified Text

v4.9

سفر التثنية

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Moses' second speech

In this book are speeches that Moses said to all the Israelites. He spoke to them¹ 1 after they had set up their tents east of the Jordan River. They were in the desert plain along on one side of the Jordan River the Jordan near a place named Suph. Suph is between Paran It² .on the other side of the river and the towns of Tophel, Laban, Hazeroth, and Dizahab usually takes 11 days to walk from Mount Sinai to Kadesh Barnea. People go by way of the .hilly area called Edom

Forty years had passed since the Israelites had left Egypt, and it was the first day of³ the eleventh month. Moses told the Israelite people everything that Yahweh had ,He did this after they had defeated Sihon and Og. Sihon⁴ .commanded him to tell them the king of the Amor people group, lived in the city of Heshbon. Og, the king of the region .of Bashan, lived in the towns of Ashtaroth and Edrei

The people were in Moab, on the east side of the Jordan River. There, Moses⁵ :explained to them God's instructions, saying

Yahweh our God said to our ancestors at Mount Sinai, 'You have stayed for a very'⁶ Now you must continue traveling. Go to the hilly⁷ .long time at the base of this mountain area where the Amor people group lives and go to the nearby areas. These areas include the plain along the Jordan, the hilly area, the smaller hills in the west, the wilderness in the south, the Mediterranean seacoast, the land of Canaan, the Lebanon mountains, and ,Be assured that I will give that land to you. I⁸ .northeast to the great Euphrates River Yahweh, promised the land to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I promised that I '.would give it to them and to their descendants. So go and occupy it

I said to your families when we were at Mount Sinai, 'I am not able to govern all of⁹ Yahweh our God has caused us Israelites to become numerous. Today¹⁰ .you by myself I pray that Yahweh, the God whom our¹¹ .we are as numerous as the stars in the sky ancestors worshiped, will cause us to become a great many times more numerous than we But I cannot solve all of¹² .are now. I pray that he will bless us just as he promised to do So choose some men from your tribes who are wise and who¹³ .your problems by myself '.have good sense and whom people respect. Then I will assign them to be your leaders

'.Your parents replied, 'We agree with what you have suggested¹⁴

So I took the wise men, those whom people respected and whom your families¹⁵ chose from your tribes, and I appointed them to be your leaders. I appointed some to lead groups of 1,000 people, some to lead groups of 100 people, some to lead groups of 50 people, and some to lead groups of 10 people. I also appointed other officers from Then, I instructed your leaders, ‘Listen when your people are¹⁶ .throughout your tribes quarreling. Consider each case fairly, including cases where Israelites quarrel with each other. Also consider cases where an Israelite quarrels with someone from another land who You must not favor one person more than another. You must treat poor¹⁷ .lives among you ,people and important people equally. You must not worry about what anyone will think because you will decide matters as God wants you to decide them. If you are not sure what At that time I also told¹⁸ ’.to decide when people are quarreling, tell me, and I will decide .you other things that you should do

Then, just as Yahweh our God told us to do, we left Mount Sinai. We went through a¹⁹ huge and dangerous wilderness. The wilderness was on the road to the hilly area where the I said to your parents, ‘You²⁰ .Amor people group lives. We arrived at Kadesh Barnea have now come to the hilly area where the Amor people group lives. This is part of the area Be assured that Yahweh our God is giving this land²¹ .that Yahweh our God is giving to us to us. So go and occupy it as he commanded. Yahweh is the God whom your ancestors ’.worshiped. Do not be at all afraid

But your fathers all came to me and said, ‘Before we go, we should first send some²² men to explore the land. Then, they can return and tell us which will be the best road to go ’.there and what kind of towns are there

I thought that what they had planned was good, so I chose 12 men, one man from²³ They went into the hilly area as far as the Eshkol Valley, and they explored²⁴ .each tribe They picked some of the fruit that they found there and brought it to us. They²⁵ .the area .reported that the land that Yahweh our God was giving to us was very good

But your parents refused to go and conquer that land. They rebelled against what²⁶ Your parents stayed in their tents and²⁷ .Yahweh our God had commanded them to do complained. They said, ‘Yahweh hates us, so he has brought us here from Egypt to allow We do not want to go there. The men whom we²⁸ .the Amor people group to destroy us sent there have caused us to become very afraid. They have told us that the people there are stronger and bigger than we are. They said that there are very high walls around their ’.towns. They also said that they saw giants there that are descendants of Anak

!Then I said to your fathers, ‘Do not be even a little bit afraid of those people²⁹
Yahweh our God will protect you. He will fight for you just as you saw him do for you³⁰
and in the wilderness. You saw how he brought you safely here, just like a man³¹ in Egypt
’.holds and protects his son

Your parents would not trust Yahweh our God, even though I reminded them of³²
.He always went ahead of them while they traveled in the desert³³ .what Yahweh had done
He showed them places to set up their tents. He directed them with the fire during the night
.and with the cloud during the day

Yahweh heard your parents complaining, and he became angry. He solemnly³⁴
Only Caleb son of Jephunneh will enter the land. He has obeyed me³⁵⁻³⁶ ,declared
.completely. So I will give to him and to his descendants some of the land that he explored
None of the rest of these evil people will ever live in that good land that I solemnly
’.promised to give to your ancestors

But because of what your fathers did, Yahweh was also angry with me. He said to³⁷
Joshua son of Nun, who is your helper, will enter³⁸ .me, ‘You also will not enter that land
’.it. Support him, because he will enable the Israelite people to occupy that land

Yahweh continued to declare, ‘You said that your enemies would capture you³⁹
Your children are very young, so they do not yet know .**but this did not happen** ,children
what is good and what is evil. However, they are the ones who will enter that land. I will
As for you, turn around and go back into the⁴⁰ .give them the land, and they will occupy it
’.desert, toward the Red Sea

Then your fathers replied, ‘We have sinned by disobeying Yahweh. So we will go⁴¹
and attack the people who live in that land, just as Yahweh our God has told us to do.’ Then
each of their men equipped himself with weapons. They thought that it would be easy to
.invade the hill country

But Yahweh said to me, ‘Tell them not to go there and attack those people, because I⁴²
’.will not help them. If they go, their enemy will certainly defeat them

So I said that to your fathers, but they did not obey what I said. They again rebelled⁴³
against what Yahweh commanded them to do. Their soldiers proudly marched up into that
Then the men of the Amor people group who lived in that region came out of⁴⁴ .hilly area
their towns. They attacked those soldiers. They chased our soldiers like a swarm of bees
would chase a person. The Amor people pursued your ancestors’ soldiers south from the
So your fathers went back to⁴⁵ .Edom area and defeated them at the city of Hormah

Kadesh Barnea and cried out to request Yahweh to help them, but he did not pay any
.So we stayed there at Kadesh Barnea for a long time⁴⁶ .attention to them

Then we turned around and went through the desert toward the Red Sea as¹ 2

.Yahweh told us to do. We wandered in Edom for many years

You have been wandering around this hilly area for a³ ,Then Yahweh said to me²
And tell the people that they are⁴ .long enough time. Now turn and travel toward the north
who are also ,about to travel near the land that belongs to the descendants of Esau
as you are. They live in the hilly area of Edom. They will be afraid of ,descendants of Isaac
Do not start to fight against them, because I am not going to⁵ .you, but be very careful
give you even a tiny bit of their land. That is because I have given that land to the
' .buy food and water from them ,When you travel near their land⁶ .descendants of Esau

.Remember that Yahweh our God has blessed you in everything that you have done⁷
while you have wandered in this huge desert. Yahweh what has happened to you He knows
our God has protected you during those 40 years, and as a result you have had everything
.that you needed

So we continued to travel. We avoided going through the hilly area where the⁸
that descendants of Esau, who are also descendants of Isaac, live. We turned from the road
from the city of Elath and the city of comes up the plain of the Jordan valley, and goes along
.Ezion Geber. We traveled along the wilderness road of the kingdom of Moab

Yahweh said to me, 'Do not bother the people of Moab. And do not start to fight⁹
against them, because I am not going to give you any of their land. The reason is that they
their capital, and the other areas in that ,are descendants of Lot. I gave them the city of Ar
''' .country

A people group called the Emites formerly lived there. They were as populous and)¹⁰
People also call both them and the descendants of Anak¹¹ .tall as the descendants of Anak
The Hor people group also¹² .the Rapha people. The people of Moab call them Emites
formerly lived in the Edom area, but the descendants of Esau expelled them. They killed
them and settled in their land, just as the Israelite people later expelled their enemies from
(.the land that Yahweh gave to them

It had been 38 years¹⁴ .Then we crossed the Zered Gorge, as Yahweh told us to do¹³
from the time we first left Kadesh Barnea until we crossed the Zered Gorge. During those

years, all the Israelite fighting men of that generation died, as Yahweh had solemnly said
.Furthermore, Yahweh opposed them, so he caused them to die¹⁵ .would happen

,Yahweh said to me¹⁷ .After all the men who had been old enough to fight had died¹⁶
When you¹⁹ .Today you must travel through the region of Moab, near Ar, their city¹⁸
come near the border of the land where the Ammon people group live, do not bother them
or start to fight against them. The reason is that they are also descendants of Lot, so I am
'not going to give you any of the land that I have given to them

.People also call that region the land of the Rapha people, who formerly lived there)²⁰
They were as populous and tall²¹ .The Ammon people group call them the Zamzum group
as the descendants of Anak. But Yahweh caused them to die when the Ammon people
Yahweh had done the same thing for the²² .group expelled them and settled in their land
descendants of Esau living in the hilly area of Edom. He caused the Hor people group to
die when the Edom people group expelled them and settled in their land. The Edom people
as south As for the Av people group, they lived in towns as far²³ .group still lives there
Gaza. The Caphtor people group from the island of Crete killed the Av people group and
(settled in their land

After we had gone through the region of Moab, Yahweh said to us, 'Now cross the²⁴
Arnon River. Be assured that I will help you to defeat the army of Sihon. Sihon is the king
of the Amor people group, who lives in the city of Heshbon. So attack their army and start
Today I will begin to frighten everyone, everywhere on²⁵ .to take their land from them
'your behalf. Then, everyone who hears about you will be very afraid of you

Then I sent messengers to go from where we were in the Desert of Kedemoth to²⁶
Please allow us²⁷ :this peaceful message **I told them to give him** .King Sihon at Heshbon
we will stay on the road. We will not turn off to **We promise that** .to travel through your land
We will pay you for food and water. We want only to walk²⁸ .the right or to the left
until we cross the Jordan River into the land that Yahweh our God is²⁹ through your land
giving to us. Do for us just as the descendants of Esau who live in the Edom area and the
for us when they allowed us to go through Moab people group who live in the city of Ar did
.But King Sihon of Heshbon would not allow us to go through his country³⁰ '.**their land**
That is because Yahweh our God caused him to be stubborn so that Yahweh could cause us
.to defeat his army and take his land, in which we still live

Yahweh said to me, 'Be assured that I am starting to allow you to defeat Sihon's³¹
'!army and to take the people's land from them. So start to occupy it

.Then Sihon and his soldiers marched out to fight against us at the town of Jahaz³²
But Yahweh our God caused us to defeat them. We killed Sihon, his sons, and all his³³
,the men **We killed** .We captured and destroyed all of King Sihon's cities³⁴ .soldiers
However, we did³⁵ .women, and children. We did not allow any of them to remain alive
Yahweh our God³⁶ .take the livestock and valuable things from the cities that we captured
caused us to capture all their towns from the city of Aroer in the south, which is at the edge
of the Arnon River Valley, to the region of Gilead in the north. Some of their cities had
But we did not go near the³⁷ .walls around them, but we were still able to capture them
area where the Ammon people group lives, the banks of the Jabbok River, the towns of the
.hilly area, or any other place where Yahweh our God told us not to go

Then we turned north and went toward the region of Bashan. Og, the king of¹ **3**
.that area, and all his soldiers marched south to fight against us at the city of Edrei
Yahweh said to me, 'Do not be afraid of him, because I will cause your army to defeat²
him and all his army. I will also cause you to capture all their land. Do to him what you did
' .to Sihon, the king of the Amor people group, who ruled in the city of Heshbon

.So Yahweh our God caused us to defeat King Og and his soldiers. We killed them all³
There were 60 cities in that region of⁴ .We did not allow any of them to remain alive
All those cities⁵ .Argob, in King Og's kingdom of Bashan, but we captured all of them
had high walls around them with gates and bars. We also captured many villages that did
We completely destroyed those cities, just as we had done in⁶ .not have walls around them
But from⁷ .the area that King Sihon ruled. We killed all the men, women, and children
.those cities we took for ourselves all the livestock and valuable things

.So at that time we took all the land from those two kings of the Amor people group⁸
We took the land east of the Jordan River, from the Arnon River Valley in the south to
The people of Sidon city call that mountain Sirion. The)⁹ ".Mount Hermon in the north
We captured all the towns on the plateau and all the"¹⁰ (.Amor people group call it Senir
region of Gilead. We also captured all of Bashan as far east as the cities of Salekah and
Og was the last king who was a)¹¹ ".Edrei, which also belonged to Og's kingdom
descendant of the Rapha people. His bed was made of iron. It was four meters long and two
meters wide, according to the standard measurement. It was in the city of Rabbah in the
(.region of Ammon

From the land that we captured at that time, I allotted to the tribes of Reuben and"¹²
Gad the land north of the city of Aroer near the Arnon River. I also allotted to them some of

The other part of Gilead and all of¹³ .the hilly areas of Gilead, along with the nearby cities Bashan, which was the region of Argob that King Og had ruled, I allotted to half of the tribe of Manasseh.” (People call the entire region of Bashan the land of the Rapha people.)

Jair, a man from the tribe of Manasseh, conquered all of Bashan as far north as the¹⁴ .border of the Geshur and Maacath territories. He gave his own name to the villages there .the villages of Jair **People still call them**

who are ,The northern part of the Gilead region I allotted to the Machir clan¹⁵

I allotted to the tribes of Reuben and Gad the¹⁶ .**descendants of the tribe of Manasseh** southern part of Gilead, extending south to the Arnon River. The middle of the river is the southern boundary. The northern boundary is the Jabbok River, which is part of the border

The border extends from the plain along the east side of the¹⁷ .of the region of Ammon to the Sea of Arabah (**known as the Sea of Galilee**) Jordan valley, from Kinnereth in the north .in the south and to the slopes of Mount Pisgah on the east (known as the Dead Sea)

At that time, I told you three tribes, ‘Yahweh our God is giving you this land east of¹⁸ the Jordan River. So now, your soldiers must cross the Jordan River ahead of the men from But your wives and children and¹⁹ .**Help them to conquer the land** .the other Israelite tribes **Your men**²⁰ .your very numerous cattle must stay in the towns that I have allotted to you your fellow Israelites until Yahweh enables them to live there peacefully. Help **must help** them capture all the land that Yahweh our God is giving to them on the west side of the After that, you all may .**here on the east side of the river** Jordan River, just like he did for you ’.return to this land that I have allotted to you

And I told Joshua, ‘You have seen everything that Yahweh our God did to those two²¹ kings, Sihon and Og. He will do the same thing to the people who are now in the land that Do not be afraid of those people, because Yahweh our God is the²² .you will be entering ’.one who will fight on your behalf

Yahweh our Lord, you have merely begun to²⁴ ,At that time, I earnestly prayed²³ show me that you are very great and that you can do powerful things. There is certainly no So please²⁵ .god in heaven or on earth who can do the powerful things that you have done allow me to cross the Jordan River. Let me see the good land on the west side, the good ’.hilly area, and the mountains in Lebanon

But Yahweh was angry with me because of what your parents had done. He would²⁶ from you! Do not talk to me **talk** not pay attention to me. Instead, he said, ‘That is enough ,Climb up to the top of Mount Pisgah. Then look toward the west, east²⁷ !about that again **to see** north, and south. Look at it all carefully because you will not cross the Jordan River

But tell Joshua what he must do. Encourage him because he is the²⁸ .the land from there one who will lead the people across the river. He will lead them to occupy the land that you
'from the top of the mountain will see

.valley close to the town of Beth Peor **Jordan River** So we remained in the²⁹

Now, you Israelite people, obey all the rules and regulations that I will teach¹ **4**
you. If you do that, you will remain alive. You will be able to enter and occupy the land that
Do not change the² .Yahweh, the God whom your ancestors worshiped, is giving to you
words of my commands to you. Obey all the commands of Yahweh our God that I am
.giving to you

You have seen what Yahweh did at Baal Peor, for example, when he destroyed all the³
However, all of you who faithfully continued⁴ .Baal there **the god** people who worshiped
.to worship Yahweh our God are still alive today

