

unfoldingWord® Simplified Text

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Numbers

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Numbers

1 *It was* the first day of the second month of the year after
the Israelite people had left Egypt. *While the Israelite*
people were in the desolate area around Sinai, Yahweh spoke
to Moses in the sacred tent. Yahweh told him, 2 "Count all the
men among the whole Israelite community, one by one. List
them by name by their tribal groups and ancestral families.
3 *Only include* the men who are at least 20 years old and can
be soldiers. You and Aaron must list them by their army
divisions. 4 One man from each tribe will help you and Aaron
do this. These men must *already* be leaders of their ancestral
families. 5 Here are the names of these men who will help
you and Aaron: Shedeur's son Elizur, who is from *the tribe of*
Reuben; 6 Zurishaddai's son Shelumiel, who is from *the tribe*
of Simeon; 7 Amminadab's son Nahshon, who is from *the*
tribe of Judah; 8 Zuar's son Nethanel, who is from *the tribe of*
Issachar; 9 Helon's son Eliab, who is from *the tribe of* Zebulun;
10 Ammihud's son Elishama, who is from *the tribe of* Joseph's
son Ephraim; Pedahzur's son Gamaliel, who is from *the tribe*
of Joseph's son Manasseh; 11 Gideoni's son Abidan, who is
from *the tribe of* Benjamin; 12 Ammishaddai's son Ahiezer,
who is from *the tribe of* Dan; 13 Okran's son Pagiel, who is
from *the tribe of* Asher; 14 Deuel's son Eliasaph, who is from
the tribe of Gad; 15 *and* Enan's son Ahira, who is from *the tribe*
of Naphtali."

16 Yahweh chose these men from the community. They
were *already* leaders of their ancestral tribes, and they led
the clans of the Israelite people.

17 Moses and Aaron summoned these men whose names
Yahweh had listed. 18 Moses and Aaron gathered the whole
Israelite community on *that same day*, the first day of the
second month. Then the men who were at least 20 years old
registered themselves by name, one by one. *They registered*
themselves according to their tribal groups and ancestral
families. 19 So, Moses did exactly what Yahweh ordered him
to do. Moses listed these men in the desolate area around
Sinai.

20–21 Moses and Aaron counted 46,500 men who were
descendants of Reuben, who was Jacob's oldest son. They
listed the names of these men by their tribal groups and
ancestral families, one by one. These men were at least 20
years old and could be soldiers.

22–23 Moses and Aaron counted 59,300 men who were
descendants of Simeon. They listed the names of these men
by their tribal groups and ancestral families, one by one.
These men were at least 20 years old and could be soldiers

24–25 Moses and Aaron counted 45,650 men who were
descendants of Gad. They listed their names by their tribal
groups and ancestral families. These men were at least 20
years old and could be soldiers.

26–27 Moses and Aaron counted 74,600 men who were
descendants of Judah. They listed their names by their tribal
groups and ancestral families. These men were at least 20
years old and could be soldiers.

28–29 Moses and Aaron counted 54,400 men who were
descendants of Issachar. They listed their names by their
tribal groups and ancestral families. These men were at least
20 years old and could be soldiers.

30–31 Moses and Aaron counted 57,400 men who were
descendants of Zebulun. They listed their names by their
tribal groups and ancestral families. These men were at least
20 years old and could be soldiers.

32–33 Moses and Aaron counted 40,500 men who were
descendants of Joseph's son Ephraim. They listed their names
by their tribal groups and ancestral families. These men were
at least 20 years old and could be soldiers.

34–35 Moses and Aaron counted 32,200 men who were
descendants of *Joseph's son* Manasseh. They listed their names
by their tribal groups and ancestral families. These men were
at least 20 years old and could be soldiers.

36–37 Moses and Aaron counted 35,400 men who were
descendants of Benjamin. They listed their names by their
tribal groups and ancestral families. These men were at least
20 years old and could be soldiers.

38–39 Moses and Aaron counted 62,700 men who were
descendants of Dan. They listed their names by their tribal
groups and ancestral families. These men were at least 20
years old and could be soldiers.

40–41 Moses and Aaron counted 41,500 men who were
descendants of Asher. They listed their names by their tribal
groups and ancestral families. These men were at least 20
years old and could be soldiers.

42–43 *Finally,* Moses and Aaron counted 53,400 men who
were descendants of Naphtali. They listed their names by
their tribal groups and ancestral families. These men were
at least 20 years old and could be soldiers.

44 Moses and Aaron listed *all* these men. The 12 men
who led the Israelite people, one from each ancestral family,
helped them list *the men*. 45 These men were all the Israelites
whom Moses, Aaron, and the 12 leaders listed by their
ancestral families. These men were at least 20 years old
and could be soldiers for the Israelite people. 46 They listed
603,550 men in total.

47 However, they did not list the Levites by their ancestral
tribe along with the other tribes. 48 *That was* because Yahweh
had told Moses, 49 "Do not list the Levites. Do not count them
along with the *other* Israelites. 50 Moses, order the Levites
to manage the sacred tent, its equipment, and everything
that goes with it. They must be the ones who transport
the sacred tent and its equipment. They must be the ones
who take care of it. They must set up their tents around it.
51 The Levites must disassemble the sacred tent whenever the
Israelites leave *a place*. The Levites must set it up whenever
the Israelites set up their tents *in a new place*. If anyone who
is not a Levite approaches the sacred tent, someone must
execute that person. 52 When the Israelites set up their tents,
they must do so by their army divisions, with the rest of their
tents and near their own tribal flags. 53 The Levites must set
up their tents around the sacred tent. That way, Yahweh
does not become angry with the Israelite community. The
Levites must guard the sacred tent."

54 So the Israelites did exactly everything that Yahweh
had ordered Moses *to tell them to do*.

2 Then Yahweh told Moses and Aaron, 2 "The Israelites
must set up their tents near their own tribal flags and
the emblems that represent their ancestral families. They
must set up their tents around the sacred tent at a distance
from it. 3 Those *Israelite tribes* who set up their tents on the
eastern side *of the sacred tent* must be together near the tribal

flag that belongs to the descendants of Judah. *They must set up their tents* by their army divisions. Amminadab's son Nahshon leads the descendants of Judah. 4 The soldiers he leads are the 74,600 men *from his tribe* whom you listed. 5 The people of Issachar tribe must set up their tents next to *the tents of* the descendants of Judah. Zuar's son Nethanel leads the descendants of Issachar. 6 The soldiers he leads are the 54,400 men *from his tribe* whom you listed.

7 The people of Zebulun tribe *must also set up their tents next to the tents of the descendants of Judah*. Helon's son Eliab leads the descendants of Zebulun. 8 The soldiers he leads are the 57,400 men *from his tribe* whom you listed. 9 For Judah tribe and the two tribes that set up their tents near Judah tribe, you listed 186,400 men in total by their army divisions. These three tribes will start walking first *whenever the Israelites* leave *a place*.

10 The tribal flag that belongs to the descendants of Reuben must be on the southern side *of the sacred tent*. *The tribes that set up their tents on this side must do so* by their army divisions. Shedeur's son Elizur leads the descendants of Reuben. 11 The soldiers he leads are the 46,500 men *from his tribe* whom you listed. 12 The people of Simeon tribe must set up their tents next to *the tents of* the descendants of Reuben. Zurishaddai's son Shelumiel leads the descendants of Simeon. 13 The soldiers he leads are the 59,300 men *from his tribe* whom you listed. 14 The people of Gad tribe *must also set up their tents next to the tents of the descendants of Reuben*. Reuel's son Eliasaph leads the descendants of Zebulun. 15 The soldiers he leads are the 45,650 men *from his tribe* whom you listed. 16 For Reuben tribe and the two tribes that set up their tents near Reuben tribe, you listed 151,450 men in total by their army divisions. These three tribes will start walking second *whenever the Israelites* leave *a place*.

17 *Whenever the Israelites* leave *a place*, the descendants of Levi must carry the sacred tent. They must travel in the middle, between the other tribes. The Israelites must leave in the exact same order in which they set up their tents. All the people must be in their correct places near their tribal flags.

18 The tribal flag that belongs to the descendants of Ephraim must be on the western side *of the sacred tent*. *The tribes that set up their tents on this side must do so* by their army divisions. Ammihud's son Elishama leads the descendants of Ephraim. 19 The soldiers he leads are the 40,500 men *from his tribe* whom you listed. 20 The people of Manasseh tribe *must set up their tents* next to *the tents of* the descendants of Ephraim. Pedahzur's son Gamaliel leads the descendants of Manasseh. 21 The soldiers he leads are the 32,200 men *from his tribe* whom you listed. 22 The people of Benjamin tribe *must also set up their tents next to the tents of the descendants of Ephraim*. Gideoni's son Abidan leads the descendants of Benjamin. 23 The soldiers he leads are the 35,400 men *from his tribe* whom you listed. 24 For Ephraim tribe and the two tribes that set up their tents near Ephraim tribe, you listed 108,100 men in total by their army divisions. These three tribes will start walking third *whenever the Israelites* leave *a place*.

25 The tribal flag that belongs to the descendants of Dan must be on the northern side *of the sacred tent*. *The tribes that set up their tents on this side must do so* by their army divisions. Ammishaddai's son Ahiezer leads the descendants of Dan. 26 The soldiers he leads are the 62,700 men *from his tribe* whom you listed. 27 The people of Asher tribe must set up their tents next to *the tents of* the descendants of Dan. Okran's son Pagiel leads the descendants of Asher. 28 The soldiers he leads are the 41,500 men *from his tribe* whom you listed. 29 The people of Naphtali tribe *must also set up their tents next to the tents of the descendants of Dan*. Enan's son Ahira leads the descendants of Naphtali. 30 The soldiers he leads are the 53,400 men *from his tribe* whom you listed. 31 For Dan tribe and the two tribes that set up their tents near Dan tribe, you listed 157,600 men in total. These three tribes will start walking last, near their tribal flags, *whenever the Israelites* leave *a place*."

32 These are the Israelites whom Moses and Aaron listed by their ancestral families. They listed 603,550 men in total who set up their tents by their army divisions. 33 However, they did not list the Levites along with the other Israelites. That is what Yahweh had ordered Moses *to do*. 34 So the Israelites did exactly everything that Yahweh had ordered Moses *to tell them to do*. They set up their tents by their own tribal flags, and they left *each campsite* by their tribal groups and ancestral families.

3 Here is a list of the descendants of Aaron and Moses at the time when Yahweh and Moses talked on Mount Sinai. 2 Aaron's oldest son was Nadab, and his other sons were Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. 3 Those are Aaron's sons, and they were priests. Moses had poured olive oil on them *to appoint them as priests*, and he had commissioned them to be priests. 4 However, Nadab and Abihu died in front of where Yahweh was present because they presented to him burning coals that he had not authorized. *This happened while they were* in the desolate area around Sinai. Nadab and Abihu did not have any sons. So, *only* Eleazar and Ithamar were priests with their father Aaron.

5 Yahweh told Moses, 6 "Summon the descendants of Levi and order them to stand in front of Aaron the priest. They must help Aaron. 7 They must guard Aaron and the whole *Israelite* community at the sacred tent as they set up and take down the sacred tent. 8 They must guard all the equipment for the sacred tent and the Israelites. *They must do that* as they set up and take down the sacred tent. 9 Moses, assign the Levites to serve Aaron and his sons. Out of all the Israelites, I have assigned the Levites exclusively to serve Aaron *and his sons*. 10 List Aaron and his sons *as priests*. They must make sure that no one else serves as a priest. If anyone who is not a Levite approaches *the sacred tent*, someone must execute that person."

11 Yahweh also told Moses, 12 "Note that it is I who have appointed the Levites out of all the Israelites *to serve me*. *They serve me* in place of the oldest *male* from every Israelite family. So the Levites belong to me. 13 *That is* because the oldest male from every Israelite family belongs to me. I set apart the oldest male of every Israelite family and the oldest male offspring of all their farm animals when I killed the oldest male from every Egyptian family in Egypt. *So,* the eldest males belong to me. I am Yahweh."

14 In the desolate area around Sinai, Yahweh told Moses, 15 "List all the male descendants of Levi who are at least one month old. List them by their ancestral families and tribal groups." 16 So Moses listed these descendants of Levi. *He did* exactly what Yahweh ordered him *to do*. 17 The names of Levi's sons were Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. 18 The names of Gershon's sons by their tribal groups were Libni and Shimei. 19 The *names* of Kohath's sons by their tribal groups were Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel. 20 And the *names* of Merari's sons by their tribal groups were Mahli and

Mushi. These were the tribal groups of the Levites by their ancestral families.

21 The *two* tribal groups that descended from Gershon were the descendants of Libni and the descendants of Shimei. 22 For those *two* tribal groups, Moses listed 7,500 men who were at least one month old. 23 The *two* tribal groups that descended from Gershon set up their tents near the back of the sacred tent on its western *side*. 24 Lael's son Eliasaph led the ancestral family that descended from Gershon. 25 At the sacred tent, the descendants of Gershon guarded the inner parts of sacred tent, the outer parts of the sacred tent, what covered *this outer part*, the curtain at its entrance, 26 the curtains that hang on *the fence around* the courtyard, the curtain at the entrance to the courtyard that surrounds the sacred tent and the altar, and all the braided cords that they used to set up and take down the curtains.

27 The *four* tribal groups that descended from Kohath were the descendants of Amram, the descendants of Izhar, the descendants of Hebron, and the descendants of Uzziel. 28 *For those four tribal groups, Moses listed* 8,600 men who were at least one month old. They guarded the sacred tent. 29 The *four* tribal groups that descended from Kohath set up their tents next to the sacred tent on its southern side. 30 Uzziel's son Elizaphan led the ancestral family that descended from Kohath, which was *those four* tribal groups. 31 The descendants of Kohath guarded the sacred chest, the table, the lampstand, the altars, the equipment for the sacred tent that *the priests* use, the curtain *that covered the entrance of the Most Holy Place*, and everything that they used to set up and take down the curtain. 32 Aaron the priest's son Eleazar led the men who led the Levites. He was in charge of those who guarded the sacred tent.

33 The *two* tribal groups that descended from Merari were the descendants of Mahli and the descendants of Mushi. 34 For those *two* tribal groups, Moses listed 6,200 men who were at least one month old. 35 Abihail's son Zuriel led the ancestral family that descended from Merari, which was *those two* tribal groups. *Those two* tribal groups set up their tents next to the sacred tent on its northern side. 36 The descendants of Merari were in charge of guarding the sacred tent's frame boards, poles, posts, bases, and all its equipment, and everything that they used to set up and take down the sacred tent. 37 *They were* also *in charge of guarding* the posts, bases, stakes, and braided cords *that were parts of the fence* surrounding the courtyard.

38 Moses, Aaron, and Aaron's sons set up their tents in front of *the entrance to* the sacred tent on its eastern side. They guarded the sacred tent, and they guarded the Israelites. If anyone who is not a Levite approaches *the sacred tent*, someone must execute that person. 39 For the descendants of Levi, Moses and Aaron listed by their tribal groups 22,000 men who were at least one month old. Moses and Aaron listed them as Yahweh had ordered them *to do*.

40 Yahweh told Moses, "List all the oldest males from every Israelite family who are at least one month old. Count how many you listed. 41 I am Yahweh. Appoint the Levites to *serve* me in place of the oldest males from every Israelite family. *Appoint for me* also the farm animals of the Levites in place of every Israelite family's farm animal's oldest *male offspring*." 42 So Moses listed the oldest *males* in every Israelite family. *He did* what Yahweh had ordered him *to do*. 43 When Moses listed by name all oldest males *from every Israelite family* who were at least one month old, there were 22,273 of them.

44 Then Yahweh told Moses, 45 "In place of the oldest *males* from every Israelite family, appoint the Levites to *serve* me. In place of each Israelite family's farm animal's oldest *male offspring*, appoint the farm animals of the Levites to belong to me. I am Yahweh. 46 The Israelites must pay for the 273 more oldest *males* from Israelite families than there are *male* Levites. 47 So, collect exactly five pieces of silver for each *of the 273 additional firstborn males*. Use the same kind of pieces of silver that *the priests* use in the sacred tent. Each of these piece of silver weighs about 11 grams. 48 Give those pieces of silver to Aaron and his sons. *Those pieces* will pay for the *273* additional *oldest males* from Israelite families." 49 Moses collected those pieces of silver from the *273 oldest males from Israelite families* for whom the Levites did not substitute. 50 Moses collected a total of 1,365 pieces of silver from the oldest *males* of Israelite families. *He collected* the same kind of pieces of silver that *the priests* use in the sacred tent. 51 Then Moses gave those *1,365* pieces of silver to Aaron and his sons to pay for *the additional 273 oldest males from Israelite families*. *He did* exactly what Yahweh ordered him *to do*.

4 Yahweh told Moses and Aaron, 2 "Out of the descendants of Levi, count the male descendants of Kohath. *Count them* by their tribal groups and ancestral families. 3 *Count only those men* who are at least 30 years old and at most 50 years old. These men must be able to participate when the Levites work in the sacred tent. 4 *When the Levites* set up and take down the sacred tent, the descendants of Kohath are responsible for the most sacred items. 5 When the Israelites leave *a place*, Aaron and his sons must go *to the sacred tent* and pull down the curtain that blocks *off the Most Holy Place*. Then they must lay it over the sacred chest. 6 Then they must cover the sacred chest *and the curtain* with fine leather and lay a completely blue cloth covering over *that leather*. Then they must put the sacred chest's poles *in the proper place to carry it*. 7 They must lay a blue cloth covering over the sacred table. Then they must place on that cloth the dishes, the ladles, the bowls, and the jugs *that the priests use* for presenting wine. Also, they must leave the sacred bread on the sacred table. 8 Then they must lay a red cloth covering over those things and cover that cloth with fine leather. Then they must put the sacred table's poles *in the proper place to carry it*. 9 They must lay a blue cloth covering over the lampstand, its oil lamps, the tongs *for removing burned wicks*, the trays *in which to put the burned wicks*, and all the jars full of olive oil with which they supply the oil lamps. 10 Then they must wrap the lampstand and all its equipment in fine leather. Then they must attach *the lampstand and its equipment* to a pole to carry them. 11 They must lay a blue cloth covering over the golden altar and cover that cloth with fine leather. Then they must put the altar's poles *in the proper place to carry it*. 12 They must wrap in a blue cloth covering all the equipment that they use in the sacred tent and cover that cloth with fine leather. Then they must attach *all the equipment* to a pole to carry it. 13 They must clean the *bronze* altar and lay a purple cloth covering over it. 14 Then they must place on that cloth all the equipment that they use at the bronze altar, including trays, forks for meat, shovels, and large bowls. Then they must lay fine leather over *the altar and its equipment*. Then they must put the altar's poles *in the proper place to carry it*. 15 When the Israelites leave *a place*, Aaron and his sons must complete putting coverings on the sacred tent and all the equipment *that they use* in

the sacred tent. Once that is complete, the descendants of Kohath can approach and carry all those things. They must not touch *anything that belongs in* the sacred tent, or they will die. Those are all the things that the descendants of Kohath must carry. *That is what they must do* at the sacred tent. 16 Aaron the priest's son Eleazar is in charge of the olive oil *that the priests burn* to make light *in the sacred tent*, the incense *that they make using* spices, the grain that they present regularly, and the oil that they pour *on people and things*. He is in charge of every part of the sacred tent and everything in it, in *what belongs in* the sacred tent, and in the equipment *that the priests use* with it."

17 Yahweh told Moses and Aaron, 18 "Do not cause the Levites from the Kohathite tribal groups to die. 19 Rather, Aaron and his sons must come and show each *Kohathite* man what he must pick up and carry. That way, the descendants of Kohath will stay alive when they come close to the most sacred items. 20 The descendants of Kohath must not look at *anything that belongs in* the sacred tent, not even briefly, or they will die."

21 Yahweh told Moses, 22 "Count the male descendants of Gershon too. *Count them* by their ancestral families and tribal groups. 23 List the men who are at least 30 years old and at most 50 years old. These men must be able to work at the sacred tent and set it up and take it down. 24 *When the Levites* set up and take down *the sacred tent*, the tribal groups *that make up the ancestral family* of Gershon are responsible for setting up and taking down *the sacred tent* and carrying it. 25 They must carry the curtains for the inner part of the sacred tent, the outer part of the sacred tent, what covers *this outer part*, the fine leather that covers over *all those things*, the curtain at the sacred tent's entrance, 26 the curtains that hang on *the fence around* the courtyard, the curtain at the entrance to the courtyard that surrounds the sacred tent and the altar, the braided cords for the curtains, and all the equipment and other items for setting up and taking down the curtains and coverings. They must set up and take down *all these things*. 27 The descendants of Gershon must set up and take down *the sacred tent* as Aaron and his sons command them. This includes everything they do to set up and take down *the sacred tent* and to carry it. You *and Aaron* must assign something for each of them to carry and to guard. 28 *When the Levites* set up and take down the sacred tent, that is what the tribal groups that descended from Gershon must do. Aaron the priest's son Ithamar is in charge of them as they guard *all those things*.

29 Moses, list the descendants of Merari by their tribal groups and ancestral families. 30 List the men who are at least 30 years old and at most 50 years old. These men must be able to participate when the Levites set up and take down the sacred tent. 31 As they help to set up and take down the sacred tent, *the descendants of Merari* must guard and carry the sacred tent's frame boards, poles, posts, and bases, 32 as well as the posts, bases, stakes, and braided cords *that were parts of the fence* surrounding the courtyard, including all the equipment that they used to set up and take down all those things. Assign to each of them by name equipment to guard and to carry. 33 *When the Levites* set up and take down the sacred tent, that is what the tribal groups that descended from Merari must do. Aaron the priest's son Ithamar is in charge of them."

34 So, Moses, Aaron, and the men who led the *Israelite* community listed the descendants of Kohath by their tribal groups and ancestral families. 35 *They listed* the men who were at least 30 years old and at most 50 years old. These men were able to participate when the Levites set up and took down the sacred tent. 36 Moses and Aaron listed 2,750 of these *descendants of Kohath* by their tribal groups. 37 Moses and Aaron listed those men from the tribal groups that descended from Kohath, just as Yahweh ordered them *to do*. Moses was in charge. Each one of these men helped set up and take down the sacred tent.

