

unfoldingWord® Simplified Text

v92

Deuteronomy

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Deuteronomy

1 In this book are speeches that Moses said to all the Israelites. He spoke to them after they had set up their tents east of the Jordan River. They were in the desert plain along the Jordan near a place named Suph. Suph is between the desert of Paran *on one side of the Jordan River* and the towns of Tophel, Laban, Hazeroth, and Di Zahab *on the other side of the river*. 2 It usually takes 11 days to walk from Mount Horeb to Kadesh Barnea. People go by way of Mount Seir.

3 Forty years had passed since the Israelites had left Egypt, and it was the first day of the eleventh month. Moses told the Israelite people everything that Yahweh had commanded him to tell them. 4 He did this after they had defeated Sihon and Og. Sihon, the king of the Amorite people, lived in the city of Heshbon. Og, the king of the region of Bashan, ruled in the towns of Ashtaroth and Edrei.

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

6 "Yahweh our God said to our ancestors at Mount Horeb, 'You have stayed for a very long time at the base of this mountain. 7 Now you must continue traveling. Go to the hilly area where the Amorite people live and go to the nearby areas. These areas include the plain along the Jordan, the hilly area, the smaller hills in the west, the wilderness in the south, the coast of the Great Sea, the land of Canaan, the Lebanon mountains, and northeast to the great Euphrates River. 8 Know that I will give that land to you. I, Yahweh, promised the land to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I promised that I would give it to them and to their descendants. So go and occupy it.'

9 I said to your ancestors during that time, 'I am not able to govern all of you by myself. 10 Yahweh our God has caused us Israelites to become numerous. Today we are as numerous as the stars in the sky. 11 I pray that Yahweh, the God whom our ancestors worshiped, will cause us to become a great many times more numerous than we are now. I pray that he will bless us just as he promised to do. 12 But I cannot solve all of your problems by myself. 13 So choose some men from your tribes who are wise and who have good sense and whom people respect. Then I will assign them to be your leaders.'

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

15 So I took the wise men, those whom people respected and whom your families chose from your tribes, and I appointed them to be your leaders. I appointed some to lead groups of 1, 000 people, some to lead groups of 100 people, some to lead groups of 50 people, and some to lead groups of 10 people. I also appointed other officers from throughout your tribes. 16 Then, I instructed your leaders, 'Listen when your people are quarreling. Consider each case fairly, including cases where Israelites quarrel with each other. Also consider cases where an Israelite quarrels with someone from another land who lives among you. 17 You must not favor one person more than another. You must treat unimportant people and important people equally. You must not worry about what anyone will think, because you will decide matters as God wants you to decide them. If you are not sure what to decide when people are quarreling, tell me, and I will decide.' 18 At that time I also told you other things that you should do.

19 Then, just as Yahweh our God told us to do, we left Horeb. We went through a huge and dangerous wilderness. The wilderness was on the road to the hilly area where the Amorite people live. We arrived at Kadesh Barnea. 20 I said to your parents, 'You have now come to the hilly area where the Amorite people live. This is part of the area that Yahweh our God is giving to us. 21 Know that Yahweh our God is giving this land to us. So go and occupy it as he commanded. Yahweh is the God whom your ancestors worshiped. Do not be at all afraid.'

22 But your fathers all came to me and said, 'We should first send some men ahead of us to explore the land. Then, they can return and tell us which will be the best road to go there and what kind of towns are there.'

23 I thought that what they had planned was good, so I chose 12 men, one man from each tribe. 24 They went into the hilly area as far as the Valley of Eshcol, and they explored the area. 25 They picked some of the fruit that they found there and brought it to us. They reported that the land that Yahweh our God was giving to us was very good.

26 But your parents refused to go and conquer that land. They rebelled against what Yahweh our God had commanded them to do. 27 Your parents stayed in their tents and complained. They said, 'Yahweh hates us, so he has brought us here from Egypt to allow the Amorite people to destroy us. 28 We do not want to go there. The men whom we sent there have caused us to become very afraid. They have told us that the people there are stronger and bigger than we are. They said that there are very high walls around their towns. They also said that they saw giants there that are descendants of Anak.'

29 Then I said to your fathers, 'Do not be even a little bit afraid of those people! 30 Yahweh our God will go before you. He will fight for you just as you saw him do for you in Egypt 31 and in the wilderness. You saw how he brought you safely here, just like a man holds and protects his son.'

32 Your parents would not trust Yahweh our God, even though I reminded them of what Yahweh had done. 33 He always went ahead of them while they traveled in the desert. He showed them places to set up their tents. He directed them with the fire during the night and with the cloud during the day.

34 Yahweh heard your parents complaining, and he became angry. He solemnly declared, 35–36 'Only Caleb son of Jephunneh will enter the land. He has obeyed me completely. So I will give to him and to his descendants some of the land that he explored. None of the rest of these evil people will ever live in that good land that I solemnly promised to give to your ancestors.'

37 But because of what your fathers did, Yahweh was also angry with me. He said to me, 'You also will not enter that land. 38 Joshua son of Nun, who is your helper, will enter it. Support him, because he will enable the Israelite people to occupy that land.'

39 Yahweh continued to declare, 'You said that your enemies would capture your children, *but this did not happen*. Your children are very young, so they do not yet know what is good and what is evil. However, they are the ones who

will enter that land. I will give them the land, and they will occupy it. 40 As for you, turn around and go back into the desert, toward the Sea of Reeds.'

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

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

43 So I said that to your fathers, but they did not obey what I said. They again rebelled against what Yahweh commanded them to do. Their soldiers proudly marched up into that hilly area. 44 Then the men of the Amorite people who lived in that region came out of their towns. They attacked those soldiers. They chased our soldiers like a swarm of bees would chase a person. The Amorites pursued your ancestors' soldiers south from the area of Seir and defeated them at the city of Hormah. 45 So your fathers went back to Kadesh Barnea and cried out to request Yahweh to help them, but he did not pay any attention to them. 46 So we stayed there at Kadesh Barnea for a long time.

2 Then we turned around and went through the desert toward the Sea of Reeds as Yahweh told us to do. We wandered near Mount Seir for a long time.

2 Then Yahweh said to me, 3 'You have been wandering around this hilly area for a long enough time. Now turn and travel toward the north. 4 And tell the people that they are about to travel near the land that belongs to the descendants of Esau, *who are also descendants of Isaac*, as you are. They live in the hilly area near Mount Seir. They will be afraid of you, but be very careful. 5 Do not start to fight against them, because I am not going to give you even a tiny bit of their land. That is because I have given Mount Seir to the descendants of Esau. 6 *When you travel near their land*, buy food and water from them.'

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

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

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

10 (There were people called the Emites that formerly lived there. They were as populous and tall as the descendants of Anak. 11 People also call both the Emites and the Anakites, Raphaites. The people of Moab call them Emites. 12 The Horite people also formerly lived in the area of Seir, but the descendants of Esau expelled them. They killed them and settled in their land, just as the Israelite people later expelled their enemies from the land that Yahweh gave to them.)

13 "Then we crossed Zered Gorge, as Yahweh told us to do. 14 It had been 38 years from the time we first left Kadesh Barnea until we crossed Zered Gorge. During those years, all the fighting men of that generation of Israelites died, as Yahweh had solemnly said would happen. 15 Furthermore, Yahweh opposed them, so he caused them to die.

16 After all the men who had been old enough to fight had died, 17 Yahweh said to me, 18 'Today you must travel through the region of Moab, near Ar, their city. 19 When you come near the border of the land where the descendants of Ammon live, do not bother them or start to fight against them. The reason is that they are also descendants of Lot, so I am not going to give you any of the land that I have given to them.'"

20 (People also call that region the land of the Raphaites, who formerly lived there. The Ammonite people call them the Zamzummites. 21 They were as populous and tall as the Anakite people. But Yahweh caused them to die when the Ammonite people expelled them and settled in their land. 22 Yahweh had done the same thing for the descendants of Esau living in the hilly area of Seir. Yahweh eliminated the Horite people on behalf of the descendants of Esau who took over their land and who still live there. 23 As for the Avvite people, they lived in towns as far *south* as Gaza. The Caphtorite people from the island of Caphtor killed the Avvite people and settled in their land.)

24 "After we had gone through the region of Moab, Yahweh said to us, 'Now cross the Arnon River valley. Know that I will help you to defeat the army of Sihon. Sihon is the king of the Amorites who live in the city of Heshbon. So attack their army and start to take their land from them. 25 Today I will begin to cause everyone, everywhere to be afraid of you. Everyone who hears about you will be very afraid of you.'

26 Then I sent messengers to go from where we were in the Desert of Kedemoth to King Sihon at Heshbon. *I told them to give him* this peaceful message, 27 'Please allow us to travel through your land. *We promise that* we will stay on the road. We will not turn off to the right or to the left. 28 We will pay you for food and water. We want only to walk through your land 29 until we cross the Jordan River into the land that Yahweh our God is giving to us. Do for us just as the descendants of Esau who live in the area of Seir and the Moabite people who live in the city of Ar did *for us when they allowed us to go through their land.*' 30 But King Sihon of Heshbon would not allow us to go through his country. That is because Yahweh our God caused him to be stubborn so that Yahweh could cause us to defeat his army and take his land, in which we still live.

31 Yahweh said to me, 'Know that I am starting to allow you to defeat Sihon's army and to take the people's land from them. So enter it now until you occupy it fully!'