Never forget that I have taught you all the rules and regulations, just as Yahweh our⁵
in the land that you are **when you are living** God told me to do. He wants you to obey them
Obey them faithfully because, if you do that, you will show⁶ .about to enter and occupy
,the people of other nations that you are very wise. When they hear about all these rules
Even if⁷ 'they will say, 'The people of this great nation of Israel are certainly very wise
other nations are great, there is none of them that has a god who cares for them as Yahweh
And there is no other nation, even if it is a great nation, which has⁸ !our God cares for us
.laws that are as just as the laws that I am speaking to you today

But be very careful! Do not forget what you have seen God do. Remember those⁹
Tell¹⁰ .things as long as you are alive. Tell them to your children and your grandchildren
them about the day that your parents stood in the presence of Yahweh our God at Mount
Sinai, when he said to me, 'Gather the people together in order that they can hear what I
say. I want them to learn to respect me and honor me as long as they are alive. I want them
Tell your children that your parents came near to¹¹ '.to teach their children to do the same
the foot of the mountain while the mountain burned with a fire that went up to the sky, and
Then Yahweh spoke to¹² .the mountain was covered with darkness, clouds, and smoke
your parents out of the middle of the fire. Your parents only heard him speak, but they did
And he declared to them his covenant that he wants you also to obey. He¹³ .not see him
Yahweh told¹⁴ .gave them the Ten Commandments. He wrote those on two stone tablets
me to teach all the rules and regulations to you in order that you would obey them. He
.wants you to obey them in the land that you are about to enter and occupy

.On the day that Yahweh spoke to your parents at Mount Sinai, they did not see him¹⁵

Do not sin by making for yourselves any carved figure! Do not¹⁶ !So be very careful any animal, any¹⁷ ,make anything that resembles the likeness of anything: man, woman

Do not look up toward the sky and be tempted to¹⁹ .any reptile, or any fish¹⁸ ,bird worship anything that you see there—the sun or the moon or the stars. Yahweh our God has

Yahweh has brought your families out of²⁰ .all people everywhere **help** given those to Egypt, where they were suffering as though they were in a blazing furnace. That is so that .they would be people who belong to him, which is what you are today

But Yahweh was angry with me because of what your parents did. He declared that I²¹

He swore that I would die here in²² .would never enter the land that he is giving to you this land and never cross the Jordan River. But you will go across it, and you will occupy

Be sure that you do not forget the covenant that Yahweh our God made with²³ .that land you, and do not make a carved figure in the likeness of anything about which he has .This is because Yahweh your God wants everyone to worship him alone²⁴ .forbidden you .He will destroy anyone who worships idols

When you have been in the land of Canaan for a long time and you have children²⁵ and grandchildren, do not sin by making a carved figure that represents anything. Yahweh

Today I am²⁶ .says that is evil, and if you do that, you will cause him to become angry **if you** requesting everyone who is in heaven and earth to watch what you are doing. But you will soon all die in the land that you will be crossing the ,**disobey what I am telling you**

Jordan River to occupy. You will not live very long there, because Yahweh will get rid of Yahweh will force the rest of you to go and live among the people of many other²⁷ .you

When you are in those nations, you will²⁸ .nations. Only a few of you will survive there that cannot **They will be gods** .worship gods that are made by humans from wood and stone

But while you are there, you will try to know Yahweh²⁹ .**anything** see, hear, eat, or smell ,In the future³⁰ .your God. If you try as much as you can to know him, he will answer you things happen to you, you will again **bad** and all those **there** when you are being mistreated

If you obey .Yahweh is a God who acts mercifully³¹ .worship only Yahweh and obey him he will not abandon you, cause you to die, or forget the agreement that he solemnly ,**him** .made with your ancestors

Now please think about the past, about the time before you were born, about all the³²

.time since God first created people here on the earth. You could search everywhere **as what Yahweh did for the Israelite** Certainly, nothing has ever happened that is as great Certainly no group has ever remained alive after they heard their God speak to³³ .**people** Certainly God has never before tried to take³⁴ .them from the middle of a fire like we did

as he did for us when he brought **to another location** a huge group of people from one nation us out of Egypt. We saw Yahweh our God use his power when he performed miracles, sent .plagues, terrified people, and fought the Egyptians for us

Yahweh showed all these things to you in order that you would know that only he is³⁵

He allowed your parents to hear him speak³⁶ .truly God and that there is no other God from heaven in order that he could discipline them. Here on the earth, he allowed them to Because³⁷ .He spoke to them from the middle of the fire .**on Mount Sinai** see his great fire he loved our ancestors, he chose you Israelites, who are their descendants. By his great he expelled the people of nations ,**As they traveled**³⁸ .power, he brought us out of Egypt that were greater and more powerful than we were. This is so that we could capture and live .in their land, as we are about to do today

in heaven **he rules** So today you should think about the fact that Yahweh is God, that³⁹ Obey all the rules and regulations⁴⁰ .and also on the earth, and that there is no other god that I am giving to you today. This is so that things will go well for you and your descendants. And it is so that you will live a long time in the land that Yahweh our God is ”.forever **it will belong to you** giving to you, so

If⁴² .Then Moses chose three cities that are on the east side of the Jordan River⁴¹ someone accidentally killed another person, a person who had not been his enemy **because the people** previously, he could escape to one of those cities. He would be safe there For the tribe of Reuben, Moses chose the city of Bezer in the⁴³ .**there would protect him** wilderness. For the tribe of Gad, he chose the city of Ramoth in the region of Gilead. For .the tribe of Manasseh, he chose the city of Golan in the region of Bashan

They included all the⁴⁵ .Moses gave God’s instructions to the Israelite people⁴⁴ instructions, rules, and regulations that Moses told the Israelite people after they had come when they were in the valley east of the Jordan River. They were across⁴⁶ ,out of Egypt was ruled by Sihon, the king of the **previously** from the town of Beth Peor, in the land that Amor people group, who lived in the city of Heshbon. Moses and the other Israelites had They captured Sihon’s land and the⁴⁷ .defeated his army when they came out of Egypt land that Og, the king of the region of Bashan, had ruled. Those were the two kings who Their land extended⁴⁸ .ruled the Amor people group in the area east of the Jordan River ,from the city of Aroer in the south along the Arnon River, as far north as Mount Sirion It also included all the area in the plain east of⁴⁹ .call Mount Hermon **most people** which .the Jordan River valley, extending to the Dead Sea and east to the slopes of Mount Pisgah

Moses summoned all the people of Israel and said to them, “You Israelite¹ **5**
people, listen to all the rules that I am commanding you today. Learn them and be sure to
.When we were at Mount Sinai, Yahweh our God made a covenant with us² .obey them
But this covenant was not only for our ancestors; he made it also for us who are alive³
.Yahweh personally spoke with us on that mountain, from the middle of the fire⁴ .now
.On that day, I stood between Yahweh and your parents in order to tell them what he said⁵
That was because they were afraid of the fire, and they did not want to climb up the
:mountain. This is what Yahweh said

I am Yahweh your God, the one you worship. I am the one who brought you out of⁶
.the land of Egypt. I am the one who freed you from being slaves there

.Do not worship any god other than me⁷

Do not carve yourself a figure that looks like anything in the sky or that is on the⁸
.ground or that is in the water under the ground

Do not bow down to any idol or worship it, because I am Yahweh your God. I⁹
.demand that you worship me only! I will punish the descendants of those who hate me
However, I will¹⁰ .generations I will punish their descendants for three, even four
faithfully love thousands of generations of those who love me and obey my
.commandments

Yahweh your God, so do not use my name for the wrong purpose. This is I am¹¹
.because I will certainly punish those who use my name for wrong purposes
Remember that the seventh day of every week belongs to me. This is according to¹²
.what I, Yahweh your God, am commanding you

But the seventh day is¹⁴ .There are six days each week for you to do all your labor¹³
a day of rest, a day dedicated to me, Yahweh your God. On that day you must not do
,any work. Neither you nor your sons, your daughters, your male or female slaves
.your livestock, and not even foreigners who are living in your country may work
Remember that your families were slaves in Egypt. I, Yahweh your God, brought¹⁵
you out of there by my very great power. As a result, I am commanding that all of
.you must rest on the seventh day of each week

Honor your father and your mother, just like I, Yahweh your God, am commanding¹⁶
,you. Do this in order that you may live a long time in the land that I, Yahweh your God
.will give you. Also do this in order that things will go well for you there

.Do not murder anyone¹⁷

.Do not commit adultery with anyone¹⁸

.Do not steal anything¹⁹

.Do not tell lies about someone in court²⁰

,Do not covet someone else's wife, someone else's house, someone else's field²¹
someone else's male or female slave, someone else's livestock, someone else's
'donkeys, or anything else that another person owns

Those are the commandments that Yahweh commanded your families. They were²²
the mountain. Yahweh spoke with a very loud voice from the **the bottom of** gathered there at
He spoke only those **.around the mountain** middle of the fire, and there were dark clouds
.Ten Commandments. Then he wrote them on two stone tablets and gave them to me

,Your parents heard Yahweh's voice when he spoke to them out of the darkness²³
.while there was a big fire burning on the mountain. After that, their leaders came to me
them said, 'Listen to us! Yahweh our God showed us that he is very glorious and **One of**²⁴
great when we heard him speak from the fire. Today we have realized that it is possible for

But we are²⁵ .us human beings to continue to live even though God has spoken to us
afraid that we will die. We are afraid that this immense fire will burn us all up if we go on
We are the only people on earth who have remained alive after²⁶ .hearing Yahweh's voice

up the you go ,So Moses²⁷ !hearing the all-powerful God speak to them from a fire
and tell us **come back** and listen to everything that Yahweh our God says. Then **mountain**
'everything that he has said, and we will listen to what he has said and obey it

Yahweh said ,**When I went back up the mountain** .Yahweh heard your leaders say that²⁸
I surely²⁹ .to me, 'I have heard what your leaders have said. What they have said is right
wish that they would always have awesome respect for me and obey all my
commandments. I desire their worship so that things may go well for them and for their
.descendants forever

here **come back up you ,then But**³¹ .and tell them to return to their tents **down** So go³⁰
Then **.want them to obey** and stand near me. I will give you all the rules and decrees that I
you can teach them to the people so that they will obey them when they are in the land that
'I am giving to them

Be sure that you do everything' ,**So I went back down to the people and said to them**³²
.that Yahweh our God has commanded us to do. Be sure to obey his commandments

Conduct your lives as Yahweh our God has commanded us to do. This is so that you³³
in **when you are living** may live a long time. Also, this is so that things may go well for you
'the land that you will occupy

These are the commandments, rules, and decrees that Yahweh our God¹ **6**
commanded me to teach to you. He wants you to obey them in the land that you are about
He wants you to honor him. He wants you and your descendants to² .to enter and occupy
always obey all these rules and regulations that I am giving to you. This is so that you may
So, you Israelite people, listen to them carefully and obey them. If³ .live for a long time
you do that, things will go well with you. Also, you will become a very numerous nation
in that very fertile land. That is what Yahweh, the God whom our **living** when you are
.ancestors worshiped, promised would happen

You must love him with all⁵ .You Israelite people, listen! Only Yahweh is our God⁴
Remember⁶ .your inner being and with all that you feel and in every way that you can
Teach them to your children again and⁷ .these commands that I am giving to you today
such as when you are in your houses and when **,at every opportunity** again. Talk about them
you are walking outside. Talk about them also when you are resting and when you are
to help you to and tie them to your arms and foreheads **Write copies of them**⁸ .working
.Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your city gates⁹ .**remember them**

Yahweh our God solemnly promised to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob¹⁰
that he would give you a land that already has in it large and prosperous cities that you did
He said that the houses in those cities will already be full of many good things¹¹ .not build
that someone else put there. There will be wells that someone else dug. There will be
vineyards and olive trees that someone else planted. So when Yahweh brings you into that
be sure to remember Yahweh, who rescued¹² ,land, and you have all that you want to eat
.and gave all these things to you you from being slaves in Egypt

You must deeply respect Yahweh our God, and you must worship him alone. When¹³
you make a solemn oath, say that he should punish you if you do not do what you have
You must not worship any other gods, the gods that the people groups who¹⁴ .promised
This is because Yahweh our God, who has a special relationship¹⁵ .live near you worship
with you will not accept people who worship anyone or anything other than him. So if you
worship any other god, Yahweh will be very angry with you, and he will destroy you
,Do not do sinful things to find out whether Yahweh will punish you or not¹⁶ .completely
Be sure that you always obey all the laws, the weighty¹⁷ .as your parents did at Massah
Do what Yahweh says is right¹⁸ .instructions, and the regulations that he has given to you

and good. If you do that, things will go well with you. You will be able to enter and occupy
He will do that¹⁹ .the good land that Yahweh solemnly promised to give to our ancestors
.by driving out your enemies from that land, just as he promised to do

In the future, your children will ask you, ‘Why did Yahweh our God command us to²⁰
Then you will tell them, ‘Our families were slaves of²¹ ’?obey all these rules and decrees
They saw him²² .the king in Egypt. Yahweh brought them out of Egypt by his great power
do many kinds of miracles and terrifying things to the people of Egypt and to the king and
He rescued our families from Egypt and brought them here to give them²³ .his officials
And he²⁴ .this land. This is just as he solemnly promised our ancestors that he would do
commanded us to obey all these laws and to honor him. This is so that things will always
Yahweh our²⁵ .go well with us and so that he will protect our nation, as he is doing now
'God will approve of us if we carefully obey everything that he has commanded us to do

.Yahweh our God will take you into the land that you will soon enter and occupy¹ 7

As you advance, he will expel these people groups that are more powerful and more
,numerous than you are. They are the Heth, the Gergash, the Amor, the Canaan, the Periz
,When Yahweh our God enables you to defeat them² .the Hiv, and the Jebus people groups
you must kill them all. You must make no agreement with them, and you must not act
You must not marry any of them. You must not allow your³ .mercifully toward them
.daughters to marry any of their sons or allow your sons to marry any of their daughters
If you did that, those people would persuade your children to stop worshiping Yahweh⁴
and to worship other gods. If that happens, Yahweh will be very angry with you, and he
This is what you must do to those people: Tear down their⁵ .will destroy you very quickly
that cut down the poles ,that are dedicated to their gods altars, break apart the stone pillars
You must do⁶ .and burn their molded idols ,**they use when they worship the goddess Asherah**
that because you are a group of people who belong only to Yahweh our God. He has chosen
.you from all the people groups in the world to be his own special people

It was not because you were more numerous than any other people group that⁷
.Yahweh chose you. In fact, you are one of the smallest people groups on the earth
Instead, it is because Yahweh loved you and because he wanted to do what he solemnly⁸
promised to your ancestors. That is why he rescued you by his great power from slavery in
So remember that Yahweh is our God. He is⁹ .Egypt and from Pharaoh, the king of Egypt
faithful to us. He will do what he agreed to do. He will faithfully love forever people who
But as for those who hate him, he will pay¹⁰ .love him and who obey his commandments
.them back. He will punish them and quickly destroy them

So you must be sure to obey all the commandments, rules, and decrees that I am giving¹¹

If you pay attention to these decrees and always obey them, Yahweh our¹² .to you today

God will do what he has agreed to do for you. He will also faithfully love you, which is

He will love you and¹³ .what he solemnly promised to your ancestors that he would do
bless you. He will enable you to have many children. He will bless your fields. As a result
wine and plenty of olive oil. You will have grapes to make you will have plenty of grain and
many cattle and sheep. He will do all these things for you in the land that he promised to

He will bless you more than he will bless any¹⁴ .your ancestors that he would give to you
other people group. All of you will be able to have children. All of your livestock will be

And Yahweh will protect you from all illnesses. He will not¹⁵ .able to produce offspring
knew about in our ancestors make you become sick with any of the dreadful diseases that

You must destroy all the¹⁶ .Egypt. But, he will make all your enemies sick with them
people groups that Yahweh our God enables you to conquer. Do not act mercifully toward
any of them. And do not worship their gods. If you do that, it would be like falling into a
.from which you will never be able to escape trap

.Do not think to yourselves, ‘These people groups are more numerous than we are¹⁷

Do not be afraid of them. Instead, think about¹⁸ ’.We will never be able to drive them out
.ruled what Yahweh our God did to the king of Egypt and to all the people whom he

.Remember the terrible plagues that your parents saw him inflict on the people of Egypt¹⁹
of Remember the various kinds of miracles that God did in order to bring your families out
Yahweh our God will do the same kind of things to the people groups that you are .Egypt

Furthermore, he will cause them to become terrified. He will destroy²⁰ .afraid of now

Do not be afraid of those²¹ .those who remain alive and run away to hide from you
people, because Yahweh our God will be with you. He is a great God. He is the one that

try to He will gradually expel those people groups. You should not²² .people are afraid of
expel all of them at one time. If you did that, the number of wild animals would quickly

Instead, Yahweh will enable you to²³ .and you would not be able to get rid of them ,increase

He will cause them to panic until they are .one people group at a time defeat your enemies

He will enable you to defeat their kings. After you kill them, their names will²⁴ .destroyed
You²⁵ .be forgotten. No people group will be able to stop you. You will destroy all of them

their gods. Do not desire to take the silver or that represent must burn the carved figures
that are on those idols. If you take them for yourselves, they will be like a decorations gold