38 *Moses and Aaron* also listed the descendants of Gershon by their tribal groups and ancestral families. 39 *They listed* the men who were at least 30 years old and at most 50 years old. These men were able to participate when the Levites set up and took down the sacred tent. 40 Moses and Aaron listed 2,630 of these *descendants of Gershon* by their tribal groups and ancestral families. 41 Moses and Aaron listed those men from the tribal groups that descended from Gershon, just as Yahweh ordered them *to do*. Each one of these men helped set up and take down the sacred tent.

42 *Moses and Aaron* also listed the tribal groups that descended from Merari by their tribal groups and ancestral families 43 *They listed* the men who were at least 30 years old and at most 50 years old. These men were able to participate when the Levites set up and took down the sacred tent. 44 Moses and Aaron listed 3,200 of these *descendants of Merari* by their tribal groups. 45 Moses and Aaron listed those men from the tribal groups that descended from Merari, just as Yahweh ordered them *to do*. Moses was in charge.

46 Moses, Aaron, and the men who led the Israelites listed all those descendants of Levi by their tribal groups and ancestral families. 47 *They listed* the men who were at least 30 years old and at most 50 years old. These men were able to set up and take down the sacred tent and to carry it *and its equipment*. 48 They listed a total of 8,580 of these men. 49 Moses listed each of these men by what each one had to set up, take down, and carry, just as Yahweh had ordered *them to do*. Moses was in charge. These were all the men whom Yahweh had ordered Moses to count.

5 Yahweh told Moses, 2 "Some people among the Israelites have skin diseases, are discharging bodily fluids *from their genitals*, or are impure because they touched a dead body. Order the Israelites to remove those people from the campground. 3 Whether they are male or female, you shall certainly remove those people from the campground. That way, they do not make the campground impure. *That matters because* I am present with the Israelites in the campground." 4 Then the Israelites did exactly what Yahweh ordered Moses *to do*. They removed those people from the campground.

5 Yahweh told Moses, 6 "Tell the Israelites that any person, whether man or woman, might sin against another person. When a person does that, he or she is not being loyal to Yahweh. So, that person is guilty. 7 That person must admit how he or she sinned. Then, that person must pay the one against whom he or she sinned the full cost of what he or she did plus one fifth of the full cost. 8 Suppose that the person who should receive the full cost *has died and* has no close relatives *to receive the full cost instead*. In that case, the person who sinned must pay the full cost to Yahweh *by paying it* to the priest. That is in addition to the ram *which he or she must give to the priest*. The priest will offer that ram to remove that person's sin. 9 Whenever the Israelites bring any special and sacred contribution to the priest, that contribution belongs to the priest. 10 Indeed, whenever any person brings a sacred

contribution to the priest, that contribution belongs to the priest.”

11 Yahweh told Moses, 12 “Tell the Israelites that a man’s
wife might stop being loyal to him. 13 Another man might
have sex with her, and so she becomes impure. However,
her husband does not know this, and no one else knows
either. No one can prove what she did. 14 Despite that, her
husband might become suspicious *that another man has had sex with her*, whether she has actually become impure *in that way* or not. 15 In that case, the husband must take his wife to
the priest. He must also take about two liters of barley flour
to present *to the priest* on her behalf. *He presents* this grain
offering because he is suspicious *of his wife* and because he
wants to know whether she has done what is wrong. So, he
must not put olive oil or incense on the barley flour.

16 Then the priest must lead her *to the sacred tent* and
make her stand in front of Yahweh. 17 The priest must fill
a clay container with sacred water and then put some dust
from the ground inside the sacred tent into that water. 18 The
priest must make the woman stand in front of Yahweh, let
her hair down, and have her hold the grain offering. *Her husband presents* this grain offering because he wants to know *whether his wife has done what is wrong* and because he is suspicious *of her*. The priest must hold *the clay container with* the water. *Yahweh will use* this water to curse *the wife who has done what is wrong* and make bad things happen to her.
19 The priest must have the woman take an oath. Then, he
must tell her, ‘Suppose that *another* man has not had sex
with you and that you have been loyal to your husband
and have not become impure. In that case, *Yahweh* will not
use this water to curse *you* and make bad things happen to
you. 20 However, suppose that you have not been loyal to
your husband and have become impure. Suppose that a man
who is not your husband has had sex with you.’ 21 Then the
priest must have the woman speak the cursing words that
go with the oath. Then he must say to her, ‘*In that case,*
Yahweh will make you experience what the cursing words
that go with the oath indicate. All your fellow *Israelites* will
know this when Yahweh makes your genitals and womb
sick. 22 *Yahweh* will *use* this water to curse *you* when you
drink it. It will make your genitals and womb sick.’ Then
the woman must say, ‘May it be so.’

23 The priest must write down the cursing words on a
scroll. Then, he must wash the ink into the water *which Yahweh will use* to make bad things happen to her. 24 Then,
he must have the woman drink the water *that Yahweh will use* to curse *the wife who has done what is wrong* and make
bad things happen to her. She must swallow it. 25 The priest
must take from the woman the grain offering *that her husband presented* because he was suspicious *of her*. He must hold
up this grain offering in Yahweh’s presence and take it to
the altar. 26 The priest must scoop out a handful from the
grain offering and burn it on the altar in a way that causes
smoke to go up. After that, he must have the woman drink
the water. 27 Suppose that the woman became impure and
was not loyal to her husband. In that case, when the priest
has her drink the water *that Yahweh will use* to curse *the wife who has done what is wrong* and make bad things happen
to her, her genitals and womb will become sick. She will
experience what the cursing words indicated, and all her
fellow Israelites will know. 28 However, suppose that she did
not become impure. In that case, she is pure, and none *of these bad things* will happen to her. She will be able to bear
children.

29 These instructions apply when *a husband* is suspicious
of his wife. Specifically, *they apply* when a wife is not loyal
to her husband and becomes impure 30 or when a husband
becomes suspicious *that another man has had sex with his wife*.
Then, the husband must make his wife stand in Yahweh’s
presence, and the priest must do to her everything that
these instructions require. 31 Then, *Yahweh* will not punish
any husband *who brings his wife to the priest in this way*, but
Yahweh will punish any wife *who has done what is wrong*.”

6 Yahweh told Moses, 2 “Tell the Israelites that any person,
whether man or woman, may want to make a solemn
promise to be a Nazirite by dedicating himself or herself
to Yahweh in a special way. 3 All people who do so must
completely avoid wine and any other alcoholic drink. They
must not drink wine vinegar, any other kind of alcoholic
vinegar, or grape juice. Also, they must not eat grapes or
raisins. 4 While they are Nazirites, they must not eat anything
that people make out of any part of grapes, including the
seeds and the skin.

5 While they are Nazirites, they must not cut their hair.
Instead, until they finish the time during which they dedicate
themselves to Yahweh, they must remain sacred and let their
hair grow long.

6 While they are Nazirites, they must not be near a dead
body. 7 Even if their fathers, mothers, brothers, or sisters
die, they must not be near their dead bodies. That would
make them impure, *and they must not become impure* while
they have the long hair that shows that they have dedicated
themselves to God. 8 While they are Nazirites, they are sacred
and belong to Yahweh.

9 Suppose that someone dies suddenly near them, which
makes impure the long hair that shows that they have
dedicated themselves *to God*. In that case, on the seventh
day afterward, when they become pure again, they must cut
all their hair off. 10 Then, on the eighth day afterward, each
of them must take two doves or two young pigeons to the
priest at the entrance to the sacred tent. 11 The priest must
offer one of the birds as a purifying sacrifice and the other
as a wholly burned sacrifice. When the priest offers these
sacrifices, I will accept the sacrifices and remove the Nazirites’
sin, which they committed when they were near the dead
body. Immediately after that, they must set apart their hair
again to show that they are dedicating themselves to Yahweh.
12 The time before *they were near the dead body* will not count
toward the total time during which they dedicate themselves to Yahweh. That is because they became impure during that
time. So, they must dedicate themselves to Yahweh for the
entire time again. Also, each of them must take a male sheep
that is one year old as a restoring sacrifice.

13 Here are the instructions for when Nazirites have
finished the time during which they dedicated themselves
to Yahweh. Someone must take them to the entrance to
the sacred tent. 14 Then, each *Nazirite* must offer sacrificial
animals, food, and drink to Yahweh. *Each one must offer* as
a wholly burned sacrifice one healthy male sheep that is
one year old. *Each one must offer* as a purifying sacrifice one
healthy female sheep that is one year old. *Each one must offer* as a fellowship sacrifice one healthy ram. 15 *Each one must offer* the grain and wine offerings that go with those
sacrifices. *Finally, each one must offer* bread without yeast
in a container. Some of the bread must be thick bread with
olive oil in it, and some of the bread must be thin bread with
olive oil on the outside.

16 The priest must offer *those things* in Yahweh's presence.
He must offer *the female sheep* as a purifying sacrifice and *the*
male sheep as a wholly burned sacrifice. 17 The priest must
offer the ram, together with the bread without yeast in a
container, as a fellowship sacrifice to Yahweh. He must also
offer the grain and wine offerings that the person brought.
18 Then the Nazirites must cut off the long hair that shows
that they have dedicated themselves *to God*. *They must do*
this at the entrance to the sacred tent. Then, they must place
the long hair *they cut off* on the flames that burn under the
fellowship sacrifices *that they offered*.
19 Once he has boiled the ram, the priest must remove
the shoulder *and its meat from the ram*. After each Nazirite
shaves off his or her long hair, the priest will have him or
her hold the shoulder meat and two pieces of bread without
yeast from the container, one thick and one thin. 20 Then
the priest must *take back* the meat and bread and hold them
up in Yahweh's presence. They are sacred and belong to
the priest. That is in addition to the breast meat that he
holds up *in Yahweh's presence* and the thigh meat from the
special contribution, *both of which he normally receives from*
a fellowship sacrifice. After *the priest has completed all those*
things, the person who was a Nazirite can now drink wine
and other alcoholic drinks.
21 Those are the instructions for all people who make
solemn promises to be Nazirites and to present sacrifices to
Yahweh *when they have finished the time during which* they
dedicated themselves *to Yahweh*. They may also present
other sacrifices if they choose to do so. These people must
do exactly what they solemnly promised and what those
instructions require."
22 Yahweh told Moses, 23 "Tell Aaron and his sons that
when they bless the Israelites, they must use these words:
24 'We ask Yahweh to bless and guard you.
25 We ask Yahweh to be favorable and kind to you.
26 We ask Yahweh to care for you and make you peaceful.'
27 When they speak those words, they declare that the
Israelites belong to me. I will certainly bless the Israelites."

7 When Moses completed setting up the sacred tent, he
poured *olive oil* on it and set it apart. He also poured
olive oil on the equipment for the sacred tent, the altar, and
the equipment for the altar and set them apart. 2 Then the
men who led the Israelites offered *gifts to Yahweh*. These men
were in charge of their ancestral families, led the tribes, and
ruled over the people *whom they, Moses, and Aaron* would
list. 3 They took their gifts to the sacred tent, in Yahweh's
presence. They used six carts and twelve bulls. Each cart
was from two leaders, and each bull was from one leader.
4 Then Yahweh told Moses, 5 "Accept their gifts. *The Levites*
must use them as they set up and take down the sacred tent.
Give them to the Levites who can best use them as they do
so."
6 So Moses accepted the carts and the bulls. Then, he gave
them to the Levites. 7 He gave two carts and four bulls to
the descendants of Gershon since they could use them as
they set up and took down *the sacred tent*. 8 He gave four
carts and eight bulls to the descendants of Merari since they
could use them as they set up and took down *the sacred tent*.
Aaron the priest's son Ithamar was in charge of both *these*
groups of Levites. 9 However, he did not give *any carts or bulls*
to the descendants of Kohath. That was because they carried
the things that belonged in the sacred tent. They had to carry
those things themselves *instead of using carts*.
10 When Moses poured *olive oil* on the altar and set it
apart, the men who led *the Israelites* offered gifts before the
altar. 11 Yahweh told Moses, "On each of the next twelve
days one man who leads the Israelites must offer the gifts
that he offers because you set the altar apart."
12 On the first day, Nahshon son of Amminadab offered
his gifts. He was from Judah tribe. 13 He offered a silver dish
that weighed one and one-half kilograms and a large silver
bowl that weighed four-fifths of a kilogram. He weighed
them the same way *the priests* do in the sacred tent. He
filled both of them with flour with olive oil in it as a grain
offering. 14 *He offered* a gold ladle that weighed one-tenth of
a kilogram. He filled it with incense. 15 As a wholly burned
sacrifice, *he offered* a young bull, a ram, and a male sheep
that was one year old. 16 As a purifying sacrifice, *he offered* a
male goat. 17 As a fellowship sacrifice, *he offered* two oxen,
five rams, five male goats, and five male sheep that were one
year old. Nahshon son of Amminadab gave all those gifts.
18 On the second day, Nethanel son of Zuar, who led
Issachar *tribe*, offered *his gifts*. 19 He offered a silver dish that
weighed one and one-half kilograms and a large silver bowl
that weighed four-fifths of a kilogram. He weighed them the
same way *the priests* do in the sacred tent. He filled both of
them with flour with olive oil in it as a grain offering. 20 *He*
offered a gold ladle that weighed one-tenth of a kilogram.
He filled it with incense. 21 As a wholly burned sacrifice, *he*
offered a young bull, a ram, and a male sheep that was one
year old. 22 As a purifying sacrifice, *he offered* a male goat.
23 As a fellowship sacrifice, *he offered* two oxen, five rams,
five male goats, and five male sheep that were one year old.
Nethanel son of Zuar gave all those gifts.
24 On the third day, Eliab son of Helon, who led the
descendants of Zebulun, *offered his gifts*. 25 He offered a
silver dish that weighed one and one-half kilograms and a
large silver bowl that weighed four-fifths of a kilogram. He
weighed them the same way *the priests* do in the sacred tent.
He filled both of them with flour with olive oil in it as a grain
offering. 26 *He offered* a gold ladle that weighed one-tenth of
a kilogram. He filled it with incense. 27 As a wholly burned
sacrifice, *he offered* a young bull, a ram, and a male sheep
that was one year old. 28 As a purifying sacrifice, *he offered* a
male goat. 29 As a fellowship sacrifice, *he offered* two oxen,
five rams, five male goats, and five male sheep that were
one year old. Eliab son of Helon gave all those gifts.
30 On the fourth day, Elizur son of Shedeur, who led
the descendants of Reuben, *offered his gifts*. 31 He offered a
silver dish that weighed one and one-half kilograms and a
large silver bowl that weighed four-fifths of a kilogram. He
weighed them the same way *the priests* do in the sacred tent.
He filled both of them with flour with olive oil in it as a grain
offering. 32 *He offered* a gold ladle that weighed one-tenth of
a kilogram. He filled it with incense. 33 As a wholly burned
sacrifice, *he offered* a young bull, a ram, and a male sheep
that was one year old. 34 As a purifying sacrifice, *he offered* a
male goat. 35 As a fellowship sacrifice, *he offered* two oxen,
five rams, five male goats, and five male sheep that were
one year old. Elizur son of Shedeur gave all those gifts.
36 On the fifth day, Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai, who
led the descendants of Simeon, *offered his gifts*. 37 He offered
a silver dish that weighed one and one-half kilograms and
a large silver bowl that weighed four-fifths of a kilogram.
He weighed them the same way *the priests* do in the sacred
tent. He filled both of them with flour with olive oil in it
as a grain offering. 38 *He offered* a gold ladle that weighed

one-tenth of a kilogram. He filled it with incense. 39 As a
wholly burned sacrifice, *he offered* a young bull, a ram, and a
male sheep that was one year old. 40 As a purifying sacrifice,
he offered a male goat. 41 As a fellowship sacrifice, *he offered*
two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male sheep
that were one year old. Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai gave
all those gifts.

42 On the sixth day, Eliasaph son of Deuel, who led the
descendants of Gad, *offered his gifts*. 43 He offered a silver dish
that weighed one and one-half kilograms and a large silver
bowl that weighed four-fifths of a kilogram. He weighed
them the same way *the priests* do in the sacred tent. He
filled both of them with flour with olive oil in it as a grain
offering. 44 *He offered* a gold ladle that weighed one-tenth of
a kilogram. He filled it with incense. 45 As a wholly burned
sacrifice, *he offered* a young bull, a ram, and a male sheep
that was one year old. 46 As a purifying sacrifice, *he offered* a
male goat. 47 As a fellowship sacrifice, *he offered* two oxen,
five rams, five male goats, and five male sheep that were
one year old. Eliasaph son of Deuel gave all those gifts.

48 On the seventh day, Elishama son of Ammihud, who
led the descendants of Ephraim, *offered his gifts*. 49 He offered
a silver dish that weighed one and one-half kilograms and a
large silver bowl that weighed four-fifths of a kilogram. He
weighed them the same way *the priests* do in the sacred tent.
He filled both of them with flour with olive oil in it as a grain
offering. 50 *He offered* a gold ladle that weighed one-tenth of
a kilogram. He filled it with incense. 51 As a wholly burned
sacrifice, *he offered* a young bull, a ram, and a male sheep
that was one year old. 52 As a purifying sacrifice, *he offered* a
male goat. 53 As a fellowship sacrifice, *he offered* two oxen,
five rams, five male goats, and five male sheep that were
one year old. Elishama son of Ammihud gave all those gifts.

54 On the eighth day, Gamaliel son of Pedahzur, who led
the descendants of Manasseh *offered his gifts*. 55 He offered a
silver dish that weighed one and one-half kilograms and a
large silver bowl that weighed four-fifths of a kilogram. He
weighed them the same way *the priests* do in the sacred tent.
He filled both of them with flour with olive oil in it as a grain
offering. 56 *He offered* a gold ladle that weighed one-tenth of
a kilogram. He filled it with incense. 57 As a wholly burned
sacrifice, *he offered* a young bull, a ram, and a male sheep
that was one year old. 58 As a purifying sacrifice, *he offered* a
male goat. 59 As a fellowship sacrifice, *he offered* two oxen,
five rams, five male goats, and five male sheep that were
one year old. Gamaliel son of Pedahzur gave all those gifts.

60 On the ninth day, Abidan son of Gideoni, who led the
descendants of Benjamin, *offered his gifts*. 61 He offered a
silver dish that weighed one and one-half kilograms and a
large silver bowl that weighed four-fifths of a kilogram. He
weighed them the same way *the priests* do in the sacred tent.
He filled both of them with flour with olive oil in it as a grain
offering. 62 *He offered* a gold ladle that weighed one-tenth of
a kilogram. He filled it with incense. 63 As a wholly burned
sacrifice, *he offered* a young bull, a ram, and a male sheep
that was one year old. 64 As a purifying sacrifice, *he offered* a
male goat. 65 As a fellowship sacrifice, *he offered* two oxen,
five rams, five male goats, and five male sheep that were
one year old. Abidan son of Gideoni gave all those gifts.

66 On the tenth day, Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai, who
led the descendants of Dan, *offered his gifts*. 67 He offered a
silver dish that weighed one and one-half kilograms and a
large silver bowl that weighed four-fifths of a kilogram. He
weighed them the same way *the priests* do in the sacred tent.
He filled both of them with flour with olive oil in it as a grain
offering. 68 *He offered* a gold ladle that weighed one-tenth of
a kilogram. He filled it with incense. 69 As a wholly burned
sacrifice, *he offered* a young bull, a ram, and a male sheep
that was one year old. 70 As a purifying sacrifice, *he offered* a
male goat. 71 As a fellowship sacrifice, *he offered* two oxen,
five rams, five male goats, and five male sheep that were
one year old. Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai gave all those gifts.

72 On the eleventh day, Pagiel son of Okran, who led
the descendants of Asher, *offered his gifts*. 73 He offered a
silver dish that weighed one and one-half kilograms and a
large silver bowl that weighed four-fifths of a kilogram. He
weighed them the same way *the priests* do in the sacred tent.
He filled both of them with flour with olive oil in it as a grain
offering. 74 *He offered* a gold ladle that weighed one-tenth of
a kilogram. He filled it with incense. 75 As a wholly burned
sacrifice, *he offered* a young bull, a ram, and a male sheep
that was one year old. 76 As a purifying sacrifice, *he offered* a
male goat. 77 As a fellowship sacrifice, *he offered* two oxen,
five rams, five male goats, and five male sheep that were
one year old. Pagiel son of Okran gave all those gifts.

78 On the twelfth day, Ahira son of Enan, who led the
descendants of Naphtali *offered his gifts*. 79 He offered a
silver dish that weighed one and one-half kilograms and a
large silver bowl that weighed four-fifths of a kilogram. He
weighed them the same way *the priests* do in the sacred tent.
He filled both of them with flour with olive oil in it as a grain
offering. 80 *He offered* a gold ladle that weighed one-tenth of
a kilogram. He filled it with incense. 81 As a wholly burned
sacrifice, *he offered* a young bull, a ram, and a male sheep
that was one year old. 82 As a purifying sacrifice, *he offered* a
male goat. 83 As a fellowship sacrifice, *he offered* two oxen,
five rams, five male goats, and five male sheep that were
one year old. Ahira son of Enan gave all those gifts.

84 When Moses poured *olive oil* on the altar and set it apart,
the men who led the Israelites offered gifts. They offered
12 silver dishes, 12 large silver bowls, and 12 gold ladles.
85 Each silver dish weighed one and one-half kilograms.
Each large silver bowl weighed four-fifths of a kilogram.
Altogether, these silver dishes and large bowls weighed about
27 kilograms. They weighed them the same way *the priests*
do in the sacred tent. 86 They filled the 12 gold ladles with
incense. Each ladle weighed one-tenth of a kilogram. They
weighed them the same way *the priests* do in the sacred
tent. Altogether, these gold ladles weighed about one and
one-fifth kilograms. 87 As a wholly burned sacrifice, *they*
offered 12 bulls, 12 rams, and 12 male sheep that were
one year old, along with the grain offerings for them. As
a purifying sacrifice, *they offered* 12 male goats. 88 As a
fellowship sacrifice, *they offered* 24 bulls, 60 rams, 60 male
goats, and 60 male sheep that were one year old. That is
what *the men who led Israel offered* when Moses poured *olive*
oil on the altar and set it apart.

89 Then, Moses entered the sacred tent to talk with Yahweh,
and he heard Yahweh's voice. The voice came from between
the two images of creatures with wings that were above the
lid for the sacred chest. That is how Yahweh spoke to Moses.