32 Then Sihon and his soldiers marched out to fight against us at the town of Jahaz. 33 But Yahweh our God caused us to defeat them. We killed Sihon, his son, and all his soldiers. 34 We captured and destroyed all of King Sihon's cities. *We killed* the men, women, and children. We did not allow any of them to remain alive. 35 However, we did take the livestock and valuable things from the cities that we captured. 36 Yahweh our God enabled us to capture all their towns from the city of Aroer in the south, which is at the edge of the Arnon River valley, to the region of Gilead in the north. Some of their cities had walls around them, but we were still able to capture them. 37 But we did not go near

the area where the descendants of Ammon live, the banks of the Jabbok River, the towns of the hilly area, or any other place where Yahweh our God told us not to go.

3 Then we turned north and went toward the region of Bashan. Og, the king of that area, and all his soldiers marched south to fight against us at the city of Edrei. 2 Yahweh said to me, 'Do not be afraid of him, because I will cause your army to defeat him and all his army. I will also cause you to capture all their land. Do to him what you did to Sihon, the king of the Amorite people, who ruled in the city of Heshbon.'

3 So Yahweh our God caused us to defeat King Og and his soldiers. We killed them all. We did not allow any of them to remain alive. 4 There were 60 cities in that region of Argob, in King Og's kingdom of Bashan, but we captured all of them. 5 All those cities had high walls around them with gates and bars. We also captured many villages that did not have walls around them. 6 We completely destroyed those cities, just as we had done in the area that King Sihon ruled. We killed all the men, women, and children. 7 But from those cities we took for ourselves all the livestock and valuable things.

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

12 "From the land that we captured at that time, I allotted to the tribes of Reuben and Gad the land north of the city of Aroer near the Arnon River. I also allotted to them some of the hilly areas of Gilead, along with the nearby cities. 13 The other part of Gilead and all of Bashan, which was the region of Argob that King Og had ruled, I allotted to half of the tribe of Manasseh." (People call the entire region of Bashan the land of the Raphaites. 14 Jair, a man from the tribe of Manasseh, conquered all of Bashan as far north as the border of the Geshur and Maacath territories. He gave his own name to the villages there. *People still call them* the villages of Jair.)

15 "The northern part of the Gilead region I allotted to the Machir clan, *who are descendants of the tribe of Manasseh*. 16 I allotted to the tribes of Reuben and Gad the southern part of Gilead, extending south to the Arnon River. The middle of the river is the southern boundary. The northern boundary is the Jabbok River, which is part of the border of the region where the Ammonites live. 17 The border extends from the plain along the east side of the Jordan valley, from the Chinnereth Sea in the north to the Sea of the Arabah" (people also call it the Salt Sea) "in the south and to the slopes of Mount Pisgah on the east.

18 At that time, I told you three tribes, 'Yahweh our God is giving you this land east of the Jordan River. So now, your soldiers must cross the Jordan River ahead of the men from the other Israelite tribes. *Help them to conquer the land*. 19 But your wives and children and your very numerous cattle must stay in the towns that I have allotted to you. 20 *Your men must help* your fellow Israelites until Yahweh enables them to live there peacefully. Help them until they also capture all of the land that Yahweh our God is giving to them, which is on the west side of the Jordan River, just as he did for you *here on the east side of the river*. After that, you all may return to this land that I have allotted to you.'

21 And I told Joshua, 'You have seen everything that Yahweh our God did to those two kings, Sihon and Og. He will do the same thing to the people who are now in the land that you will be entering. 22 Do not be afraid of those people, because Yahweh our God is the one who will fight on your behalf.'

23 At that time, I earnestly prayed, 24 'Yahweh my Lord, you are the one who has *merely* begun to show me how very great you are and that you can do powerful things. There is certainly no god in heaven or on earth who can do the powerful things that you have done. 25 So please allow me to cross the Jordan River. Let me see the good land on the west side, the good hilly area, and the mountains in Lebanon.'

26 But Yahweh was angry with me because of what your parents had done. He would not pay attention to me. Instead, he said, 'That is enough *talk* from you! Do not talk to me about that again! 27 Climb up to the top of Mount Pisgah. Then look toward the west, east, north, and south. Look at it all carefully because you will not cross the Jordan River *to see the land from there*. 28 But tell Joshua what he must do. Encourage him because he is the one who will lead the people across the river. He is the one who will lead them to occupy the land that you will see *from the top of the mountain*.'

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

4 Now, you Israelite people, obey all the rules and regulations that I will teach you. If you do that, you will remain alive. You will be able to enter and occupy the land that Yahweh, the God whom your ancestors worshiped, is giving to you. 2 Do not change the words of my commands to you. Obey all the commands of Yahweh our God that I am giving to you.

3 You have seen what Yahweh did at Baal Peor, for example, when he destroyed all the people who worshiped *the god* Baal there. 4 However, all of you who faithfully continued to worship Yahweh our God are still alive today.

5 Never forget that I have taught you all the rules and regulations, just as Yahweh our God told me to do. He wants you to obey them *when you are living* in the land that you are about to enter and occupy. 6 Obey them faithfully because, if you do that, you will show the people of other nations that you are very wise. When they hear about all these rules, they will say, 'The people of this great nation of Israel are certainly very wise!' 7 Even if other nations are great, there is none of them that has a god who cares for them as Yahweh our God cares for us! 8 And there is no other nation, even if it is a great nation, which has laws that are as just as the laws that I am speaking to you today.

9 But be very careful! Do not forget what you have seen God do. Remember those things as long as you are alive. Tell them to your children and your grandchildren. 10 Tell them about the day that your parents stood in the presence of Yahweh our God at Mount Horeb, when he said to me, 'Gather the people together in order that they can hear what I say. I want them to learn to respect me and honor me as long as they are alive. I want them to teach their children to do the same.' 11 Tell your children that your parents came

near to the foot of the mountain while the mountain burned
with a fire that went up to the sky, and Yahweh covered
the mountain with darkness, clouds, and smoke. 12 Then
Yahweh spoke to your parents out of the middle of the fire.
Your parents only heard him speak, but they did not see
him. 13 And he declared to them his covenant that he wants
you also to obey. He gave them the Ten Commandments.
He wrote those on two stone tablets. 14 Yahweh told me to
teach all the rules and regulations to you in order that you
would obey them. He wants you to obey them in the land
that you are about to enter and occupy.

15 On the day that Yahweh spoke to your parents from
the fire at Mount Horeb, they did not see him. So be very
careful! 16 Do not sin by making for yourselves any carved
figure! Do not make anything that resembles the likeness
of anything: man, woman, 17 any animal, any bird, 18 any
reptile, or any fish. 19 Do not look up toward the sky and
desire to worship anything that you see there, the sun or the
moon or the stars. Yahweh our God has given those to *help*
all people everywhere. 20 Yahweh has brought your families
out of Egypt, where they were suffering as though they were
in a blazing furnace. That is so that they would be people
who belong to him, which is what you are today.

21 But Yahweh was angry with me because of what your
parents did. He declared that I would never enter the land
that he is giving to you. 22 He swore that I would die here
in this land and never cross the Jordan River. But you will
go across it, and you will occupy that land. 23 Be sure that
you do not forget the covenant that Yahweh our God made
with you, and do not make a carved figure in the likeness
of anything about which he has forbidden you. 24 This is
because Yahweh your God wants everyone to worship him
alone. He will destroy anyone who worships idols.

25 After you have been in the land of Canaan for a long
time and you have children and grandchildren, do not sin
by making a carved figure that represents anything. Yahweh
says that is evil, and if you do that, you will cause him to
become angry. 26 Today I am requesting everyone who is in
heaven and earth to watch what you are doing. But *if you*
disobey what I am telling you, you will soon all die in the land
that you will be crossing the Jordan River to occupy. You will
not live very long there, because Yahweh will completely
get rid of many of you. 27 Yahweh will force the rest of you
to go and live among the people of many other nations. Only
a few of you will survive there. 28 When you are in those
nations, you will worship gods that humans have made from
wood and stone. *They will be gods* that cannot see, hear, eat,
or smell *anything*. 29 But while you are there, you will try
to know Yahweh your God. If you try with all that you are
to know him, he will answer you. 30 In the future, when
people mistreat you *there* and all those *bad* things happen
to you, you will again worship only Yahweh and obey him.
31 Yahweh is a God who acts mercifully. *If you obey him*,
he will not abandon you, cause you to die, or forget the
agreement that he solemnly made with your ancestors.

32 Now please think about the past, about the time before
you were alive, about all the time since God first created
people here on the earth. You could search everywhere.
Certainly, nothing has ever happened that is as great *as*
what Yahweh did for the Israelite people. 33 Certainly no group
has ever remained alive after they heard their God speak to
them from the middle of a fire as you yourselves have heard.
34 Certainly God has never before tried to take a huge group
of people from one nation *to another location* as he did for us
when he brought us out of Egypt. We saw Yahweh our God
use his power when he performed miracles, sent plagues,
terrified people, and fought the Egyptians for us.

35 Yahweh showed all these things especially to you in
order that you would know that only he is truly God and
that there is no other God. 36 He allowed your parents to
hear him speak from heaven in order that he could discipline
them. Here on the earth, he allowed them to see his great
fire. He spoke to them from the middle of the fire. 37 Because
he loved our ancestors, he chose you Israelites, who are
their descendants. By his great power, he brought us out of
Egypt. 38 *As they traveled*, he expelled the people of nations
that were greater and more powerful than we were. This is
so that we could capture and live in their land, as we are
about to do today.