You must not²⁶ .Yahweh hates every part of those idols .to cause you to disobey God trap
bring any of those disgusting idols into your houses, because if you do that, God will curse
you as he curses them. You must hate and despise those idols, because they are things that
.Yahweh has cursed, and he promises to destroy them

You must faithfully obey all the commandments that I am giving you today. If¹ **8**
you do that, you will live a long time and you will become very numerous. Your people will
.that he would give to you occupy the land that Yahweh solemnly promised your ancestors
And think about how Yahweh our God led us as we traveled through the desert during²
This was to cause you to realize .caused you to have many problems these past 40 years. He
that you needed to trust him and not trust in yourselves. He also wanted to test you, to find
So he³ .out what you intended to do, whether you would obey his commandments or not
,caused you to have problems. He allowed you to become hungry. Then he gave you manna
food that you and your parents had never eaten before. He did that to ,food from heaven
they also need food for their spirits. This but ,for their bodies teach you that people need food
During those 40 years, our⁴ .everything that Yahweh says comes from paying attention to
.from walking through the desert clothes did not wear out. Also, our feet did not swell
Remember that Yahweh our God corrects us and punishes us, like parents correct their⁵
.children

So obey the commandments of Yahweh our God. Conduct your lives as he wants you⁶
He is about to bring you into a good land. It has streams that flow⁷ .to do and honor him
It is a land on which wheat⁸ .down from the hills and flow out of springs in the valleys
and barley grow. It has vineyards, fig trees, and pomegranates. It is a land where there are
It is a land where there will be plenty of food for you. You will⁹ .olive trees and honey
in its rocks and from which you ore have everything you need. It is a land which has iron
you will eat until your stomachs are full. You Every day¹⁰ .from its hills ore can dig copper
.will thank Yahweh our God for the fertile land that he has given you

be sure not to forget Yahweh our God by disobeying his ,when that happens But¹¹
Do this even when¹² .commandments, rules, and regulations that I am giving to you today
and when you have built good houses and are living in ,every day your stomachs are full
One day the number of your cattle and sheep will greatly increase. You will¹³ .them
accumulate a large amount of silver and gold. The amount of all your other possessions will
Even then, be sure that you do not become proud and forget¹⁴ .also greatly increase
Yahweh our God. He rescued your parents from being slaves in Egypt and brought them
Remember that he guided them while they traveled through that huge¹⁵ .out from there
and terrible desert. There were poisonous snakes and scorpions there. And remember that
the ground was very dry and there was no water. In spite of that, he caused water to flow
Remember that in that desert he gave your families manna to¹⁶ .for them out of solid rock
eat. Manna was food that they had never eaten before. He did this so they would realize that
they needed to trust him and not themselves. And he wanted to test them to find out if they

when those would obey him. This is so that he could do many good things for them
Be sure that you do not think to yourselves that you have acquired all¹⁷ .difficulties ended
Remember that it is Yahweh our God who¹⁸ .these things by your own power and ability
has enabled you to become rich. He does this because he faithfully does what he solemnly
.promised our ancestors that he would do

Today I solemnly warn you: If you forget Yahweh our God and start to worship and¹⁹
If you do not obey Yahweh our²⁰ .serve other gods, then he will certainly destroy you
God, then he will certainly destroy you just like he will destroy the people groups against
.which you will fight

You people of Israel, listen to me! You will soon cross the Jordan River. In the¹ 9
land that you will enter, there are people groups that are more numerous and more powerful
The .around them than you are. In that land, there are large cities that have very high walls
The people in the land are strong² .extend up to the sky seem to walls are so high that they
and tall. Some of them are descendants of Anak. You know about them, and you have heard
I want you to know that³ .people say that no one can defeat the descendants of Anak
Yahweh our God will go ahead of you. He will be like a raging fire. While you advance, he
will defeat and destroy them. As a result, you will quickly be able to drive out some of
.them and kill the others. This is just as Yahweh promised that you would do

After Yahweh our God has expelled them for you, do not say to yourselves, 'It is⁴
because we are righteous that Yahweh has enabled us to capture this land.' Rather, it is
.because the people in that land are wicked that Yahweh will drive them out as you advance
it is not because you are righteous or do things that are righteous that you will ,Again⁵
inhabit that land. It is because those people groups are very wicked that Yahweh our God
will expel them as you advance. It is also because he intends to do what he solemnly
I want you to⁶ .promised to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that he would do
know that it is not because you are righteous that Yahweh our God is giving you this good
.land. I say this because you are a very stubborn people

Never forget what your parents did in the desert that caused Yahweh our God to⁷
become angry. From the day that we left Egypt until the day that we arrived here, you have
Even at Mount Sinai your parents caused Yahweh to⁸ .continually rebelled against him
I⁹ .them all of become angry. Because he was very angry, he was ready to get rid of
climbed the mountain to receive from him the stone tablets on which he had written the Ten
Commandments. I stayed there 40 days and nights. During that time I did not eat or drink
the Yahweh gave me the two stone tablets on which he had written¹⁰ .anything

with his own fingers. They were the words that he had spoken to your **commandments** **at the** parents from the fire on that mountain. This was when they were gathered together **.bottom of the mountain**

At the end of those 40 days and nights, Yahweh gave me those two stone tablets on¹¹

But then he said to me, 'Go down the¹² **.which he had written those commandments** the people whom **,the people whom you are leading** mountain immediately! This is because you led out of Egypt, have committed a terrible sin! They have very quickly done what I **of a calf to** commanded them not to do. They have made for themselves a metal figure **' .worship**

Then Yahweh said to me, 'I have been watching these people. I see that they are¹³

So do not try to stop me. I am going to destroy all of them, with the¹⁴ **.very stubborn** result that no one anywhere will remember their names. Then I will enable you to become **' .of a nation that will be more powerful and numerous than them the ancestor**

So I turned and went down the mountain. In my hands I carried the two stone tablets¹⁵

.Fire was burning all over the mountain .written on which the Ten Commandments were I looked, and I was shocked to see that your parents had committed a great sin against¹⁶ Yahweh. They very quickly had begun to do what Yahweh our God had commanded them **.to worship** to make for them a metal figure of a calf **requested Aaron** not to do. They had **.They broke into pieces .on the ground** I lifted up those two stone tablets and threw them¹⁷ **.I did this while they were watching**

Then I prostrated myself on the ground in Yahweh's presence as I had done before. I¹⁸

did not eat or drink anything for 40 days and nights. I did that because your parents had I was afraid that because¹⁹ **.sinned against Yahweh and caused him to become very angry** **But again I prayed that** .Yahweh was very angry with them, he would get rid of all of them Yahweh was²⁰ **.and answered my prayer** and again he listened to me **,he would not do that** Yahweh was ready to kill him. But **.for making that golden calf** also very angry with Aaron Your parents²¹ **.and Yahweh answered my prayer** ,at the same time I prayed for Aaron also a calf. So I took that figure and I **a metal figure of to make by requesting Aaron** had sinned melted it in a fire. Then, I crushed it and ground it into very tiny pieces. Then I threw those **.tiny pieces into the stream that flowed down the mountain**

by what they did at places Your parents also caused Yahweh to become very angry²²

.Taberah, Massah, and Kibroth Hattaavah that they named

And when we were at Kadesh Barnea, Yahweh said to your parents, 'Go and capture²³ the land that I am about to give to you!' But they rebelled against him. They did not trust

Your parents rebelled against²⁴ .him, and they did not obey what he told them to do
in Egypt Yahweh from the first day that I knew them

So, as I said, I lay on the ground in Yahweh's presence for 40 days and nights²⁵
And I prayed to²⁶ .because Yahweh had said that he would get rid of your ancestors
Yahweh, saying, 'Lord Yahweh, these people belong to you. Do not destroy them. They are
Do not²⁷ .people whom you rescued and brought out of Egypt by your very great power
to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Ignore how stubborn and wicked what you promised forget
If you destroy them, the²⁸ .these people have been, and the sin that they have committed
They will say that you were not able to bring them into .hear about it people of Egypt will
the land that you promised to give to them. They will say that you took them into the desert
.that they are your people Remember²⁹ .only to kill them there because you hated them
by your very great from Egypt You chose them to belong to you. You brought them out
,power

Then Yahweh said to me, 'Cut two stone tablets like the first ones. And make¹ 10
I will² .up to me on this mountain bring the tablets a wooden chest to put them in. Then
write on those tablets the same words that I wrote on the first tablets, the ones that you
,broke. Then you can put them in the chest

So I made a chest. I used wood from an acacia tree to make it. I cut two stone tablets³
There Yahweh wrote⁴ .like the first ones. Then I went up the mountain carrying the tablets
They are .that he had written on the first tablets Ten Commandments same on the tablets the
the commandments that he had spoken to your parents from the midst of the fire on the
Then Yahweh .at the bottom of the mountain mountain. This was when they had gathered
I went down the mountain. Then, just as he ,Carrying the tablets⁵ .gave the tablets to me
,had commanded, I put them in the chest that I had made. And they are still there

Then, from the wells that belonged to the people of Jaakan, the Israelite people)⁶
traveled to Moserah. There Aaron died and was buried. His son Eleazar took his place and
From there, the Israelites traveled to Gudgodah. From there, they⁷ .became the great priest

At that time, Yahweh⁸ .traveled to Jotbathah, which was a place that had many streams
stand in Yahweh's ,that had the stone tablets chose the tribe of Levi to carry the sacred chest
They .the people offer sacrifices, and pray for Yahweh to bless ,in the sacred tent presence
That is the reason that the tribe of Levi did⁹ .are still doing those things at the present time
not receive any land like the other tribes did. What they received was the honor of being
(.This is according to what he said they should do .priests Yahweh's

Moses continued to speak: “I stayed on the mountain 40 days and nights, just like I¹⁰ Yahweh, and he answered my prayers again. He said that he **I prayed to** .did the first time Then Yahweh said to me, ‘Continue your journey and¹¹ .would not destroy your families lead the people to occupy the land. This is the land that I solemnly promised your ancestors ’.that I would give to you

Now, you Israelite people, I will tell you what Yahweh our God says that you do. He¹² requires you to honor him, to conduct your lives as he wants you to, to love him, and to and to obey all of his¹³ ,serve him with all that you desire and all that you feel .commandments which I am giving to you today. This is for your benefit

Be aware that Yahweh our God owns even the sky and everything that is in it. He¹⁴ ,**although he owns all those things** But¹⁵ .also owns the earth and everything that is on it ,he chose us **on the earth** Yahweh also loved your ancestors. From all the people groups

You must humble yourself and obey¹⁶ .their descendants, and we are still his people Yahweh our God is greater than all gods, and¹⁷ !Yahweh’s covenant. Stop being stubborn he is greater than all rulers. He is very powerful. He is impartial, and he does not accept

He makes sure that orphans and widows are treated fairly. He loves even¹⁸ .bribes So you¹⁹ .foreigners who live among us Israelite people. He gives them food and clothes must love those foreigners too. This is because you were once foreigners when you were You must deeply respect Yahweh our God, and you must worship him²⁰ .living in Egypt alone. Be faithful to him. When you make a solemn oath, say that he should punish you if He is the one whom you must praise. He is our²¹ .you do not do what you have promised

When our²² .God. We have seen the great and awesome things that he has done for us went down to Egypt, there were only 70 of them. But now ,**Jacob and his family** ,ancestors .Yahweh our God has caused us to be as numerous as the stars in the sky

.you must love him ,**has done for you** Yahweh your God **Because of all that**¹ 11

It was you² .Also, you must continually obey all his rules, decrees, and commandments and your parents, not your children, whom he personally instructed. So starting today, think

Remember the many different³ .about how you saw his greatness and amazing power miracles that he performed in Egypt. Think about what he did to the king of Egypt and

Your children did not see Yahweh destroy the army of Egypt, their⁴ .everything there horses, or their chariots. Your children did not see how Yahweh caused the Sea of Reeds to flood and drown the army of Egypt as they were coming after their ancestors. Yahweh

Your children did not see how⁵ .continues to make Egypt’s army weak even to this day Your⁶ .Yahweh took care of their families in the desert before they all came to this place

children did not see what Yahweh did to the rebels, Dathan and Abiram, the two sons of Eliab from the tribe of Reuben. While all of your families were watching, the earth split open, and they fell into the opening and disappeared. Their families, their tents, their You and your parents have seen⁷ .servants, and their animals also disappeared with them .all these miracles that Yahweh performed

So obey all the commandments that I am giving you today. This is so that you will be⁸ This is also so that⁹ .strong and able to enter and occupy the land after crossing the river you will live for a long time in that land. That land is the land that Yahweh solemnly promised your ancestors that he would give to them and to their descendants. The land is It is not like the land of Egypt, where your ancestors lived. In Egypt, they¹⁰ .very fertile But the land that you are about to enter is a¹¹ .struggled to plant seeds and water the plants Yahweh¹² .land where there are many hills and valleys. In that land there is plenty of rain takes care of that land. He watches over it every day, from the beginning of each year to the .end of each year

Today I am commanding you to love Yahweh our God and to serve him with your¹³ each year he will send rain on your land at the right¹⁴ ,entire inner being. If you do that times. As a result, you will have grain and grapes to make wine and olives to make olive And he will cause grass to grow in your fields for your livestock to eat. You will¹⁵ .oil .have all the food that you want

I warn you to be careful. Otherwise, you might be tempted to stop worshipping¹⁶ If that happens, Yahweh will¹⁷ .Yahweh. And, you might start to worship other gods become very angry with you. He will prevent any rain from falling. As a result, the crops in the good land that Yahweh is about to give **from hunger** will not grow. You will soon die **Write copies of them** .So, keep thinking about what Yahweh has commanded you¹⁸ .to you Teach them to¹⁹ .**to help you to remember them** and tie them to your arms and foreheads such as when you are ,**at every opportunity** your children again and again. Talk about them in your houses and when you are walking outside. Talk about them also when you are Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on²⁰ .resting and when you are working Do this so that you and your descendants will live for a very long time²¹ .your city gates .in the land. It is the land that Yahweh promised to our ancestors that he would give to them .That land will belong to you and your descendants forever

Faithfully obey what I am commanding you to do. Love Yahweh our God, conduct²² then Yahweh will²³ ,your lives as he wants you to, and be faithful to him. If you do this as you advance. These are people groups that are **in that land** drive out all the people groups

Everywhere you go, the land will be²⁴ .more numerous and more powerful than you are yours. Your territory will extend from the desert in the south to the Lebanon Mountains in the north. It will extend from the Euphrates River in the east to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. Yahweh our God will cause all the people in that land to be very afraid of you²⁵ .the west .No people group will be able to stop you. It will be just as he promised

Be aware that today I am telling you that Yahweh will either bless you or he will²⁶ If you obey the commandments of Yahweh our God that I am giving to you²⁷ .curse you But if you do not obey them, stop worshiping him and start²⁸ .today, he will bless you And²⁹ .worshiping other gods to whom you were never faithful before, he will curse you when Yahweh brings you into the land that you are about to enter and occupy, this is what on top of Mount Gerizim and proclaim what will **must stand** you **Some of** .you must do on top of Mount Ebal and proclaim what **The others must stand** .cause Yahweh to bless you ,Those two mountains are west of the Jordan River)³⁰ ”.will cause Yahweh to curse you west of the plain along the Jordan River, in the land where the Canaanites live. They live You will soon cross the Jordan River to occupy³¹ (.close to the sacred trees near Gilgal be³² ,the land that Yahweh our God is giving to you. When you start to live in that land .sure to obey all the rules and decrees that I am giving to you today

I will now tell you the rules and decrees that you must faithfully obey in the¹ **12** .land. Yahweh, the God whom our ancestors worshiped, is giving to you the land to occupy When you drive out those² .You must obey these laws all the time that you are alive people groups, you must destroy all the places where they worshiped their gods. These Tear down³ .places include places on the tops of mountains and hills and beside large trees **that burn the poles ,that are dedicated to their gods** their altars, demolish the stone pillars and chop down their carved idols. This is so ,**they use when they worship the goddess Asherah** .that no one will ever worship them in those places again

Instead, you⁵ .**the people in Canaan worship their gods** Do not worship Yahweh like⁴ must go to the place that Yahweh will choose. It will be in the area where one of your tribes That is the⁶ .will live. That is where you must enter Yahweh’s presence and worship him place where you must bring all of your offerings. These include the wholly burned ,sacrifice, other sacrifices, one tenth of all your produce and animals, special contributions sacrifices for promises, unprompted sacrifices, and the firstborn animals from your cattle There, in the presence of Yahweh our God, you and your families will eat the⁷ .and sheep good things that you have worked to produce, and you will be happy, because he has .**very much** blessed you

you must not do some of the things that we have been ,**When you are in that land**⁸

This is⁹ .doing. Until now, you have all been worshipping Yahweh the way you want to .because you have not yet arrived in the land that he will allow you to permanently possess