8 Yahweh told Moses, 2 "Tell Aaron that, when he puts the
seven lamps *in their places on the lampstand*, *he must make*
sure that they light up the area in front of the lampstand."

3 *When Moses told that to Aaron*, Aaron did it exactly
as Yahweh had said. He put the lamps *in their places on*
the lampstand so that they lit up the area in front of the

lampstand. 4 The people who made the lampstand had made
it look exactly like what Yahweh had shown to Moses.
They had made it, including its main shaft and the flower
decorations on it, by hammering a single sheet of gold.
5 Yahweh told Moses, 6 "Out of all the Israelites, appoint
the Levites *to serve me*. You must make them pure. 7 Here
is how to make them pure. You must flick some purifying
water on them. You must have them shave off their hair
completely. You must have them wash their clothes. That
is how they will make themselves pure. 8 They must select
a young bull and prepare grain offering that goes with it,
which is flour with olive oil in it. You must select another
young bull to be a purifying sacrifice. 9 Then you must have
the Levites stand at the front of the sacred tent. You must
summon the rest of the Israelite community *to the sacred
tent*. 10 You must offer the Levites in my presence, and the
leaders of the Israelites must place their hands on them.
11 From all the Israelites, Aaron must set the Levites apart in
my presence, as if he were holding them up as an offering.
Then, the Levites must do the work that I require. 12 Then
the Levites must place their hands on bulls' heads. You must
have *a priest offer* one bull as a purifying sacrifice and the
other bull as a wholly burned sacrifice in order to remove
their sins and ransom *them*. 13 You must have the Levites
stand in front of Aaron and his sons. Then, you must set the
Levites apart for me, as if you were holding them up as an
offering. 14 That is how you must set the Levites apart from
the rest of the Israelites. Then, Levites will belong to me.
15 Once you have made them pure and set them apart,
as if you were holding them up as an offering, then the
Levites can set up and take down the sacred tent *whenever the
Israelites travel*. 16 *You must set the Levites apart* because out
of all the Israelites, I have assigned the Levites exclusively to
me. They belong to me in place of the oldest *male* from every
Israelite family. 17 *That is* because the oldest male from every
Israelite family and the oldest male offspring of all their farm
animals belong to me. When I killed the oldest male from
every Egyptian family in Egypt, I set the oldest male from
every Israelite family apart for myself. 18 But now I have
chosen the Levites in place of the oldest male from every
Israelite family. 19 Out of all the Israelites, I have assigned
the Levites to serve Aaron and his sons. They will set up and
take down the sacred tent for the Israelites, and they will
ransom the Israelites. That way, when the Israelites approach
the sacred tent, bad things will not happen to them."
20 Moses, Aaron, and the rest of the Israelite community
did exactly what Yahweh told Moses to do with the Levites.
21 The Levites washed their clothes and purified themselves.
Aaron set them apart in Yahweh's presence, as if he were
holding them up as an offering. Aaron offered a sacrifice
that Yahweh accepted to remove their sins, and so they were
pure. 22 Once that was done, the Levites were able to set up
and take down the sacred tent *whenever the Israelites travel*.
Aaron and his sons would supervise them as they did that.
So, the Israelites did exactly what Yahweh told Moses to do
with the Levites.
23 Yahweh told Moses, 24 "Here are instructions for the
Levites. The Levite men who are at least 25 years old are
able to work at the sacred tent and set it up and take it down.
25 The Levite men who are at least 50 years old are no longer
able to set up and take down the sacred tent. They must not
do that anymore. 26 They can help their fellow Levites at the
tent of meeting by guarding *the sacred tent and its equipment*.
However, they cannot set up and take down *the sacred tent*.
That is what you must have the Levites do as they guard *the
sacred tent and its equipment*."

9 *It was* the first month of the year after the Israelite
people had left Egypt. *While the Israelite people were* in
the desolate area around Sinai, Yahweh spoke to Moses.
Yahweh told him, 2 "*You and the rest of* the Israelites must
celebrate the Passover Celebration at its proper time. 3 You
must celebrate it on the fourteenth day of this month, early
in the evening. You must obey all the instructions about it
that I previously told you."
4 Then Moses told the Israelites that they needed to
celebrate the Passover Celebration. 5 So, on the fourteenth
day of the first month, early in the evening, they celebrated
the Passover Celebration in the desolate area around Sinai.
They did exactly what Yahweh had ordered Moses *to do*.
6 However, some of the Israelites were impure because
they had touched a dead body. Because of that, they could
not celebrate the Passover Celebration on the fourteenth day
of the first month. So, they approached Moses and Aaron on
the day *for the Passover Celebration*. 7 They told *Moses*, "We
are impure because we touched a dead body. However, we
do not want that to prevent us from offering the *Passover*
sacrifice to Yahweh at the proper time along with the rest
of the Israelites." 8 Moses replied, "Wait here. *I will go to the
sacred tent and ask Yahweh,* and I will listen to what he wants
you to do."
9 *At the sacred tent,* Yahweh told Moses: 10 "Tell the Israelites
that people might be impure because they touched a dead
body. Or, they might be traveling far away. In those cases,
those people can still celebrate the Passover Celebration to
honor me. *These instructions apply* to the Israelites who are
alive now and to all their descendants. 11 The people *who
are impure or traveling* can celebrate the Passover Celebration
on the fourteenth day of the second month *of the same year*.
They must eat the lamb for the Passover Celebration along
with bread without yeast and sour vegetables. 12 They must
not have any leftover food in the morning. Also, they must
not break any of the lamb's bones. They must obey all the
instructions about the Passover Celebration *that I previously
told you*. 13 However, suppose that any Israelites are pure
and are not traveling, but they do not celebrate the Passover
Celebration. In that case, the other Israelites must drive those
people out from among them. That is because those people
did not offer the *Passover* sacrifice to me at the proper time.
I will punish those people for what they did wrong.
14 Any foreigners who live among you and who want
to celebrate the Passover Celebration to *honor* me may do
so. They must obey all the instructions about the Passover
Celebration *that I previously told you*. The same instructions
apply to foreigners and to Israelites."
15 When the Israelites set up the sacred tent, the cloud *that
went with them out of Egypt* came directly over the inner part
of the sacred tent. From sunset until sunrise, it would look
like fire on top of the sacred tent. 16 That is what happened
regularly. The cloud would be directly over the sacred tent,
and it would look like fire during the night. 17 Whenever
the cloud moved from the sacred tent, the Israelites would
immediately leave *the place where they had set up their tents*.
Whenever the cloud stayed in one place, the Israelites would
set up their tents there. 18 The Israelites would leave *a place*
and set up their tents *in a new place* as Yahweh commanded
them to *using the cloud*. For as long as the cloud was over
the sacred tent, they would stay in that place. 19 Sometimes,

the cloud would be over the sacred tent for a long time. When that happened, the Israelites would do exactly what Yahweh required. They would not leave *the place where they had set up their tents*. 20 Sometimes, the cloud would be over the sacred tent for only a few days. In that case, they would set up their tents *in a new place* and leave *that place* as Yahweh commanded them to *using the cloud*. 21 Sometimes, the cloud *would be over the sacred tent* only overnight. In that case, when the cloud moved *from over the sacred tent* in the morning, they would leave *the place where they had set up their tents*. Indeed, whenever the cloud moved *from over the sacred tent*, whether it was daytime or nighttime, they would leave *the place where they had set up their tents*. 22 Sometimes, the cloud would stay over the sacred tent for two days, or a month, or a year, *or any other length of time*. In those cases, the Israelites would stay where they had set up their tents *for that time*. When the cloud would *eventually* move *from over the sacred tent*, they would leave *that place*. 23 *So,* the Israelites would set up their tents *in a new place* and leave *that place* as Yahweh commanded them to *using the cloud*. They did exactly what Yahweh required. Moses was in charge *of the Israelites as they did that*.

10 Yahweh told Moses, 2 "Have someone make two trumpets by hammering them from a single sheet of silver. You must use these trumpets to summon the whole Israelite community together and to signal that it is time to leave the place *where the Israelites have set up their tents*. 3 When *the priests* sound *both* trumpets, the whole *Israelite* community must gather together with you at the entrance to the sacred tent. 4 When *the priests* sound *only* one trumpet, the men who lead the clans of the Israelite people must gather together with you *at the entrance to the sacred tent*. 5 When *the priests* sound *the trumpets* in a special way, the people that set up their tents on the east side *of the sacred tent* must leave *that place*. 6 When *the priests* sound *the trumpets* in a special way a second time, the people that set up their tents on the south side *of the sacred tent* must leave *that place*. *The priests* must sound *the trumpets* in that special way whenever the people who set up their tents *on any side of the sacred tent* must leave *those places*. 7 When you want to summon the *whole Israelite* community, *the priests* must sound *the trumpets*, but not in that special way.

8 The descendants of Aaron who are priests are the ones who should sound the trumpets. These instructions about the trumpets always apply, both to the Israelites who are alive now and to their descendants. 9 When you fight in your own country against enemies who attack you, have *the priests* sound *the trumpets* in a special way. I, Yahweh your God, will listen and rescue you from those enemies. 10 When it is a day when you rejoice, including at the yearly celebrations and on the first day of each month, have *the priests* sound the trumpets. *They must do that* when *the priests* offer the wholly burned sacrifices and fellowship sacrifices that you give. Then, I will listen to you and think about you. I am Yahweh your God."

11 *It was* the twentieth day of the second month of the second year. *On that day,* the cloud moved from the sacred tent. 12 So, the Israelites left the desolate area around Sinai. *Each group of tribes* left in the proper order. The cloud *moved to* the desolate area near *the city of* Paran and stayed there, *and the Israelites followed it*. 13 That was the first time Yahweh commanded them to leave *the place where they had set up their tents*. Moses was in charge *as they left*.

14 *The three tribes that set up their camps near* the tribal flag that belonged to the descendants of Judah left first. They left by their army divisions. Amminadab's son Nahshon led the soldiers from Judah tribe. 15 Zuar's son Nethanel led the soldiers from Issachar tribe. 16 Helon's son Eliab led the soldiers from Zebulun tribe. 17 Then *the Levites* disassembled the sacred tent. The descendants of Gershon and Merari carried its pieces, and they left *next*.

18 Then *the three tribes that set up their camps near* the tribal flag that belonged to *the descendants of* Reuben left. They left by their army divisions. Shedeur's son Elizur led the soldiers from Reuben tribe. 19 Zurishaddai's son Shelumiel led the soldiers from Simeon tribe. 20 Deuel's son Eliasaph led the soldiers from Gad tribe.

21 The descendants of Kohath carried *the things that belonged in* the sacred tent, and they left *next*. The other Levites set up the sacred tent before the descendants of Kohath arrived *at the place where they would set up their tents*.

22 Then *the three tribes that set up their camps near* the tribal flag that belonged to the descendants of Ephraim left. They left by their army divisions. Ammihud's son Elishama led the soldiers from Ephraim tribe. 23 Pedahzur's son Gamaliel led the soldiers from Manasseh tribe. 24 Gideoni's son Abidan led the soldiers from Benjamin tribe.

25 Then *the three tribes that set up their camps near* the tribal flag that belonged to the descendants of Dan left as the rearguard. They left by their army divisions. Ammishaddai's son Ahiezer led the soldiers from Dan tribe. 26 Okran's son Pagiel led the soldiers from Asher tribe. 27 Enan's son Ahira led the soldiers from Naphtali tribe. 28 That was the order in which the *groups of* Israelite tribes left *the place where they had set up their camps*.

29 *When the Israelites were getting ready to leave the desolate area around Sinai*, Moses spoke to Hobab. Hobab was the father of Moses' wife, and he was Reuel's son. He was from the Midian people group. *Moses said to him,* "We are about to leave for the place that Yahweh promised to give to us. Please come with us. Yahweh has promised to take good care of us Israelites. So, we will take good care of you."

30 Hobab replied, "*No,* I will not come with you. Instead, I will return to my own country and family."

31 But Moses said, "You know the places where we can set up our tents in this desolate area, and you can guide us. So, I ask you not to go away. 32 Yahweh will take very good care of us. So, if you come with us, we will take care of you in the same way."

33 When the Israelites left Mount Sinai, where Yahweh *had revealed himself*, they walked for three days. *The people who carried* the sacred chest walked in front of the Israelites for those three days to find the place where *Yahweh* wanted them to set up their tents. 34 Whenever they left a place where they had set up their camps *in the morning*, the cloud that Yahweh sent would be over them during the day.

35 Whenever *the people who carried* the sacred chest left *a place*, Moses would say, "Yahweh, please act *for us*. Then, the people who hate you and act against you will run away from your presence!"

36 Whenever *the people who carried* the sacred chest stayed *in a place*, Moses would say, "Yahweh, please stay with the very many Israelite clans!"

11 One day the Israelites grumbled in Yahweh's presence about how much they thought they were suffering. When Yahweh listened to what they said, he was angry.

So, he sent a fire that burned at the edge of their campsite and destroyed *some of their belongings*. 2 Then the Israelites pleaded with Moses *to help them*. So, Moses asked Yahweh *to stop the fire*, and the fire did stop. 3 So they named that place Taberah, which means "Burning," because the fire from Yahweh had burned among them.

4 After that, some people who were not Israelites wanted very badly *to eat meat*. Then the Israelites too cried again, *as they did when they grumbled earlier*. They said, "We wish someone would give us meat to eat! 5 We can recall what we ate in Egypt for free: fish, gourds, and the vegetables we used for seasoning. 6 But now we have become weak, because all we have *to eat* is this manna that we see!"

7 As for the manna, it had the shape of small seeds, and it looked like resin. 8–9 Whenever the dew appeared during the night at the place where they had set up their tents, the manna would appear with it. Then, *in the morning,* the people would walk around and gather the manna. Then, they would grind it up by using a handmill or a mortar and pestle. After that, they would boil it and then form it into loaves. The manna tasted like good olive oil.

10 Now as the people were crying at their tents with their tribal groups, Moses heard them. Yahweh was very angry. Also, Moses was very upset. 11 Then Moses *went to the sacred tent and* said to Yahweh, "I am upset that you have made me, your servant, suffer like this. You must have chosen not to treat me kindly. Otherwise, you would not have made me take care of all these people! 12 I am not their mother. Yet, you have still ordered me to act like their nurse, as if I could hold them like an infant close to my chest and carry them to the land you promised their ancestors *that you would give to them*. 13 All these people cry in front of me and ask me to give them meat to eat. However, I cannot get enough meat to feed all these people! 14 I cannot take care of all these people alone. It is too difficult for me. 15 I ask you to kill me now if you intend to keep treating me this way. That is how you can treat me kindly! That way, I will not have to suffer like this."

16 Yahweh told Moses, "Summon 70 men whom you know are leaders among the Israelite people. Have them go to the sacred tent and stand there with you. 17 I will be present in a special way and talk with you at the sacred tent. By means of my Spirit, I have enabled you to lead my people. I will also enable the 70 leaders to lead my people by means of my Spirit. They will help you take care of the people so that you will not have to do so alone.

18 Also, tell the people that they must set themselves apart to prepare for the next day, when they will eat meat. Remind them that they cried in my presence and said that they wished that someone would give them meat to eat just as when they lived well in Egypt. Tell them that I will provide them with meat to eat. 19 Tell them that they will eat *meat*, but not for only one, two, five, ten, or even 20 days. 20 Tell them that *they will instead eat meat* every day for a month, and then they will have too much and will want to vomit *when they eat it*. Tell them that this will happen because they have not wanted to obey me, who am present with them in a special way, and because they cried in my presence and said that they were very unhappy that they left Egypt."

21 Moses replied, "There are 600,000 men *not including women and children* walking with me. Despite that, you say that you will give them enough meat to eat every day for a month! 22 Even if we killed all the sheep and oxen or caught all the fish in the sea, that would not be enough meat for them!" 23 Yahweh replied, "You doubt that I am powerful. At this time you will find out if I can do what I say I will do."

24 After that, Moses left *the sacred tent* and told the people what Yahweh had said. Then he summoned 70 men who were leaders among the Israelites and had them stand around the sacred tent.

25 Then Yahweh was present in a special way in the cloud *that was above the sacred tent*, and he talked with Moses. By means of his Spirit, he enabled the 70 leaders *to lead the Israelites*, just as he had enabled Moses. When Yahweh enabled them, the leaders spoke as Yahweh inspired them. However, they did not do that again.

26 Eldad and Medad were two of the men whom Moses had summoned. However, they did not go to the sacred tent. Instead, they stayed among the Israelites' tents. However, Yahweh enabled them too to lead *the Israelites* by means of his Spirit, and they spoke as Yahweh inspired them among the tents. 27 Then, a young man hurried to Moses and told him, "Eldad and Medad are speaking as Yahweh inspires them among the tents!"

28 Nun's son Joshua, who since he was a young man had helped Moses, responded, "Moses sir, I ask that you tell them to stop doing that!"

29 Moses replied, "You should not be worried that this will harm me. In fact, I wish that Yahweh would inspire all his people by means of his Spirit so that they all would speak as he inspired them!" 30 Then Moses and the leaders went back to their tents.

31 Then Yahweh made the wind blow small birds from the nearby sea, and they fell on the ground in the campsite and as far as a person can walk in a day in every direction. They lay on the ground a meter high. 32 So the people went out and collected the small birds that day, that night, and the entire next day. The people who worked the least still collected about 2,200 liters. They laid the quails out *on the ground* around the campsite. 33 While the people were about to eat the meat, before they took a bite, Yahweh was angry with them. So, he caused very many of them to die. 34 In that place the Israelites buried the bodies of the people who had wanted very badly *to eat meat*. So, they named that place Kibroth Hattaavah, *which means "Graves for the People Who Wanted"*.

35 The people left Kibroth Hattaavah and arrived in Hazeroth, and they stayed there.

12 Previously, Moses had married a woman from the Cush people group. *Now while the Israelites were in Hazeroth, Moses' older sister* Miriam and *his older brother* Aaron criticized Moses because he had married that woman from the Cush people group. 2 They said, "Yahweh has not spoken only through Moses. He has spoken through us, too!" Yahweh heard *what they said*. 3 As for Moses, he was much more humble than any other person on earth.

4 Then, without warning, Yahweh told Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, "All three of you must go to the sacred tent." So they went *to the sacred tent*. 5 Then Yahweh was present in a special way in a cloud that looked like a column. The cloud was at the entrance to the sacred tent. Then Yahweh summoned Aaron and Miriam. They approached *the cloud*. 6 Yahweh told *them*, "Listen to me! When people who truly speak for me are among you, I communicate with them by giving them dreams and visions. 7 But that is not how *I communicate with* Moses, who serves me. He is trustworthy

as he leads my people. 8 I speak with him directly, and I do
not make him try to figure out what I mean. Instead, I tell
him plainly, and he sees how I choose to look when I am
present in a special way. So, you should be afraid to criticize
Moses, who serves me!"
9 Yahweh was angry with Miriam and Aaron, and he left
that place. 10 The cloud too moved from the sacred tent.
Immediately, Miriam had a skin disease that made her skin
as white as snow. When Aaron looked at her, he immediately
saw that she had a skin disease. 11 Then Aaron said to Moses,
"Sir, I ask you not to punish us for the wrong thing that
we did so foolishly! 12 I ask that you do not allow Miriam
to be like a baby that has died and already partly decayed
when its mother gives birth to it!" 13 So Moses pleaded with
Yahweh, "God, I beg you to cure her!"
14 Yahweh replied, "Suppose that her father had shamed
her by spitting in her face. That would shame her for seven
days. Similarly, now she must stay outside the area where
the Israelites set up their tents for seven days. After that, she
can come back *to her tent*." 15 So Miriam stayed outside the
area where the Israelites set up their tents for seven days.
The Israelites stayed there until she came back *to her tent*.
16 Then the Israelites left Hazeroth. They set up their tents
in the desolate area near *the city of* Paran.

13 Yahweh told Moses, 2 "Have some men go to Canaan
and scout it out. That is the land that I will give to
you Israelites. Select one man for each ancestral tribe. Each
one must be someone who helps lead his tribe."
3 So Moses selected *twelve* men, each of whom was someone
who helped lead the Israelites. He had them go *to Canaan*
from *where they had set up their tents in* the desolate area
near *the city of* Paran, just as Yahweh commanded him to
do. 4 Here are the names *of the men and their tribes*: Zaccur's
son Shammua, from Reuben tribe; 5 Hori's son Shaphat, from
Simeon tribe; 6 Jephunneh's son Caleb, from Judah tribe;
7 Joseph's son Igal, from Issachar tribe; 8 Nun's son Hoshea,
from Ephraim tribe; 9 Raphu's son Palti, from Benjamin
tribe; 10 Sodi's son Gaddiel, from Zebulun tribe; 11 Susi's son
Gaddi, from Manasseh tribe, which descends from Joseph;
12 Gemalli's son Ammiel, from Dan tribe; 13 Michael's son
Sethur, from Asher tribe; 14 Vophsi's son Nahbi, from Naphtali
tribe; 15 and Maki's son Geuel, from Gad tribe.
16 Moses had those men go and scout Canaan out. Also,
Moses had given Nun's son Hoshea the name Joshua.
17 When Moses had them go to Canaan and scout it out, he
told them, "Walk directly ahead of you through the Negeb.
Then, walk into the hilly area *north of it*. 18 Pay attention to
what the area is like. *Pay attention* to the people who live
there. *Find out* if they are powerful or not. *Find out* if there
are many of them or only a few. 19 *Pay attention* to the area
where they live. *Find out* if it is desirable or not. *Pay attention*
to the places where they live. *Find out* if they live in cities
with or without walls. 20 *Pay attention* to the soil. *Find out*
if it is fertile or not. *Find out* if trees grow there or not. Do
your best to bring back some fruit that grows there." *He said
that because* it was time when the first grapes became ripe.
21 So those men walked *to Canaan* and scouted it out. *They
did so* from the desolate area of Zin *in the south* to the city
of Rehob, *which is near* the city of Lebo Hamath *in the north*.
22 *When they left the Israelites,* they walked through the Negeb
and arrived at the city of Hebron. People had constructed
Hebron seven years before people constructed the city of
Zoan, which is in Egypt. Some of the Anak people group
lived near Hebron. *Their names were* Ahiman, Sheshai, and
Talmai. 23 Near Eshcol Stream Bed, they chopped a branch
from a grapevine that had a large group of grapes on it. They
attached it to a pole so that two of them could carry it. *They
also collected* some pomegranates and figs. 24 They named
that place Eshcol Stream Bed because there the Israelites
chopped off *a branch* that had a large group of grapes on it.
The word Eshcol means "a group of grapes."
25 When they had finished scouting Canaan out, they came
back *to the rest of the Israelites*. They had been gone for 40
days.
26 When they arrived *where the Israelites were* at the city of
Kadesh in the desolate area near *the city of* Paran, they met
with Aaron, Moses, and the rest of the Israelite community.
Then the leaders *who had scouted Canaan out* told Aaron,
Moses, and the rest of the Israelite community what they had
learned, and they showed them the grapes, pomegranates,
and figs that they had gathered. 27 Then they told Moses *in
front of everyone*, "We walked to the place where you told
us to go. It certainly is a very fertile place! Here is the fruit
it produces. 28 But the people who live there are powerful.
Their cities have large walls. Also, some of the Anak people
group live there. 29 The Amalekite people group lives in the
Negeb. The Hittite people group, the Jebusite people group,
and the Amorite people group live in the hilly area. The
Canaanite people group lives near the *Mediterranean* Sea and
near the Jordan River."
30 Caleb told the people who were in front of Moses to
be quiet. Then he said, "We can definitely conquer Canaan!
So, we should certainly walk *there* and take the area for
ourselves."
31 However, the others who had walked *to Canaan* with
him said, "No, the people *who live there* are more powerful
than we are. We cannot conquer them." 32 Then those men
told the Israelites bad things about Canaan, the area they
had scouted out. They said, "The area that we scouted out
is very bad for those who live there. Also, every person we
saw there was very tall. 33 We even saw Nephils there. We
felt like little bugs in comparison with them, and that is how
they thought of us too." *They mentioned Nephils because* the
descendants of Anak are Nephils.