39 So today you should think about the fact that Yahweh
is God, that *he rules* in heaven and also on the earth, and that
there is no other god. 40 Obey all the rules and regulations
that I am giving to you today. This is so that things will go
well for you and your descendants and so that you will live
a long time in the land that Yahweh our God is giving to
you, so *it will belong to you* forever."

41 Then Moses chose three cities that are on the east side
of the Jordan River. 42 If someone accidentally killed another
person, a person who had not been his enemy previously, he
could escape to one of those cities. He would be safe there
because the people there would protect him. 43 For the tribe of
Reuben, Moses chose the city of Bezer in the wilderness. For
the tribe of Gad, he chose the city of Ramoth in the region
of Gilead. For the tribe of Manasseh, he chose the city of
Golan in the region of Bashan.

44 Moses gave God's instructions to the Israelite people.
45 They included all the instructions, rules, and regulations
that Moses told the Israelite people after they had come out
of Egypt, 46 when they were in the valley east of the Jordan
River. They were across from the town of Beth Peor, in the
land Sihon, the king of the Amorite people, who lived in
the city of Heshbon, had *previously* ruled. Moses and the
other Israelites had defeated his army when they came out
of Egypt. 47 They captured Sihon's land and the land that
Og, the king of the region of Bashan, had ruled. Those were
the two kings who ruled the Amorite people in the area east
of the Jordan River. 48 Their land extended from the city of
Aroer in the south along the edge of the valley of Arnon,
as far north as Mount Sion, which people also call Mount
Hermon. 49 It also included all the area in the plain east of
the Jordan River, extending to the Sea of the Arabah and
east to the slopes of Mount Pisgah.

5 Moses summoned all the people of Israel and said to
them, "You Israelite people, listen to all the rules that
I am commanding you today. Learn them and be sure to
obey them. 2 When we were at Mount Horeb, Yahweh our
God made a covenant with us. 3 But this covenant was not
only for our ancestors; he made it also for us who are alive
now. 4 Yahweh personally spoke with us on that mountain,
from the middle of the fire. 5 On that day, I stood between
Yahweh and your parents in order to tell them what he said.
That was because they were afraid of the fire, and they did
not want to climb up the mountain. This is what Yahweh
said,

> 6 'I am Yahweh your God, the one you worship.
> I am the one who brought you out of the land of

Egypt. I am the one who freed you from being
slaves there.
7 Do not worship any god other than me.
8 Do not carve yourself a figure that looks like anything
in the sky or that is on the ground or that is in
the water under the ground.

9 Do not bow down to any idol or worship it, because I
am Yahweh your God. I demand that
you worship me only! I will punish the
descendants of those who hate me. I will
punish their descendants for three, even four
generations. 10 However, I will faithfully
love forever all of those who love me
and obey my commandments.
11 *I am* Yahweh your God, so do not use my name
for the wrong purpose. This is because
I will certainly punish those who use
my name for wrong purposes.
12 Remember that the seventh day of every week belongs
to me. This is according to what I, Yahweh
your God, am commanding you.

13 There are six days each week for you to do all your
labor. 14 But the seventh day is a day of rest,
a day dedicated to me, Yahweh your God. On
that day you must not do any work. Neither
you nor your sons, your daughters, your male
or female slaves, your livestock, and not even
foreigners who are living in your country may
work. 15 Remember that your families were slaves
in Egypt. I, Yahweh your God, brought you out
of there by my very great power. As a result,
I am commanding that all of you must rest on
the seventh day of each week.

16 Honor your father and your mother, just like I,
Yahweh your God, am commanding you.
Do this in order that you may live a long
time in the land that I, Yahweh your God,
will give you. Also do this in order that
things will go well for you there.
17 Do not murder anyone.

18 Do not commit adultery with anyone.
19 Do not steal anything.
20 Do not tell lies about someone in court.

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

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

23 Your parents heard Yahweh's voice when he spoke to them out of the darkness, while there was a big fire burning on the mountain. After that, their leaders came to me. 24 *One of* them said, 'Listen to us! Yahweh our God showed us that he is very glorious and great when we heard him speak from the fire. Today we have realized that it is possible for us human beings to continue to live even though God has spoken to us. 25 But we are afraid that we will die. We are afraid that this immense fire will burn us all up if we go on hearing Yahweh's voice. 26 We are the only people on earth who have remained alive after hearing the all-powerful God speak to them from a fire! 27 *So Moses*, you go *up the mountain* and listen to everything that Yahweh our God says. Then *come back* and tell us everything that he has said, and we will listen to what he has said and obey it.'

28 Yahweh heard your leaders say that. *When I went back up the mountain*, Yahweh said to me, 'I have heard what your leaders have said. What they have said is right. 29 I surely wish that they would always have awesome respect for me and obey all my commandments. I desire their worship so that things may go well for them and for their descendants forever.

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

32 Be sure that you do everything that Yahweh our God has commanded us to do. Be sure to obey his commandments. 33 Conduct your lives as Yahweh our God has commanded us to do. This is so that you may live a long time. Also, this is so that things may go well for you *when you are living* in the land that you will occupy.

6 These are the commandments, rules, and decrees that Yahweh our God commanded me to teach to you. He wants you to obey them in the land that you are about to enter and occupy. 2 He wants you to honor him. He wants you and your descendants to always obey all these rules and regulations that I am giving to you. This is so that you may live for a long time. 3 So, you Israelite people, listen to them carefully and obey them. If you do that, things will go well with you. Also, you will become a very numerous nation when you are *living* in that very fertile land. That is what Yahweh, the God whom our ancestors worshiped, promised would happen.

4 You Israelite people, listen! Only Yahweh is our God. 5 You must love him with all your inner being and with all that you feel and in every way that you can. 6 Remember these commands that I am giving to you today. 7 Teach them to your children again and again. Talk about them *at every opportunity,* such as when you are in your houses and when you are walking outside. Talk about them also when you are resting and when you are working. 8 *Write copies of them* and tie them to your arms and foreheads *to help you to remember them*. 9 Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your city gates.

10 Yahweh our God solemnly promised to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that he would give you a land that already has in it large and prosperous cities that you did not build. 11 He said that the houses in those cities will already be full of many good things that someone else put there. There will be wells that someone else dug. There will be vineyards and olive trees that someone else planted. So when Yahweh brings you into that land, and you have all that you want to eat, 12 be sure to remember Yahweh, who rescued you from being slaves in Egypt *and gave all these things to you*.

13 You must deeply respect Yahweh our God, and you
must worship him alone. When you make a solemn oath, say
that he should punish you if you do not do what you have
promised. 14 You must not worship any other gods, the gods
that the peoples who live near you worship. 15 This is because
Yahweh our God, who has a special relationship with you
will not accept people who worship anyone or anything other
than him. So if you worship any other god, Yahweh will be
very angry with you, and he will destroy you completely.
16 Do not do sinful things to find out whether Yahweh will
punish you or not, as your parents did at Massah. 17 Be sure
that you always obey all the laws, the weighty instructions,
and the regulations that he has given to you. 18 Do what
Yahweh says is right and good. If you do that, things will
go well with you. You will be able to enter and occupy the
good land that Yahweh solemnly promised to give to our
ancestors. 19 He will do that by driving out your enemies
from that land, just as he promised to do.

20 In the future, your children will ask you, 'Why did
Yahweh our God command us to obey all these rules and
decrees?' 21 Then you will tell them, 'Our families were slaves
of the king in Egypt. Yahweh brought them out of Egypt by
his great power. 22 They saw him do many kinds of miracles
and terrifying things to the people of Egypt and to the king
and his officials. 23 He rescued our families from Egypt and
brought them here to give them this land. This is just as he
solemnly promised our ancestors that he would do. 24 And
he commanded us to obey all these laws and to honor him.
This is so that things will always go well with us and so that
he will protect our nation, as he is doing now. 25 Yahweh
our God will approve of us if we carefully obey everything
that he has commanded us to do.'

7 Yahweh our God will take you into the land that you
will soon enter and occupy. As you advance, he will
expel these people groups that are more powerful and more
numerous than you are. They are the Hittites, the Girgashites,
the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and
the Jebusites. 2 When Yahweh our God enables you to defeat
them, you must kill them all. You must make no agreement
with them, and you must not act mercifully toward them.
3 You must not marry any of them. You must not allow your
daughters to marry any of their sons or allow your sons to
marry any of their daughters. 4 If you did that, those people
would persuade your children to stop worshiping Yahweh
and to worship other gods. If that happens, Yahweh will be
very angry with you, and he will destroy you very quickly.
5 This is what you must do to those people: Tear down their
altars, break apart the stone pillars *that they have dedicated to
their gods*, cut down the poles *that they use when they worship
the goddess Asherah*, and burn their molded idols. 6 You must
do that because you are a group of people who belong only
to Yahweh our God. He has chosen you from all the peoples
in the world to be his own special people.

7 It was not because you were more numerous than any
other people group that Yahweh chose you. In fact, you are
one of the smallest people groups on the earth. 8 Instead, it
is because Yahweh loved you and because he wanted to do
what he solemnly promised to your ancestors. That is why
he rescued you by his great power from slavery in Egypt
and from Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. 9 So remember that
Yahweh is our God. He is faithful to us. He will do what he
agreed to do. He will faithfully love forever people who love
him and who obey his commandments. 10 But as for those
who hate him, he will pay them back. He will punish them
and quickly destroy them.