After you cross the Jordan River, you will¹⁰ .There, you will be able to live peacefully start to live in the land that Yahweh our God is giving to you. He will protect you from all .your enemies that will surround you. You will live peacefully

Yahweh will choose one place where he wants you to worship him. That is the place¹¹ to which you must bring all the offerings that I command you to bring. These include the wholly burned sacrifice, other sacrifices, one tenth of all your produce and animals, special Celebrate there in the¹² .contributions, and sacrifices for promises you make to Yahweh presence of Yahweh, with your children, your servants, and the Levites who live in your Do not¹³ .towns. Remember that the Levites will not have their own land, like you do

Only offer them in the place that¹⁴ .offer your wholly burnt sacrifice anywhere else Yahweh will choose. The place will be in an area that belongs to one of your tribes. That is the only place where you may offer the wholly burnt sacrifice and do the other things that I .**when you worship him** am commanding you to do

However, you may kill and eat your animals wherever you live as much as you¹⁵ want. These animals are blessings from Yahweh your God. Impure and pure people may eat

But do not eat the¹⁶ .that meat, just like you would eat the meat of a deer or an antelope Do¹⁷ .**before you cook the meat** Let the blood drain onto the ground .**of any animal** blood not eat any offering for Yahweh where you live. Do not eat the one tenth of your produce ,and animals that are set aside for Yahweh. Do not eat any of the offerings for promises Instead, you must eat those offerings in¹⁸ .unprompted offerings, or special contributions the presence of Yahweh in the place that he chooses. You must do this along with your children, your servants, and the Levites who live in your towns. Enjoy the results of your .Be sure that you take care of the Levites who live among you¹⁹ .hard work

,In the future, Yahweh will give you more territory, as he has promised. At that time²⁰

If the²¹ .if you want to eat meat in that new territory, you may eat as much as you want I will ,**where you live** place that Yahweh our God chooses for you to worship him is far from tell you what to do. You may kill and eat some of your animals where you live, as much as Impure and pure people may eat that meat, just like you would eat the meat of²² .you want

But be sure that you do not eat the blood of any animal. This is²³ .a deer or an antelope because blood keeps humans and animals alive. You must not eat that which sustains life If you²⁵ .Do not eat the blood. Instead, let it drain onto the ground²⁴ .along with the meat

obey this command and do what Yahweh says is right for you to do, you and your
.descendants will prosper

But this is what you must do with your offerings and anything that you promise to²⁶
There you²⁷ .give to Yahweh. You must take those things to the place that he will choose
You will also offer the .will offer the animals for the wholly burned sacrifice on the altar
will take the blood from the fellowship sacrifice there. After you kill the animals, the priest
Then, the priests will receive their portion .animals and splatter it onto every side of the altar
Faithfully obey all these commands. If you²⁸ .the meat the rest of You may eat .of the meat
do that, you and your descendants will prosper forever. This is because you will be doing
.what Yahweh our God says is right for you to do

When you enter the land that you will occupy, Yahweh our God will destroy the²⁹
After he does that, be sure that you do not³⁰ .people groups that live there as you advance
.worship the gods of those people groups. If you do, it will be like a trap that will catch you
Do not ask them how they worshiped their gods just so you can worship Yahweh in the
.Do not try to worship Yahweh our God like they have worshiped their gods³¹ .same way
This is because they do disgusting things when they worship them. Yahweh hates those
disgusting things. The worst thing that they do is that they burn their own children on altars
.for their gods

Be sure to obey all these commands. Do not add anything to these commands, and³²
.do not take anything away from them

In the future, there could be people in your community who say that they are¹ 13
prophets. They may say that they are able to interpret the meaning of dreams or perform
They will say those things to convince you to worship gods² .various kinds of miracles
do not³ ,that you have never known about before. But even if what they predict happens
pay attention to what they say. This is because Yahweh our God will observe how you
You must conduct your lives⁴ .behave to find out if you love him with all your inner being
as Yahweh our God wants you to. You must honor him, do what he tells you to do, and be
.faithful to him

But you must execute anyone who tells you to disobey Yahweh our God. This⁵
.includes anyone who says he is a prophet, or anyone who says that he can interpret dreams
This is because Yahweh himself rescued your families from being slaves in Egypt. Those
people want to convince you to disobey what Yahweh has told you to do. Execute them to
,Your brother, son, daughter, wife⁶ .get rid of those kinds of evil acts in your community
or some close friend might privately urge you to disobey. They might urge you to worship

They might urge you to⁷ .other gods that you and your ancestors never knew about before

Do not do what they⁸ .worship gods that nearby or faraway people groups worship suggest. Do not even listen to them. Do not act mercifully toward them, and do not keep at them to kill **throw stones** Execute them! Be the first one to⁹ .secret what they have done Kill such people by throwing¹⁰ .too ,**throw stones at them** them. Then, everyone else must stones at them. This is because they tell you to disobey Yahweh our God, who rescued your When they are executed, all the Israelite people¹¹ .ancestors from being slaves in Egypt will hear what happened. They will become afraid, and none of them will do such an evil .thing again

When you are living in one of the towns in the land that Yahweh our God is giving¹² that some worthless people among you are deceiving the people of¹³ to you, you may hear Examine the facts about it¹⁴ .their town. They might urge you to worship other gods .thoroughly. Suppose you find out that it is true that such a disgraceful thing has happened Then kill all the people in that town. And kill all their livestock, too. Destroy the town¹⁵ Gather all the possessions that belonged to the people who lived there and¹⁶ .completely pile them up in the city plaza. Then burn the town and everything in it. It will be like an offering to Yahweh that was completely burned on the altar. The ruins must stay there You must not take for yourselves anything that¹⁷ .forever. The town must never be rebuilt Yahweh has said must be destroyed. If you do what I say, Yahweh will stop being angry with you, and he will act mercifully toward you. And he will cause you to have many Yahweh our God¹⁸ .children, which is what he promised our ancestors that he would do will do all those things if you do what he is telling you to do, obey all the commandments .that I am giving to you today, and do what Yahweh says is right for you to do

We are people who belong to Yahweh our God. So when people die, do not¹ 14 Do not gash yourselves or shave .**like the other people groups do** show that you are grieving We belong to Yahweh alone. Yahweh chose² .the hair on your foreheads when you grieve .us from all the other people groups on the earth to be his special people

The animals whose meat you are⁴ .Do not eat anything that Yahweh detests³ all kinds of deer, gazelles, wild goats, and⁵ ,permitted to eat are cattle, sheep, goats .Those are animals that have split hooves and that also chew the cud⁶ .mountain sheep ,But there are other animals that chew the cud that you must not eat. Those are camels⁷ rabbits, and rock badgers. They chew the cud, but their hooves are not split. So they are not Do not eat pigs. They are unacceptable for you to eat. Their⁸ .acceptable for you to eat the cud. Do not eat the meat of those animals; do not **chew** hooves are split, but they do not

.You are permitted to eat any fish that has fins and scales⁹ .even touch their dead bodies
But anything else that lives in the water that does not have fins and scales you must not¹⁰
.eat. They are unacceptable for you to eat

But¹² .You are permitted to eat the flesh of any bird that is acceptable to Yahweh¹¹
large birds that hunt animals, or any¹³ ,you may not eat large birds that eat dead animals
any¹⁵ ,You are not permitted to eat any kind of raven¹⁴ .kind of bird that hunts animals
,birds that hunt animals at night, small water-birds that eat fish¹⁶ ,birds that live in ruins
,You are not permitted to eat large water-birds¹⁸ .or any other birds that live in ruins¹⁷
.crested birds, or bats

You must not eat any insect with wings and which swarm. They are unacceptable to¹⁹
.But other insects with wings are acceptable to eat²⁰ .Yahweh for you to eat

Do not eat any animal that has died naturally. You may allow foreigners who live²¹
among you to eat those things. You may also sell them to other foreigners. But you are a
Those who belong to him are not permitted to .people group that belongs to Yahweh our God
.eat the flesh of animals whose blood has not been drained out

.You must not cook a young sheep or goat in its mother's milk

Once each year you must set apart a tenth of all the crops that are produced in your²²
.Take them to the place that Yahweh our God will choose for you to worship him²³ .fields
There you must eat the tenth of your grain, your wine, your olive oil, and the meat of the
firstborn male animals of your cattle and your sheep. Do this in order that you may learn to
It could be that the²⁴ **.He has blessed you by giving you these things** .always honor Yahweh
place that Yahweh has chosen for you to worship him is very far from your home. As a
result, you might not be able to take the tenth of your crops which are a blessing from
In that case, you must sell the tenth of your crops. Then, wrap the money²⁵ .Yahweh
.carefully in a cloth and take it with you to the place of worship that Yahweh has chosen
,There, with that money, you may buy whatever you want to. It could be beef, lamb²⁶
wine, or fermented drinks. And there, in the presence of Yahweh, you and your families
But be sure to not neglect to help the²⁷ .should eat and drink those things and be happy
.descendants of Levi who live in your towns, because they will not own any land

At the end of every three years, bring a tenth of all your crops that have been²⁸
That food will be for the descendants of²⁹ .produced in that year and store it in your towns
,Levi, because they will not have their own land. That food will also be for the foreigners
to where the food orphans, and widows who live in your towns. They are permitted to come

and take what they need. Do that in order that Yahweh our God will bless you in **is stored**
.everything that you do

:Do it like this² .seven years, you must cancel all debts **every** At the end of¹ **15**

Each of you who has lent money to a fellow Israelite must cancel that debt. You must not insist that he pay it back. You must do that because Yahweh has declared that the debts

During that year you may require foreigners who³ .must be canceled every seven years live among you to pay what they owe you, but you must not demand that from any fellow

Yahweh our God will bless you in the land that he is giving to you. If you⁴⁻⁵ .Israelite obey Yahweh our God and obey all the commandments that I am giving to you today, there

Yahweh our God will bless you like he has⁶ .will not be any poor people among you promised to do. You will be able to lend money to people of other people groups, but you many people **the finances of** will not need a loan from any of them. You will influence
.groups, but they will not influence yours

In the towns that Yahweh our God is giving to you, if there are any Israelites who are⁷

Instead, be generous and lend them the⁸ .poor, do not be selfish and refuse to help them

When the year when debts will be canceled is near, do not think to⁹ .money that they need they will not need to pay it back. It **you should not lend anyone money because** yourself that would be evil to withhold help from a needy fellow Israelite. If you do that, he could pray you have sinned by not helping that **Yahweh will say that** to Yahweh against you. Then

Give freely to poor people and give generously. If you do that, Yahweh will¹⁰ .person

There will always be some poor people in your¹¹ .bless you in everything that you do .land, so I command you to give generously to poor people, to your fellow Israelites

to If any of your fellow Israelite men or women sell themselves to one of you¹² you must free them after they have worked for you for six years. When **,become your slave** When you free them, do not allow them to¹³ .the seventh year comes, you must free them Instead, give to them generously from the things with which Yahweh¹⁴ .go empty-handed

Do not forget that your ancestors were once¹⁵ .has blessed you—sheep, grain, and wine slaves in Egypt and that Yahweh our God freed them. So, I am now commanding you to do
.this

.It may happen that one of your slaves tells you they do not want to leave you¹⁶

In that¹⁷ .Perhaps he loves you and your household because you have treated him well case, take him to the door of your house. While he is standing against the doorway, pierce one of his earlobes with an awl. That will indicate that he will be your slave for the rest of
.who does not want to leave you his life. Do the same thing to any female slave

Do not complain when you are required to free your slaves. Keep in mind that they¹⁸ served you for six years, and that you paid them only half as much as you pay the servants .that you hire. If you free them, Yahweh our God will bless you in everything that you do

Set aside for the honor of Yahweh our God the firstborn male animals from your¹⁹ cattle and sheep. Do not force them to do any work for you, and do not shear the wool of Each year, you and your family must kill them and eat their meat²⁰ .the firstborn animals But if the²¹ .in the presence of Yahweh at the place that he chooses for you to worship him ,animals have any defects, if they are lame or blind, or if they have any other serious defect You may kill and eat the meat of those²² .you must not sacrifice them to Yahweh our God anyone is permitted just like ,may eat it animals in your towns. The impure and pure people But you must not eat any of the blood. You must²³ .the meat of a gazelle or a deer to eat .drain all the blood on the ground when you kill those animals

honor Yahweh our God in the early spring with the Passover Each year¹ 16 Celebration. It was on a night in the early spring that Yahweh rescued your families from In order to celebrate, go to the place that Yahweh will choose for you to worship² .Egypt When you eat the³ .him. There, sacrifice one young animal from your sheep or cattle Passover meal, the bread that you eat must not have yeast in it. You must eat this kind of bread, which will be called the bread of suffering, for seven days. This is to help you to When .that your families were suffering in Egypt because they were slaves always remember They did not have time to put in yeast and wait for the .they left Egypt, they left very quickly During the Passover Celebration, which will last for seven days, you must⁴ .dough to rise in your land. Furthermore, the meat of the animal that you in any house not have any yeast sacrifice on the evening of the first day of the Passover Festival must be eaten during that .night. Do not allow any of it to remain until the next day

You must offer the Passover sacrifice only at the place that he chooses for you to⁵⁻⁶ worship him. Do not offer that sacrifice in any other town in the land that Yahweh is giving to you. Offer that sacrifice when the sun is setting, at the same time of day that your Boil the meat and eat it at the place of worship that⁷ .ancestors started to leave Egypt Each day for⁸ .Yahweh our God chooses. The next morning, you may return to your tents six days the bread that you eat must have no yeast in it. On the seventh day, you must all .gather to worship Yahweh our God. You must not do any work on that day

.Each year, from the day that you start to harvest your grain, count seven weeks⁹ Then, to honor Yahweh our God, celebrate the Celebration of Weeks. Do that by¹⁰ bringing to him an offering of grain. Yahweh has blessed you by causing it to grow in your

fields during that year. If you had a big harvest, bring a big offering. If you had a small harvest, bring a small offering.¹¹ Each married couple should be joyful in the presence of Yahweh. Their children, their servants, the descendants of Levi who are in that town, and the foreigners, orphans, and widows who are living among you, should also be joyful. Bring those offerings to the place of worship that Yahweh will choose.

When you celebrate these festivals by obeying these commands, remember that your¹² families were slaves in Egypt.

Each year, after you have threshed all your grain and pressed the juice from all your¹³ grapes, you must celebrate the Festival of Shelters for seven days along with their children, their servants, the descendants of Levi who are in that town, and the foreigners, orphans, and widows who are living among you, should be joyful in the presence of Yahweh our God by celebrating this festival for seven days.¹⁴ Each married couple¹⁵ Honor Yahweh our God by celebrating this festival for seven days¹⁵ .presence of Yahweh in the place that he chooses for you to worship him. You should all be joyful, because Yahweh will have blessed your harvest and all the other work that you have done.

So, each year all of you Israelite men must gather to worship Yahweh our God at the¹⁶ place that he will choose, to celebrate three festivals: The Festival of Unleavened Bread, the Celebration of Weeks, and the Festival of Shelters. No one should come before Yahweh. The offerings should be in proportion to the blessings that Yahweh¹⁷ .without an offering has given you during that year.

Appoint judges and other officials throughout your tribes, in all the towns in the land¹⁸ They must not¹⁹ .that Yahweh our God is giving to you. They must judge people fairly, judge unjustly. They must not favor one person more than another. The judges must not accept bribes. If a judge accepts a bribe, even if he is wise and honest, it will be very difficult for him to judge fairly. He will do what the person who gave him the bribe wants. You must be completely fair and just, in order that you may live long enough²⁰ .him to do to occupy the land that Yahweh our God is giving to you.

When you make an altar to worship Yahweh our God, do not put next to it any²¹ And do not set up any stone pillar to²² .wooden pole that represents the goddess Asherah. worship any idol, because Yahweh hates them.

Do not sacrifice to Yahweh our God any cattle, sheep, or goat that has any¹ 17 defect. This is because Yahweh detests that kind of gift.

When you are living in the land that Yahweh our God is giving to you, suppose that² some man or woman in one of your towns sins by disobeying the agreement that Yahweh has made with you. Suppose that the person has worshiped other gods, the sun, the moon³ or the stars. Remember that I commanded you not to do this. Suppose that someone tells⁴ you of this idol worship, and you confirm that this detestable thing has happened in Israel. In that case, you must take the man or woman who has sinned outside of your town. Then⁵

At least two people must⁶ confirm that they saw the person sin before you execute that person. If only one person says the people who⁷ saw the sin happen, you must not kill the person who is accused. Then all the other people from that town should throw stones until the guilty person dies. By doing that, you will get rid of this evil practice from your community.