14 During that night, all the Israelite people cried loudly.
2 Also, all the Israelites complained about Moses and
Aaron. The whole Israelite community said to Moses and
Aaron, "We wish that we had died in Egypt or in this desolate
area! 3 Yahweh has taken us to this land only so that *the
people who live here* can slaughter us *men*. Then, they will
capture our wives and children. It is best for us to go back
to Egypt!" 4 So they said to each other, "We should choose
a *new* leader, and he will lead us back to Egypt."
5 Then Aaron and Moses *sorrowfully and fearfully* bowed
down *before Yahweh* in front of the whole Israelite community.
6 Nun's son Joshua and Jephunneh's son Caleb were two
of the men who had scouted Canaan out. They ripped
their clothing to show how sad they were. 7 They told the
whole Israelite community, "The area that we scouted out
is extremely good. 8 We should act to please Yahweh. Then,
he will lead us to Canaan and give it to us. It is a very fertile
place! 9 But please, do not refuse to obey Yahweh! He acts
for us. So, do not be afraid of the people who live in Canaan!
There is nothing to protect them. We will defeat them as
easily as we eat food. So, do not be afraid of them!"

10 Then the whole *Israelite* community talked about killing
Caleb and Joshua by throwing stones at them. However,
Yahweh made himself present to all the Israelites in a glorious
way at the sacred tent.
11 Yahweh told Moses, “I am displeased that these people
keep rejecting me. I am displeased that they do not trust me,
despite all the amazing things that I have performed among
them. 12 So I will kill them with a terrible disease, and they
will not live *in the land of Canaan*. Instead, I will make your
descendants a people group. They will be more numerous
and more powerful than these Israelites.”
13 Moses replied to Yahweh, “You powerfully took these
people from Egypt. But *if you do what you say*, the Egyptians
will learn about it, 14 and they will tell it to the people in
Canaan. The people in Canaan have already learned that
you, Yahweh, are present with the Israelites. *The people in
Canaan have learned that* the Israelites can see your presence
directly and that the cloud that you control is above them.
The people in Canaan have learned that you lead the Israelites
during the day with a cloud that looks like a column and
during the night with fire that looks like a column. 15 So
suppose that you kill all the Israelites at once. In that case,
the people groups who have learned about you will say,
16 ‘Yahweh could not take these people into the land that he
promised to give to them, so he killed them in the desolate
area.’
17 So, I ask you to show that you are very powerful. That
is what you said about yourself when you told me, 18 ‘I do
not quickly become angry. Instead, I am faithful. I forgive
people when they do what is wrong or disobey me. However,
I will certainly punish *some* people. When parents do what
is wrong, I will punish their children, grandchildren, and
great-grandchildren.’ 19 I ask that you pardon these people
for what they have done wrong. *I ask that* because you are
very faithful and because you have been pardoning them
during the whole time we traveled from Egypt to this place.”
20 Yahweh replied, “I have pardoned *them* as you asked.
21 Yet, I surely live, and I surely am gloriously present
throughout the whole world. 22 Just as surely, *I proclaim
something about* all the people who experienced the amazing
things that I performed in Egypt and in the desolate area and
how I make myself gloriously present. Those people provoked
me many times and did not do what I said. 23 Because of that,
I proclaim that none of them will experience the land that I
promised their ancestors *that I would give to their descendants*.
Indeed, no one who rejected me will experience that land.
24 However, Caleb, who serves me, is different from those
people. He has obeyed me completely. Because of that, I
will take him into the land that he scouted out. Some of it
will belong to his descendants. 25 Now the Amalekite people
group and the Canaanite people group live in the *nearby*
valley. So, tomorrow you and the Israelites must turn around
and leave *this place and walk* to the desolate area. *You must
walk on* the road to the Sea of Reeds.”
26 Then Yahweh told Aaron and Moses, 27 “I have *often*
listened to these Israelites complain about me. I am displeased
that this wicked community keeps doing that! 28 So tell them,
‘Here is what I, Yahweh, say: I surely live. Just as surely,
I will make you experience exactly what you said to me.
29 Everyone who complained about me will die in this desolate
area. That includes all the men who were at least 20 years
old whom *Moses, Aaron, and the 12 leaders* listed. 30 You
will certainly not enter the land that I solemnly promised to
give to you. Only Jephunneh’s son Caleb, Nun’s son Joshua,
31 and your children *will enter that land*. Those are the very
children whom you said your enemies would capture. Those
are the people I will take to the land that you refused to
enter, and they will experience it. 32 But as for you, you will
die in this desolate area. 33 Your children will *wander* in this
desolate area as herders for *about* forty years. Until all of
you die in this desolate area, they will suffer because you
did not faithfully obey me. 34 I will punish you for what you
did wrong for forty years. That is one year for each of the
forty days that the 12 leaders scouted Canaan out. You will
experience what it is like to have me as an enemy. 35 *This will
certainly happen because* I, Yahweh, have declared it! I will
certainly carry out everything I have said about this wicked
community that gathers together to oppose me. They will
never leave this desolate area. In fact, they will die here!’”
36 As for *ten of* the leaders whom Moses told to scout out
the land of Canaan, they had come back and told bad things
about Canaan. What they did caused the Israelite community
to complain about Moses. 37 So, a terrible disease killed those
men in Yahweh’s presence. 38 Of the 12 men who had scouted
Canaan out, only Nun’s son Joshua and Jephunneh’s son
Caleb stayed alive.
39 Then Moses told the Israelites what Yahweh had said.
They were very sad. 40 They woke up early the next morning
and started to go to the highest parts of the hilly area *in
Canaan*. They said, “We are here! We did what was wrong.
So, now we will walk to the area that Yahweh spoke about.”
41 Moses replied, “You should not do that. You are
disobeying what Yahweh said! You will not accomplish
anything good. 42 Yahweh will not act for you. So, you
should not walk there. Otherwise, the people who oppose
you will defeat you. 43 I mean that the Amalekite people
group and the Canaanite people group will oppose you
there, and they will slaughter you. Here is why: you stopped
obeying Yahweh. So, Yahweh will not act for you.”
44 Despite that, the Israelites decided to walk to the highest
parts of the hilly area *in Canaan*. However, both the sacred
chest and Moses remained at the campsite. 45 Then *men from*
the Amalekite people group and the Canaanite people group
who lived in that hilly area attacked *the Israelites*. They
defeated the Israelites and chased them to Hormah, *which
means “destroy”*.

15 Yahweh told Moses, 2 “Tell this to the Israelite people:
They will enter the area where they will live, which
I will give to them. 3 *While they live there*, they will offer
animals to me, either oxen or sheep, so that I will enjoy the
smell *of the smoke when they burn them*. They may present
them as wholly burned sacrifices or as any other kind of
sacrifice. They may present them because they have made
a solemn promise, or because they freely choose to do so,
or because it is a yearly celebration. 4 In all of those cases,
the people who offer the sacrifices must also offer *grain and
wine* offerings to me. The grain offering must be about two
liters of flour with about one liter of olive oil in it. 5 The
wine offering must be about one liter of wine. *Those are the
grain and wine offerings* that they must offer when they offer
one male sheep as a wholly burned sacrifice or as any other
kind of sacrifice.
6 When *they offer* a ram, the grain offering must be about
four liters of flour with about one and one-fourth liters of
olive oil in it. 7 The wine offering must be about one and
one-fourth liters of wine. When they offer *those things*, I will
enjoy the smell *of the smoke when they burn them*.

8 *Here are the grain and wine offerings for* when they offer
a young bull as a wholly burned sacrifice or as any other
kind of sacrifice. They may offer it as a fellowship sacrifice
or because they made a solemn promise. 9 The grain offering
for the young bull must be about six liters of flour with
about two liters of olive oil in it. 10 The wine offering must
be about two liters of wine. When they give those things to
me, I will enjoy the smell *of the smoke when they burn them*.
11 Those are the grain and wine offerings for each ox,
ram, and male lamb or male goat that they offer. 12 Each
animal must have its appropriate grain and wine offerings,
no matter how many they offer.
13 All the Israelites must follow those instructions when
they offer animals to me. I will enjoy the smell *of the*
smoke when they burn them. 14 Suppose that foreigners or
anyone else who lives among the Israelites at any time
want to offer animals to me so that I will enjoy the smell
of the smoke when they burn them. In that case, they must
follow the same instructions that the Israelites follow. 15 The
whole community must follow the same instructions in my
presence. That includes both the Israelites and the foreigners
who live among them. These instructions always apply to
both groups and their descendants. 16 The Israelites and the
foreigners who live among them must follow these exact
same instructions."
17 Yahweh told Moses, 18 "Tell this to the Israelite people:
They will enter the area where I will take them. 19 While
they are there, they will eat what they grow from that land.
When they do, they must dedicate a special contribution to
me. 20 They must dedicate some of the first batch of dough
that they make *each year* as this special contribution. They
must make this dough into thick bread. When they dedicate
the thick bread, it is like when farmers dedicate some of the
first grain that they have harvested. 21 Both the Israelites
and their descendants must dedicate to me some of the first
batch of dough that they make *each year*.
22 Sometimes, the Israelites will accidentally disobey
something that I have told you that I command. 23 That
includes everything that I commanded them and their
descendants through you, which applies at the time when I
commanded it and from then on. 24 In that case, as long as
they disobeyed accidentally and the community did not know
about it, the community must offer sacrifices. *They must offer*
one young bull as a wholly burned sacrifice, along with its
grain and wine offerings. They must follow the instructions
for those offerings. I will enjoy the smell *of the smoke when*
they burn them. *They must* also *offer* one male goat as a
purifying sacrifice. 25 When the priest offers those sacrifices,
I will accept them to remove what the Israelite community
did that was wrong. I will pardon the Israelites. *I will do that*
because they disobeyed accidentally, because they offered
the bull and its grain and wine offerings to me, and because
they offered the male goat as a purifying sacrifice in my
presence. 26 Because everyone disobeyed accidentally, I will
pardon the whole Israelite community and the foreigners
who live among them.
27 Now suppose that a single person disobeys accidentally.
That person must offer a female goat that is one year old as
a purifying sacrifice. 28 When the priest offers that sacrifice,
I will accept it to remove what that person accidentally
did wrong in my presence. I will pardon that person. 29 The
Israelites and the foreigners who live among them must follow
the same instructions when someone disobeys accidentally.
30 On the other hand, suppose that someone disobeys
intentionally and defiantly, whether that person is an Israelite
or a foreigner. In that case, that person has insulted me.
The other Israelites must drive that person out from among
them. 31 *They must do that because* that person treated what I
said disrespectfully and disobeyed what I commanded. The
other Israelites must completely drive that person out from
among them. I will punish that person for what he or she
did wrong."
32 One day, while the Israelites were in the desolate area,
some of them noticed a man who was collecting firewood
on the Sabbath day. 33 Those who noticed him doing that
took him to Moses and Aaron and the rest of the community.
34 The leaders did not know how to punish him. So, they had
some Israelites guard him *until they learned what to do*. 35 Then
Yahweh told Moses, "The community must certainly execute
that man by throwing stones at him outside the area where
the Israelites set up their tents." 36 So the whole community
took that man outside the area where the Israelites set up
their tents. They killed him by throwing stones at him. *They*
did exactly what Yahweh told Moses *that they should do*.
37 Yahweh told Moses, 38 "Tell this to the Israelite people:
They and their descendants must attach to the corners of
their clothes groups of threads that hang down. Each group
of threads must include one thick, blue thread. 39 When
they look at these groups of threads, they will think about
everything that I have commanded them to do, and *that will*
help them to do it. That way, they will not try to do what they
naturally desire, which causes them to faithlessly disobey
me. 40 Instead, they will think about everything that I have
commanded them to do, and they will do it. Then, they will
be sacred and belong to me, their God. 41 I am Yahweh, their
God. I am the one who led them out of Egypt. I did that so
that I would be their God. *So,* I am Yahweh, their God."

16 Now there was a man whose name was Korah. He
was the son of Izhar, who was the son of Kohath,
who was the son of Levi. He decided to do something, along
with Eliab's sons Dathan and Abiram and Peleth's son On,
who were all descendants of Reuben. 2 They rebelled against
Moses, and 250 men whom the Israelites had chosen to
lead their community, whom the other Israelites respected,
rebelled with them. 3 They came together to criticize Moses
and Aaron. They said, "Yahweh is present with the whole
Israelite community, and we are all sacred. So, you two are
making yourselves greater *than you should*. You should not
consider yourselves greater than the rest of the community
of people who serve Yahweh!"
4 When Moses heard *what they said*, he *sorrowfully and*
fearfully bowed down *before Yahweh*. 5 Then he said to Korah
and the community that he had assembled, "Tomorrow
morning Yahweh will reveal to us who is sacred and belongs
to him. Whomever Yahweh selects is the one whom Yahweh
authorizes to approach his own presence. 6 Here is what you,
Korah and the community that you have assembled, must
do. Prepare pans for burning incense. 7 Tomorrow morning,
put burning coals in the pans and burn incense in Yahweh's
presence. At that time, Yahweh will choose one man, and
we will know that it is he who is sacred. You Levites are
making yourselves greater *than you should*!"
8 Then Moses spoke again to Korah. He said, "Listen to
me, you Levites! 9 The God whom we Israelites serve has set
you apart from the rest of the Israelite community. He has
authorized you to approach his own presence. So, you set

up and take down the sacred tent. You help the rest of the community. That should be great enough for you! 10 Yahweh has authorized you, *Korah,* along with your fellow Levites, to approach *his own presence*. You should not demand to become priests also! 11 So, Aaron is not the one whom you are really complaining about. Actually, you and the community that you have assembled have gathered together to oppose Yahweh!"

12 Then Moses sent *a messenger* to summon Eliab's sons Dathan and Abiram. They told *the messenger to say to Moses*, "We will not come to you! 13 You led us out of Egypt, which is a very fertile place, to make us die here in this desolate area. That was bad! But now you claim to be our ruler in every way. That is worse! 14 Further, you have not taken us to a very fertile land. You have not provided fields and vineyards for us and our descendants. You are only trying to deceive us Israelites! So, we will not come to you."

15 Then Moses was very angry. He said to Yahweh, "I have not taken anything from them, not even one donkey. I have not harmed any of them. *Despite that, they still complain about me. So, please* do not accept anything that they offer to you."

16 Then Moses told Korah, "You and the community that you have assembled must present yourselves in Yahweh's presence tomorrow. Aaron will also be there. 17 Each man must bring his pan for burning incense. That will be 250 pans, plus yours and Aaron's. Each man must burn incense and offer it in Yahweh's presence."

18 So, *the next day* each of those men brought his pan for burning incense. They all put burning coals in their pans and burned incense. Along with Moses and Aaron, they stood at the entrance to the sacred tent. 19 Korah also summoned the whole Israelite community to oppose Moses and Aaron at the entrance to the sacred tent. Then Yahweh made himself present to the whole Israelite community in a glorious way. 20 Yahweh told Moses and Aaron, 21 "Get away from this community! Then I can destroy them in an instant."

22 However, Moses and Aaron *sorrowfully and fearfully* bowed down *before Yahweh*. They said, "God, you are the God who makes everything live. Please do not act in an angry way toward the whole community when only one person did what was wrong!"

23 Yahweh told Moses, 24 "Tell this to the *Israelite* community: They must get away from the place where Korah, Dathan, and Abiram are staying."

25 Then Moses walked to *where* Dathan and Abiram *were staying*. The Israelite leaders followed him. 26 He told the *Israelite* community, "I ask that you get away from the place where these evil men have set up their tents. Avoid touching anything that belongs to them. Otherwise, you too will experience what will happen when Yahweh punishes them for what they did wrong." 27 So the rest of the Israelites got far away from the place where Korah, Dathan, and Abiram were staying. Now Dathan, Abiram, their wives, and their children had left their tents and were standing at the entrances to them.

28 Then Moses said, "I was not the one who decided to do all these things that I have done. It was Yahweh who told me to do them. Here is how you can be sure of that. 29 Suppose that these men die in a normal way, like most people. In that case, *you can be sure that* Yahweh did not tell me *to do these things*. 30 On the other hand, suppose that Yahweh does something that has never happened before. Suppose that the ground under them breaks open, they and everything they have fall down into the hole, and dirt covers them so that it buries them alive. In that case, you can be sure that these men rejected Yahweh."

31 As soon as Moses was done talking, the ground beneath those men broke open. 32 When it broke open, those men and their families, as well as all the people who supported Korah *besides the 250 men who were burning incense* and all their possessions fell into the hole. 33 Dirt covered them and all their possessions so that it buried them alive. They no longer existed as part of the Israelite community. 34 Those people screamed as they fell, and the Israelites ran away when they heard that sound. They said, "*We need to run away* so that we do not fall into the hole too!" 35 Also, Yahweh sent fire that destroyed the 250 men who were offering incense.

36 Then Yahweh told Moses, 37 "The pans for burning incense *that those men used* are sacred. So, tell Aaron the priest's son Eleazar to collect them from the ashes. You must throw away the burning coals *that were in them* far away *from the campsite*. 38 Those men caused themselves to die by doing what was wrong. They offered *incense in* those pans in my presence, and those pans are now sacred. So, have *workmen* hammer them into thin metal sheets and attach them to the outside of the altar. That way, they will remind the Israelites *of what happened*."

39 So the priest Eleazar collected the bronze pans that the men whom the fire destroyed had offered *incense in*. *Workmen* hammered them *into sheets* to attach to the outside of the altar. 40 Eleazar *did* exactly what Yahweh commanded through Moses. *The sheets* remind the Israelites that any person whom Yahweh has not authorized, that is, anyone who is not a descendant of Aaron, must not approach Yahweh's presence to burn incense in a way that causes smoke to go up. *Yahweh will punish* anyone *who is not a descendant of Aaron and who burns incense in Yahweh's presence* in the same way he punished Korah and the community that he assembled.

41 The next day, the whole Israelite community complained about Moses and Aaron. They said, "It is you who killed people who belong to Yahweh!"

42 After the community gathered together to oppose Moses and Aaron, they looked at the sacred tent. They saw the cloud directly over it and Yahweh making himself present in a glorious way. 43 Then Moses and Aaron walked to the area in front of the sacred tent. 44 Yahweh told Moses, 45 "Get away from this community! Then I can destroy them in an instant." Then Aaron and Moses *sorrowfully and fearfully* bowed down *before Yahweh*.

46 Then Moses told Aaron, "Yahweh is angry and has begun to act on it. He has caused *the people to become sick with* a terrible disease. So, prepare a pan, put burning coals from the altar in it, and burn incense in it. As soon as you can, take it to the community. *When you offer the incense*, Yahweh will accept it and remove what they did wrong." 47 So Aaron did what Moses told him *to do*. He prepared *a pan*, and he hurried to a place in the middle of the community. He saw that *the people were* already *becoming sick with* the terrible disease. So, he burned incense, and Yahweh accepted it and removed what the people had done wrong. 48 Aaron stationed himself between the people who had already died and those who were still alive. Then, *the people* stopped *getting sick with* the terrible disease. 49 However, 14,700 people had already died from the terrible disease. That was in addition to the people who died when Korah *and his followers opposed Moses and Aaron*. 50 After *the people* stopped *getting sick with*

the terrible disease, Aaron went back to the entrance of the sacred tent, where Moses was.

17 Then Yahweh told Moses, 2 "Tell the Israelite people to bring to you twelve walking sticks. They should bring one for each man who leads each ancestral family. You must write each leader's name on his stick. 3 There must be one walking stick for each man who leads each ancestral family. So, you must *also include a stick* for the descendants of Levi and write Aaron's name on it. 4 You must place those walking sticks inside the sacred tent in front of the sacred chest. That is the place where I usually meet with you all.

5 Then, one of the sticks will begin to grow. That stick will belong to the man whom I have selected *to be priest*. In this way, I will stop the Israelites from complaining about you and Aaron."

6 So Moses told the people *what Yahweh had said*. Then each of the twelve men who led each ancestral family brought to him one walking stick each. There were 12 sticks, plus the stick with Aaron's name on it. 7 Moses placed those walking sticks inside the sacred tent in Yahweh's presence.

8 The next day, Moses entered the sacred tent. He saw that the stick with Aaron's name on it, which the descendants of Levi had contributed, had grown! It had grown buds, which grew into flowers and produced nuts that were ready to eat. 9 Moses picked up all the sticks from Yahweh's presence *in the sacred tent* and took them to all the Israelites. They looked *at the sticks*, and then each of the leaders picked up the stick with his name on it.

10 Then Yahweh told Moses, "Put the stick with Aaron's name on it back in front of the sacred chest to keep it safe. It will remind these rebellious people *of what happened*. That way, you will prevent them from complaining in my presence. Then, they will not die." 11 Moses did exactly what Yahweh told him *to do*.