11 So you must be sure to obey all the commandments, rules,
and decrees that I am giving to you today. 12 If you pay
attention to these decrees and always obey them, Yahweh
our God will do what he has agreed to do for you. He will
also faithfully love you, which is what he solemnly promised
to your ancestors that he would do. 13 He will love you and
bless you. He will enable you to have many children. He
will bless your fields. As a result, you will have plenty of
grain and *grapes to make* wine and plenty of olive oil. You
will have many cattle and sheep. He will do all these things
for you in the land that he promised to your ancestors that
he would give to you. 14 He will bless you more than he
will bless any other people group. All of you will be able to
have children. All of your livestock will be able to produce
offspring. 15 And Yahweh will protect you from all illnesses.
He will not make you become sick with any of the dreadful
diseases that *our ancestors* knew about in Egypt. But, he will
make all your enemies sick with them. 16 You must destroy
all the peoples that Yahweh our God enables you to conquer.
Do not act mercifully toward any of them and do not worship
their gods. If you do that, it would be like falling into a trap
from which you will never be able to escape.

17 Do not think to yourselves, 'These people groups are
more numerous than we are. We will never be able to drive
them out.' 18 Do not be afraid of them. Instead, think about
what Yahweh our God did to the king of Egypt and to all
the people whom he *ruled*. 19 Remember the terrible plagues
that your parents saw him inflict on the people of Egypt.
Remember the various kinds of miracles that God did in
order to bring your families out *of Egypt*. Yahweh our God
will do the same kind of things to the peoples that you are
afraid of now. 20 Furthermore, he will cause them to become
terrified. He will destroy those who remain alive and run
away to hide from you. 21 Do not be afraid of those people,
because Yahweh our God will be with you. He is a great God.
He is the one that people are afraid of. 22 He will gradually
expel those people groups. You should not *try to* expel all
of them at one time. If you did that, the number of wild
animals would quickly increase, *and you would not be able to
get rid of them*. 23 Instead, Yahweh will enable you to defeat
your enemies *one people group at a time*. He will cause them
to panic until you have destroyed them. 24 He will enable
you to defeat their kings. After you kill them, people will
forget them. No people group will be able to stop you. You
will destroy all of them. 25 You must burn the carved figures
that represent their gods. Do not desire to take the silver or
gold *decorations* that are on those idols. If you take them for
yourselves, they will be like a trap *to cause you to disobey
God*. Yahweh hates every part of those idols. 26 You must not
bring any of those disgusting idols into your houses, because
if you do that, God will curse you just as he curses them. You
must hate and despise those idols, because they are things
that Yahweh has cursed, and he promises to destroy them.

8 You must faithfully obey all the commandments that
I am giving you today. If you do that, you will live a
long time and you will become very numerous. Your people
will occupy the land that Yahweh solemnly promised your
ancestors *that he would give to you*. 2 And think about how
Yahweh our God led us as we traveled through the desert
during these past 40 years. He *caused you to have many
problems*. This was to cause you to realize that you needed

to trust him and not trust in yourselves. He also wanted to test you, to find out what you intended to do, whether you would obey his commandments or not. 3 So he caused you to have problems. He allowed you to become hungry. Then he gave you manna, *food from heaven*, food that you and your parents had never eaten before. He did that to teach you that people need food *for their bodies*, but *they also need food for their spirits. This comes from paying attention to* everything that Yahweh says. 4 During those 40 years, our clothes did not wear out. Also, our feet did not swell *from walking through the desert*. 5 Remember that Yahweh our God corrects us and punishes us, like parents correct their children.

6 So obey the commandments of Yahweh our God. Conduct your lives as he wants you to do and honor him. 7 He is about to bring you into a good land. It has streams that flow down from the hills and flow out of springs in the valleys. 8 It is a land on which wheat and barley grow. It has vineyards, fig trees, and pomegranates. It is a land where there are olive trees and honey. 9 It is a land where there will be plenty of food for you. You will have everything you need. It is a land which has iron *ore* in its rocks and from which you can dig copper *ore* from its hills. 10 *Every day* you will eat until your stomachs are full. You will thank Yahweh our God for the fertile land that he has given you.

11 But *when that happens*, be sure not to forget Yahweh our God by disobeying his commandments, rules, and regulations that I am giving to you today. 12 Do this even when your stomachs are full *every day*, and when you have built good houses and are living in them. 13 One day the number of your cattle and sheep will greatly increase. You will accumulate a large amount of silver and gold. The amount of all your other possessions will also greatly increase. 14 Even then, be sure that you do not become proud and forget Yahweh our God. He rescued your parents from being slaves in Egypt and brought them out from there. 15 Remember that he guided them while they traveled through that huge and terrible desert. There were poisonous snakes and scorpions there. Remember that the ground was very dry and there was no water. In spite of that, he caused water to flow for them out of solid rock. 16 Remember that in that desert he gave your families manna to eat. Manna was food that they had never eaten before. He did this so they would realize that they needed to trust him and not themselves. He wanted to test them to find out if they would obey him. This is so that he could do many good things for them *when those difficulties ended*. 17 Be sure that you do not think to yourselves that you have acquired all these things by your own power and ability. 18 Remember that it is Yahweh our God who has enabled you to become rich. He does this because he faithfully does what he solemnly promised our ancestors that he would do.

19 Today I solemnly warn you: If you forget Yahweh our God and start to worship and serve other gods, then he will certainly destroy you. 20 If you do not obey Yahweh our God, then he will certainly destroy you just like he will destroy the people groups against which you will fight.

9 You people of Israel, listen to me! You will soon cross the Jordan River. In the land that you will enter, there are people groups that are more numerous and more powerful than you are. In that land, there are large cities that have very high walls *around them*. The walls are so high that they *seem to* extend up to the sky. You will take possession of the land that these people groups occupy. 2 The people in the land are strong and tall. Some of them are descendants of the Anakites. You have encountered them, and you certainly have heard people say that no one can defeat the descendants of Anak. 3 I want you to know that Yahweh our God will go ahead of you. He will be like a raging fire. He will be the one defeating and destroying them in front of you. As a result, you will quickly be able to drive out some of them and kill the others. This is just as Yahweh promised that you would do.

4 After Yahweh our God has expelled them before you, do not say to yourselves, 'It is because we are righteous that Yahweh has enabled us to capture this land.' Rather, it is because the people in that land are wicked that Yahweh will drive them out for you. 5 *Again*, it is not because you are righteous or do things that are righteous that you will inhabit that land. It is because those people groups are very wicked that Yahweh our God will expel them as you advance. It is also because he intends to do what he solemnly promised to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that he would do. 6 I want you to know that it is not because you are righteous that Yahweh our God is giving you this good land. I say this because you are a very stubborn people.

7 Never forget what your parents did in the desert that caused Yahweh our God to become angry. From the day that we left Egypt until the day that we arrived here, you have continually rebelled against him. 8 Even at Mount Horeb your parents caused Yahweh to become angry. Because he was very angry, he was ready to get rid of *all of* them. 9 I climbed the mountain to receive from him the stone tablets on which he had written the Ten Commandments. I stayed there 40 days and nights. During that time I did not eat or drink anything. 10 Yahweh gave me the two stone tablets on which he had written *the commandments* with his own fingers. They were the words that he had spoken to your parents from the fire on that mountain. This was when they gathered together *at the bottom of the mountain*.

11 At the end of those 40 days and nights, Yahweh gave me those two stone tablets on which he had written those commandments. 12 But then he said to me, 'Go down the mountain immediately! This is because *the people whom you are leading*, the people whom you led out of Egypt, have committed a terrible sin! They have very quickly done what I commanded them not to do. They have made for themselves a metal figure *of a calf to worship*.'

13 Then Yahweh said to me, 'I have been watching these people. I see that they are very stubborn. 14 Let me alone. I am going to destroy all of them, with the result that no one anywhere will remember their names. Then I will enable you to become *the ancestor* of a nation that will be more powerful and numerous than them.'

15 So I turned and went down the mountain. In my hands I carried the two stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments were *written*. Fire was burning all over the mountain. 16 I looked, and I was shocked to see that your parents had committed a great sin against Yahweh. They very quickly had begun to do what Yahweh our God had commanded them not to do. They had *requested Aaron* to make for them a metal figure of a calf *to worship*. 17 I lifted up those two stone tablets and threw them *on the ground*. They broke into pieces. I did this while they were watching.

18 Then I prostrated myself on the ground in Yahweh's presence as I had done before. I did not eat or drink anything for 40 days and nights. I did that because your parents had sinned against Yahweh and caused him to become very angry. 19 I was afraid that because Yahweh was very angry

with them, he would get rid of all of them. *But again I prayed that he would not do that*, and again he listened to me *and answered my prayer*. 20 Yahweh was also very angry with Aaron *for making that golden calf*. Yahweh was ready to kill him. But at the same time I prayed for Aaron also, *and Yahweh answered my prayer*. 21 Your parents had sinned *by requesting Aaron* to make *a metal figure of* a calf. So I took that figure and I melted it in a fire. Then, I crushed it and ground it into very tiny pieces. Then I threw those tiny pieces into the stream that flowed down the mountain.