Sometimes it will be very difficult for a judge to decide what really happened. It⁸ could be that he must decide whether someone killed another on purpose or accidentally. Or, it could be that he must decide if one person or another has the legal right in a case. Or it could be that he must decide whether someone hurt another, or the property of another. If in any town it is very difficult to know what really happened, and the judge cannot decide it, you should go to the place where Yahweh our God will choose for you to worship him. There, you should explain the case to the descendants of Levi who are priests, and to the⁹ judge who is serving at that time. They should decide what should be done. After they¹⁰ make their decision, you must do what they tell you to do. Do not try to change in any way what they have decided, and do what they say that you should do. Do not try to change in any way what they have decided. You must execute anyone who proudly disobeys the judge or the¹² priest who stands there in the presence of Yahweh and decides what should be done. By Then after that¹³ doing that, you will get rid of this evil practice from all the Israelites. person is executed, all the people will hear about it, and they will be afraid. None of them will proudly disobey anymore.

After you occupy and live in the land that Yahweh our God is giving to you, you¹⁴ might want a king to rule over you, as the nearby peoples do. But, be sure that you appoint someone whom he has chosen. Your **permit you to have a king**. After he becomes the king¹⁶ king must be an Israelite. A foreigner cannot be your king. he should not own a large number of horses. He should not send people to Egypt to buy horses for him. Remember that Yahweh told you that you would never return to Egypt. And he must not marry a lot of wives. If he did that, they might cause him to stop¹⁷ again worshipping Yahweh. And he must not obtain a lot of silver and gold.

copy these laws. The scribe **appoint a scribe to** When he becomes your king, he must¹⁸
He must¹⁹ .must copy them from the scroll that is kept by the priests descended from Levi
keep this new scroll near him and read from it every day of his life This is so that he may
learn to have an awesome respect for Yahweh. Also, this is so that he may faithfully obey
If he does that, he will not²⁰ .all the rules and regulations that are written in these laws
think that he is more important than his fellow Israelites. And, he will completely obey
Yahweh's commands. As a result, he and his descendants will rule as kings in Israel for
..many years

The priests, who are all from the tribe of Levi, will not receive any land in¹ 18
..Israel. Instead, they will receive some of the food that other people offer to Yahweh
They will not receive any land like the other tribes will. What they will receive is the²
..honor of being Yahweh's priests, which is what he said that they should have

When the people bring an ox or a sheep to be sacrificed, they must give to the priests³
You must also give to them⁴ .the shoulder, the cheeks, and the stomach of those animals
the first part of the grain that you harvest, the wine and olive oil that you make, and the
You must do this because Yahweh our God has⁵ .wool that you shear from your sheep
chosen the tribe of Levi from all of your tribes. He did this so that they would always be the
..priests who would serve him

Suppose that a man from the tribe of Levi who has been living in one of the towns in⁶
In that case, he is⁷ .Israel wants to live in the place of worship that Yahweh has chosen
permitted to serve Yahweh there as a priest, just like the other men from the tribe of Levi
He must receive the same amount of food that the other⁸ .who have been serving there
priests receive. He may keep the money that his relatives receive for selling some of their
..and send to him possessions

When you enter the land that Yahweh our God is giving you, you must not imitate the⁹
You must not sacrifice¹⁰ .disgusting things that the people groups who are there now do
Do not try to use magic or omens to .on your altars any of your children by burning them
Do not put spells on¹¹ .discover what will happen in the future. Do not practice sorcery
Yahweh hates people who do any¹² .people. Do not try to talk with spirits of dead people
of those disgusting things. And as you advance through that land, he is going to drive out
But you must be completely¹³ .the people groups because they do those disgusting things
..and avoid doing any of those disgusting things pure for Yahweh

The people groups that you are about to expel from the land rely on magicians and¹⁴
Some day he¹⁵ .psychics. But as for you, Yahweh our God does not allow you to do that
On the day that your¹⁶ .will send from your people a prophet like me. You must obey him
ancestors were gathered at the bottom of Mount Sinai, they begged me for help. They told
me that they did not want Yahweh to speak to them again. They did not want to see the
They were afraid that they would die if Yahweh .that burned on the mountain huge fire
.spoke to them again

So I will send them a prophet from¹⁸ .Then Yahweh said to me, ‘I agree with them¹⁷
their people like you. I will tell him what to say, and then he will tell people everything that
He will speak for me. And I will punish anyone who does not obey¹⁹ .I tell him to say
There could be someone who pridefully says that he is a prophet and that²⁰ .what he says
his message comes from me, but I did not send him. Or, there could be someone who
speaks a message that he says other gods have revealed to him. You must execute those
,people

Maybe you wonder how you can tell if a message that someone tells you does not²¹
You will know that Yahweh did not send someone if what he said²² .come from Yahweh
will happen in the future does not occur. That person spoke pridefully. Do not worry about
.what he said

Yahweh our God will destroy the people groups from the land that he is¹ 19
.giving to you. You will drive them out from their towns and you start to live in their homes
you must divide into three parts the land that Yahweh is giving to you. Then²⁻³ ,After that
in order that people can get to those select a city in each part. You must make good roads
.Someone who kills another person can escape to one of those cities to be safe .cities easily

This is the rule for someone who has killed another person. If someone accidentally⁴
kills another person who was not his enemy, he may escape to one of those cities and be
There could be a case where two men go into the forest to cut some wood. The axe⁵ .safe
head might come off the handle while one of the men cuts wood. Then, the ax head might
hit and kill the other man. In that case, the man who was using the ax may run to one of
If there were only one⁶ .The people of that city will protect him .those cities and be safe there
the killer could be very far away from a safe city. A judge may ,city for the killer to run to
decide not to execute the killer because the killing was an accident. Then, a relative of the
.victim may seek revenge and kill the man in anger before the man can arrive at a safe city
.for this purpose Therefore, I order you to choose three cities⁷

Do everything that I am today commanding you to do. Love Yahweh our God and⁸⁻⁹ obey his instructions continually. If you do that, Yahweh our God will give you much more

You will receive all the land .than you will have when you first inhabit the land land according to what he promised your ancestors. When that happens, select three more cities As a result, innocent people will not die. And you¹⁰ .in the new land for people to escape to .will not be guilty for allowing them to die in the land that Yahweh is giving to you

In a case where someone hates his enemy, he might hide and wait for his enemy to¹¹ pass by. Then, he might attack and murder his enemy. In this situation, if the attacker flees are responsible for punishing the elders of the victim's hometown¹² to one of those cities .must send someone to the city where the attacker is hiding and arrest him the attacker. They .Then, they must bring him to the victim's relative, so that he may execute the attacker This is so that you Israelites will not .Instead, you must execute them !Do not pity killers¹³ .be responsible for the deaths of innocent people. This is also so that you may prosper

In the land that Yahweh is giving you, your ancestors placed stones to mark the¹⁴ .borders of properties. When you occupy that land, do not move those markers

If only one person testifies that someone sinned, do not punish that man. You may¹⁵ .only punish someone for a sin if two or more people testify that they saw the man sin

Both the accuser¹⁷ .Suppose that someone falsely testifies that they saw a man sin¹⁶ and the accused must go to the place of worship. There, they must talk to the priests and The judges must investigate the case carefully. If¹⁸ .judges who are serving at that time then the people must¹⁹ ,the judges discover that one man falsely testified against the other punish the false witness. The punishment must be the same as the punishment he suggested .for the man that he accused. As a result, you will get rid of this evil practice from Israel

The rest of the Israelites will learn about the punishment. They will be afraid of the²⁰ Do not pity that person. You must punish²¹ .punishment, so they will not testify falsely .him as severely as he injured someone else

When your soldiers go to fight your enemies, and you see that they have¹ 20 many horses and chariots and that their army is much bigger than yours, do not be afraid of them, because Yahweh our God, who brought your ancestors safely out of Egypt, will be When you are ready to start the battle, the high priest must stand in front of the² .with you He must say to them, 'You Israelite men, listen to me! Today you are going to³ .troops because Yahweh our God will go⁴ ,fight against your enemies. Do not be timid or afraid '.with you. He will fight your enemies for you, and he will enable you to defeat them

Then the army officers must say to the troops, ‘If anyone among you has just built a⁵ new house and has not dedicated it to God, he should go home and dedicate the house. If he .does not do that, if he dies in the battle, someone else will dedicate the house and live in it ,If anyone among you has planted a vineyard and has not yet harvested any grapes from it⁶ he should go home. If he stays here and dies in the battle, someone else will harvest the If anyone among you has become engaged to⁷ .grapes and enjoy the wine made from them marry a woman but has not married her yet, he should go home. If he stays here and dies in ’.the battle, someone else will marry her

Then the officers must also say, ‘If anyone among you is afraid or timid, he should go⁸ ’.home, in order that he does not cause his fellow soldiers to also stop being courageous When the officers have finished speaking to the troops, they must appoint commanders⁹ .over them

When you go up to a city that is far away to attack it, first tell the people there that if¹⁰ ,If they open the gates of the city and surrender¹¹ .they surrender, you will not attack them

But if they refuse to surrender¹² .they will all become your slaves to work for you peacefully and decide instead to fight against you, your troops must surround the city and ,Then, when Yahweh our God enables you to capture the city¹³ .break through the walls

But you are allowed to take for yourselves the¹⁴ .you must kill all the men in the city .women, the children, the livestock, and everything else that you want to take from the city

You will be allowed to enjoy all the things that belonged to your enemies, the things that You should do that in all the cities that are far from¹⁵ .Yahweh our God has given to you .the land in which you will settle

,But in the cities that are in the land that Yahweh our God is giving to you forever¹⁶ .You must get rid of them completely¹⁷ .you must kill all the people and all the animals ;Get rid of the Heth, the Amor the Canaan , the Periz, the Hiv, and the Jebus people groups If you do not do that, they will¹⁸ .that is what Yahweh our God commanded you to do teach you to sin against Yahweh our God and do the disgusting things that they do when .they worship their gods

When you surround a city for a long time, trying to capture it, do not cut down the¹⁹ fruit trees outside the city. You are allowed to eat the fruit from the trees, but do not destroy You are permitted to cut down²⁰ .the trees, because they certainly are not your enemies the other trees and use the wood to make ladders and towers to enable you to go over the ”.walls and capture the city

Suppose someone has been murdered in a field in the land that Yahweh our¹ 21

If that happens, your² .God is giving to you, and you do not know who killed that person
elders and judges must go out to where that person's corpse was found and measure the
Then the elders in the closest town must³ .distance from there to each of the nearby towns
They must take it to a place⁴ .select a young cow that has never been used for doing work
near a stream where the ground has never been plowed or planted. There they must break
The priests must go there also, because Yahweh our God has chosen them from⁵ .its neck
the tribe of Levi to serve him and to be his representatives when they bless people. And he
The elders⁶ .has also chosen them to settle disputes in which someone has been injured
,from the closest town must wash their hands over the young cow whose neck was broken
and they must say, 'We did not murder this person, and we did not see⁷ ,there in the valley
Yahweh, forgive us, your Israelite people whom you rescued from Egypt. Do⁸ .who did it
By doing that, you will be doing what⁹ '.not consider us to be guilty. Instead, forgive us
Yahweh considers to be right, and you will not be considered to be guilty for murdering
.that person

When you who are soldiers go to fight against your enemies, and Yahweh our God¹⁰
one of you may see among¹¹ ,enables you to defeat them, and they become your prisoners
He should take her¹² .them a beautiful woman that he likes, and he may want to marry her
to his home, and there she must shave all the hair off her head and cut her fingernails to
signify that now she does not belong to her people group anymore, but now she is
She must take off the clothes that she was wearing when she was¹³ .becoming an Israelite
captured, and put on Israelite clothes. She must stay in that man's house and mourn for a
,Later¹⁴ .month because of leaving her parents. After that, he will be allowed to marry her
if he no longer is pleased with her, he will be permitted to allow her to leave him. But
because she was shamed and was forced to sleep with him, he will not be allowed to treat
.her like a slave and sell her to anyone else

Suppose that a man has two wives, but he likes one of them and dislikes the other¹⁵
one. And suppose that they both give birth to sons, and that the oldest son is the child of the
On the day when that man decides which of his¹⁶ .woman that he does not like
possessions each son will obtain after he dies, he must not favor the son of the wife that he
He must give¹⁷ .loves by giving him the larger share that should go to the firstborn son
.two-thirds of his possessions to the older son, the son of the wife whom he does not like
.That son is his firstborn son, and he must be given the largest share

Suppose there is a boy who is very stubborn and is always rebelling against his¹⁸ parents, and who will not heed what they say to him. And suppose that they punish him but

If that happens, his parents must¹⁹ .he still does not pay attention to what they tell him take him to the gate of the city where they live and have him stand in front of the elders of

Then the parents must say to the elders of that city, ‘This son of ours is²⁰ .the city stubborn and always rebelling against us. He will not pay attention to what we tell him. He

Then all the elders of that city must execute him by²¹ .eats too much, and he gets drunk throwing stones at him. By doing that, you will get rid of this evil practice from among you. And everyone in Israel will hear about what happened and they will be afraid to do .what he did

,If someone is executed for having committed a crime for which he deserves to die²² you must not allow his corpse to remain there all²³ ,and you hang his corpse on a post ,night. You must bury it on the day that he died, because if you keep the corpse on a post God will curse the land. You must bury the corpse that day, in order that you do not defile .the land that Yahweh our God is giving to you

If you see an Israelite’s ox or sheep that has strayed away, do not act as¹ 22

But if the owner does not live near² .though you did not see it. Take it back to its owner you, or if you do not know who he is, take the animal to your house. It can stay with you You must³ .until the owner comes, searching for it. Then you must give the animal to him do that same thing if you see a donkey, a piece of clothing, or anything else that someone has lost. Do not refuse to do what you should do. Do not pretend to know nothing about the .matter

And if you see a fellow Israelite’s donkey or cow that has fallen down on the road, do⁴ not act as though you did not see it. Help the owner to lift the animal up so that it can stand .on its feet again

.Women must not wear men’s clothes, and men must not wear women’s clothes⁵ .Yahweh our God hates people who do things like that

If you happen to find a bird’s nest in a tree or on the ground, and the mother bird is⁶ .sitting in the nest on its eggs or with the baby birds, do not take the mother bird and kill it .You are permitted to take the baby birds, but you must allow the mother bird to fly away⁷ .Do this in order that things will go well for you and that you will live for a long time

If you build a new house, you must put a railing around the roof. In this way, you will⁸ .not be guilty of having caused someone’s death if a person falls from it and dies

Do not plant any crop in the area where your grapevines are growing. If you do, the⁹
.priests in Yahweh's sanctuary will seize both the seed and the harvest of that vineyard

.Do not hitch together an ox and a donkey for plowing your fields¹⁰

.Do not wear clothing that is made by weaving together wool and linen¹¹

Twist threads together to make tassels and sew them on the four bottom corners of¹²
.your cloak

Suppose a man marries a young woman and sleeps with her and later decides that he¹³
and suppose that he says false things about her, and claims¹⁴ ,does not want her anymore

If that happens, the young woman's¹⁵ .that she was not a virgin when he married her
parents must take the sheet that was on the bed when the man and their daughter were
married, which still has bloodstains on it, and show it to the elders of the city at the gate of

Then the father of the young woman must say to the elders, 'I gave my¹⁶ .the city
.daughter to this man to be his wife. But now he says that he does not want her anymore
And he has falsely said that she was not a virgin when he married her. But look! Here is¹⁷
what proves that my daughter was a virgin! Look at the bloodstains on the sheet where they

Then¹⁸ .slept the night that they were married!' And he will show the sheet to the elders
They shall require that he pay a¹⁹ .the elders of that city must take that man and whip him
,fine of one hundred pieces of silver and give the money to the father of the young woman
because the man has brought shame on an Israelite young woman. Also, that woman must
continue to live with him; she is his wife. He is not allowed to divorce her during the rest of
.his life

But if what the man said is true, and there is nothing to prove that she was a virgin²⁰
they must take that young woman to the door of her father's²¹ ,when he married her
house. Then the men of that city must execute her by throwing stones at her. They must do
that because she has done something in Israel that is very disgraceful, by sleeping with
some man while she was still living in her father's house. By executing her like that, you
.will get rid of this evil practice from among you

If a man is caught while he is sleeping with another man's wife, both of them must²²
.be executed. By doing that, you will get rid of this evil practice from Israel

Suppose in some town a man sees a young woman who is promised to be married to²³
You must take both of them to the gate²⁴ .another man, and he is caught sleeping with her
of that town, where the town leaders decide important matters. There you must execute
them both by throwing stones at them. You must execute the young woman because she did

not shout for help even though she was in the town. And the man must be executed because he slept with someone who was already promised to be married. By doing that, you will get rid of this evil practice from among you

But suppose out in the open countryside a man meets a young woman who is²⁵ engaged to be married, and he forces her to sleep with him. If that happens, only that man

You must not punish the young woman, because she did not do²⁶ .must be executed anything for which she deserves to be executed. This case is like when one man attacks because the man who forced her to²⁷ ,another man in the countryside and murders him sleep with him saw her when she was in the open countryside, and even though she called .out for help, there was no one there who could rescue her