12 Then the Israelites told Moses, "All of us are certainly going to die! 13 Every person who approaches the sacred tent *where* Yahweh *makes himself present* dies! We may all die!"

18 Yahweh told Aaron, "I will punish you, your descendants, and the rest of the descendants of Kohath when someone does something wrong concerning *the things that belong in* the sacred tent. I will punish *only* you and your descendants when someone does something wrong when they act as a priest. 2 Summon your fellow Levites, who belong to your ancestral tribe. They will work for you and help you while you and your descendants *act as priests* at the sacred tent. 3 They must guard you and the whole sacred tent. However, they must not approach the equipment for the sacred tent or the altar. That way, they will not die, and neither will you. 4 They will work for you and will guard the sacred tent as they set it up and take it down. Anyone who is not a Levite must not approach *where* you *are working*.

5 You *and the rest of the priests* must guard *the things that belong in* the sacred tent and the altar. That way, I will not be angry with the Israelites again. 6 Out of all the Israelites, I myself have appointed your fellow Levites. They belong to me, and I am giving them to you *and the rest of the priests*. They will set up and take down the sacred tent. 7 You and your descendants must make sure that no one else serves as a priest. *That includes* everything that involves the altar and *the Most Holy Place* behind the curtain. You must set up and take down *these parts of the sacred tent*. I am appointing you to be priests who set up and take down these things, and *the rest of the Israelites* will pay you *for doing that*. If anyone who is not a Levite approaches *the sacred tent*, someone must execute that person."

8 Yahweh told Aaron, "I myself am putting you in charge of all the sacred things that the Israelites give to me. I give these sacred things to you and to your sons for you to use. This is a permanent rule. 9 The parts of the most sacred offerings that you do not burn will be yours. That includes grain offerings, purifying offerings, and restoring sacrifices that they present to me. These most sacred offerings belong to you and your descendants. 10 You must eat these *sacred offerings* in a very sacred place. Every man *who is a priest* may eat them. They are sacred and belong to you.

11 In addition, the Israelites give me special contributions by having a priest hold them up. I am giving those special contributions to you and to your male and female descendants. This is a permanent rule. Every person in your household who is pure may eat them.

12 The Israelites present to me some of their first batches of fresh olive oil and fresh wine and grain. I give all these things to you. 13 They will present to me some of the first batches of everything that they grow in the place *where they will live*. All those things belong to you. Every person in your household who is pure may eat them.

14 Everything that any Israelites permanently dedicate to me will belong to you. 15 The Israelites dedicate every oldest *male* child and farm animal to me. Those people and things belong to you. However, sometimes the oldest *male* is a human or an impure animal. In those cases, you will receive money instead *of the child or animal*. 16 When you receive money instead *of the child or animal*, you must calculate the amount of money when the child or animal is one month old. You must receive five pieces of silver. You must use the same kind of pieces of silver that *the priests* use in the sacred tent. Each of these pieces of silver weighs about 11 grams.

17 However, you must not receive money instead of any oldest *male* bull, sheep, or goat. *That is because* they are sacred. You must splatter their blood on the altar. You must burn their fat in a way that causes smoke to go up. *When you burn* these offerings, I will enjoy the smell *of the smoke*. 18 Their meat will belong to you, just as the breast meat that the priest holds up *in Yahweh's presence* and the right thigh meat belong to you. 19 Whenever the Israelites dedicate any special and sacred contribution to me, I give it to you and to your male and female descendants. This is a permanent rule. It is a permanent agreement that I am making with you and your descendants.

20 Yahweh told Aaron, "You will not receive any land like the rest of the Israelites will. Instead of receiving land, you will *act as priests for* me among the Israelites. 21 Listen, I assign to the Levites one tenth of all the produce and animals that belong to the Israelites. That is what they will receive instead of land in return for setting up and taking down the sacred tent. 22 The other Israelites must never approach the sacred tent. Otherwise, I will punish them for what they did wrong, and they will die. 23 Each Levite must set up and take down the sacred tent. I will punish *only* the Levites for anything they do wrong *concerning the sacred tent*. This is a permanent rule for you and all your descendants. So, the Levites will not receive any land like the rest of the Israelites will. 24 That is because I am giving *something* to the Levites instead of land. *I am giving them* one tenth of all the produce and animals that belong to the Israelites, which they dedicate to me as a special contribution. Because of that, I have told

the Levites, 'You will not receive any land like the rest of the Israelites will.'"

25 Yahweh told Moses, 26 "Tell the Levites that they will receive from the Israelites one tenth of all their produce and animals. I am giving those things to the Levites instead of land. *When they receive* that one tenth of produce and animals, they must dedicate one tenth of those things to me as a special contribution. 27 When they dedicate that special contribution, I will consider it to be like when farmers dedicate some of the first grain that they have harvested or the grape juice they have produced. 28 In this way, they too must dedicate to me a special contribution. *They must dedicate it from* the one tenth of all the produce and animals that the Israelites give them. They must give their special contribution, which belongs to me, to the priest Aaron. 29 From everything that *the Israelites* give them, they must dedicate a special contribution to me. *They must dedicate* the best portion, which is sacred. 30 So, tell the Levites that they must dedicate the best portion from everything *that the Israelites give them*. When *they do that*, I will consider it to be like when farmers dedicate grain that they have harvested or grape juice that they have produced. 31 The *rest of* what the Israelites give them is what I pay the Levites for setting up and taking down the sacred tent. So, they and their families may eat it anywhere they choose. 32 When they dedicate the best portion from everything *that the Israelites give them*, they will avoid defiling the sacred things that the Israelites give them. As a result, I will not punish them for doing anything wrong concerning those sacred things. That way, they will not die."

19 Yahweh told Moses and Aaron, 2 Here is a rule from the instructions that I have ordered *you to obey*. Tell the Israelite people to bring to you, Moses, a reddish-brown cow. It must be completely healthy, with no defects. It must be a cow that no one has used to do work. 3 You, Moses and Aaron, must give the cow to the priest Eleazar. He must take it outside the area where the Israelites set up their tents. Then, someone must kill it in Eleazar's presence. 4 Then the priest Eleazar must dip one of his fingers in the cow's blood and flick some of the blood seven times toward the front of the sacred tent. 5 Then someone must burn the cow while Eleazar watches. That person must burn *the entire cow, including* its hide, its meat, its blood, and its excrement. 6 After that, the priest must pick up some cedar wood, some hyssop branches, and some crimson thread. He must toss them onto the fire where the cow is burning.

7 Then the priest must wash his clothes and thoroughly bathe himself. After that, he may return to the area where the Israelites set up their tents. However, he will be impure until the sun sets on that day. 8 The person who burned the cow must also wash his or her clothes and thoroughly bathe himself or herself. That person will be impure until the sun sets on that day.

9 A man who is pure must collect the cow's ashes. He must put them in a pure place outside the area where the Israelites set up their tents. The Israelite community must keep the ashes safe. They will use them with water to make themselves pure. When they burn this cow it counts as a purifying sacrifice. 10 The man who collected the cow's ashes must also wash his clothes. He will be impure until the sun sets on that day. This is a permanent rule. It applies both to the Israelites and to the foreigners who live among them.

11 Anyone who touches a human corpse will become impure for seven days. 12 That person must have someone cleanse him or her with the water and ashes. *That must happen twice*: two days and six days after *he or she touched a corpse*. *After that* the person will be pure. However, suppose that the person does not have someone cleanse him or her *with the water and ashes* two days and six days after *he or she touched a corpse*. In that case, the person will not be pure. 13 Suppose that someone touches a human corpse but does not have someone cleanse him or her *with the water and ashes*. In that case, the person has caused the sacred tent *where* Yahweh *makes himself present* to become impure. Because no one splattered the water *and ashes* on that person to make him or her pure, the other Israelites must drive that person out from among them. That person is and will always be impure.

14 Here are the instructions for when someone dies inside a tent. Everyone who was in that tent and everyone who enters that tent will become impure for seven days. 15 Also, every container *inside that tent* that has no lid covering it is impure. 16 Now suppose that someone is outdoors. Suppose that person touches the place where someone buried someone, or a human bone, or a corpse. The corpse may be someone who died naturally or someone whom someone else killed. In that case, the person who touched any of those things will become impure for seven days.

17 Someone must pick up some of the ashes from *the cow* that they burned as a purifying sacrifice. That person must put them into a container and pour fresh water on them. *That person will use the water and ashes* to cleanse any impure people. 18 Then a man who is pure must take some hyssop branches and dip them in the water. Then he must flick *some of the water onto the persons or things that are unclean*. That includes a tent *in which someone died* and all the containers and people who were in it. It also includes anyone who touches the place where someone buried someone, or a *human* bone, or a corpse. The corpse may be someone who died naturally or someone whom someone else killed 19 The person who is pure must flick *the water* on anyone who is impure *twice*: two days and six days after *he or she became impure*. Once the person who is pure cleanses the person who is impure six after *he or she became impure*, the person who was impure must wash his or her clothes and thoroughly bathe himself or herself. When the sun sets on that day, that person will become pure.

20 Suppose that a person becomes impure and does not cleanse himself or herself. That person has caused the sacred tent *where* Yahweh *makes himself present* to become impure. So, the other Israelites must drive that person out from among them. No one splattered the water *and ashes* on that person to make him or her pure. *So,* that person remains impure. 21 That is a permanent rule for the Israelites. Additionally, the person who flicked the water on anyone to make him or her pure must wash his or her clothes. Anyone who touches the water that makes people pure will become impure until the sun sets on that day. 22 Suppose that a person who is impure touches anything. That thing will become impure. Further, anyone who touches that thing will also become impure until the sun sets on that day."

Water flowed from a rock

20 In the first month *of the fortieth year after they left Egypt*, the whole Israelite community arrived at the

desolate area of Zin. They stayed at *the city of* Kadesh. While they were there, Miriam died, and the Israelites buried her.

2 Now the community could not find any water to drink *there*. So, they came together to criticize Moses and Aaron.
3 The people argued with Moses. They said, "We wish that we had died when our fellow Israelites died in Yahweh's presence! 4 You *and Aaron* have taken us, the community of people who serve Yahweh, to this desolate area only so that we and our animals will die here! 5 You should not have led us out of Egypt only to take us to this terrible area! Nothing grows here. There are no crops, figs, grapevines, or pomegranates. There is not even water for us to drink!"

6 Moses and Aaron left the *Israelite* community and went to the entrance of the sacred tent. There, they *sorrowfully and fearfully* bowed down *before Yahweh*. Then Yahweh made himself present to them in a glorious way.

7 Yahweh told Moses, 8 "Go and pick up the walking stick *on which you wrote Aaron's name*. Then, you and your brother Aaron must summon the *Israelite* community. While they are watching, you must speak to the rock *that is nearby*. It will pour out water. In this way, you will provide water out of the rock for the Israelites to drink, both they and their animals." 9 So Moses picked up the walking stick from *where it was in the sacred tent* in Yahweh's presence. *He did* exactly what Yahweh ordered him *to do*

10 Then Moses and Aaron summoned the *Israelite* community to the area in front of the rock *that was nearby*. Then Moses told them, "Listen to me, you people who keep defying God! I am upset that we have to make this rock pour out water for you!"

11 Then Moses lifted up the walking stick he was holding. He struck the rock twice with it, and water gushed out. Then, the *Israelite* community and their animals drank the water.

12 After that, Yahweh told Moses and Aaron, "You did not trust me. You did not show the Israelite people how holy I am. Therefore, you will not lead the Israelite community into the land that I am giving them!"

13 *People call the place where* the water *gushed out of the rock* Meribah. *That means "arguing." That is because* the Israelite people argued with Yahweh there. In response, Yahweh demonstrated to them that he is sacred.

14 *While the Israelites were* at Kadesh, Moses had representatives visit the king of Edom. *They said to the king,* "Your relatives, the Israelite people, send you this message. You know very well about everything we have suffered. 15 Our ancestors traveled to Egypt. Our people group lived there for a long time. *While we were there,* the Egyptian people treated us and our ancestors very badly. 16 So, we pleaded with Yahweh *to help us*, and he listened to us. He had his angel come to us and lead us out of Egypt. And now, we are here at Kadesh, a town near the border of your region. 17 We ask that you allow us to travel through your country. We will stay on the King's Highway, *the main road,* and we will not turn off that road in any direction until we have left your region. We promise not to walk through your fields or vineyards. We will not even drink any of your water."

18 The king of Edom replied, "You may not travel through our country! If you try *to travel through*, I will have my army attack you!"

19 The Israelite *representatives* replied, "We will certainly stay on the main road. Further, suppose that we or any of our animals drink any of your water. In that case, we will pay for the water. We are not asking very much, just that you allow us to walk through *your region*."

20 The king of Edom replied again, "You may not travel through *our country*!" Then the king of Edom sent a large and powerful army to attack the Israelites.

21 In that way, the king of Edom and his people did not allow the Israelites to travel through their country. So, the Israelites chose to go a different way.

22 The whole Israelite community left Kadesh and traveled to Mount Hor. 23 So, they were at Mount Hor, which is at the edge of the area where the Edomites live. There, Yahweh told Moses and Aaron, 24 "It is time for Aaron to *die and* be with his ancestors *who have already died*. You, Moses and Aaron, disobeyed what I said to do at Meribah, *where* the water *gushed out of the rock*. So, Aaron will not enter the land that I am giving to the Israelite people. 25 You, Moses, must lead Aaron and his son Eleazar up onto Mount Hor. 26 There you must remove from Aaron the clothes *that he wears as priest* and put them on his son Eleazar. Then Aaron will die in that place."

27 Moses did exactly what Yahweh told him *to do*. Moses, Aaron, and Eleazar walked up Mount Hor while the whole Israelite community watched. 28 There, Moses removed from Aaron the clothes *that he wore as priest* and put them on his son Eleazar. Then Aaron died on the highest part of the mountain. After that, Moses and Eleazar walked back down the mountain. 29 When the whole *Israelite* community realized that Aaron had died, they all mourned for him for 30 days.

21 Now, the Canaanite king who ruled Arad city lived in the Negeb. *Around this time,* he learned that the Israelites had arrived *near him* by traveling on the Atharim road. So, he attacked the Israelites and captured some of them. 2 Then the Israelites made a solemn promise to Yahweh. They said, "We would like you to empower us to defeat these *Canaanite* people. If you do, we will destroy their cities."
3 Yahweh heard what the Israelites asked, and he empowered them to defeat the Canaanites. The Israelites killed all the people and destroyed their cities. So they named that area Hormah, *which means "destroy."*

4 Then the Israelites left Mount Hor and walked on the road to the Sea of Reeds. That way, they could avoid the area where the Edomites lived. Now the Israelites became very impatient while they were traveling. 5 So, they criticized God and Moses. They said, "We hate this terrible manna, and there is no other food or drink here! Clearly, you led us out of Egypt only so that we will die in this desolate area!"

6 So Yahweh had poisonous snakes come and bite many Israelites. After the snakes bit them, many of them died. 7 So the people approached Moses and said, "When we criticized Yahweh and you, we did what was wrong. *Please* ask Yahweh to make these snakes leave us." So Moses spoke *to Yahweh about that* for the people.

8 Yahweh told Moses, "Make an image of a poisonous snake and attach it to the top of a pole. Whenever a snake bites someone, that person should gaze at the snake on the pole. Then, that person will recover." 9 So Moses made a bronze image of a snake and attached it to the top of a pole. Whenever a snake bit someone, that person would gaze at the bronze snake *on the pole*. Then that person would recover.

10 Then the Israelites left *that place* and set up their tents at *a place that people called* Oboth. 11 Then they left Oboth and set up their tents at *a place that people called* Iye Abarim.

It was in the desolate area near Moab, to the east. 12 They
left that place and set up their tents at Zered Stream Bed.
13 They left that place and set up their tents on the north
side of the Arnon River. That place is part of the desolate
area that goes all the way to where the Amorite people live.
(The north side of the Arnon River is where the Moabite
people live, and the south side of the Arnon River is where
the Amorite people live.) 14 The Record of Yahweh's Wars
mentions this:

"Waheb town in the Suphah area
and the stream beds along the Arnon River,
15 and the land where the stream beds run,
as far as the town of Ar
at the edge of the land of Moab."

16 The Israelites left *the north side of the Arnon River* and
traveled to Beer, *which means "Well"*. That is the well where
Yahweh had previously told Moses, "Summon the Israelites.
I will provide water for them."
17 At that time the Israelites performed this song:

"May this well spring up!
Let us sing about it!
18 This is the well that our commanders had us dig.
Our leaders have special sticks that show
that they rule us.
They had us dig it."

The Israelites left that desolate area and traveled to *a place
that people called* Mattanah. 19 *The Israelites* left Mattanah
and traveled to a place that people called Nahaliel. *They* left
Nahaliel *and traveled to a place that people called* Bamoth.
20 *They* left Bamoth *and traveled to* a valley that was in the
open country in the land of Moab. It was at the top of the
hilly area *that people called* Pisgah. *From the valley, people
could* look down into the desolate area *north of the Dead Sea*.
21 Then the Israelites had representatives visit Sihon. He
ruled the Amorite people group. The representatives said,
22 "We ask that you allow us to travel through your country.
We will stay on the King's Highway, *the main road,* until
we have left your region. We promise not to walk through
your fields or vineyards. We will not even drink any of your
water." 23 However, Sihon refused to let the Israelites travel
through his country. Instead, he assembled his entire army
and marched out into the desolate area to attack the Israelites.
When he and his army arrived at the town of Jahaz, they
attacked the Israelites. 24 The Israelites defeated and killed
him and his army. They took the area he ruled for themselves.
This area went from the Arnon River *in the south*, to the
Jabbok River *in the north*, to the area where the Ammonites
lived *in the east*. The Ammonites would have been difficult
to defeat, so the Israelites stopped at the area where the
Ammonites lived. 25 So the Israelites captured all the towns
where the Amorites had lived, including the town of Heshbon
and all its surrounding villages. The Israelites began to live
in those towns and villages. 26 Here is how Heshbon became
the city from which Sihon ruled the Amorites: Sihon attacked
one of the kings who had ruled the Moabites previously. He
defeated that king's army and took over his territory, which
went to the Arnon River *in the south*.
27 Poets spoke about that in this way:

"Travel to Heshbon!
People need to rebuild it.
Then, Sihon can rule from Heshbon.
28 Sihon's army marched from his city, Heshbon,
like a fire going out and burning up everything.
They destroyed the town of Ar in Moab
and the people who controlled the hilltop
shrines along the Arnon River.
29 How terrible for you Moabite people!
You have died, you people who worship Chemosh!
Chemosh let the Moabite men and women become
refugees and prisoners.
Sihon, who rules the Amorites, *conquered them*.
30 We Amorites defeated those Moabites!
We destroyed everything from the city of
Heshbon to the city of Dibon.
We destroyed everything up to *the place that
people call* Nophah,
near the city of Medeba."

31 After all that, the Israelites began to live in the region
where the Amorites had lived.
32 Now Moses had some Israelites explore Jazer. Then, the
Israelites *attacked and* took over *Jazer and* its surrounding
villages. They made the Amorites who had lived there leave.
33 Then the Israelites turned north and went toward the
region of Bashan. Og, the king of that area, and all his
soldiers marched south to fight against them at the city of
Edrei.
34 Yahweh told Moses, "I will cause your army to defeat
him and all his army. I will also cause you to capture all
their land. So, do not be afraid of him. Do to him what you
did to Sihon, the king of the Amorite people, who ruled in
the city of Heshbon." 35 So the Israelites killed Og, his sons,
and his entire army. They did not allow any of them to
remain alive. Then the Israelites took the area Og had ruled
for themselves.

22 Then the Israelites kept traveling. They set up their
tents in the flatlands that were part of Moab, on the
east side of the Jordan River, across from the city of Jericho.
2 *King* Balak, Zippor's son, *ruled Moab at that time*. He
learned about everything the Israelites had done to the
Amorites. 3 He and his people, the Moabites, realized how
many Israelites there were. So, they were extremely afraid of
the Israelites. 4 *The people who led* the Moabites told the people
who led the Midianites, "Very soon this *Israelite* community
will destroy everything around us, just as an ox devours all
the grass in a field." Now King Balak, Zippor's son, ruled
Moab during this time. 5 So King Balak had representatives
visit Balaam, Beor's son. He lived in the town of Pethor
near the Euphrates River. That was his native country. The
representatives would ask Balaam to visit Balak. This was
their message: "Listen to this! A group of people left Egypt
and now they are living near me. There are so many of them
that they cover the entire region. 6 They are more powerful
than we are. So, please travel here. For my sake, call on
God to do bad things to them. Then maybe my army will
be able to defeat them and force them to leave my region. *I
ask* because I believe that when you call on God to do good
things to people, those good things happen to them. When
you call on God to do bad things to people, those bad things
happen to them."
7 The representatives were the people who led the Moabites
and the Midianites. They had money with them to pay *Balaam*

for his work. They traveled to Balaam and told him what Balak had said.

8 Balaam replied, “Stay here tonight. In the morning, I will answer your request. I will tell you what Yahweh tells me.” So, the Moabite officials stayed there *that night*.

9 *During the night,* God made himself present to Balaam. He asked Balaam, “Who are these men who are staying with you?”

10 Balaam replied, “King Balak, Zippor’s son, rules Moab. He had *these men* visit me. 11 They told me that a group of people left Egypt *and are now living near Moab*. There are so many of them that they cover the entire region. They asked me to travel there and for their sake to call upon God to do bad things to this group of people. That way, their army may be able to defeat this group of people and force them to leave *that region*.”

12 Then God told Balaam, “You must not travel back with them! I intend to do good things to this group of people. So, you must not call on me to do bad things to this group of people.”

13 When Balaam woke up the next morning, he told the officials who served Balak, “Yahweh will not allow me to travel back with you. So, return to your country *without me*.”

14 So the Moabite officials returned to King Balak. They told him, “Balaam said that he would not travel back with us.”

15 So King Balak had another group of officials visit Balaam. There were more of these officials, and they were more important than the previous officials. 16 They traveled to where Balaam was. They told him, “We speak for King Balak, Zippor’s son. We ask that you do not let anything keep you from traveling back with us. 17 If you *travel back with us*, King Balak will reward you very much. Also, he will do everything you tell him to do. We only ask that you travel back with us. For our sake, call on God to do bad things to this people group.”