22 Your parents also caused Yahweh to become very angry *by what they did at places that they named* Taberah, Massah, and Kibroth Hattaavah.

23 And when we were at Kadesh Barnea, Yahweh said to your parents, 'Go and capture the land that I am about to give to you!' But they rebelled against him. They did not trust him, and they did not obey what he told them to do. 24 Your parents rebelled against Yahweh from the first day that I knew them *in Egypt*.

25 So, as I said, I lay on the ground in Yahweh's presence for 40 days and nights because Yahweh had said that he would get rid of your ancestors. 26 And I prayed to Yahweh, saying, 'Lord Yahweh, these people belong to you. Do not destroy them. They are people whom you rescued and brought out of Egypt by your very great power. 27 Do not forget *what you promised* to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Ignore how stubborn and wicked these people have been, and the sin that they have committed. 28 If you destroy them, the people of Egypt will *hear about it*. They will say that you were not able to bring them into the land that you promised to give to them. They will say that you took them into the desert only to kill them there because you hated them. 29 *Remember* that they are your people. You chose them to belong to you. You brought them out *from Egypt* by your very great power.'

10 Then Yahweh said to me, 'Cut two stone tablets like the first ones and make a wooden chest to put them in. Then *bring the tablets* up to me on this mountain. 2 I will write on those tablets the same words that I wrote on the first tablets, the ones that you broke. Then you can put them in the chest.'

3 So I made a chest. I used wood from an acacia tree to make it. I cut two stone tablets like the first ones. Then I went up the mountain carrying the tablets. 4 There Yahweh wrote on the tablets the *same* Ten Commandments *that he had written on the first tablets*. They are the commandments that he had spoken to your parents from the midst of the fire on the mountain. This was when they had gathered *at the bottom of the mountain*. Then Yahweh gave the tablets to me. 5 *Carrying the tablets*, I went down the mountain. Then, just as he had commanded, I put them in the chest that I had made and they are still there."

6 (Then, from Beeroth Bene Jaakan, the Israelite people traveled to Moserah. There Aaron died and people buried him. His son Eleazar took his place and became the great priest. 7 From there, the Israelites traveled to Gudgodah. From there, they traveled to Jotbathah, which was a place that had many streams. 8 At that time, Yahweh chose the tribe of Levi to carry the sacred chest *that had the stone tablets*, stand in Yahweh's presence *in the sacred tent*, offer sacrifices, and pray for Yahweh to bless *the people*. They are still doing those things at the present time. 9 That is the reason that the tribe of Levi did not receive any land like the other tribes did. What they received was the honor of being Yahweh's *priests*. This is according to what he said they should do.)

10 *Moses continued to speak,* "As for me, I stayed on the mountain 40 days and nights, just like I did the first time. *I prayed,* and Yahweh answered my prayers again. He said that he would not destroy your families. 11 Then Yahweh said to me, 'Continue your journey and lead the people to occupy the land. This is the land that I solemnly promised your ancestors that I would give to you.'

12 Now, you Israelite people, I will tell you what Yahweh our God says that you do. He requires you to honor him, to conduct your lives as he wants you to, to love him, and to serve him with all that you desire and all that you feel, 13 and to obey all of his commandments which I am giving to you today. This is for your benefit.

14 Be aware that Yahweh our God owns even the sky and everything that is in it. He also owns the earth and everything that is on it. 15 But *although he owns all those things*, Yahweh also loved our ancestors. From all the peoples *on the earth* he chose us, their descendants, and we are still his people. 16 You must humble yourself and obey Yahweh's covenant. Stop being stubborn! 17 Yahweh our God is greater than all gods, and he is greater than all rulers. He is very powerful. He is impartial, and he does not accept bribes. 18 He makes sure that people treat orphans and widows fairly. He loves even foreigners who live among us Israelite people. He gives them food and clothes. 19 So you must love those foreigners too. This is because you were once foreigners when you were living in Egypt. 20 You must deeply respect Yahweh our God, and you must worship him alone. Be faithful to him. When you make a solemn oath, say that he should punish you if you do not do what you have promised. 21 He is the one whom you must praise. He is our God. We have seen the great and awesome things that he has done for us. 22 When our ancestors, *Jacob and his family*, went down to Egypt, there were only 70 of them. But now Yahweh our God has caused us to be as numerous as the stars in the sky.

11 *Because of all that* Yahweh your God *has done for you*, you must love him. Also, you must continually obey all his rules, decrees, and commandments. 2 Remember that *it was you and your parents,* not your children, who experienced all of the things that Yahweh did to teach you. So I am telling you today to think about everything he did that shows how very great and very powerful he is. 3 Remember the many different miracles that he performed in Egypt. Think about what he did to the king of Egypt and everything there. 4 Your children did not see Yahweh destroy the army of Egypt, their horses, or their chariots. Your children did not see how Yahweh caused the Sea of Reeds to flood and drown the army of Egypt as they were coming after their ancestors. Yahweh continues to make Egypt's army weak even to this day. 5 Your children did not see how Yahweh took care of their families in the desert before they all came to this place. 6 Your children did not see what Yahweh did to the rebels, Dathan and Abiram, the two sons of Eliab from the tribe of Reuben. While all of your families were watching, the earth split open, and they fell into the opening and disappeared. Their families, their tents, their servants, and their animals also disappeared with them. 7 You and your parents have seen all these miracles that Yahweh performed.

8 So obey all the commandments that I am giving you today. This is so that you will be strong and able to enter and occupy the land after crossing the river. 9 This is also

so that you will live for a long time in that land. That land is the land that Yahweh solemnly promised your ancestors that he would give to them and to their descendants. The land is very fertile. 10 It is not like the land of Egypt, where your ancestors lived. In Egypt, they struggled to plant seeds and water the plants. 11 But the land that you are about to enter is a land where there are many hills and valleys. In that land there is plenty of rain. 12 Yahweh takes care of that land. He watches over it every day, from the beginning of each year to the end of each year.

13 Today I am commanding you to love Yahweh our God and to serve him with your entire inner being. If you do that, 14 each year he will send rain on your land at the right times. As a result, you will have grain and grapes to make wine and olives to make olive oil. 15 And he will cause grass to grow in your fields for your livestock to eat. You will have all the food that you want.

16 I warn you to be careful. Otherwise, you might stop worshiping Yahweh and worship false gods. 17 If that happens, Yahweh will become very angry with you. He will prevent any rain from falling. As a result, the crops will not grow. You will soon die *from hunger* in the good land that Yahweh is about to give to you. 18 So, keep thinking about what Yahweh has commanded you. *Write copies of them* and tie them to your arms and foreheads *to help you to remember them*. 19 Teach them to your children again and again. Talk about them *at every opportunity,* such as when you are in your houses and when you are walking outside. Talk about them also when you are resting and when you are working. 20 Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your city gates. 21 Do this so that you and your descendants will live for a very long time in the land. It is the land that Yahweh promised to our ancestors that he would give to them. That land will belong to you and your descendants forever.

22 Faithfully obey what I am commanding you to do. Love Yahweh our God, conduct your lives as he wants you to, and be faithful to him. If you do this, 23 then Yahweh will drive out all the people groups *in that land* as you advance. These are people groups that are more numerous and more powerful than you are. 24 Everywhere you go, the land will be yours. Your territory will extend from the desert in the south to the Lebanon Mountains in the north. It will extend from the Euphrates River in the east to the great sea in the west. 25 Yahweh our God will cause all the people in that land to be very afraid of you. No people group will be able to stop you. It will be just as he promised.

26 Be aware that today I am telling you that Yahweh will either bless you or he will curse you. 27 If you obey the commandments of Yahweh our God that I am giving to you today, he will bless you. 28 But if you do not obey them, stop worshiping him and start worshiping other gods to whom you were never faithful before, he will curse you. 29 And when Yahweh brings you into the land that you are about to enter and occupy, this is what you must do. *Some of* you *must stand* on top of Mount Gerizim and proclaim what will cause Yahweh to bless you. *The others must stand* on top of Mount Ebal and proclaim what will cause Yahweh to curse you." 30 (Those two mountains are west of the Jordan River, west of the plain along the Jordan River, in the land where the Canaanites live. They live close to the sacred trees near Gilgal.) 31 "You will soon cross the Jordan River to occupy the land that Yahweh our God is giving to you. When you start to live in that land, 32 be sure to obey all the rules and decrees that I am giving to you today.

12 I will now tell you the rules and decrees that you must faithfully obey in the land. Yahweh, the God whom our ancestors worshiped, is giving to you the land to occupy. You must obey these laws all the time that you are alive. 2 When you drive out those people groups, you must destroy all the places where they worshiped their gods. These places include places on the tops of mountains and hills and beside large trees. 3 Tear down their altars, demolish the stone pillars *that they have dedicated to their gods*, burn the poles *that they use when they worship the goddess Asherah*, and chop down their carved idols. This is so that no one will ever worship them in those places again.

4 Do not worship Yahweh as *the people in Canaan worship their gods*. 5 Instead, you must go to the place that Yahweh will choose for his presence to be. It will be in the area where one of your tribes will live. Look for his house, and go worship him there. 6 That is the place where you must bring all of your offerings. These include the wholly burned sacrifice, other sacrifices, one tenth of all your produce and animals, special contributions, sacrifices for promises, unprompted sacrifices, and the firstborn animals from your cattle and sheep. 7 There, in the presence of Yahweh our God, you and your families will eat the good things that you have worked to produce, and you will be happy, because he has blessed you *very much*.