,If a man forces a young woman who is not engaged to be married to sleep with him²⁸ that man must pay fifty pieces of silver²⁹ ,and if someone sees him while he is doing that to the young woman's father, and he must marry her, because he shamed her by forcing her .to sleep with him. He is not allowed to divorce her during the rest of his life

A man must not take what belongs to his father by sleeping with any of his father's³⁰ .wives

Any male person whose reproductive organs have been destroyed may not be¹ 23 .included as one of Yahweh's people

No illegitimate person or descendant of an illegitimate person, extending to the tenth² .generation, shall be included as one of Yahweh's people

No one from the Ammon or Moab people groups shall be included as one of³

One reason for this is that their⁴ .Yahweh's people, extending to the tenth generation leaders refused to give your ancestors food and water when they were traveling from Egypt to Canaan. Another reason is that they paid Balaam son of Beor from the town of Pethor in

But Yahweh our God did not pay attention to⁵ .Mesopotamia, to curse you Israelites .Balaam; instead, he caused Balaam to bless your ancestors, because Yahweh loved them

As long as Israel is a nation, you must not do anything to cause things to go well for⁶ .those two people groups to enable them to prosper

But do not despise anyone from the Edom people group, because they are⁷ descendants of your ancestor Isaac, just like you are. And do not despise people from The⁸ .Egypt, because they treated your ancestors well when they first lived in Egypt

grandchildren of people from Edom and Egypt who live among you now may be included
.among Yahweh's people

When your soldiers are living in camp in time of war, they must avoid doing things⁹
If any soldier becomes unacceptable to God¹⁰ .that would make them unacceptable to God
because semen comes out of his body during the night, the next morning he must go
But in the evening of that day, he must¹¹ .outside the camp and stay there during that day
.bathe himself, and at sunset he will be allowed to come back into the camp

Your soldiers must have a toilet area outside the camp where you can go when you¹²
When you go to fight against your enemies, carry a stick along with your¹³ .need to
weapons, in order that when you need to defecate, you can dig a hole with the stick, and
You must keep the camp¹⁴ .then cover up the hole when you have finished defecating
acceptable to Yahweh our God, because he is with you in your camp to protect you and to
enable you to defeat your enemies. Do not do anything disgraceful that would cause
.Yahweh to turn away from you

If slaves who escape from their masters come to you and request you to protect¹⁵
Allow them to stay among you, in¹⁶ .them, do not send them back to their masters
.whatever town they choose, and do not mistreat them

.Do not allow any Israelite man or woman to become prostitutes at the temple¹⁷
Also, do not allow any people who earned money from being a prostitute to bring any of¹⁸
that money into the temple of Yahweh our God, even if they solemnly promised to pay that
.money to him. Yahweh hates those who are prostitutes

When you lend money or food or anything else to a fellow Israelite, do not charge¹⁹
You are allowed to charge interest when you lend money to foreigners²⁰ .them interest
who live in your land, but not when you lend money to Israelites. Do this in order that
Yahweh our God will bless you in everything that you do in the land that you are about to
.enter and occupy

When you solemnly promise to give something to Yahweh your God or to do²¹
,something for him, do not delay in doing it. Yahweh expects you to do what you promised
But if you do not solemnly²² .and if you do not do it, you will be committing a sin
But if you voluntarily promise to do²³ .promise to do something, that is not sinful
.something, you must do it

When you walk through someone else's vineyard, you are allowed to pick and eat as²⁴
.many grapes as you want, but you must not put any in a container and take them away

When you walk along a path in someone else's field of grain, you are allowed to pluck²⁵ some of the grain and eat it, but you must not cut any grain with a sickle and take it with you.

Suppose a man marries a woman and later decides that he does not want her¹ 24 because there is something offensive, and he sends her away from his house. And suppose he writes a paper in which he says that he is divorcing her, and he gives the paper to her. Then suppose that she goes away. She is allowed to² and sends her away from his house. Suppose that that man later also decides that he does not like her, and³ marry another man that he also writes a paper in which he says that he is divorcing her, and he sends her away. If either of those things⁴ from his house. Or, suppose that the second husband dies, her first husband must not marry her again. He must consider that she has become unacceptable to Yahweh. Yahweh would consider it to be disgusting if he married her again. You must not sin by doing that in the land that Yahweh our God is giving to you.

When a man has just become married, he must not be required to become a soldier in⁵ the army or be required to do any other work for the government. He must be exempt from such work for one year after being married. He should stay at home and make his wife happy for that year.

Anyone who lends money to someone else is allowed to require that person to give⁶ him something to guarantee that he will pay back the money that he borrowed, but he must not take from him his millstone because that would be taking from the other person the millstone that his family needs to make flour for baking bread to stay alive.

If someone kidnaps a fellow Israelite to make that person his slave or to sell him to⁷ become someone else's slave, you must execute the person who did that. By doing that, you will get rid of this evil from among you.

If you are suffering from leprosy, be sure to do everything that the priests, who are⁸ from the tribe of Levi, tell you to do. Obey carefully the instructions that I have given to you. Do not forget what Yahweh our God did to Miriam, when she became a leper, as⁹ them your ancestors were coming out of Egypt.

When you lend something to someone, do not go into his house to take the cloak¹⁰ that he says that he will give you to guarantee that he will return what he has borrowed. Stand outside his house, and the man to whom you are lending something will bring the¹¹ cloak out to you. When the sun¹³ But if he is poor, do not keep that cloak overnight¹² .

,sets, take the cloak back to him, in order that he may wear it while he sleeps. If you do that
.he will ask God to bless you, and Yahweh our God will be pleased with you

Do not mistreat any servants whom you have hired who are poor and needy, whether¹⁴
,Every day, before sunset¹⁵ .they are Israelites or foreigners who are living in your town
you must pay them the money that they have earned. They are poor and they need to get
their pay. If you do not pay them right away, they will cry out against you to Yahweh, and
.he will punish you for having sinned like that

Parents must not be executed for crimes that their children have committed, and¹⁶
children must not be executed for crimes that their parents have committed. People should
.be executed only for the crimes that they themselves have committed

You must do for foreigners who live among you and for orphans the things that the¹⁷
laws state that must be done for them. And if you lend something to a widow, do not take
Do not forget that you had great¹⁸ .her coat from her as a guarantee that she will return it
.troubles when you were slaves in Egypt, and that Yahweh our God rescued you from there
.That is why I am commanding you to help others who have troubles

When you harvest your crops, if you have forgotten that you left one bundle in the¹⁹
field, do not go back to get it. Leave it there for foreigners, orphans, and widows. If you do
And when you have harvested all²⁰ .that, Yahweh will bless you in everything that you do
.your olives from the trees once, do not go back to pick the ones that are still on the trees
Similarly, when you pick the grapes in your vineyard, do not go back a second time to²¹
Do²² .try to find more. Leave them for the foreigners, orphans, and widows among you
not forget that Yahweh acted kindly toward you when you were slaves in Egypt. That is
”.why I am commanding you to be kind to those who are needy

If two Israelites have a dispute and they go to a court, the judge will¹ **25**
If the judge says that² .probably decide that one is innocent and that the other one is guilty
the guilty person must be punished, he shall command him to lie with his face on the
ground and be whipped. The number of times he is struck with a whip will depend on what
It is permitted that he be struck as many as forty times, but³ .kind of crime he committed
.no more than that. If he is struck more than forty times, he would be humiliated publicly

When your ox is walking on the grain to separate it from the chaff, do not prevent it⁴
.from eating some of grain

If two brothers live on the same property, and one of them who has no son dies, the⁵ man's widow should not marry someone who is not a member of his family. The dead

If she later⁶ .man's brother must marry her and sleep with her. It is his duty to do that gives birth to a son, that son is to be considered the son of the man who died, in order that .the dead man's name will not disappear from Israel

But if the dead man's brother does not want to marry that woman, she must stand at⁷ the city gate. She must say to the city leaders, 'My husband's brother refuses to marry me in order that I may give birth to a son who will prevent the dead man's name from Then the elders must summon that man and talk to him. Perhaps⁸ '.disappearing in Israel

In that case, she must go up to him while the⁹ .he will still refuse to marry that widow elders are watching, and take off one of his sandals to symbolize that he would not receive any of her property, spit in his face, and say to him, 'This is what happens to the man who refuses to do what is needed to allow his dead brother to have a son in order that our family

After that happens, that man's family will be known as 'the¹⁰ '.name does not disappear '.family of the man whose sandal was pulled off

When two men are fighting with each other, and the one man's wife comes up to¹¹ do not act¹² ,help her husband by grabbing hold of the other man's private parts .mercifully toward her; cut off her hand

When you are buying or selling things, do not try to cheat people by having two¹³⁻¹⁴ kinds of weights, one which you use when you buy something and one which you use when you sell something, or two kinds of measuring baskets, one which you use when you buy Always use correct weights¹⁵ .something and one which you use when you sell something and correct measuring baskets, in order that Yahweh our God will allow you to live a long Yahweh hates all those who act dishonestly, and¹⁶ .time in the land that he is giving to you .he will punish them

Continue to remember what the Amalek people group did to your ancestors when¹⁷ ,They attacked your ancestors as they were traveling¹⁸ .they were coming out of Egypt when they were weak and exhausted. Those people were not afraid of God at all, so they attacked your ancestors from the rear and killed all those who were unable to walk as fast Therefore, when Yahweh our God has given you the land that he promised¹⁹ .as the others to give you, and when he has enabled you to rest from fighting all your enemies around you, kill all the Amalek people group, with the result that no one will remember them !anymore. Do not forget to do this

After you occupy the land that Yahweh our God is giving to you, and you¹ 26

each of you must take some of the first crops that you harvest, put it in² ,have settled there
.a basket, and take it to the place that Yahweh will have chosen for you to worship there

Go to the high priest who is serving at that time and say to him, ‘By giving you this first³
part of my harvest today, I am declaring to Yahweh our God that I have picked it in the land

Then the priest must take the⁴ ’.that he solemnly promised to our ancestors to give to us
basket of food from your hand and put it on the altar where sacrifices are offered to Yahweh

Then in Yahweh’s presence you must say this: ‘My ancestor Jacob was a man⁵ .our God
from Aram and powerful nation. He took his family to Egypt. They were a small group
when they went there, but they lived there and their descendants became a very large and

Then the people of Egypt acted very harshly toward them, and they⁶ .powerful nation
Then our ancestors cried out⁷ .forced them to become their slaves and to work very hard
to you, Yahweh our God, and you heard them. You saw that they were suffering, and that
Then by your great power⁸ .they were forced to work very hard, and were being oppressed
and by performing many kinds of miracles, and other terrifying things, you brought them

.You brought us to this land and gave it to us, a land that is very fertile⁹ .out of Egypt
So now, Yahweh, I have brought to you the first part of the harvest from the land that I¹⁰
.received.’ Then you must set the basket down in Yahweh’s presence and worship him there

And you must celebrate by eating a meal together to thank Yahweh our God for all the¹¹
good things that he has given to you and to your family. And you must invite the
descendants of Levi and the foreigners who are living among you to also rejoice and eat
.with you

Every third year, you must bring to the descendants of Levi and to the foreigners¹²
who are living among you and the orphans and the widows a tithe of your crops, in order
Then you must say to Yahweh, ‘I have¹³ .that in every town they will have plenty to eat
brought to you, from my house, all of the tenth from my harvest this year, the tenth that I
have set aside for you. I am giving it to the descendants of Levi, to the foreigners, the
orphans, and the widows, as you commanded us to do. I have not disobeyed any of your
.commands about the tenth portion, and I have not forgotten any of your commands about it

I declare that I have not eaten any food from the tenth portion while I was mourning for¹⁴
someone who died. And I have not taken any of it out of my house while I was in any

.condition unacceptable to you; I have not offered any of it to spirits of dead people
Yahweh, I have obeyed you and done everything that you have commanded us concerning
,So please look down from your holy place in heaven, and bless us¹⁵ .the tenth portion
your Israelite people. Also bless this very fertile land which you have given to us, which is
,what you promised our ancestors that you would do

Today Yahweh our God is commanding you to obey all these rules and decrees. So¹⁶
Today you have declared that he is your¹⁷ .obey them faithfully, with all your inner being
God, and that you will conduct your lives as he wants you to do, and that you will obey all
And¹⁸ .his commands and rules and decrees, and that you will do all that he tells you to do
today Yahweh has declared that you are his people, which is what he promised that you
If you do that, he will cause¹⁹ .would be, and he commands you to obey all his commands
you to become greater than any other nation that he has established, and he will enable you
,to praise him and honor him. You are a special people to Yahweh, set apart and holy to him
”.just as he promised

Moses, along with the other Israelite leaders, said this to the people: “Obey all¹ 27
Soon you will cross the Jordan River² .the commandments that I am giving to you today
and enter the land that Yahweh, your God, promised to give to you. There, set up some
Write on those stones all these laws and³ .large stones and cover them with plaster
teachings, when you enter that very fertile land that Yahweh, the God whom our ancestors
When you have crossed the Jordan River, set up⁴ .worshiped, promised to give to you
And⁵ .some large stones on Mount Ebal, just as I told you, and cover them with plaster
build a stone altar there to offer sacrifices to Yahweh, but do not do any work on those
The altar that you make to burn sacrifices to Yahweh our God⁶ .stones with iron tools
And there you must sacrifice offerings to restore⁷ .must be made with uncut stones
fellowship with Yahweh, and you must eat your share of those offerings and rejoice in the
And, when you write these laws on those stones, you must write⁸ .presence of Yahweh
”.them very clearly

Then Moses, along with the priests, said to all the Israelite people, “You Israelite⁹
people, be quiet and listen to what I am saying. Today you have become the people who
So you must do what he tells you, and obey all the rules¹⁰ .belong to Yahweh, our God
”.and regulations that I am giving to you today

After you have crossed“¹² ,On that same day Moses said to the Israelite people¹¹
over the Jordan River, the tribes of Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin
And the tribes of¹³ .must stand on Mount Gerizim and request Yahweh to bless the people
Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali must stand on Mount Ebal and listen to
.the things that Yahweh will do when he curses the people

:The descendants of Levi must shout these words loudly¹⁴

Yahweh will curse anyone who carves a figure from wood or stone or casts a figure¹⁵
 .from metal, and secretly sets it up and worships it
 '.Yahweh considers that those things are detestable
 '.And all the people must reply, 'Amen
 '.Yahweh will curse anyone who dishonors his father or his mother¹⁶
 '.And all the people must reply, 'Amen
 Yahweh will curse anyone who removes someone else's markers of property¹⁷
 '.boundaries
 '.And all the people must reply, 'Amen
 '.Yahweh will curse anyone who leads a blind person to go in the wrong direction¹⁸
 '.And all the people must reply, 'Amen
 Yahweh will curse anyone who deprives foreigners or orphans or widow of the¹⁹
 '.things that the laws state must be done for them
 '.And all the people must reply, 'Amen
 Yahweh will curse anyone who shows no respect for his father²⁰
 '.by sleeping with any of his father's wives
 '.And all the people must reply, 'Amen
 '.Yahweh will curse anyone who sleeps with any animal²¹
 '.And all the people must reply, 'Amen
 '.Yahweh will curse anyone who sleeps with his sister or with his half-sister²²
 '.And all the people must reply, 'Amen
 '.Yahweh will curse anyone who sleeps with his mother-in-law²³
 '.And all the people must reply, 'Amen
 '.Yahweh will curse anyone who secretly murders someone else²⁴
 '.And all the people must reply, 'Amen
 ,Yahweh will curse anyone who, because someone else has given him a bribe²⁵
 '.murders someone who is innocent
 '.And all the people must reply, 'Amen
 Yahweh will curse anyone who by disobeying these laws refuses to declare that²⁶
 '.those laws are good
 '''.And all the people must reply, 'Amen

If you do what Yahweh our God tells you to do and faithfully obey¹ **28**
 everything that I am today commanding you to do, he will cause you to become greater

If you obey Yahweh, all these blessings will come to² .than any other nation on the earth
.you

He will bless everything that you do when you are in the cities³
.and he will bless every thing that you do when you are working in the fields

,He will bless you by giving you many children and by giving you abundant crops⁴
.and plenty of cattle and sheep

.He will bless you by giving you plenty of grain to make bread⁵

He will bless you everywhere—when you go out of your houses and when you⁶
.come into your houses

;Yahweh will enable you to defeat the armies of your enemies⁷
they will attack you from one direction, but they will run away from you in seven
.directions

Yahweh will bless you by filling your barns with grain, and he will bless all the⁸
;work that you do
.he will bless you in the land that he is giving to you

If you obey all the commandments that Yahweh our God has given to you and if you⁹
,live your lives by following his commandments, he will make you his own, his holy people
.which is just as he promised

Then all the people groups on the earth will realize that you belong to Yahweh, and¹⁰
.they will be afraid of you

,And Yahweh will cause you to prosper very much. He will give you many children¹¹
many cattle, and abundant crops in the land that he solemnly promised to our ancestors that
.he would give to you