18 Balaam told the men who served King Balak, “Suppose that King Balak offered me all the money and possessions he has. Even in that case, I would not be able to disobey what Yahweh, the God I worship, tells me to do, no matter how unimportant. 19 For now, I ask that you stay here tonight, just as the previous officials did. *Tonight,* I will find out what else Yahweh may say to me.”

20 During the night, God made himself present to Balaam. He told Balaam, “Since these men have arrived here to ask you to travel back with them, you may leave with them when you get up *in the morning*. However, you must do only what I tell you to do!”

21 So the next morning, Balaam got up, put a saddle on his donkey, and left with the Moabite officials. 22 Then, because Balaam left *with them*, God was angry. So, an angel representing Yahweh stood in the road to oppose Balaam. Meanwhile, Balaam was riding on his donkey. He had two servants with him. 23 Balaam’s donkey saw the angel representing Yahweh standing in the road. The angel held a sword and was ready to use it. So, the donkey turned off the road into the open country. But Balaam hit the donkey to force it back onto the road. 24 Then the angel representing Yahweh stood on a narrow road between two vineyards. There were walls on both sides.

25 When the donkey saw the angel representing Yahweh *standing there*, it squeezed up against the wall. When it did that, it also squeezed Balaam’s foot between it and the wall. So, Balaam hit the donkey again. 26 Then the angel representing Yahweh went further ahead. He stopped in a place that was so narrow that no one could get by on either side. 27 When the donkey saw the angel representing Yahweh *standing there*, it lay down on the ground with Balaam still sitting on it. Balaam was angry, and he hit the donkey with his walking stick. 28 Then Yahweh enabled the donkey to speak! It asked Balaam, “Why have you hit me three times? How have I acted against you?”

29 Balaam replied, “You have treated me very badly! I wish I had a sword and could kill you right now!”

30 The donkey replied, “I am your own donkey. You have ridden on me since you bought me. Have I ever acted like this?”

Balaam said, “No.”

31 Then Yahweh enabled Balaam to see the angel representing Yahweh. The angel was standing in the road. He held a sword and was ready to use it. So Balaam *fearfully and respectfully* bowed down *before the angel*. 32 The angel representing Yahweh told Balaam, “You should not have hit your donkey three times! Listen to me! I consider what you are doing to be wrong. So, I came here to oppose you. 33 Your donkey realized I was here. It tried to move away from me those three times. If it had not done that, I would have killed you already. However, I would have let the donkey live.”

34 Then Balaam told the angel representing Yahweh, “I did not realize that you were standing in the road to confront me. Because of that, I did what was wrong. You seem to think that *traveling with these men* is wrong. If that is true, I will go back home.”

35 The angel representing Yahweh replied, “You may travel with these men. However, you must say only what I tell you to say.” So Balaam traveled on with the officials who served Balak.

36 When King Balak learned that Balaam was coming, he traveled to welcome him. He traveled to the town in Moab that is alongside the Arnon River, near the edge of his territory. 37 When *Balaam arrived,* Balak told him, “I had people travel to you to ask you to visit me here! Why did you refuse to go with them *at first*? Surely you know that I can reward you well.”

38 Balaam replied, “Listen, I am here. But you need to know that I cannot say whatever I want. Instead, I can only say what God tells me to say.”

39 Then Balaam traveled with Balak to the town of Kiriath Huzoth. 40 There, Balak offered sheep and oxen as sacrifices. He sent *some of the meat* to Balaam and to the officials who were with Balak.

41 The next morning Balak led Balaam up to the town of Bamoth Baal. From there, Balaam observed some of the Israelites at the edge *of their campsite*.

23 Then Balaam told King Balak, “Have people construct seven altars for me here. Then have people get seven bulls and seven rams ready for me here *to sacrifice*.” 2 So Balak did exactly what Balaam told him to do. Then the two of them offered one bull and one ram on each altar.

3 Then Balaam told Balak, “You stand here close to your wholly burned sacrifice. I will walk *somewhere else*. Hopefully Yahweh will make himself present to me. I will tell you whatever he shows me.” Then Balaam walked to a hill with nothing on it.

4 Then God made himself present to Balaam. Balaam told him, “I had people prepare seven altars. Then, I offered one bull and one ram on each altar.” 5 Then Yahweh told Balaam

what to say. Then Yahweh said, “Go back to Balak. Tell him that message.”

6 So Balaam went back to Balak. He found Balak standing close to his wholly burned sacrifice. All the Moabite officials were with him.

7 Then Balaam began to speak his prophetic message:

“King Balak, who rules Moab, brought me here
from the hills to the east in the region of Aram.
He had me travel here to call upon God
to do bad things to the Israelite people.
8 I cannot call upon God to do bad things *to these people*!
That is because Yahweh does not intend
to do bad things *to them*.
9 I can see them from here,
from the top of this hilly and rocky area.
I see that they separate themselves
from all other people groups.
10 There are too many Israelites to count,
even if someone tried to count just one
quarter of them!
I wish that, when I die, I will be like
one of these people who have done what is right.”

11 Then Balak told Balaam, “You have acted against me! I had you come here to call on God to do bad things to those who oppose me. Instead, you have called on God to do good things to them!”

12 Balaam replied, “I must be careful to say only what Yahweh tells me to say!”

13 After that, King Balak told Balaam, “I ask that you travel with me to a different place. You cannot see all the Israelites from there. You can see just the edge of their *campsite*. From there you must call on God to do bad things to them for my sake.” 14 So Balak took Balaam to part of the open country *that people called* Zophim. It was at the top of the hilly area *that people called* Pisgah. There Balak had people construct seven altars. He offered one bull and one ram on each altar. 15 Then Balaam told Balak, “You stand here close to your wholly burned sacrifice. I will wait *for Yahweh* to make himself present to me over there.”

16 Then Yahweh made himself present to Balaam and told him what to say. Then Yahweh said, “Go back to Balak. Tell him that message.”

17 So Balaam went back to Balak. He found Balak standing close to his wholly burned sacrifice. The Moabite officials were with him. Balak asked him, “What did Yahweh say?”

18 Then Balaam began to speak his prophetic message:

“King Balak, Zippor’s son,
pay attention to what I say!
19 God is not a human.
So, he does not speak falsely, *like humans do*.
He always does
whatever he has said he will do.

20 Listen! God told me to call on him to do good
things *for the Israelites*.
He intends to do good things *for them*, and
I cannot change that.

21 Nothing bad or unfortunate
will happen to the Israelites.
Yahweh their God rules over them,
and they rejoice about that.
22 God led them out of Egypt.
God is as strong as any wild ox.
23 In fact, no one can harm the Israelites
by using magic or curses.
Right now, people will say about the Israelites,
‘Look at the amazing things that God has done!’
24 Listen! This people group is powerful,
like a pouncing lion.
As a lion does not stop hunting until it catches
something to eat,
so they will not stop fighting until they completely
defeat their enemies.”

25 Then Balak told Balaam, “I see that you are not calling on God to do bad things to the Israelites. *You should be silent* instead of calling on God to do good things to them!”

26 Balaam replied, “I already told you that I must do whatever Yahweh tells me *to do*!”

27 Then Balak told Balaam, “I ask that you travel with me to a different place. Maybe in that place God will consider it acceptable for you to call on him to do bad things to the Israelites for my sake.” 28 So Balak had Balaam travel with him to the top of the hilly area *that people called* Peor. *From there, people could* look down into the desolate area *north of the Dead Sea*.

29 Then Balaam told King Balak, “Have people construct seven altars for me here. Then have people get seven bulls and seven rams ready for me here *to sacrifice*.” 30 So Balak did what Balaam told him to do. He offered one bull and one ram on each altar.

24 Balaam now realized that Yahweh intended to do good things to the Israelites. So, he did not go somewhere else to find out what God wished, as he had previously. Instead, he stood facing the *nearby* desolate area. 2 Balaam looked at the Israelite people. All the people from each tribe had set up their tents together in groups. Then God’s Spirit influenced Balaam. 3 He began to speak his prophetic message:

“I, Balaam, Beor’s son, am speaking.
God has enabled me to know what to say.
4 I am saying what God speaks to me.
God, who is completely powerful, has
revealed things to me.
I bow down before him, and he enables me
to know what to say.
5 You Israelites, the tents in which you live
are very beautiful!
6 *Your campsite* is like a long stream bed
or a garden near a river.
It is like a forest of valuable trees
that Yahweh has caused to grow in a fertile place.
7 You will always have plenty of water
so that your crops grow well.
The king who rules you will be very great,
greater than King Agag.
8 God led you Israelites out of Egypt.
God is as strong as any wild ox.
You will completely conquer in battle
all the people who oppose you.
9 You are like a lion that is lying down.
It is dangerous to provoke you.

Anyone who calls on God to do good things to you
will also receive good things.
Anyone who calls on God to do bad things to
you will also receive bad things."

10 Then King Balak was angry with Balaam. He angrily
smacked his hands together. He told Balaam, "I had you
come here to call on God to do bad things to those who
oppose me. Instead, you have called on God to do good
things to them three times! 11 So, you must hurry back to
your home now! I told you that I would reward you well.
But listen to this: Yahweh has prevented you from receiving
that reward."
12 Balaam replied, "You should remember what I told the
representatives you had visit me. I told them 13 to suppose that
you, King Balak, offered me all the money and possessions
you have. Even in that case, I would not be able to disobey
what Yahweh tells me to do. I would not be able to do
whatever I wanted, whether good or bad. Instead, I would
say whatever Yahweh told me to say. *That is what I told them.*
14 Listen! I will go back home now. First, though, I will
inform you about what the Israelites will eventually do to
you Moabites."
15 He began to speak his prophetic message:

"I, Balaam, Beor's son, am speaking.
God has enabled me to know what to say.
16 I understand what the Most High God shows me,
so I am saying what God speaks to me.
God, who is completely powerful, has revealed
things to me.
I bow down before him, and he enables me
to know what to say.
17 I know about someone
who will eventually live here.
He will be an Israelite who will rule powerfully
and as gloriously as a star in the sky.
He will conquer the Moabites and their rulers,
all the descendants of Seth.
18 This person will take over the area
where those who oppose him, the Edomites, live.
The Israelites will act powerfully.
19 This person will rule from *the land where*
the Israelites *live*.
He will kill anyone who survives *when he conquers*
the cities *of his enemies*."

20 Then Balaam looked toward the place where the
Amalekites lived. He began to speak his prophetic message:

"The Amalekites are the most powerful
group in this area.
However, eventually someone will destroy
them completely."

21 Then Balaam looked toward the place where the Kenites
lived. He began to speak his prophetic message:

"You live in a strong and secure place,
like a bird's nest on a cliff.
22 Yet, the Asshur tribe will make you Kenites
their prisoners
and burn the place where you live."

23 Then Balaam began to speak his *last* prophetic message:

"How terrible! No one can survive when God
does these things!
24 *People will arrive* in boats from the shores
of the Kittim region.
They will subdue the Asshur tribe and the Eber tribe.
However, someone will destroy them
completely too."

25 Then Balaam left that place and traveled back to his
home. Balak too left that place.

25 Now the Israelites were living in *an area that people
called* Shittim. While they were there, *some of* the
Israelite men began having sex with Moabite women. 2 Those
women invited the Israelites to attend feasts where they
offered sacrifices to their gods. The Israelites ate some
of the food and worshiped the gods. 3 In this way, the
Israelites associated themselves with the god Baal whom
people worshiped at the town of Peor. So Yahweh was angry
with the Israelites.
4 So Yahweh told Moses, "Seize the people who lead
the Israelites. *Execute them* and display *their bodies* publicly
before me. That way, I will stop being very angry with the
Israelites."
5 So Moses told the people who settled disputes among
the Israelites, "*Consider* the people you are responsible for.
Each of you must execute any of them who have associated
themselves with the god Baal whom people worship at the
town of Peor."
6 Now the whole Israelite community was mourning at
the entrance to the sacred tent. Just then, an Israelite man
arrived with a Midianite woman. He introduced her to his
relatives while Moses and the rest of the Israelites watched.
7 Now Aaron had a son whose name was Eleazar. Eleazar had
a son whose name was Phinehas, who was a priest. Phinehas
also watched *what happened with the Midianite woman*. He left
the *Israelite* community and picked up a spear. 8 He followed
the Israelite man to a special tent. There, he thrust the spear
through the Israelite man and into the woman's stomach,
killing them both. Then, the Israelites stopped *getting sick
with* the terrible disease *that had made many of them sick*.
9 However, 24,000 people had already died from the terrible
disease.
10 Then Yahweh told Moses, 11 "Aaron's grandson,
Eleazar's son, Phinehas, the priest, wanted the Israelites
to worship only me as strongly as I want the Israelites to
worship only me. So, I am not angry with the Israelites any
longer. Otherwise, I would have killed all of them because
I want them to worship only me. 12 So, proclaim that I am
making an agreement with Phinehas to make things go well
for him. 13 The agreement means that he and his descendants
will always be priests. *I am making this agreement* because
Phinehas wanted the Israelites to worship only me, the God
he worships. When he acted, I accepted what he did and
removed what the Israelites had done wrong."
14 The name of the Israelite man whom *Phinehas* killed
along with the Midianite woman was Zimri. He was Salu's
son. He led one of the ancestral families that made up the
Simeon tribe. 15 The name of the Midianite woman whom
Phinehas killed was Cozbi. She was Zur's daughter. Zur led
one of the ancestral families that made up Midian.

16 Then Yahweh told Moses, 17 "Attack the Midianites and
kill them. 18 *You must do that* because they have acted against
you by tricking you. *They did that* when *they convinced the
Israelites to worship the god Baal whom people worship* at Peor.
They also did when Cozbi *visited the Israelite campsite*. Her
father led the Midianites, and she was one of their people.
Phinehas killed her. That was when *the Israelites were getting
sick* with a terrible disease when *they worshiped the god Baal
whom people worship* at Peor."

26 Now after *the Israelites stopped getting sick with* the
terrible disease, Yahweh told Moses and Aaron's son
Eleazar, the priest, 2 "Count all the men among the whole
Israelite community. List them by their ancestral families.
Only include the men who are at least 20 years old and can
be soldiers."

3 *At that time,* the Israelites were in the flatlands that were
part of Moab. *They were* on the *east* side of the Jordan River,
across from Jericho. Moses and Eleazar the priest told the
Israelites, 4 "*We are going to count all the men* who are at least
20 years old. *We will do* exactly what Yahweh told Moses *to
do*."

They did that. So, what follows is the record of the Israelites
who left Egypt.

5 The firstborn son of *Jacob, whose other name was* Israel,
was Reuben. *The four tribal groups* that descended from
Reuben were the descendants of Hanoch, the descendants
of Pallu, 6 the descendants of Hezron, and the descendants
of Carmi. 7 Moses and Eleazar listed 43,730 *men* from these
four tribal groups that descended from Reuben.

8 Now Pallu had a son whose name was Eliab. 9 Eliab had
three sons, whose names were Nemuel, Dathan and Abiram.
The Israelites had chosen Dathan and Abiram from the
community *to lead them*. *However,* they joined the community
that Korah assembled to oppose Moses and Aaron. When
they did that, they opposed Yahweh.

10 Then the ground broke open, and they and Korah fell
into the hole. That was when fire destroyed 250 men, and
the community *that Korah assembled* died. What happened to
them showed *the Israelites what happens when people oppose
Yahweh*. 11 However, not all of the descendants of Korah died
at that time.

12 The *five* tribal groups that descended from Simeon were
the descendants of Nemuel, the descendants of Jamin, the
descendants of Jachin, 13 the descendants of Zerah, and the
descendants of Shaul. 14 *There were* 22,200 *men* from these
five tribal groups that descended from Simeon.

15 The *seven* tribal groups that descended from Gad
were the descendants of Zephon, the descendants of Haggi,
the descendants of Shuni, 16 the descendants of Ozni, the
descendants of Eri, 17 the descendants of Arod, and the
descendants of Areli. 18 Moses and Eleazar listed 40,500 *men*
from these *seven* tribal groups that descended from Gad.

19 Judah had two sons whose names were Er
and Onan. However, they died in Canaan *and
had no descendants*. 20 The *three* tribal groups
that descended from Judah *through his other sons*
were the descendants of Shelah, the descendants
of Perez, and the descendants of Zerah. 21 The
descendants of Perez *divided themselves into two
groups. They* were the descendants of Hezron and
the descendants of Hamul. 22 Moses and Eleazar
listed 76,500 *men* from these *three* tribal groups
and two subgroups that descended from Judah.

23 The *four* tribal groups that descended
from Issachar *were* the descendants of Tola,
the descendants of Puvah, 24 the descendants
of Jashub, and the descendants of Shimron.
25 Moses and Eleazar listed 64,300 *men* from
these *four* tribal groups that descended from
Issachar.

26 The *three* tribal groups that descended
from Zebulun *were* the descendants of Sered,
the descendants of Elon, and the descendants of
Jahleel. 27 Moses and Eleazar listed 60,500 *men*
from these *three* tribal groups that descended
from Zebulun.

28 The tribal groups that descended from
Joseph *divided themselves into two tribes. These
tribes were* Manasseh and Ephraim. 29 *The two
tribal groups* that descended from Manasseh were
the descendants of Machir and the descendants
of Gilead. Now Gilead was Machir's son. 30 The
descendants of Gilead *divided themselves into
six groups. They* were the descendants of Iezer,
the descendants of Helek, 31 the descendants
of Asriel, the descendants of Shechem, 32 the
descendants of Shemida, and the descendants of
Hepher. 33 Now Hepher had a son *whose name
was* Zelophehad. Zelophehad did not have any
sons. He had only daughters. Their names were
Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.
34 Moses and Eleazar listed 52,700 *men* from
these *two* tribal groups *and six subgroups* that
descended from Manasseh.

35 The *three* tribal groups that descended from
Ephraim were the descendants of Shuthelah, the
descendants of Becher, and the descendants of
Tahan. 36 *Some of* the descendants of Shuthelah
divided themselves into a group. These people were
the descendants of Eran. 37 Moses and Eleazar
listed 32,500 *men* from these *three* tribal groups
and one subgroup that descended from Ephraim.
Those tribal groups *and the tribal groups that
descended from Manasseh* were the tribal groups
that descended from Joseph.

38 The *five* tribal groups that descended
from Benjamin *were* the descendants of Bela,
the descendants of Ashbel, the descendants of
Ahiram, 39 the descendants of Shephupham, and
the descendants of Hupham.

40 The descendants of Bela *divided themselves into two groups.
They* were the descendants of Ard and the descendants of
Naaman. 41 Moses and Eleazar listed 45,600 *men* from these
five tribal groups *and two subgroups* that descended from
Benjamin.

42 The *one* tribal group that descended from Dan was the
descendants of Shuham. That was the *only* tribal group that
descended from Dan. 43 Moses and Eleazar listed 64,400 *men*
who were descendants of Shuham, *who descended from Dan*.

44 The *three* tribal groups that descended
from Asher *were* the descendants of Imnah, the
descendants of Ishvi, and the descendants of
Beriah.

45 The descendants of Beriah *divided themselves into
two groups. They* were the descendants of Heber and the
descendants of Malchiel.

46 Also, Asher had a daughter whose name was Serah.
47 Moses and Eleazar listed 53,400 *men* from these *three* tribal
groups *and two subgroups* that descended from Asher.
48 The *four* tribal groups that descended from Naphtali
were the descendants of Jahzeel, the descendants of Guni,
49 the descendants of Jezer, and the descendants of Shillem.
50 Moses and Eleazar listed 45,400 *men* from these *four*
tribal groups that descended from Naphtali.
51 Moses and Eleazar listed 601,730 Israelite men in total.
52 Then Yahweh told Moses, 53 "You must assign an area
within Canaan to each of those tribal groups. Use the number
of people *in each tribal group to decide* which area each one
will have. 54 Tribal groups with many people should receive
more land. Tribal groups with few people should receive
less land. Each tribal group should receive its land according
to how many people you and Eleazar listed for that group.
55 However, you must use lots to determine randomly *where*
each tribal group will receive its land. All the tribal groups
that belong to the same ancestral tribe must receive land next
to each other. 56 You must use lots to determine randomly
where each tribal group will receive its land. *Tribal groups with*
many people *should receive more land*, and *tribal groups with*
few people *should receive less land*."
57 The Israelites also listed *the Levite men*. The *three* tribal
groups that descended from Levi *were* the descendants of
Gershon, the descendants of Kohath, and the descendants of
Merari. 58 The people in those *three* Levite tribal groups *further*
divided themselves into five groups. They were the descendants
of Libni, the descendants of Hebron, the descendants of
Mahli, the descendants of Mushi, and the descendants of
Korah.

Now Amram was Kohath's descendant. 59 Amram had a
wife whose name was Jochebed. She was a Levite, and her
mother gave birth to her in Egypt. She and Amram had *two*
sons, Aaron and Moses, and a daughter, Miriam. 60 Aaron
had sons whose names were Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and
Ithamar. 61 However, Nadab and Abihu died. That happened
when they offered to Yahweh burning coals that he had not
authorized. 62 Moses and Eleazar listed 23,000 Levite men
who were at least one month old. Now the Levites did not
receive any land like the rest of the Israelites did. So, Moses
and Eleazar listed *the Levite men* separately from the rest of
the Israelite men.
63 Those were all the Israelite men whom Moses and
Eleazar the priest listed. They listed them when *the Israelites*
were in the flatlands that were part of Moab. *They were* on
the *east* side of the Jordan River, across from Jericho. 64 Now
Moses and Aaron the priest had previously listed all the
Israelite men. *They did that when the Israelites were* in the
desolate area around Sinai. None of those men were among
the ones whom Moses and Eleazar the priest listed. *They had*
all died. 65 *That happened* because Yahweh had told them,
"You will all die in this desolate area!" So, only two of them
were still alive. Those two were Jephunneh's son, Caleb, and
Nun's son, Joshua.