8 *When you are in that land,* you must not do some of the things that we have been doing. Until now, you have all been worshiping Yahweh the way you want to. 9 This is because you have not yet arrived in the land that he will allow you to permanently possess. There, you will be able to live peacefully. 10 After you cross the Jordan River, you will start to live in the land that Yahweh our God is giving to you. He will protect you from all your enemies that will surround you. You will live peacefully.

11 Yahweh will choose one place where he wants you to worship him. That is the place to which you must bring all the offerings that I command you to bring. These include the wholly burned sacrifice, other sacrifices, one tenth of all your produce and animals, special contributions, and sacrifices for promises you make to Yahweh. 12 Celebrate there in the presence of Yahweh, with your children, your servants, and the Levites who live in your towns. Remember that the Levites will not have their own land, like you do. 13 Do not offer your wholly burnt sacrifice anywhere else. 14 Only offer them in the place that Yahweh will choose. The place will be in an area that belongs to one of your tribes. That is the only place where you may offer the wholly burnt sacrifice and do the other things that I am commanding you to do *when you worship him*.

15 However, you may kill and eat your animals wherever you live as much as you want. These animals are blessings from Yahweh your God. Impure and pure people may eat that meat, just like you would eat the meat of a gazelle or a deer. 16 But do not eat the blood *of any animal*. Let the blood drain onto the ground *before you cook the meat*. 17 Do not eat any offering for Yahweh where you live. Do not eat the one tenth of your produce and animals that you are set aside for Yahweh. Do not eat any of the offerings for promises, unprompted offerings, or special contributions. 18 Instead, you must eat those offerings in the presence of Yahweh in the place that he chooses. You must do this along with your

children, your servants, and the Levites who live in your towns. You should rejoice in the presence of Yahweh in everything that you do. 19 Be sure that you take care of the Levites all during the time that you live in your land.

20 In the future, Yahweh will give you more territory, as he has promised. At that time, if you want to eat meat in that new territory, you may eat as much as you want. 21 If the place that Yahweh our God chooses for you to worship him is far from *where* you *live*, I will tell you what to do. You may kill and eat some of your animals where you live, as much as you want. 22 Impure and pure people may eat that meat, just like you would eat the meat of a gazelle or a deer. 23 But be sure that you do not eat the blood of any animal. This is because blood keeps humans and animals alive. You must not eat that which sustains life along with the meat. 24 Do not eat the blood. Instead, let it drain onto the ground. 25 If you obey this command and do what Yahweh says is right for you to do, you and your descendants will prosper.

26 But this is what you must do with your offerings and anything that you promise to give to Yahweh. You must take those things to the place that he will choose. 27 There you will offer the animals for the wholly burned sacrifice on the altar. *You will also offer the fellowship sacrifice there. After you kill the animals, the priest* will take the blood from the animals and splatter it onto every side of the altar. *Then, the priests will receive their portion of the meat.* You may eat *the rest of* the meat. 28 Faithfully obey all these commands. If you do that, you and your descendants will prosper forever. This is because you will be doing what Yahweh our God says is right for you to do.

29 When you enter the land that you will occupy, Yahweh our God will destroy the people groups that live there as you advance. 30 After he does that, be sure that you do not worship the gods of those people groups. If you do, it will be like a trap that will catch you. Do not ask them how they worshiped their gods just so you can worship Yahweh in the same way. 31 Do not try to worship Yahweh our God as they have worshiped their gods. This is because they do disgusting things when they worship them. Yahweh hates those disgusting things. The worst thing that they do is that they burn their own children on altars for their gods.

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

13 In the future, there could be people in your community who say that they are prophets. They may say that they are able to interpret the meaning of dreams or perform various kinds of miracles. 2 They will say those things to convince you to worship gods that you have never known about before. But even if what they predict happens, 3 then do not pay attention to what they say. This is because Yahweh our God will observe how you behave to find out if you love him with all your inner being. 4 You must conduct your lives as Yahweh our God wants you to. You must honor him, obey him, do what he tells you to do, and be faithful to him.

5 But you must execute anyone who tells you to disobey Yahweh our God. This includes anyone who says he is a prophet, or anyone who says that he can interpret dreams. This is because Yahweh himself rescued your families from being slaves in Egypt. Those people want to convince you to disobey what Yahweh has told you to do. Execute them to make sure no one in your community does those kinds of evil acts. 6 Your brother, son, daughter, wife, or some close friend might privately urge you to disobey. They might urge you to worship other gods that you and your ancestors never knew about before. 7 They might urge you to worship gods that nearby or faraway peoples worship. 8 If any of them do that, then do not do what they suggest. Do not even listen to them. Do not act mercifully toward them, and do not keep secret what they have done. 9 Execute them! Be the first one to *throw stones* at them to kill them. Then, everyone else must *throw stones at them*, too. 10 Kill such people by throwing stones at them. This is because they tell you to disobey Yahweh our God, who rescued your ancestors from being slaves in Egypt. 11 When you have executed that person, all the Israelite people will hear what happened. They will become afraid, and none of them will do such an evil thing again.

12 When you are living in one of the towns in the land that Yahweh our God is giving to you, you may hear 13 that some worthless people among you are deceiving the people of their town. They might urge you to worship other gods. 14 Examine the facts about it thoroughly. Suppose you find out that it is true that such a disgraceful thing has happened. 15 Then kill all the people in that town and kill all their livestock, too. Destroy the town completely. 16 Gather all the possessions that belonged to the people who lived there and pile them up in the city plaza. Then burn the town and everything in it. It will be like a burnt offering to Yahweh. The ruins must stay there forever. People must never rebuild that town. 17 You must not take for yourselves anything that Yahweh has said you must destroy. If you do what I say, Yahweh will stop being angry with you, and he will act mercifully toward you. He will cause you to have many children, which is what he promised our ancestors that he would do. 18 Yahweh our God will do all those things if you do what he is telling you to do, obey all the commandments that I am giving to you today, and do what Yahweh says is right for you to do.

14 We are people who belong to Yahweh our God. Do not gash yourselves or shave the hair on your foreheads when you grieve *like the other people groups do*. 2 We belong to Yahweh alone. Yahweh chose us from all the other people groups on the earth to be his special people.

3 Do not eat anything that Yahweh detests. 4 The animals whose meat you may eat are cattle, sheep, goats, 5 all kinds of deer, gazelles, wild goats, and mountain sheep. 6 Those are animals that have split hooves and that also chew the cud. 7 But there are other animals that chew the cud that you must not eat. Those are camels, rabbits, and rock badgers. They chew the cud, but they do not have split hooves. So they are not acceptable for you to eat. 8 Do not eat pigs. They are unacceptable for you to eat. They have split hooves, but they do not *chew* the cud. Do not eat the meat of those animals; do not even touch their dead bodies. 9 You may eat any fish that has fins and scales. 10 But anything else that lives in the water that does not have fins and scales you must not eat. They are unacceptable for you to eat.

11 You may eat the flesh of any bird that is acceptable to Yahweh. 12 But the birds that you may not eat are eagles, large or black vultures, 13 red kites, falcons, or any kind of kite, 14 any kind of raven, 15 ostriches, owls, sea gulls, any kind of hawk, 16 little owls, great owls, white owls, 17 pelicans, carrion vultures, cormorants, 18 storks, any kind of heron, hoopoes, or bats.

19 You must not eat any insect with wings and which
swarm. They are unacceptable to Yahweh for you to eat.
20 But other insects with wings are acceptable to eat.
21 Do not eat any animal that has died naturally. You may
allow foreigners who live among you to eat those things.
You may also sell them to other foreigners. But you are a
people group that belongs to Yahweh our God. You must
not cook a young sheep or goat in its mother's milk.
22 Once each year you must set apart a tenth of all the
crops that you gather from your fields. 23 Take them to the
place that Yahweh our God will choose for you to worship
him. There you must eat the tenth of your grain, your wine,
your olive oil, and the meat of the firstborn male animals of
your cattle and your sheep. Do this in order that you may
learn to always honor Yahweh. *He has blessed you by giving
you these things.* 24 It could be that the place that Yahweh
has chosen for you to worship him is very far from your
home. As a result, you might not be able to take the tenth
of your crops which are a blessing from Yahweh. 25 In that
case, you must sell the tenth of your crops for money. Then,
wrap the money carefully in a cloth and take it with you
to the place of worship that Yahweh has chosen. 26 There,
with that money, you may buy whatever you want to. It
could be beef, lamb, wine, or fermented drinks. There, in
the presence of Yahweh, you and your families should eat
and drink those things and be happy. 27 But be sure to not
neglect to help the descendants of Levi who live in your
towns, because they will not own any land.
28 At the end of every three years, bring a tenth of all
your crops that you have produced in that year and store it
in your towns. 29 That food will be for the descendants of
Levi, because they will not have their own land. That food
will also be for the foreigners, orphans, and widows who
live in your towns. They may come *to where the food is stored*
and take what they need. Do that in order that Yahweh our
God will bless you in everything that you do.