At the time that rain is needed, Yahweh will send it from where he stores it in the¹²
sky, and he will bless all your work, with the result that you will be able to lend money to
.many other nations, but you will not need to borrow money from them

If you faithfully obey all of the commands of Yahweh our God that I am giving you¹³
;today, Yahweh will cause your nation to be superior to other nations, not inferior to them
.you will always be prosperous and you will never be needy

Yahweh will do all these things for you if you do not stop obeying what I am¹⁴
.commanding you today, and if you never worship other gods

But if you do not do what Yahweh our God is telling you to do, and if you do not¹⁵
faithfully obey all his rules and regulations that I am giving to you today, he will bring
.these curses upon you and he will let them have their full force against you

He will curse you when you are in the cities¹⁶
.and he will curse you when you are working in the fields

.He will curse you by not giving you much grain to make bread¹⁷

,He will curse you by giving you only a few children, by giving you poor crops¹⁸
.and by not giving you many cattle and sheep

He will curse you everywhere—when you go out of your houses and when you¹⁹
.come into your houses

,If you do evil things and reject Yahweh²⁰
he will curse you by causing you to be confused, and to be frustrated in all that you
,do
. until your enemies quickly and completely destroy you

,Yahweh will send terrible diseases on you²¹
.until not one of you remains alive in the land that you are about to enter and occupy

Yahweh will afflict you with diseases that shrivel your bodies, with fever, with²²
.inflammation

.It will be extremely hot, and it will not rain
.There will be scorching winds, and he will cause your crops to rot
.All these things will strike you until you die

No rain will fall from the sky, with the result that the ground will be as hard as²³
.iron

Instead of sending rain, Yahweh will send strong winds to blow sand and dust²⁴
.over your land, until your land is ruined

;Yahweh will enable your enemies to defeat you²⁵

your soldiers will attack them from one direction, but will run away from them in
seven directions

and when the people of other nations see what is happening to you, they will say
that it is horrible

,You will die, and birds and wild animals will come and eat your corpses²⁶

and there will not be anyone to scare them away

Yahweh will cause you to have boils on your skin, like he caused the people of²⁷
Egypt to have many years ago

He will cause you to have tumors, open sores, and your skin will itch, but there will
be nothing that will cure those diseases

Yahweh will cause some of you to become insane; he will cause some of you to²⁸
become blind, and he will cause some of your minds to become confused

Because you will not be able to see where you are going, at midday you will²⁹
grope around with your hands, like people do in the darkness

.You will not prosper in anything that you do

You will continually be oppressed and robbed, and there will not be anyone to help
you

Some of you men will be engaged to marry a young woman, but someone else³⁰
will forcibly sleep with her

.You will build houses, but you will never live in them

You will plant grapevines, but you will not eat the grapes; someone else will eat
them

Your enemies will butcher your cattle while you watch them, and you will not³¹
get any of the meat to eat

They will drag away your donkeys while you watch them do it, and they will not
give them back to you

They will take away your sheep; and there will not be anyone to help you rescue
them

While you watch, your sons and daughters will be given to foreigners to become³²
their slaves. Every day you will watch for your children to return, but you will watch in
.vain

People from a foreign nation will take all the crops that you worked hard to³³
.produce

.and they will constantly treat you harshly and cruelly

The result will be that all these terrible things that you see will cause you to³⁴
.become insane

Yahweh will cause your legs to be covered with painful boils that cannot be³⁵
.healed

.and you will have boils from the bottom of your feet to the top of your head

,Yahweh will cause your king and the rest of you to be taken to another country³⁶
,to a place in which you and your ancestors have never lived

.and there you will worship and serve gods that are made of wood or stone

When the people groups in nearby countries see what has happened to you, they³⁷
;will be shocked

.they will taunt you and make fun of you in every place where Yahweh drives you

You will plant plenty of seeds in your fields, but you will reap only a small³⁸
.harvest, because locusts will eat the crops

You will plant grapevines and take care of them, but you will not pick any³⁹
.grapes to make wine, because worms will eat the vines

Olive trees will grow everywhere in your land, but you will not get any olive oil⁴⁰
.to rub on your skin because the olives will drop on the ground before they are ripe

You will have sons and daughters, but they will not stay with you, because they⁴¹
.will be captured and taken away

.Swarms of locusts will eat your crops and the leaves of all your trees⁴²

Foreigners who live in your land will become more and more powerful, and you⁴³
.will become less and less powerful

They will have money to lend to you, but you will not have any money to lend to⁴⁴
.them

.They will be superior to you, and you will be inferior to them

All these disasters will happen to you and continue to happen to you until you are⁴⁵
destroyed, if you do not do what Yahweh your God told you to do, and do not obey all the
.rules and regulations that he gave to you

These disasters will solemnly warn you and your descendants forever what happens⁴⁶
.to groups who disobey Yahweh

Because Yahweh blessed you abundantly in many ways, you should have served him⁴⁷
.very joyfully, but you did not do that

.Therefore, you will work for the enemies whom Yahweh will send to attack you⁴⁸

You will be hungry and thirsty; you will not have clothes to wear; and you will lack
everything else that you need. And Yahweh will cause you to become slaves and work hard
.until he destroys you

Yahweh will bring against you an army from very far away, soldiers who speak a⁴⁹
.language that you do not understand. They will swoop down on you quickly like an eagle
They will be fierce looking. They will not act mercifully toward anyone, not even young⁵⁰

They will kill and eat your livestock, and they will eat your⁵¹ .children and old people
crops, and you will starve. They will not leave for you any grain or wine or olive oil or

Your enemies will surround your⁵² .cattle or sheep; and you will all die from hunger
towns throughout the land that Yahweh your God is about to give to you, and they will
break down the high and strong walls around your towns, walls which you trusted would
.protect you

When your enemies are surrounding your towns, you will be extremely hungry, with⁵³
the result that you will eat the flesh of your own sons and daughters that Yahweh your God

When your enemies have surrounded your towns, even the most⁵⁴⁻⁵⁵ .has given to you
gentle and sensitive men among you will want food very desperately, with the result that
they will kill their own children and eat their flesh, because they will not have anything else
to eat. They will not even share any of it with their brothers or wives whom they love very
Even the most gentle and⁵⁶⁻⁵⁷ .much or with any of their other children who are still alive
kind women among you, who are very rich with the result that they have never been forced
to walk anywhere, will do the same thing. When your enemies have surrounded your
towns, those women will be extremely hungry, with the result that after they give birth to a
child, they will secretly kill the baby and eat its flesh and also eat the afterbirth. And they

will not share any of it with their husbands whom they love very much or with any of their
.other children

If you do not faithfully obey all of the laws that I am writing, and if you do not have⁵⁸
he will punish you by sending on you⁵⁹ ,the utmost respect for Yahweh our glorious God
He⁶⁰ .and on your descendants great afflictions and plagues which will last for many years
will bring on you the plagues that he sent on the people of Egypt, and you will never be
He will also send on you many other sicknesses and diseases that I have not⁶¹ .healed
You became as numerous as the stars in⁶² .talked about in these laws, until you all will die
.the sky, but only a few of you will remain alive, if you do not obey Yahweh your God
Yahweh was very happy to do good things for you and to cause you to become very⁶³
numerous, but now he will be happy to ruin you and get rid of you. Those of you who do
not die from these plagues will be snatched away from the land that you will soon be
.entering to possess

Yahweh will scatter you among many people groups, all over the earth, and in those⁶⁴
places you will worship other gods that are made of wood or stone, gods which you and
In those areas you will not have any peace. You will⁶⁵ .your ancestors have never known
You will always be afraid that your enemies will kill⁶⁶ .feel hopeless and be discouraged
Because you will be very fearful and⁶⁷ .you. You will be very fearful, all day and all night
because you will very distressed because of the terrible things that you see, each morning
you will say ‘I wish it were evening already!’ and each evening you will say ‘I wish it were
Yahweh will send some of you back to Egypt in ships, even though⁶⁸ ’!morning already
he promised that you would never be forced to go there again. There in Egypt you will try
to sell yourselves to become slaves of your enemies in order to have food to eat, but no one
”.will buy you

These are the covenantal commands of Yahweh that the Israelites were¹ 29
required to obey. When they were in the region of Moab on the east side of the Jordan
River, Moses commanded them to keep these regulations. These regulations became part of
.the covenant that Yahweh had made with them at Mount Sinai

Moses summoned all the Israelite people and said to them, “You saw for yourselves²
You³ .what Yahweh did to the king of Egypt and to his officials and to his entire country
saw all the plagues that Yahweh sent on them, and all the various miracles that he
But to this day, Yahweh has not enabled you to understand the meaning of all⁴ .performed
For forty years Yahweh has led you while you traveled⁵ .that you have seen and heard
.through the desert. During that time, your clothes and your sandals have not worn out

You did not have bread to eat or wine or other fermented drinks to drink, but Yahweh⁶
.took care of you, in order that you would know that he is your God

,And when we came to this place, Sihon, the king who ruled in the city of Heshbon⁷
,and Og, the king who ruled the region of Bashan, came out with their armies to attack us
We took their land and divided it among the tribes of Reuben and⁸ .but we defeated them
.Gad, and half of the tribe of Manasseh

So obey faithfully all of this covenant, in order that you will prosper in everything⁹
Today all of us are standing in the presence of Yahweh our God—I, the¹⁰ .that you do
,your wives¹¹ ,leaders of all your tribes, your elders, your officials, all you Israelite men
your children, and the foreigners who live among us and cut wood for us and carry water
You are all here today to agree to accept this covenant with Yahweh, and to bind¹² .for us
He is making this agreement with you in order to make sure that you¹³ .yourselves to it
are his people, and that he is your God. This is what he promised to do for you, and what he
This¹⁴ .solemnly promised to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, that he would do
God is making this agreement with us who are here today¹⁵ .covenant is not only with you
.and also with our descendants who are not yet born

You remember the things that our ancestors suffered in Egypt, and how they traveled¹⁶
In those¹⁷ .through the land that belonged to other nations after they came out of Egypt
countries they saw those disgusting idols made of wood and stone and decorated with silver
So be sure that no man or woman or family or tribe that is here today turns¹⁸ .and gold
away from Yahweh our God, to worship any of the gods of those people groups. If you do
.that, you will bring disaster on yourselves

,Be sure that no one here today who hears the words of this covenant says to himself¹⁹
,Everything will go well with me, even if I stubbornly do what I want to.' If you do that
the result will be that Yahweh will eventually destroy all of you, both good people and evil
Yahweh will not forgive anyone who is stubborn like that. Instead, he will be²⁰ .people
extremely angry with that person, and all the curses that I have told you about will happen
From all the²¹ .to that person, until Yahweh destroys that person and his family forever
tribes of Israel, Yahweh will choose that individual to suffer all the disasters that I have
listed in the covenant—all the bad things that will happen to anyone whom Yahweh curses
.for disobeying the laws that I have written in this scroll

In future years, your descendants and people from other countries will see the²²
They will see that²³ .disasters and the illnesses that Yahweh has caused to happen to you
.all your land has been ruined by burning sulfur and salt. Nothing will have been planted

,Not even weeds will be there. Your land will resemble the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities of Admah and Zeboyim, which Yahweh destroyed when he was very angry And the people from those other nations will ask, ‘Why did Yahweh²⁴ .with those people ’?do this to this land? Why was he so angry with the people who lived here

Then other people will reply, ‘It is because they refused to obey the covenant that²⁵ they had made with Yahweh, the God whom their ancestors worshiped, when he brought Instead, they wroshiped other gods that they had never worshiped²⁶ .them out of Egypt So Yahweh became very angry²⁷ .before, gods that Yahweh had not told them to worship with the people of this land, and he has caused to happen to them all the disasters that their Yahweh became extremely angry with them and took them²⁸ .leader warned them about ’.out of their land, and threw them into another land, and they are still there

There are some things that Yahweh our God has kept secret, but he has revealed his²⁹ .law to us, and he expects us and our descendants to obey it forever

I have now told you about the ways that Yahweh our God will bless you if¹ 30
you obey him and the ways that he will curse you if you disobey him. But if you choose not to obey his laws, some day you will be living in the countries to which he will have
Then, if you and your children² .scattered you, and you will remember what I told you begin to worship Yahweh our God and faithfully obey all that I have today commanded you he will again act mercifully toward you. He will bring you back from the nations to³ ,to do
Even if you have⁴ .which he scattered you, and he will cause you to be prosperous again been scattered to the most distant places on the earth, Yahweh our God will gather you from
He will enable you to possess again the land⁵ .there and bring you back to your land where your ancestors lived. And he will cause you to be more prosperous and more
Yahweh our God will change your inner beings, with the⁶ .numerous than you are now result that you will love him with all that you desire and with all that you feel. And then
Yahweh our God will send all the disasters that I⁷ .you will continue to live in that land
As you did⁸ .have told you about on your enemies and on those who oppressed you before, you will do what Yahweh wants you to do, and you will obey all the commands that
Yahweh our God will cause you to be very prosperous in all⁹ .I have given to you today that you do. You will have many children and many cattle, and you will produce abundant crops. He will again be happy to enable you to prosper, just like he was happy to enable
But he will do those things only if you do what he has told¹⁰ .your ancestors to prosper you to do, and only if you obey all his rules and regulations that I have written about in this .book, and only if you turn to Yahweh with all that you desire and with all that you feel

,The commands that I am giving to you today are not very difficult for you to obey¹¹
They are not hidden in heaven. You do not need to¹² .and they are not difficult to know
'?say, 'Who can go up to heaven for us to bring them down here to us so we can learn them
And they are not on the other side of the sea. You do not need to say, 'Who will cross¹³
No, his commands are¹⁴ 'the sea for us and bring them back to us, so we can learn them
here with you. You know them, and you can say them again and again. So you can easily
.obey them

So listen! Today I am allowing you to choose between doing what is evil and doing¹⁵
what is good, between what will enable you to live for a long time and what will cause you
I say again, if you obey the decrees of Yahweh our God¹⁶ .to die while you are still young
that I am giving to you today, and if you love him and conduct your lives as he wants you
to do, and if you obey all his rules and regulations, you will prosper and become very
numerous, and Yahweh our God will bless you in the land that you are about to enter and
.possess

But if you stop worshiping Yahweh, and if you refuse to obey what he says, and if¹⁷
I am warning you today that¹⁸ ,you allow others to persuade you to worship other gods
you will soon die. Your people will not live for very long in the land that you are about to
.cross the Jordan River to enter and possess

I am requesting everyone in heaven and on the earth to testify to you, that today I¹⁹
am allowing you to choose whether you want to live for a long time or to soon die, whether
Decide to love²⁰ .you want Yahweh to bless you or to curse you. So choose to live
Yahweh our God and to obey him. If you do that, you and your descendants will live for a
,long time in the land that Yahweh solemnly promised to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac
".and Jacob, that he would give to them

I am 120 years"² ,When Moses finished saying all that to the Israelite people¹ 31
old. I am no longer able to go everywhere that you need to go, so I cannot be your leader
But³ .any longer. Furthermore, Yahweh has told me that I will not cross the Jordan River
Yahweh our God will go ahead of you. He will enable you to destroy the nations that are
living there, in order that you can occupy their land. Joshua will be your leader, which is
Yahweh will do to those nations what he did to Sihon⁴ .what Yahweh has already told me
and Og, the two kings of the Amor people group when he destroyed their armies and their
Yahweh will enable you to conquer those people groups, but you must kill⁵ .people groups
.Be brave and confident⁶ .all of those people, which is what I have commanded you to do

Do not be afraid of those people. Do not forget that it is Yahweh our God who will go with
”.you. He will always help you and never abandon you

Then Moses called Joshua to his side and said to him, “Be brave and confident. You⁷
are the one who will lead these people into the land that Yahweh promised to our ancestors
It is Yahweh who will⁸ .that he would give to them, and you will enable them to occupy it
.go ahead of you. He will be with you. He will always help you. He will never abandon you
”.So do not be afraid or dismayed

Moses wrote down all these laws and gave the scroll to the priests, who carried the⁹
Moses told them, “At the¹⁰ .sacred chest. He also gave the scroll to all the Israelite elders
end of every seven years, at the time that all debts are canceled, read this to the people
Read it to all the Israelite people when they gather at the¹¹ .during the Festival of Shelters
,Gather together everyone—men¹² .place that Yahweh chooses for them to worship him
women, children, even the foreigners who are living in your towns—in order that they may
hear these laws and learn to have an awesome respect for Yahweh our God, and to
.If they do that, your descendants¹³ .faithfully obey everything that is written in these laws
who have never known these laws, will hear them and will also learn to have an awesome
respect for Yahweh our God, during all the years that they live in the land that you are
”.about to cross the Jordan River to occupy

,Then Yahweh said to Moses, “Listen carefully. You will soon die. Summon Joshua¹⁴
and you will go to the sacred tent with him, in order that I may appoint him to be the new
.leader.” So Joshua and Moses went to the sacred tent