27 Now a man whose name was Zelophehad had *five*
daughters. Zelophehad's father was Hepher, his
father was Gilead, his father was Machir, and his father
was Manasseh. So, the daughters belonged to the tribal
groups descended from Manasseh, who was Joseph's son.
The names of the daughters were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah,
Milcah, and Tirzah. After *Moses and Eleazar listed the Israelite*
men, they approached *Moses and Eleazar*. 2 They stood at the
entrance to the sacred tent in the presence of Moses, Eleazar
the priest, the men who led *the Israelites*, and the whole
Israelite community. They said, 3 "Our father was not part
of the community that Korah assembled to gather together
to oppose Yahweh. He died in the desolate area because of
what he himself had done wrong, *not because he opposed*
Yahweh. Now he did not have any sons. 4 So, you must assign
to us the land *that he would have received*, just as our uncles
and their descendants are receiving land. Otherwise, out of
all the land that belongs to our tribal group, none of it will
belong to a descendant from our father because he had no
sons. That would not be right!" 5 So Moses asked Yahweh
what to do about what the women had requested.
6 Yahweh told Moses, 7 "What Zelophehad's daughters
have requested is correct. You must assign to them the land
that their father would have received. They must surely
receive land, just as their uncles *and their descendants* are
receiving land.
8 Also, tell this to the Israelite people: Suppose that a
man dies without having any sons. If he has a daughter, she
should receive the land he had. 9 If he has no daughter but
has brothers, they should receive the land he had. 10 If he
has no brothers but has uncles, they should receive the land
he had. 11 If he has no uncles, his closest relative from his
tribal group should receive the land he had. All the Israelites
must follow this rule. *They must do* what Yahweh told Moses
that they should do."
12 Yahweh told Moses, "Climb up the nearby peak in the
Abarim mountain range. *From there,* you can look at the land
that I am giving to the Israelite people. 13 After you look at
the land, you too, like your brother Aaron, will *die and* be
with your ancestors *who have already died*. 14 *That will happen*
because you and Aaron disobeyed what I said to do at the
desolate area of Zin. When the *Israelite* community argued
with you, you did not show the Israelite people how holy I
am when you provided water for them." That happened in
the desolate area of Zin, at Meribah Kadesh, *where* the water
gushed out of the rock.
15 Then Moses replied, 16 "Yahweh, you are the God who
makes everything live. Please appoint someone to lead this
community. 17 This person will lead them when they fight
battles and will bring them home safely. Otherwise, the
community that worships you, Yahweh, would be without a
leader, like a flock of sheep without a shepherd."
18 So Yahweh told Moses, "Summon Nun's son Joshua.
I have enabled him to lead well. Place your hand on him
to commission him. 19 Have him stand in the presence of the
priest Eleazar and the whole *Israelite* community. While they
are watching, commission him. 20 Share some of how glorious
you are with him. That way, the whole Israelite community
will obey him. 21 *When Joshua must decide something,* he must
present himself to Eleazar the priest. Eleazar will use the
Urim *and Thummim* in Yahweh's presence to ask Yahweh
where to go and what to do. Joshua and the whole Israelite
community must do whatever Yahweh says."
22 *Moses did* what Yahweh had ordered him *to do*. He
summoned Joshua and had him stand in the presence of the
priest Eleazar and the whole *Israelite* community. 23 Moses
placed his hands on Joshua and commissioned him. *Moses*
did exactly what Yahweh commanded through him.

28 Yahweh told Moses, 2 "Order the Israelite people
to do this: They must make sure to offer sacrificial
animals, food, and drink to me at the proper time. When

they give them to me, I will enjoy the smell *of the smoke when they burn them*.

3 Also tell them this: Every day, they must offer to me
two animals, *along with food and drink*. *They must offer them*
as a wholly burned sacrifice. These animals must be healthy
male sheep that are one year old. 4 They must offer one male
sheep in the morning. They must offer the other male sheep
early in the evening. 5 The grain offering *for each lamb* must
be about two liters of flour with about one liter of olive
oil in it. *People must produce this olive oil* by striking olives
instead of pressing them. 6 They must offer those things to me
regularly as a wholly burned sacrifice. That is what they
did at Mount Sinai. Then, I will enjoy the smell *of the smoke*
when they burn them. 7 The wine offering for each lamb must
be about one liter of alcoholic drink. *The priest* must pour it
out in my presence in the Holy Place. 8 They must offer the
other male sheep early in the evening. They must include
with it the same grain and wine offerings you included with
the lamb in the morning. When they give those things to
me, I will enjoy the smell *of the smoke when they burn them*.

9 On each Sabbath day, *they must offer* two healthy male
sheep that are one year old. The grain offering *for both sheep*
must be about four liters of flour with olive oil in it, and
the wine offering *must be about two liters of alcoholic drink*.
10 That is the wholly burned sacrifice for the Sabbath day.
They must offer it on each Sabbath day in addition to the
regular wholly burned sacrifice and its wine offering.

11 On the first day of each month, they must offer to me
two young bulls, one ram, and seven male sheep that are one
year old. *All of them must be* healthy. *They must offer those*
animals as wholly burned sacrifices. 12 The grain offering for
each bull must be about six liters of flour with olive oil in it.
The grain offering for the ram must be about four liters of
flour with olive oil in it. 13 The grain offering for each male
sheep must be about two liters of flour with olive oil in it.
They must offer all those things as wholly burned sacrifices.
When they give those things to me, I will enjoy the smell *of*
the smoke when they burn them. 14 The wine offering for each
bull must be about two liters of wine. The wine offering for
the ram must be about one and one-fourth liters of wine.
The wine offering for each male sheep must be about one
liter of wine. That is the wholly burned sacrifice for *the first*
day of each month. *They must offer it* on *the first day of* each
month in the year. 15 *They must also offer* to me a male goat
as a purifying sacrifice. They must offer all those things in
addition to the regular wholly burned sacrifice and its wine
offering.

16 On the fourteenth day of the first month, *they celebrate*
the Passover Celebration to *honor* me. 17 On the fifteenth
day of that same month, a celebration *that is seven days*
long begins. During those seven days, everyone eats bread
without yeast. 18 On the first day *of the celebration*, they
must gather together for a sacred meeting. They must not
do any regular work. 19 They must offer two young bulls,
one ram, and seven male sheep that are one year old. All of
them must be healthy. *They must* give those animals to me
as wholly burned sacrifices. 20 The grain offering for each
bull must be about six liters of flour with olive oil in it.
The grain offering for the ram must be about four liters of
flour with olive oil in it. 21 *The grain offering* for each of the
seven male sheep must be about two liters *of flour with olive*
oil in it. 22 *They must* also *offer* one male goat as a purifying
sacrifice, which I will accept and remove what they have
done wrong. 23 They must offer all those things in addition
to the regular wholly burned sacrifice that they offer in the
morning. 24 They must offer the same kinds and amounts of
sacrificial animals, food, and drink on each of the seven days
of the celebration. I will enjoy the smell *of the smoke when*
they burn them. They must offer all those things in addition
to the regular wholly burned sacrifice and its wine offering.
25 On the seventh day *of the celebration*, they must gather
together for a sacred meeting. They must not do any regular
work.

26 During the *Celebration of* Weeks, there is a day when
they offer to me some of the first batches of everything that
they grow, including grain offerings from the grain they
recently harvested. On that day, they must gather together
for a sacred meeting. They must not do any regular work.
27 They must offer *animals* as wholly burned sacrifices. I will
enjoy the smell *of the smoke when they burn them*. *They must*
offer two young bulls, one ram, and seven male sheep that
are one year old. 28 The grain offering for each bull must be
about six liters of flour with olive oil in it. The grain offering
for the ram must be about four liters of flour with olive oil in
it. 29 *The grain offering* for each of the seven male sheep must
be about two liters *of flour with olive oil in it*. 30 *They must also*
offer one male goat, which I will accept and remove what
they have done wrong. 31 They must offer *all those things*
and the wine offerings that go with them, in addition to
the regular wholly burned sacrifice and its grain and wine
offerings. The animals *that you offer* must be healthy.

29 On the first day of the seventh month *of every year*,
they must gather together for a sacred meeting. They
must not do any regular work. On that day, they must blow
trumpets. 2 They must offer one young bull, one ram, and
seven male sheep that are one year old. *All of them must*
be healthy. *They must offer those animals* as wholly burned
sacrifices. I will enjoy the smell *of the smoke when they burn*
them. 3 The grain offering for the bull must be about six liters
of flour with olive oil in it. The grain offering for the ram
must be about four liters of flour with olive oil in it. 4 *The*
grain offering for each of the seven male sheep must be about
two liters *of flour with olive oil in it*. 5 *They must also offer*
one male goat as a purifying sacrifice, which I will accept
and remove what they have done wrong. 6 *They must offer*
all those things and the wine offerings that go with them in
addition to the wholly burned sacrifice for the first day of
each month, the regular wholly burned sacrifice, and their
grain and wine offerings. They must follow the instructions
for those offerings. When they give those things to me, I will
enjoy the smell *of the smoke when they burn them*.

7 On the tenth day of the seventh month *of every year*,
they must gather together for a sacred meeting. They must
submit themselves to me *by not eating anything*. They must
not do any work *at all*. 8 They must offer to me one young
bull, one ram, and seven male sheep that are one year old.
All of them must be healthy. *They must offer those animals* as
wholly burned sacrifices. I will enjoy the smell *of the smoke*
when they burn them. 9 The grain offering for the bull must be
about six liters of flour with olive oil in it. The grain offering
for the ram must be about four liters of flour with olive oil
in it. 10 *The grain offering* for each of the seven male sheep
must be about two liters *of flour with olive oil in it*. 11 *They*
must also offer a male goat as a purifying sacrifice. *They must*
offer all those things and the wine offerings that go with them
in addition to the purifying sacrifice that I accept to remove

their sins *that they offer on this day* and the regular wholly burned sacrifice and their grain and wine offerings.

12 On the fifteenth day of the seventh month *of every year*, they must gather together for a sacred meeting. They must not do any regular work. That day is the first day of a celebration to *honor* me that lasts seven days. 13 *On that first day,* they must offer 13 young bulls, two rams, and 14 male sheep that are one year old. All of them must be healthy. *They must offer those animals* as wholly burned sacrifices. When they give them to me, I will enjoy the smell *of the smoke when they burn them*. 14 The grain offering for each of the 13 bulls must be about six liters of flour with olive oil in it. The grain offering for each of the two rams must be about four liters of flour with olive oil in it. 15 *The grain offering* for each of the 14 male sheep must be about two liters *of flour with olive oil in it*. 16 *They must* also *offer* a male goat as a purifying sacrifice. *They must offer all those things* in addition to the regular wholly burned sacrifice with its grain and wine offerings.

17 On the second day *of the celebration*, *they must offer* 12 young bulls, two rams, and 14 male sheep that are one year old. *All of them must be* healthy. 18 They must follow the *same* instructions *as the first day of the celebration* for the amount of each grain and wine offering for each of the bulls, rams, and male sheep. 19 *They must* also *offer* a male goat as a purifying sacrifice. *They must offer all those things* in addition to the regular wholly burned sacrifice with its grain and wine offerings.

20 On the third day *of the celebration*, *they must offer* 11 bulls, two rams, and 14 male sheep that are one year old. *All of them must be* healthy. 21 They must follow the *same* instructions *as the first day of the celebration* for the amount of each grain and wine offering for each of the bulls, rams, and male sheep. 22 *They must* also *offer* a male goat as a purifying sacrifice. *They must offer all those things* in addition to the regular wholly burned sacrifice with its grain and wine offerings.

23 On the fourth day *of the celebration*, *they must offer* ten bulls, two rams, and 14 male sheep that are one year old. *All of them must be* healthy. 24 They must follow the *same* instructions *as the first day of the celebration* for the amount of each grain and wine offering for each of the bulls, rams, and male sheep. 25 *They must* also *offer* a male goat as a purifying sacrifice. *They must offer all those things* in addition to the regular wholly burned sacrifice with its grain and wine offerings.

26 On the fifth day *of the celebration*, *they must offer* nine bulls, two rams, and 14 male sheep that are one year old. *All of them must be* healthy. 27 They must follow the *same* instructions *as the first day of the celebration* for the amount of each grain and wine offering for each of the bulls, rams, and male sheep. 28 *They must* also *offer* a male goat as a purifying sacrifice. *They must offer all those things* in addition to the regular wholly burned sacrifice with its grain and wine offerings.

29 On the sixth day *of the celebration*, *they must offer* eight bulls, two rams, and 14 male sheep that are one year old. *All of them must be* healthy. 30 They must follow the *same* instructions *as the first day of the celebration* for the amount of each grain and wine offering for each of the bulls, rams, and male sheep. 31 *They must* also *offer* a male goat as a purifying sacrifice. *They must offer all those things* in addition to the regular wholly burned sacrifice with its grain and wine offerings.

32 On the seventh day *of the celebration*, *they must offer* seven bulls, two rams, and 14 male sheep that are one year old. *All of them must be* healthy. 33 They must follow the *same* instructions *as the first day of the celebration* for the amount of each grain and wine offering for each of the bulls, rams, and male sheep. 34 *They must* also *offer* a male goat as a purifying sacrifice. *They must offer all those things* in addition to the regular wholly burned sacrifice with its grain and wine offerings.

35 On the eighth day *after the celebration began*, they must gather together for a special gathering. They must not do any regular work. 36 They must offer one bull, one ram, and seven male sheep that are one year old. All of them must be healthy. *They must offer those animals* as wholly burned sacrifices. When they give them to me, I will enjoy the smell *of the smoke when they burn them*. 37 They must follow the *same* instructions *as the first day of the celebration* for the amount of each grain and wine offering for the bull, the ram, and each male sheep. 38 *They must* also *offer* a male goat as a purifying sacrifice. *They must offer all those things* in addition to the regular wholly burned sacrifice with its grain and wine offerings.

39 They must offer all those things to me at their proper times. *They must offer them* in addition to the offerings that go with solemn promises, the offerings they freely choose to give, and any other wholly burned sacrifices, grain offerings, wine offerings, and fellowship sacrifices.”

40 Moses told the Israelites everything that Yahweh had told him *to do*.

30 Moses told the men who led the Israelite tribes, “I will tell you what Yahweh instructed me *about solemn promises*. 2 Suppose that a man makes a solemn promise to Yahweh or commits to a formal agreement with a pledge. In that case, the man must do everything that he said he would do. He must not fail to do all of it.

3 Suppose that there is a young *unmarried* woman who still lives with her parents. Suppose that she makes a solemn promise to Yahweh or commits to a formal agreement. 4 Suppose that her father learns about her solemn promise or the formal agreement to which she committed. If he does not say anything about it, then her solemn promise or the formal agreement to which she committed remains valid. 5 However, if her father opposes what she said when he learns about it, then her solemn promise or the formal agreement to which she committed is no longer valid. It was her father who opposed what she said, so Yahweh will forgive her *for failing to do what she said*.

6 Suppose that there is a woman who has made a solemn promise or carelessly committed to a formal agreement. Suppose that she marries a man while that promise or agreement is still valid. 7 Suppose that her husband learns about *her promise or agreement*. If he does not say anything about it, then her solemn promise or the formal agreement to which she committed remains valid. 8 However, if her husband opposes what she said when he learns about it, then he nullifies her solemn promise or the formal agreement to which she carelessly committed that was still valid. In that case, Yahweh will forgive her *for failing to do what she said*.

9 Suppose that there is a woman whose husband has died or divorced her. Suppose that she makes a solemn promise or commits to a formal agreement. In that case, her promise or agreement is always valid.

10 Suppose that *there is a married woman. Suppose that* she
makes a solemn promise or commits to a formal agreement
with a pledge while she is living with her husband. 11 Suppose
that her husband learns *about her promise or agreement*. If
he does not say anything about it or oppose what she said,
then her solemn promise or the formal agreement to which
she committed remains valid. 12 However, if her husband
nullifies her promise or agreement when he learns about it,
then everything she said with regard to the solemn promise
or the formal agreement to which she committed is no
longer valid. It was her husband who nullified what she said,
so Yahweh will forgive her *for failing to do what she said*.
13 *Whenever a married woman makes* a solemn promise or a
formal agreement with a pledge to abstain from something,
her husband can confirm that it is valid, or he can nullify
it. 14 Now suppose that her husband does not say anything
about it for several days. In that case, he has confirmed
that her solemn promise or the formal agreement to which
she committed is valid. He did not say anything about it
when he learned about it, so he has confirmed that it is
valid. 15 However, suppose that he nullifies the promise or
agreement some time after he learns about it. In that case,
Yahweh will punish him for what his wife did wrong *by
failing to do what she said*."

16 Yahweh gave those instructions to Moses. They deal
with a husband and his wife and a father and his young
unmarried daughter who still lives with her parents.

31 Yahweh told Moses, 2 "Have the Israelites punish the
Midianites for what they did to you all. Then you
will *die and* be with your ancestors *who have already died*."

3 So Moses told the Israelites, "Some of you men must
prepare yourselves to fight. You will fight against the
Midianites, and Yahweh will use you to punish them. 4 Each
Israelite tribe must have 1,000 men go to fight *the Midianites*."
5 So, out of the many Israelite men, 1,000 men from each
tribe prepared themselves to fight *the Midianites*. There were
12,000 men in all. 6 Then, Moses had them go to fight *the
Midianites*. One thousand men from each tribe went, and
Eleazar's son Phinehas, the priest, went with them. Phinehas
took with him *some of* the equipment for the sacred tent
and the trumpets that they would sound in a special way *to
communicate*.

7 The Israelites did what Yahweh told Moses *to do*. They
attacked the Midianites. They killed all the adult Midianite
men. 8 In addition to the soldiers they killed, the Israelites
also killed the five men who ruled the Midianites: Evi, Rekem,
Zur, Hur, and Reba. They also killed Beor's son, Balaam.
9 The Israelites captured the Midianite women and children.
They took away all the farm animals and valuable things
that belonged to the Midianites. 10 They burned down all the
towns and settlements where the Midianites lived. 11 They
collected everything that they had captured, including the
people and the farm animals. 12 They took the prisoners and
everything that they had captured to where the Israelites had
set up their tents. That was in the flatlands that were part
of Moab, on the *east* side of the Jordan River, across from
Jericho. They presented all those things to Moses, Eleazar
the priest, and the rest of the Israelite community.

13 Now Moses, Eleazar the priest, and all the men who
led the *Israelite* community had walked outside the area
where the Israelites set up their tents to welcome *the soldiers*.
14 Moses became angry with *some of* the soldiers who had
returned from fighting *the Midianites*. Specifically, *he became
angry with* the commanders over groups of 1,000 and 100
soldiers. 15 He told them, "You should not have allowed all
the *Midianite* women to live! 16 Remember, these are the
women who did to us Israelites what Balaam said. Many of
us stopped being loyal to Yahweh when *they convinced the
Israelite men to worship the god Baal, whom people worship* at
Peor. Because of that, many people in our community that
worships Yahweh *became sick with* a terrible disease. 17 So,
you must kill every boy and every woman who has had sex
with a man. 18 However, you must allow every girl who has
not had sex with a man to live among you.

19 As for you all, you must stay outside the area where
the Israelites set up their tents for seven days. Every one of
you who has killed someone or who has touched a corpse
must cleanse himself or herself two days and six days after
it happened. That applies both to you and to your prisoners.
20 You must also cleanse each piece of clothing and every
item that people made out of animal skin, goat hair, or
wood."

21 Then Eleazar the priest told the soldiers who had
returned from fighting *the Midianites*, "Here is a rule from the
instructions that Yahweh gave to Moses. 22 As for anything
that people made out of gold, silver, bronze, iron, tin, or
lead, 23 those things will not burn up. So, you must put them
in a fire and also cleanse them using the water *and ashes* that
make things pure. Then they will become pure. As for things
that will burn up, you must put them in that *special* water
to cleanse them. 24 On the sixth day after *you became impure*,
you must wash your clothes. Then, you will become pure.
After that, you can return to the area where the Israelites
set up their tents."

25 Then Yahweh told Moses, 26 "You, Eleazar the priest,
and the men who lead the ancestral families that make up
the *Israelite* community must count everything that you have
captured, including the people and the farm animals. 27 Then,
you must give half of what you captured to the soldiers who
fought *against the Midianites*. You must give the other half
to the *rest of the Israelite* community. 28 You must require
the soldiers who fought *against the Midianites* to give me
one out of every 500 people, oxen, donkeys, and sheep and
goats *that they received*. 29 You must transfer to Eleazar the
priest what the soldiers give to me from what they received.
30 Also, you must transfer to the Levites one out of every
50 people and animals, including oxen, donkeys, and sheep
and goats, that the rest of the Israelites received. The Levites
guard the sacred tent." 31 Moses and Eleazar the priest did
exactly what Yahweh told Moses *to do*.

32 Here is a record of how many people and animals
the soldiers captured. *They captured* 675,000 sheep and
goats. 33 *They captured* 72,000 oxen. 34 *They captured* 61,000
donkeys. 35 *They captured* 32,000 women who had not had
sex with a man.

36 The soldiers who had fought *against the Midianites*
received one out of every two people and animals. *They
received* 337,500 sheep and goats. 37 They gave 675 of those
sheep and goats to Yahweh. 38 *They received* 36,000 oxen.
They gave 72 *of those oxen* to Yahweh. 39 *They received*
30,500 donkeys. They gave 61 *of those donkeys* to Yahweh.
40 *They received* 16,000 people. They gave 32 of those people
to Yahweh. 41 Then Moses transferred to Eleazar the priest
what the soldiers gave to Yahweh. *He did* what Yahweh told
him *to do*.

42 Then Moses gave the other one out of every two people
and animals to the rest of the Israelites. 43 So, the *Israelite*

community received 337,500 sheep and goats. 44 *They received* 36,000 oxen. 45 *They received* 30,500 donkeys. 46 *They received* 16,000 people. 47 Then Moses transferred to the Levites one out of every 50 people and animals that the rest of the Israelites received. The Levites guarded the sacred tent. *Moses did* what Yahweh told him *to do*

48 Then *some of* the soldiers, specifically the commanders over groups of 1,000 and 100 soldiers, approached Moses. 49 They told him, "We who serve you have counted the soldiers whom we commanded when we fought *against the Midianites*. All of them returned safely. 50 So, each of us is presenting to Yahweh the golden jewelry that we collected. That includes arm bands, wrist bands, rings, decorations for ears, and necklaces. By doing that, we will ransom ourselves from Yahweh, *who kept us safe*."

51 So Moses and Eleazar the priest received from them those items that people had made out of gold. 52 Moses and Eleazar received all those gold items from the commanders over groups of 1,000 and 100 soldiers and dedicated them to Yahweh. All together, those items weighed about 184 kilograms. 53 *Those items came from what* each of the soldiers had taken for himself. 54 When Moses and Eleazar the priest received the gold items from the commanders over groups of 1,000 and 100 soldiers, they put them in the sacred tent. That way, Yahweh would think about the Israelites.