15 At the end of *every* seven years, you must cancel
all debts. 2 Do it like this: Each of you who has lent
money to a fellow Israelite must cancel that debt. You must
not insist that he pay it back. You must do that because
Yahweh has declared the cancelation of debts every seven
years. 3 During that year you may require foreigners who
live among you to pay what they owe you, but you must
not demand that from any fellow Israelite. 4–5 Yahweh our
God will bless you in the land that he is giving to you. If
you obey Yahweh our God and obey all the commandments
that I am giving to you today, then there will not be any
poor people among you. 6 Yahweh our God will bless you
like he has promised to do. You will be able to lend money
to people of other people groups, but, for your part, you will
not need a loan from any of them. You will control many
people groups, but they will not control you.
7 In the towns that Yahweh our God is giving to you, if
it happens that there are any Israelites there who are poor,
then do not be selfish and refuse to help them. 8 Instead, be
generous and lend them the money that they need. 9 When
the year of canceling debts is near, do not think to yourself
that *you should not lend anyone money because* they will not
need to pay it back. It would be evil to withhold help from
a needy fellow Israelite. If you do that, he could pray to
Yahweh against you. Then *Yahweh will say that* you have
sinned by not helping that person. 10 Give generously to
poor people and not grudgingly. If you give generously to
them, Yahweh will bless you in everything that you do.
11 There will always be some poor people in your land, so
I command you to give generously to poor people, to your
fellow Israelites.
12 If any of your fellow Israelite men or women sell
themselves to one of you *to become your slave*, then you must
free them after they have worked for you for six years. When
the seventh year comes, you must free them. 13 When you
free them, do not allow them to go empty-handed. 14 Instead,
give to them generously from the things with which Yahweh
has blessed you—sheep, grain, and wine. 15 Do not forget that
your ancestors were once slaves in Egypt and that Yahweh
our God freed them. So, I am now commanding you to do
this.
16 It may happen that one of your slaves tells you they
do not want to leave you. Perhaps he loves you and your
household because you have treated him well. 17 In that case,
take him to the door of your house. While he is standing
against the doorway, pierce one of his earlobes with an awl.
That will indicate that he will be your slave for the rest of
his life. Do the same thing to any female slave *who does not
want to leave you*.
18 Do not complain when you are required to free your
slaves. Keep in mind that they served you for six years,
and you got double the value in comparison with a hired
worker. If you free them, Yahweh our God will bless you in
everything that you do.
19 Set aside for the honor of Yahweh our God the firstborn
male animals from your cattle and sheep. Do not force them
to do any work for you, and do not shear the wool of the
firstborn animals. 20 Each year, you and your family must
kill them and eat their meat in the presence of Yahweh at
the place that he chooses for you to worship him. 21 But if
the animals have any defects, if they are lame or blind, or
if they have any other serious defect, then you must not
sacrifice them to Yahweh our God. 22 You may kill and eat
the meat of those animals in your towns. The impure and
pure people *may eat it*, just like *anyone may eat* the meat of
a gazelle or a deer. 23 But you must not eat any of the blood.
You must drain all the blood on the ground when you kill
those animals.

16 *Each year* honor Yahweh our God in the early spring
with the Passover Celebration. It was on a night in
the early spring that Yahweh rescued your families from
Egypt. 2 In order to celebrate, go to the place that Yahweh
will choose for you to worship him. There, sacrifice one
young animal from your sheep or cattle to Yahweh. 3 When
you eat the Passover meal, the bread that you eat must not
have yeast in it. You must eat this kind of bread, called the
bread of suffering, for seven days. This is to help you to
always remember *that your families were suffering in Egypt
because they were slaves.* When they left Egypt, they left very
quickly. 4 During the Passover Celebration, which will last
for seven days, you must not have any yeast *in any house*
in your land. Furthermore, you must eat the meat of the
animal that you sacrifice on the evening of the first day of
the Passover Festival during that night. Do not allow any of
it to remain until the next day.
5–6 You must offer the Passover sacrifice only at the place
that he chooses for you to worship him. Do not offer that
sacrifice in any other town in the land that Yahweh is giving
to you. Offer that sacrifice when the sun is setting, at the
same time of day that your ancestors started to leave Egypt.

7 Cook the meat and eat it at the place of worship that
Yahweh our God chooses. The next morning, you may return
to your tents. 8 Each day for six days the bread that you eat
must have no yeast in it. On the seventh day, you must all
gather to worship Yahweh our God. You must not do any
work on that day.
9 Each year, from the day that you start to harvest your
grain, count seven weeks. 10 Then, to honor Yahweh our God,
celebrate the Celebration of Weeks. Do that by bringing to
him an offering *of grain*. Yahweh has blessed you by causing
it to grow in your fields during that year. If you had a big
harvest, bring a big offering. If you had a small harvest, bring
a small offering. 11 You should be joyful in the presence of
Yahweh. Their children, their servants, the descendants of
Levi who are in that town, and the foreigners, orphans, and
widows who are living among you, should also be joyful.
Bring those offerings to the place of worship that Yahweh
will choose.
12 When you celebrate these festivals by obeying these
commands, remember that your families were slaves in
Egypt.
13 Each year, after you have threshed all your grain and
pressed the juice from all your grapes, you must celebrate the
Festival of Shelters for seven days. 14 Each married couple
along with their children, their servants, the descendants
of Levi who are in that town, and the foreigners, orphans,
and widows who are living among you, should be joyful
in the presence of Yahweh. 15 Honor Yahweh our God by
celebrating this festival for seven days in the place that he
chooses for you to worship him. You should all be joyful,
because Yahweh will have blessed your harvest and all the
other work that you have done.
16 So, each year all of you Israelite men must gather to
worship Yahweh our God at the place that he will choose, to
celebrate three festivals: The Festival of Unleavened Bread,
the Celebration of Weeks, and the Festival of Shelters. No one
should come before Yahweh without an offering. 17 Every
man *must give* in proportion to the blessings that Yahweh
has given you *during that year*.
18 Appoint judges and other officials throughout your
tribes, in all the towns in the land that Yahweh our God is
giving to you. They must judge people fairly. 19 They must
not judge unjustly. They must not favor one person more
than another. The judges must not accept bribes because
a bribe causes a wise person to ignore what is right and
misrepresent the words of righteous people. 20 You must be
completely fair and just, in order that you may live long
enough to occupy the land that Yahweh our God is giving
to you.
21 When you make an altar to worship Yahweh our God,
do not put next to it any wooden pole that represents the
goddess Asherah. 22 And do not set up any stone pillar to
worship any idol, because Yahweh hates them.

17 Do not sacrifice to Yahweh our God any cattle, sheep,
or goat that has any defect. This is because Yahweh
detests that kind of gift.
2 *When you are living in the land* in one of your towns that
Yahweh our God is giving to you, suppose that you discover
that some man or woman sins against Yahweh by disobeying
the agreement that he has made with you. 3 Suppose that
the person has worshiped other gods, the sun, the moon,
or the stars. Remember that I commanded you not to do
this. 4 Suppose that someone tells you of this idol worship,
and you confirm that this detestable thing has happened
in Israel. 5 In that case, you must take the man or woman
who has sinned outside of your town. Then you must kill
that person by throwing stones at him or her. 6 At least two
people must confirm that they saw the person sin before you
execute that person. If only one person says they saw the sin
happen, you must not kill the accused person. 7 The people
who saw the sin happen should throw stones at the guilty
person. Then all the other people from that town should
throw stones until the guilty person dies. By doing that, you
will make sure no one from your community does this evil
action of worshiping idols.
8 Sometimes it will be very difficult for a judge to decide
what really happened. It could be that he must decide
whether someone killed another on purpose or accidentally.
Or, it could be that he must decide if one person or another
has the legal right in a case. Or, it could be that he must
decide whether someone hurt another, or the property of
another. If in any town it is very difficult to know what really
happened, and the judge cannot decide it, then you should
go to the place where Yahweh our God will choose for you
to worship him. 9 There, you should explain the case to the
descendants of Levi who are priests, and to the judge who
is serving at that time. They should decide what should be
done. 10 After they make their decision, you must do what
they tell you to do. 11 Accept what they have decided, by
doing what they say that you should do. Do not try to change
in any way what they have decided. 12 You must execute
anyone who proudly disobeys the judge or the priest who
stands there in the presence of Yahweh and decides what
should be done. By doing that, you will make sure no one
from all the Israelites does this evil action. 13 Then after that
person is executed, all the people will hear about it, and they
will be afraid. None of them will proudly disobey anymore.
14 After you occupy and live in the land that Yahweh our
God is giving to you, you might want a king to rule over you,
as the nearby peoples do. 15 *Yahweh our God will permit you
to have a king.* But, be sure that you appoint someone whom
he has chosen. Your king must be an Israelite. A foreigner
cannot be your king. 16 After he becomes the king, he should
not own a large number of horses. He should not send people
to Egypt to buy horses for him. Remember that Yahweh told
you that you would never return to Egypt. 17 And he must
not marry a lot of wives. If he did that, they might cause
him to stop worshiping Yahweh. He must not obtain a lot of
silver and gold.
18 When he becomes your king, he must copy these laws
on a scroll. He must copy them from the scroll the priests
descended from Levi keep. 19 He must keep this new scroll
near him and read from it every day of his life. This is so
that he may learn to have an awesome respect for Yahweh.
Also, this is so that he may faithfully obey all the rules of
his law. 20 If he does that, he will not think that he is more
important than his fellow Israelites and he will completely
obey Yahweh's commands. As a result, he and his descendants
will rule as kings in Israel for many years.