There Yahweh appeared to them in a pillar of cloud, and that cloud was over the¹⁵
Yahweh said to Moses, “You will soon die. Then these people will¹⁶ .entrance to the tent
become unfaithful to me. They will stop obeying the covenant that I made with them. They
will begin to worship the foreign gods that are worshiped by the people of the land that
When that happens, I will become very angry with them. I will abandon¹⁷ .they will enter
them and refuse to help them any longer. Many bad things will happen to them, and they
will be destroyed. Then they will say among themselves, ‘These things are happening to us
And because of all the evil things that they will¹⁸ ’.because our God is no longer with us
have done, and especially because they will have started to worship other gods, I will refuse
.to help them

So I am going to give you, Moses, a song. Write it on a scroll and teach it to the¹⁹
.Israelite people and make them memorize it. It will be like a witness that accuses them
I am about to take them into a very fertile land, a land that I solemnly promised their²⁰

ancestors that I would give to them. There they will have plenty to eat, with the result that their stomachs will always be full and they will become fat. But then they will turn to other gods and start to worship them, and they will despise me and break the covenant that I have

,And many terrible disasters will happen to them. After that happens²¹ .made with them their descendants will remember this song, and it will be like a witness that says, ‘Now you know why Yahweh punished your ancestors.’ I will soon take them into the land that I solemnly promised that I would give to them; but even now, before I do that, I know what So on the very day that²² ”.they are thinking that they will do when they are living there .Yahweh gave Moses that song, Moses also taught it to the Israelite people

,Then Yahweh appointed Joshua as leader and said to him, “Be brave and confident²³ because you will lead the Israelite people into the land that I solemnly promised that I ”.would give to them. And I will be with you

Then he told the descendants of²⁵ .Moses finished writing all the law onto a scroll²⁴ ,Levi, who were carrying the Sacred Chest that contained the Ten Commandments Take this scroll on which these laws are written, and place it beside the Sacred Chest²⁶ that contains the covenant that Yahweh our God made with you, in order that it may remain I say this²⁷ .there to testify about what Yahweh will do to the people if they disobey him because I know that these people are very stubborn. They have rebelled against Yahweh all !during the time that I have been with them, and they will rebel much more after I die So gather all the elders of the tribes and your officials, in order that I can teach them the²⁸ words of this song, and so that I can request all those who are in heaven and on the earth to ,I say this, because I know that after I die²⁹ .be witnesses to testify against these people the people will become very wicked. They will stop doing everything that I have ,commanded them to do. And in the future, because of all the evil things that they will do they will cause Yahweh to become angry with them. Then he will cause them to experience ”.disasters

:Then, while all the Israelite people listened, Moses sang this entire song to them³⁰

,Listen to me, all you who are in the heavens“¹ 32

.and all you who are on the earth, listen to what I say

,I wish that my song may help you like the rain helps you²

,or like the dew on the ground in the morning

,or like a gentle rain on the young plants

.like showers of rain on the grass

.I will praise Yahweh³

.And all you people should praise how great our God is
 ;He is like a rock on top of which we are protected⁴
 .everything that he does is perfect and completely just
 ;He always does what he says that he will do
 .he never does anything that is wrong
 ;But you Israelite people have been very unfaithful to him⁵
 .because of your sins, you no longer deserve to be his children
 .You are extremely wicked and deceitful
 ,You foolish and senseless people⁶
 ?is this the way that you should repay Yahweh for all that he has done for you
 ;He is your father; he created you
 .he caused you to become a nation
 ;Think about what happened long ago⁷
 .consider what happened to your ancestors
 ;Ask your parents, and they will inform you
 .ask the older people, and they will tell you
 When God, who is greater than any other god, long ago divided the people into⁸
 ,groups
 .he assigned to the nations their land
 He determined where each people group should live
 .and limited to each people group their own gods
 ;But Yahweh decided that we would be his people⁹
 .he chose us, the descendants of Jacob, to belong to him
 ,He saw our ancestors when they were in a desert¹⁰
 .wandering in a land that was desolate
 ,He protected them and took care of them
 .as every person takes good care of his own eyes
 Yahweh protected his people just like an eagle encourages its babies to fly¹¹
 ,and flutters over them
 .spreading its wings and catching them if they start to fall
 ;Yahweh was the only one who led them¹²
 .no other foreign god helped them
 ,After they entered the land that Yahweh promised to give to them¹³
 ;Yahweh enabled them to rule the hill country

.they ate the crops that grew in the fields
 ,They found honey in the rocks
 .and their olive trees grew even in stony ground
 ,The cows gave them plenty of curds; the goats gave them plenty of milk¹⁴
 ,they had well fed sheep and cattle
 ,they had very good wheat
 .and they made delicious wine from their grapes
 ,The Israelite people became rich and prosperous¹⁵
 ;but then they rebelled against God
 ,they abandoned him, the one who created them
 .the one who powerfully saves them
 .He abandoned them because they started to worship other gods¹⁶
 ,Because of their worshiping disgusting idols
 .he became angry
 ,They offered sacrifices to gods who were really demons¹⁷
 ;gods that their ancestors had never known
 ,they offered sacrifices to gods that they had recently found out about
 .gods whom your ancestors had never had any respect for
 ,They forgot the true God, the one who protects them¹⁸
 .the one who created them and caused them to live
 ,When Yahweh saw that they had abandoned him, he became angry¹⁹
 .so he rejected the Israelite people who were like his sons and daughters
 ,He said, 'They are very wicked people²⁰
 ;very unfaithful
 ,so I will no longer help them
 .and then I will watch and see what happens to them
 ,Because they now are worshiping idols, which are not really gods²¹
 they have caused me to be like a jealous husband because I want them to worship only
 .me
 ,So now, in order to cause them to become angry
 .I will now send to attack them an army of a nation of worthless and foolish people
 I will be very angry, and I will destroy them²²
 ;like a fire that will burn all the way down to the place where dead people are
 ,that fire will destroy the earth and everything that grows on it

.and it will even burn what is down under the mountains
 ;I will pile up on them many disasters²³
 .they will feel as though I am shooting all my arrows on them
 They will die because of being hungry and because of having hot fevers²⁴
 ;and because of terrible diseases
 ,I will send wild animals to attack them
 .and poisonous snakes to bite them
 ,Outside their houses, their enemies will kill them with swords²⁵
 .and in their homes, their enemies will cause them to be terrified
 ,Their enemies will kill young men and young women
 .and they will kill infants and old people with gray hair
 I wanted only to scatter them to distant countries²⁶
 .in order that no one would ever remember them
 But if I did that, their enemies would wrongly boast²⁷
 ;that they were the ones who had gotten rid of my people
 ;they would say, "We are the ones who defeated them
 ".it was not Yahweh who has done all these things
 .You Israelites are a nation of people who do not have any sense²⁸
 .None of you are wise
 ;If you were wise, you would understand why you would be punished²⁹
 .you would have realized what was going to happen to you
 You would have realized why a thousand of your soldiers would be defeated by only³⁰
 ,one of the enemy soldiers
 .and why two of your enemies would chase away ten thousand Israelite soldiers
 You would realize that this would happen only if God, the one who always defended
 ,you, had put you in the hands of your enemies
 .that Yahweh had abandoned you
 ,Your enemies know that their gods are not powerful like Yahweh, our God³¹
 .so their gods could not have defeated us Israelites
 Your enemies are like grapevines planted near the ruins of the cities of Sodom and³²
 ;Gomorrah
 .the grapes from those vines are bitter and poisonous
 .The wine from those grapes is like the poison of snakes³³

Yahweh says, 'I know what I have planned to do to the Israelite people and to their³⁴
 ,enemies
 .and I have locked up those plans as someone would lock up his valuable possessions
 I am the one who will get revenge and pay those enemies back for what they have³⁵
 ,done to my people
 ;at the right time for them to be punished
 ,they will soon experience disasters
 '.and I will punish them quickly
 ,But Yahweh will say that you who are truly his people are innocent³⁶
 ,and he will act mercifully toward you who serve him
 ,when he sees that you are helpless
 .and that there are very few of you, slaves or free people, who are still alive
 Then Yahweh will ask you, 'Where are the gods³⁷
 ?that you thought would protect you
 ,You gave to those gods the best parts of the animals that you sacrificed³⁸
 .and you poured out wine for them to drink
 ;So they should rise and help you
 !they should be the ones who will protect you
 ;But now you will realize that I, only I, am God³⁹
 .there is no other god who is a real god
 ;I am the one who can kill people and who can cause people to live
 ,I can wound people, and I can heal people
 .and there is no one who can prevent me from doing those things
 I raise my hand toward heaven and solemnly declare⁴⁰
 .that just as sure as I live forever, I will act
 When I sharpen my sword⁴¹
 ,and prepare to punish people
 ,I will get revenge on my enemies
 .and I will pay back those who hate me
 ;I will kill all of my enemies with a sword⁴²
 .it will be as though I had arrows that were covered with their blood
 I will kill all those whom I capture
 '.and cut off their heads
 ,You people of all nations, you should praise Yahweh's people⁴³

,because Yahweh gets revenge on those who kill the people who serve him
and he cleanses his people's land
".which has become defiled because of their sins

Then⁴⁵ .Joshua and Moses sang that song while the Israelite people were listening⁴⁴
Moses said, "Never forget all these commands⁴⁶ .they finished singing to them this song
that I have been giving you today. Teach these laws to your children, in order that they will
These instructions are very important. If you obey them, you⁴⁷ .faithfully obey all of them
".will live a long time in the land that you are about to cross the Jordan River to occupy

Go to the Abarim mountain range"⁴⁹ ,On that same day, Yahweh said to Moses⁴⁸
here in the region of Moab, across from Jericho. Climb Mount Nebo and look toward the
You will die⁵⁰ .west to see Canaan, the land that I am about to give to the Israelite people
You will die⁵¹ .on that mountain, like your older brother Aaron died on Mount Hor
because both of you disobeyed me in the presence of the Israelite people, when you all
were at the springs of Meribah near Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin. You did not honor and
respect me in the presence of the Israelite people in the way that I deserve because I am
When you are on that mountain where I told you to go, you will see in the distance⁵² .God
in front of you the land that I am about to give to the Israelite people, but you will not enter
".it

.Before God's prophet Moses died, he asked God to bless the Israelite people¹ **33**

:This is what he said²

;Yahweh came and spoke to us at Mount Sinai"
he came like the sun rises in the region of Edom
and like his light shone on us when we were in the desert near Mount Paran after we
.left Mount Sinai

,He came with ten thousand angels
.and there was a flaming fire at his right side

Yahweh truly loves his people³
.and protects all those who belong to him
,So they prostrate themselves in front of him
.and they listen to his instructions

,I gave them laws to obey⁴
.laws that would forever be for the descendants of Jacob

So Yahweh became the king of his Israelite people⁵

.when all the tribes and their leaders had gathered together

:I say this about the tribe of Reuben⁶

,I desire that their tribe will never disappear

.but that they will never become numerous

:I say this about the tribe of Judah⁷

;Yahweh, listen to them when they call out for help

.and after they separate from the other tribes, unite them with the other tribes again

,Fight for them

.and help them to fight against their enemies

:I say this about the tribe of Levi⁸

Yahweh, give to those who are dedicated to you the sacred stones that they will use to

;find out what you want to be done

You tested them at a spring in the desert, a spring that they named Massah and also

named Meribah

.to find out if they would remain loyal to you

The tribe of Levi did what you told them to do⁹

;and obeyed the covenant that you had made with the Israelite people

those laws were more important to them

.than their siblings and parents and children

,The tribe of Levi will teach the Israelite people your decrees and your laws¹⁰

and they are the ones who will burn incense and who will completely burn on the altar

.the offerings that the people bring

Yahweh, bless their work¹¹

.and accept all that they do

;Crush all their enemies

.do not enable their enemies to be able to fight against them again

:I say this about the tribe of Benjamin¹²

;They are the tribe that Yahweh loves

.he keeps them safe

,He protects them continually

.and he lives among their hills

:I say this about the tribes of Joseph¹³

I desire that Yahweh will bless their land
by giving them rain from the sky
and water from deep down in the ground

I desire that Yahweh will bless their land by giving them good fruit ripened by the¹⁴
sun
and good crops in the right months

I desire that Yahweh give them that very nice fruit that will grow on trees in their¹⁵
ancient mountains

I desire that Yahweh will bless their land and that he fill the land with many good¹⁶
crops

I desire that Yahweh will bless the tribes of Joseph in all those ways
because he was the leader over his older brothers when they were in Egypt

;The descendants of Joseph will be as strong as a bull¹⁷
with their weapons they will wound their enemies like a wild ox gores other animals
with its horns

They will push other people groups
all of them, to the most distant places on the earth
That is what the descendants of the two sons of Joseph will do
the ten thousands of the tribe of Ephraim and the thousands of the tribe of Manasseh

:I say this about the tribes of Zebulun and Issachar¹⁸

I desire that the people of Zebulun will prosper in their travels across the seas
and that the people of Issachar will prosper while they stay at home and take care of
their cattle and crops

They will invite people from the other Israelite tribes to the mountain where they¹⁹
worship Yahweh
and they will offer correct sacrifices to him

They will become rich from the trade that they carry out on the seas
and from using the sand along the sea to make things

:I say this about the tribe of Gad²⁰

Praise Yahweh, the one who made their territory large
The people of their tribe will attack their enemies fiercely like a lion that crouches
waiting to tear off the arm or the scalp of some animal

;They chose the best part of the land for themselves²¹
.a large share of the land, a share that should be given to a leader was allotted to them
,When the leaders of the tribes of Israel gathered together
.they decided that the tribe of Gad should have a large share of the land
The tribe of Gad obeyed the commands of Yahweh and the things that he decided that
.they should do

:I say this about the tribe of Dan²²

;The people of the tribe of Dan are like a young lion
.they leap out from their caves in the region of Bashan to attack their enemies

:I say this about the tribe of Naphtali²³

The people of the tribe of Naphtali have been blessed by Yahweh, who has been very
;kind to them
.their land extends far south from Lake Galilee

:I say this about the tribe of Asher²⁴

.Yahweh will bless the descendants of Asher more than he will bless the other tribes
.Yahweh will favor them most of all
I desire that their land will be filled with olive trees that will produce a lot of olives to
.make olive oil

Their towns will be protected by high walls with gates that have bronze and iron²⁵
;bars

.I desire all the time that they live and not be harmed by anyone

,You people of Israel, there is no god like your God²⁶
.who rides majestically across the sky to help you

;God, who lives forever, is the one who gives you refuge²⁷
.it is as though he puts his everlasting arms under you to support you

;He will drive out your enemies while you advance
.he has told you to destroy all of them

;So you Israelite people will live safely²⁸

;you descendants of Jacob will not be disturbed by others
,in the land where you will live, there will be plenty of grain and wine
.and plenty of rain will fall from the sky

.You people of Israel, how fortunate are you²⁹

,There is certainly no nation like your nation
.whom Yahweh has rescued from being slaves in Egypt
He will be like a shield to protect you
.and like a sword to enable you to defeat your enemies
,Your enemies will come to you begging for you to act mercifully toward them
”.but you will trample on their backs

Then Moses climbed up from the plains in the region of Moab to Mount¹ 34
.Nebo, to the highest point on Mount Pisgah, which is across the Jordan River from Jericho
There Yahweh showed him all the land that the Israelites would occupy. He showed him the
all the land that the tribe of Naphtali² ;region of Gilead as far north as the city of Dan
would occupy; all the land that the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh had occupied; all the
the desert³ ;land that the tribe of Judah would occupy as far west as the Mediterranean Sea
area in the south part of Judah; and the Valley of the Jordan that extends from Jericho in the
Then Yahweh said to him, “You have now seen this⁴ .north to the city of Zoar in the south
land that I solemnly promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying ‘I will give it to your
”.descendants.’ I have allowed you to see it from a distance, but you will not go there

So Moses, who always served Yahweh faithfully, died there in the land of in Moab⁵
Yahweh buried Moses’ body in the valley in⁶ .which is what Yahweh said would happen
the land of Moab, across from the town of Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where
Moses was 120 years old when he died, but he was still very strong, and he⁷ .he is buried
The Israelite people mourned for him in the plains of Moab for⁸ .could still see very well
.thirty days

God caused Joshua to be very wise, because Moses had put his hands on Joshua to⁹
appoint him to be their new leader. The Israelite people obeyed Joshua, and they obeyed all
.the commands that Yahweh had given to Moses to tell to the Israelite people

,Since the time that Moses lived, there has never been a prophet in Israel like him¹⁰
No other prophet has performed all the kinds of¹¹ .for Yahweh spoke with him face to face
powerful miracles that Yahweh caused him to do against Pharaoh, king of Egypt, against all
No other prophet has been able to perform¹² .his servants, and against the people of Egypt
.all the great and terrifying deeds that Moses performed while all the Israelites watched