32 Now the people from the tribes of Reuben and Gad had very many animals. They noticed that the Jazer region and the Gilead region were good places for animals to live. 2 So, *leaders* from the tribes of Gad and Reuben approached Moses, Eleazar the priest, and the men who led the *Israelite* community. They said, 3 "*We want to speak about the region that includes the towns of* Ataroth, Dibon, Jazer, Nimrah, Heshbon, Elealeh, Sebam, Nebo, and Beon. 4 Yahweh enabled us, the Israelite community, to capture that region. It is a good place for animals to live, and we have *many* animals. 5 So, please treat us kindly by giving us that region to live in! We do not want to cross over the Jordan River."

6 Moses replied, "Your fellow Israelites are about to fight *their enemies*. It is not right for you to stay here! 7 You are convincing the rest of the Israelites not to travel to the land that Yahweh is giving to us Israelites. That is not right! 8 You are doing the same kind of thing that your ancestors did. That happened when I had some of your ancestors travel from Kadesh Barnea to find out what Canaan was like. 9 They walked all the way to Eshcol Stream Bed and found out what Canaan was like. *When they returned,* they convinced the rest of the Israelites not to travel to the land that Yahweh was giving to them. 10 So, Yahweh was angry at that time. He solemnly stated 11 that they had not obeyed him completely. So, *he promised that* none of the men who had left Egypt and who were at least 20 years old would experience the land that he promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob *that he would give to their descendants*. 12 However, *he stated that this did not apply to two men,* who did obey him completely. They are Jephunneh's son, Caleb, from the Kenizzite tribal group, and Nun's son, Joshua. 13 Yahweh was angry with the Israelites, so he had them roam around in the desolate area for 40 years. *They roamed around* until all the adults who had done what Yahweh considered wrong had died. 14 And yet, now you are acting just like your ancestors by doing what is wrong together! You are making Yahweh even angrier with the Israelites. 15 If you do this, you will stop obeying Yahweh. Then, he will make us Israelites go back to the desolate area. So, you will be the ones who harmed all the Israelites."

16 Then the leaders *from the tribes of Gad and Reuben* approached Moses *again*. They said, "We would like to construct walls here to protect our animals. We would like to fortify towns here to protect our families. 17 As for us *who can be soldiers*, we will quickly prepare to lead the rest of the Israelites to fight *their enemies*. *We will fight along with them* until they can live in the area we conquer. Meanwhile, our families will be safe from the people who live nearby because they will live in the towns we fortified. 18 Once the rest of the Israelites have received the land that will be theirs, only then will we go back home. 19 *We propose this* because we have already received land on the east side of the Jordan River. So, we will not receive any land on the west side of the Jordan River."

20 Moses replied, "Suppose that you do what you have proposed. You must prepare to fight in Yahweh's presence. 21 All the soldiers among you must go to the west side of the Jordan River in Yahweh's presence. *They must stay there* until Yahweh has made all the people who oppose him leave. 22 Once the whole area belongs to Yahweh, then you may go back home. In that case, you have not done anything wrong to Yahweh or your fellow Israelites. So, Yahweh will give you this area *east of the Jordan*.

23 Suppose that you do not do what you have proposed. In that case, you will have done what is wrong to Yahweh. You should realize that Yahweh will punish you for that. 24 So, you may fortify towns to protect your families. You may construct walls to protect your sheep and goats. However, you must then do what you said you would do."

25 *The leaders* from the tribes of Gad and Reuben told Moses, "Sir, we will do exactly what you have told us to do. 26 *We who can be soldiers* will leave our children, wives, farm animals, and other animals in the towns here in the Gilead region. 27 All the soldiers among us will go to *the west side of the Jordan River* in Yahweh's presence to fight *our enemies*. We will do what you, sir, have said."

28 Then Moses told Eleazar the priest, Nun's son Joshua, and the men who led the ancestral families that made up the Israelite tribes what to do with the people from the tribes of Gad and Reuben. 29 Moses told them, "Suppose that all the soldiers from the tribes of Gad and Reuben go to the west side of the Jordan River with you to fight *your enemies* in Yahweh's presence. Once that whole area belongs to you, then you must give them the Gilead region to live in. 30 On the other hand, suppose that their soldiers do not go to the west side *of the Jordan River* with you. In that case, they will have to receive land with you in Canaan *on the west side of the Jordan River*."

31 *The leaders* from the tribes of Gad and Reuben responded, "We will do exactly what Yahweh has told us to do. 32 The soldiers among us will go to Canaan *on the west side of the Jordan River* in Yahweh's presence. After that, we will receive land to live in on this east side of the Jordan River."

33 So Moses gave land to the people from the tribes of Gad and Reuben and to half of the people from the tribe of Manasseh, who descended from Joseph. He gave them all the cities that were there and the land around the cities. That land had previously belonged to the Amorite people group, whom Sihon had ruled, and to the people who lived in the region of Bashan, whom Og had ruled.

34 The people from the tribe of Gad fortified *these towns*:
Dibon, Ataroth, Aroer, 35 Atroth Shophan, Jazer, Jogbehah,
36 Beth Nimrah, and Beth Haran. *These were* the cities that
they fortified. *They also constructed* walls to protect their
sheep and goats.
37 The people from the tribe of Reuben fortified *these*
towns: Heshbon, Elealeh, Kiriathaim, 38 Nebo, Baal Meon,
and Sibmah. They named these cities that they fortified.
Later, people renamed *Nebo and Baal Meon*.
39 The descendants of Manasseh's son Machir traveled
to the Gilead region. They made the Amorite people who
lived there leave, and they took the land that those people
had lived in. 40 So, Moses gave the Gilead region to the
descendants of Manasseh's son Machir to live in.
41 A descendant of Manasseh, whose name was Jair,
traveled *with his relatives* to some small towns *in the Gilead*
region that belonged to the Amorite people. He attacked and
took those towns and called them Havvoth Jair.
42 A man whose name was Nobah *and others with him*
traveled to the town of Kenath and its surrounding villages.
They attacked and took them. Nobah called the town by his
own name: Nobah.

33 What follows is a list of the places where the Israelites
stayed after they left Egypt by their army divisions.
Moses and Aaron were in charge of them. 2 Yahweh told
Moses to write down each of the places where the Israelites
stayed, and so he did. Here are each of the places where the
Israelites stayed.
3 On the fifteenth day of the first month of that year, the
day after the Passover Celebration, the Israelites left the city
of Rameses *in Egypt*. They left defiantly while all the Egyptian
people watched them. 4 Yahweh had killed every oldest male
Egyptian. He had punished the gods they worshiped. *So,*
when the Israelites were leaving, the Egyptians were burying
the bodies of all their oldest male children.
5 So, the Israelites left the city of Rameses and set up their
tents at *a place that people called* Succoth. 6 They left Succoth
and set up their tents at *a place that people called* Etham.
Etham is at the edge of the desolate area. 7 They left Etham
and went back toward *a place that people called* Pi Hahiroth,
which is near *a place that people called* Baal Zephon. They
set up their tents in front of *a place that people called* Migdol.
8 They left the area in front of Hahiroth and walked through
the Sea *of Reeds* to the desolate area. They traveled through
the desolate area of Etham for three days. Then, they set
up their tents at *a place that people called* Marah. 9 They left
Marah and arrived at *a place that people called* Elim, where
they set up their tents. There were 12 streams of fresh water
and 70 palm trees there. 10 They left Elim and set up their
tents next to the Sea of Reeds. 11 They left the Sea of Reeds
and set up their tents in the desolate area of Sin. 12 They left
the desolate area of Sin and set up their tents at *a place that*
people called Dophkah. 13 They left Dophkah and set up their
tents at *a place that people called* Alush. 14 They left Alush and
set up their tents at *a place that people called* Rephidim. There,
the Israelites could not find any water to drink. 15 They left
Rephidim and set up their tents in the desolate area around
Sinai.
16 They left the desolate area around Sinai and set up their
tents at *a place that they called* Kibroth Hattaavah. 17 They left
Kibroth Hattaavah and set up their tents at *a place that people*
called Hazeroth. 18 They left Hazeroth and set up their tents
at *a place that people called* Rithmah. 19 They left Rithmah
and set up their tents at *a place that people called* Rimmon
Perez. 20 They left Rimmon Perez and set up their tents at
a place that people called Libnah. 21 They left Libnah and set
up their tents at *a place that people called* Rissah. 22 They
left Rissah and set up their tents at *a place that people called*
Kehelathah. 23 They left Kehelathah and set up their tents
at Mount Shepher. 24 They left Mount Shepher and set up
their tents at *a place that people called* Haradah. 25 They left
Haradah and set up their tents at *a place that people called*
Makheloth. 26 They left Makheloth and set up their tents
at *a place that people called* Tahath. 27 They left Tahath and
set up their tents at *a place that people called* Terah. 28 They
left Terah and set up their tents at *a place that people called*
Mithkah. 29 They left Mithkah and set up their tents at *a*
place that people called Hashmonah. 30 They left Hashmonah
and set up their tents at *a place that people called* Moseroth.
31 They left Moseroth and set up their tents at *a place that*
people called Bene Jaakan. 32 They left Bene Jaakan and set
up their tents at *a place that people called* Hor Haggidgad.
33 They left Hor Haggidgad and set up their tents at *a place*
that people called Jotbathah. 34 They left Jotbathah and set
up their tents at *a place that people called* Abronah. 35 They
left Abronah and set up their tents at *a place that people called*
Ezion Geber. 36 They left Ezion Geber and set up their tents
at the city of Kadesh in the desolate area of Zin.
37 They left Kadesh and set up their tents at Mount Hor,
which is at the edge of the area where the Edomites live. 38 *It*
was the first day of the fifth month of the fortieth year after
the Israelite people had left Egypt. Aaron the priest walked
up Mount Hor, as Yahweh had commanded him. Then, he
died there. 39 When Aaron died at Mount Hor, he was 123
years old.
40 At that time, the Canaanite king who ruled Arad city
lived in the Negeb in Canaan. He learned that the Israelites
had arrived *near him*.
41 They left Mount Hor and set up their tents at *a place*
that people called Zalmonah. 42 They left Zalmonah and set
up their tents at *a place that people called* Punon. 43 They
left Punon and set up their tents at *a place that people called*
Oboth. 44 They left Oboth and set up their tents at *a place that*
people called Iye Abarim. *It was* at the edge of the area where
the Moabites lived. 45 They left Iye *Abarim* and set up their
tents at *the city of* Dibon Gad. 46 They left Dibon Gad and set
up their tents at *a place that people called* Almon Diblathaim.
47 They left Almon Diblathaim and set up their tents at the
Abarim mountain range, in front of Mount Nebo. 48 They
left the Abarim mountain range and set up their tents in the
flatlands that were part of Moab. *They were* on the *east* side
of the Jordan River, across from Jericho. 49 When they set
up their tents in the flatlands that were part of Moab, *they*
were on the *east* side of the Jordan River between *a place that*
people called Beth Jeshimoth and *a place that people called*
Abel Shittim.
50 *While the Israelites were* in the flatlands that were part
of Moab, on the *east* side of the Jordan River, across from
Jericho, Yahweh told Moses, 51 "Tell this to the Israelite
people: They will go to Canaan on the west side of the
Jordan River. 52 *When they do,* they must make all the people
who live there leave. They must smash all the sacred statues
that those people made out of stone and metal. They must
tear down all those people's hilltop shrines. 53 I have granted
Canaan to you, so take it for your own and live there.
54 They must use lots to determine randomly where each
tribal group will receive its land. They must follow whatever

they determine using lots. Tribal groups with many people should receive more land. Tribal groups with few people should receive less land. All the tribal groups that belong to the same ancestral tribe must receive land next to each other. 55 However, suppose that the Israelites do not force the people who live in Canaan to leave. In that case, all the people who are still there will act against them while they live there. Those people will be like sharp plants digging into their skin. 56 In that way, I will punish the Israelites in the same way that I planned to punish those people."

34 Yahweh told Moses, 2 "Order the Israelite people to do this: When they enter Canaan, they must receive it as their own land up to the following boundaries.

3 The southern boundary will pass through the desolate area of Zin, near the area where the Edomites live. The southeastern corner will be at the southern edge of the Sea of Salt.

4 From there, the boundary will extend *to the west*, south of Akrabbim Pass, through the desolate area of Zin. It will continue to extend *to the west* on the south side of the town of Kadesh Barnea through *places that people call* Hazar Addar and Azmon. 5 From Azmon, the boundary will extend *to the west* along Egypt Stream Bed, ending at the Mediterranean Sea.

6 The western boundary will be the Mediterranean Sea.

7 The northwestern corner of the boundary will be at the Mediterranean Sea, and it will extend *east from there* to Mount Hor. 8 From Mount Hor, the boundary will extend *to the east* to *a place that people call* Lebo Hamath, then to *a place that people call* Zedad, 9 then to *a place that people call* Ziphron, ending at *a place that people call* Hazar Enan. That will be the northern boundary.

10 The northeastern corner of the boundary will be at Hazar Enan. *The boundary* will extend *south from there* to *a place that people call* Shepham. 11 From Shepham, it will extend *south* to *a place that people call* Riblah, which is to the east of *a place that people call* Ain. From there, it will extend *south* to the hills on the east side of the Sea of Chinnereth. 12 *From there,* the border will extend *south* along the Jordan River, ending at the Sea of Salt. The whole area within those boundaries will belong to the Israelites."

13 So Moses told the Israelite people, "The area within those boundaries is what you will receive as your land. You must use lots to determine randomly *where each tribal group will receive its land*. Yahweh has declared that he grants that area to nine and one half of your tribes. 14 As for the other two and one half tribes, they are the descendants of Reuben and the descendants of Gad, including all their ancestral families, and half of the descendants of Manasseh. They have already received land. 15 They received it on the east side of the Jordan River, across from Jericho."

16 Yahweh told Moses, 17 "There are two men who will help the Israelites decide who receives what land. They are Eleazar the priest and Nun's son, Joshua. 18 Additionally, out of the men who lead each tribe, one man from each tribe must also help the Israelites decide who receives what land.

19 What follows are those leaders' names. Jephunneh's son, Caleb, is from the tribe of Judah.

20 Ammihud's son, Shemuel, is from the tribe of Simeon.
21 Chislon's son, Elidad, is from the tribe of Benjamin.
22 Jogli's son, Bukki, is a man who leads the tribe of Dan.
23 Ephod's son, Hanniel, is a man who leads the tribe of Manasseh, who are all descendants of Joseph.
24 Shiphtan's son, Kemuel, is a man who leads the tribe of Ephraim, *who are also all descendants of Joseph*.
25 Parnach's son, Elizaphan, is a man who leads the tribe of Zebulun.
26 Azzan's son, Paltiel, is a man who leads the tribe of Issachar.
27 Shelomi's son, Ahihud, is a man who leads the tribe of Asher.
28 Ammihud's son, Pedahel, is a man who leads the tribe of Naphtali."

29 Those are the men whom Yahweh told to help the Israelites decide who received what land in Canaan.

35 *While the Israelites were* in the flatlands that were part of Moab, on the *east* side of the Jordan River, across from Jericho, Yahweh told Moses, 2 "Tell the Israelites to set aside some of the cities that they will receive for the Levites to live in. They must also set aside the fields surrounding those cities for the Levites. 3 The Levites will live in those cities. They will keep their farm animals, *some of* their possessions, and any other animals they have in the fields surrounding those cities.

4 The fields surrounding the cities that the Israelites set aside for the Levites must be 460 meters wide when you measure from the city edges. 5 On each of the four sides, the fields must be 920 meters wide when you measure along the city edge. The city itself must be in the center. That is the size of the fields surrounding each of the cities for the Levites.

6 Six of the cities that the Israelites set aside for the Levites must be cities to which people can flee in order to be safe. If someone kills another person, then he or she can run to one of these cities and be safe. The Israelites must also set aside 42 more cities *for the Levites*. 7 Altogether, the Israelites must set aside 48 cities for the Levites, including the fields surrounding them. 8 Tribes with more land must set aside more cities, and tribes with less land must set aside fewer cities. The people from each tribe must set aside these cities for the Levites from among the cities in the land that they will receive."

9 Yahweh told Moses, 10 "Tell this to the Israelite people: They will go to Canaan on the west side of the Jordan River. 11 *When they do,* they must choose certain cities to which people can flee in order to be safe. If someone kills another person accidentally, then he or she can run to one of those cities and be safe. 12 When a person kills someone, a close relative of the dead person often seeks to kill that person to avenge his or her relative. If that person is in one of these cities, then the close relative may not kill him or her. Instead, with the Israelite community watching, the leaders must decide whether that person deserves to die. 13 Six of the cities that they set apart *for the Levites* must be cities to which people can flee in order to be safe. 14 Three of those cities must be on the east side of the Jordan River. The other three must be *on the west side* in Canaan. They will be cities to which people can flee in order to be safe. 15 If anyone kills another person accidentally, then he or she can run to one of those six cities and be safe. That applies to Israelites, foreigners, and anyone who is living among them temporarily.

16 Suppose that a person hits someone with an iron tool
and kills him or her. In that case, that person is a murderer.
Someone must certainly execute that murderer. 17 Suppose
that a person is holding a stone that could kill a person.
Suppose that he or she hits someone with it and kills him
or her. In that case, that person is a murderer. Someone
must certainly execute that murderer. 18 Suppose that a
person is holding a wooden tool that could kill a person.
Suppose that he or she hits someone with it and kills him or
her. In that case, that person is a murderer. Someone must
certainly execute that murderer. 19 It is the close relative
of the dead person who must kill the murderer to avenge
his or her relative. Whenever the close relative finds the
murderer, he or she must kill the murderer. 20 Suppose that
a person was angry with someone, shoved him or her, and
killed him or her. Or suppose that the person intentionally
threw something at him or her and killed him or her. 21 Or,
suppose that a person was opposing someone, hit him or
her, and killed him or her. In all those cases, that person is
a murderer. Someone must certainly execute that murderer.
It is the close relative of the dead person who must kill the
murderer to avenge his or her relative whenever he or she
finds the murderer.

22 However, suppose that a person was not opposing
someone but suddenly shoved him or her. Or suppose that
the person accidentally threw a tool at him or her. 23 Or
suppose that the person dropped a stone that could kill a
person on him or her without realizing that he or she was
there. In each of those cases, suppose that the person was
not opposing or trying to harm the other person, and yet he
or she died. 24 In each of those cases, the *Israelite* community
must decide whether the person who killed someone *is not
a murderer* or whether the close relative of the dead person
should kill the person to avenge his or her relative. They must
follow these instructions when they decide. 25 The *Israelite*
community must keep any person who *unintentionally* killed
someone safe from the dead person's close relative, who
wants to kill that person to avenge his or her relative. The
community must send that person back to the city where he
or she ran to be safe. The person must live there until the
high priest dies. That is the priest on whom someone poured
the sacred oil.

26 However, suppose that the person who *unintentionally*
killed someone walks past the edges of the city where he or
she ran to be safe. 27 Then, suppose that the dead person's
close relative encounters the person who *unintentionally* killed
someone outside the edges of that city and kills that person.
In that case, the close relative is not guilty of murder. 28 So,
the person who *unintentionally* killed someone must live in
the city where he or she ran to be safe until the high priest
dies. Then, the person can go back to the land that belongs
to him or her.

29 All the Israelites and their descendants must follow
those rules wherever they live.

30 Suppose that someone killed someone else and people
testify *that it was intentional*. In that case, someone must
execute the murderer. However, suppose that only one
person testifies. In that case, no one can execute that person.

31 The Israelites must not accept money in exchange for
allowing a murderer, who deserves to die, to live. Instead,
someone must certainly execute that murderer.

32 As for someone who should run to *one of those six* cities
to be safe, the Israelites must not accept money in exchange
for allowing that person to go back to his or her own land
before the *high* priest dies.

33 When a person kills someone, it makes the land they
live in impure. So, they must not make the land impure. The
only way to make the land pure again is to kill the murderer.
34 I am Yahweh. I am present with the Israelites in their land.
So, they must not make the land they live in impure."

36 Now there was a tribal group that was one of the tribal
groups that descended from Joseph. Specifically, this
tribal group descended from Gilead, whose father was Machir,
whose father was Manasseh. The men who led the extended
families that made up this tribal group approached Moses and
the men who led the Israelite ancestral families and talked
with them. 2 They said, "Yahweh told you, sir, to use lots to
determine randomly where each of the Israelite *tribal groups*
will receive its land. Yahweh also told you, sir, to assign the
land that our relative Zelophehad would have received to
his daughters. 3 However, suppose that they marry men from
other Israelite tribes. In that case, the land that they received
will belong to the tribe of the men whom they married. It
will no longer belong to our tribe. In this way, we will lose
some of the land that our tribal group received. 4 Also, when
it is the year for restoring for the Israelite people, the land
that they received will still belong to the tribe of the men
whom they married. In this way, we will lose some of the
land that belongs to our ancestral tribe."

5 Then Moses told the Israelite people what Yahweh
commanded him to say. He said, "*The men who lead* this
tribe that descends from Joseph have said this correctly.
6 Here is what Yahweh has ordered Zelophehad's daughters
to do. They may marry anyone they like, as long as the
man belongs to a tribal group within the same tribe as their
father. 7 Land that belongs to one tribe must never transfer
to another tribe. Each Israelite must ensure that the land
that he or she receives continues to belong to his or her
ancestral tribe. 8 Every Israelite woman who receives land
from her father must marry a man who belongs to a tribal
group within the same tribe as her father. That way, each
Israelite will ensure that his or her ancestral land continues
to belong to him or her. 9 Land that belongs to one tribe must
never transfer to another tribe. Each Israelite must ensure
that the land that he or she receives continues to belong to
his or her ancestral tribe."

10 Zelophehad's daughters did exactly what Yahweh told
Moses *to do*. 11 Zelophehad's daughters were Mahlah, Tirzah,
Hoglah, Milcah, and Noah. They married the sons of their
father's brothers. 12 They married men who belonged to
the tribal groups that descended from Manasseh, whose
father was Joseph. So, the land that they received continued
to belong to the tribe to which their father's tribal group
belonged.

13 Those are the rules and instructions that Yahweh gave to
the Israelites through Moses while they were in the flatlands
that were part of Moab, on the *east* side of the Jordan River,
across from Jericho.