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

3 This is what the law requires that the people do for the
priests. When the people bring an ox or a sheep as a sacrifice,
they must give to the priests the shoulder, the cheeks, and
the stomach of those animals. 4 You must also give to them
the first part of the grain that you harvest, the wine and
olive oil that you make, and the wool that you shear from
your sheep. 5 You must do this because Yahweh our God has
chosen the tribe of Levi from all of your tribes. He did this
so that they would always be the priests who would serve
him.
6 Suppose that a man from the tribe of Levi who has been
living in one of the towns in Israel wants to live in the
place of worship that Yahweh has chosen. 7 In that case, he
may serve Yahweh there as a priest, just like the other men
from the tribe of Levi who have been serving there. 8 He
must receive the same amount of food that the other priests
receive. He may keep any money that he gets from selling
family possessions.
9 When you enter the land that Yahweh our God is giving
you, you must not imitate the disgusting things that the people
groups who are there now do. 10 You must not sacrifice any
of your children by burning them *on your altars*. Do not
try to use magic or omens to discover what will happen in
the future. Do not practice sorcery. 11 Do not put spells on
people. Do not try to talk with spirits of dead people. 12 You
must not do those things, because Yahweh hates people who
do any of those disgusting things. He is going to drive out
these people groups to benefit you because they do those
disgusting things. 13 But you must be completely pure for
Yahweh *and avoid doing any of those disgusting things*.
14 The people groups that you are about to expel from
the land rely on fortune-tellers and people who practice
divination. But as for you, Yahweh our God does not allow
you to do that. 15 Some day he will send from your people
a prophet like me. You must obey him. 16 On the day that
your ancestors gathered at the bottom of the mountain at
Horeb, they begged me for help. They told me that they did
not want Yahweh to speak to them again. They did not want
to see the huge fire *that burned on the mountain*. They were
afraid that they would die if Yahweh spoke to them again.
17 Then Yahweh said to me, 'I agree with them. 18 So I
will send them a prophet from their people like you. I will
tell him what to say, and then he will tell people everything
that I tell him to say. 19 If any person does not obey what I
have told him to say, then I myself will punish that person.
20 There could be someone who pridefully says that he is
a prophet and that his message comes from me, but I did
not send him. Or, there could be someone who speaks a
message that he says other gods have revealed to him. You
must execute that person.'
21 Maybe you wonder how you can tell if a message that
someone tells you does not come from Yahweh. 22 If a person
claims to be a prophet who speaks for Yahweh, but what that
person said will happen does not happen, then *you will know
that* Yahweh did not reveal that message to him. That person
said it just so that others would think that he is important,
and you do not need to take that person seriously.

19 Yahweh our God will destroy the people groups from
the land that he is giving to you. You will drive them
out from their towns and you start to live in their homes.
After that, 2–3 you must divide into three parts the land that
Yahweh is giving to you. Then select a city in each part. You
must make good roads *in order that people can get to those
cities easily*. Someone who kills another person can escape
to one of those cities to be safe.
4 This is the rule for someone who has killed another
person. If someone accidentally kills another person who
was not his enemy, he may escape to one of those cities and
be safe. 5 There could be a case where two men go into the
forest to cut some wood. The ax head might come off the
handle while one of the men cuts wood. Then, the ax head
might hit and kill the other man. In that case, the man who
was using the ax may run to one of those cities and be safe
there. *The people of that city will protect him.* 6 *If there were
only one city for the killer to run to,* the killer could be very far
away from a safe city. A judge may decide not to execute the
killer because the killing was an accident. Then, a relative
of the victim may seek revenge and kill the man in anger
before the man can arrive at a safe city. 7 Therefore, I order
you to choose three cities *for this purpose*.
8–9 Do everything that I am today commanding you to do.
Love Yahweh our God and obey his instructions continually.
If you do that, Yahweh our God will give you much more
land *than you will have when you first inhabit the land*. You
will receive all the land according to what he promised your
ancestors. When that happens, select three more cities *in
the new land for people to escape to*. 10 As a result, innocent
people will not die, and you will not be guilty for allowing
them to die in the land that Yahweh is giving to you.
11 In a case where someone hates another person, he
might hide and wait for this person to pass by. Then, he
might attack and murder this person. In this situation, if
the attacker flees to one of those cities, 12 the elders of the
murderer's hometown *are responsible for punishing him. They*
must send someone to the city where the murderer is hiding
and arrest him. Then they must bring him to the victim's
relative who is responsible for avenging the murder so that
the relative may execute the murderer. 13 Do not pity killers!
Instead, you must execute them. This is so that you Israelites
will not be responsible for the deaths of innocent people.
This is also so that you may prosper.
14 In the land that Yahweh is giving you, your ancestors
placed stones to mark the borders of properties. When you
occupy that land, do not move those markers.
15 When someone accuses another person of any kind of
wrong activity or of sinning in any way, one person who
says, 'I saw him do it' is not enough *to convict him*. There
must be at least two or three people who say that they saw
him do it in order for the judge to accept that what he says
is true.
16 Suppose that someone falsely testifies that they saw
a man sin. 17 Both the accuser and the accused must go to
the place of worship. There, they must talk to the priests
and judges who are serving at that time. 18 The judges must
investigate the case carefully. If the judges discover that one
man falsely testified against the other, 19 then the people
must punish the false witness. The punishment must be the
same as the punishment he suggested for the man that he
accused. As a result, you will make sure no one from Israel
does this evil action. 20 The rest of the Israelites will learn
about the punishment. They will be afraid of the punishment,
so they will not testify falsely. 21 Do not pity that person. If
he killed someone, you must kill him. In the same way, *if he
harmed* someone's eye, tooth, hand, or foot, *you must cause
the same harm to him*.

20 When your fighting men go to fight your enemies
and see that they have many horses and chariots
and that their army is much bigger than yours, do not be
afraid of them, because Yahweh our God, who brought the
Israelites safely out of Egypt, will be with you. 2 When you
are ready to start the battle, the high priest must stand in
front of the fighting men. 3 He must say to them, 'Listen to
me Israelite men! Today you are going to fight against our
enemies. Do not be timid! Do not be afraid of them in any
way at all, 4 because Yahweh our God will go with you. He
will fight your enemies for you, and he will enable you to
defeat them.'

5 Then the leaders must say to the fighting men, 'If anyone
among you has just built a new house and has not dedicated
it *to God*, he should go home *and dedicate the house*. If he
does not do that, if he dies in the battle, someone else will
dedicate the house *and live in it*. 6 If anyone among you has
planted a vineyard and has not yet harvested any grapes
from it, he should go home. If he stays here and dies in the
battle, someone else will harvest the grapes and enjoy the
wine made from them. 7 If anyone among you has become
engaged to marry a woman but has not married her yet, he
should go home *and marry her*. If he stays here and dies in
the battle, someone else will marry her.'

8 Then the leaders must also say to the fighting men, 'If
anyone among you is afraid or timid, he should go home, in
order that he does not cause his fellow soldiers to be afraid
like him.' 9 When the leaders have finished speaking to the
fighting men, they must appoint commanders over them.

10 When you go up to a city *that is far away* to attack
it, first tell the people there that if they surrender, you
will not attack them. 11 If they open the gates of the city
and surrender, they will all become your slaves to work for
you. 12 But if they refuse to surrender peacefully and decide
instead to fight against you, your troops must surround the
city and break through the walls. 13 Then, when Yahweh
our God enables you to capture the city, you must kill all
the men in the city. 14 But you may take for yourselves the
women, the children, the livestock, and everything else that
you want to take from the city. You may enjoy all the things
that belonged to your enemies, the things that Yahweh our
God has given to you. 15 That is how you should make war
against all the people in cities that are far from the land in
which you will settle, not the people in cities in your land.

16 But in the cities that are in the land that Yahweh our
God is giving to you forever, you must kill all the people
and all the animals. 17 You must completely get rid of the
Hittites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the
Hivites, and the Jebusites. Yahweh our God commands you
to do this. 18 If you do not do that, they will teach you to
sin against Yahweh our God by doing the disgusting things
that they do when they worship their gods.

19 When you surround a city for a long time, trying to
capture it, do not cut down the fruit trees outside the city.
You are allowed to eat the fruit from the trees, but do
not destroy the trees, because they certainly are not your
enemies. 20 You are permitted to cut down trees you know
do not bear fruit and use the wood to make ladders and
towers to enable you to go over the walls and capture the
city that is resisting you.

21 Suppose that while you are living in the land that
Yahweh our God is giving to you to inherit, you find
the body of a person that someone murdered. If you do not
know who killed that person because it was in a field, 2 your
elders and judges must go out to where someone found the
body and measure the distance from there to each of the
nearby towns. 3 Then the elders in the closest town must
select a cow that has not had a baby and has never pulled
with a yoke, that is, she has never done any work. 4 They
must take it to a place near a stream where the ground has
never been plowed or planted. There they must break its
neck. 5 The priests must go there also, because Yahweh our
God has chosen them from the tribe of Levi to serve him
and to be his representatives when they bless people. He
has also chosen them to settle disputes involving injuries.
6 The elders from the closest town to the body must wash
their hands over the young cow whose neck they break,
there in the valley. 7 They must say, 'We did not murder this
person, and we did not see who did it. 8 Yahweh, forgive
us, your Israelite people whom you rescued *from Egypt*. Do
not consider us guilty for murdering an innocent person.'
When they do this, Yahweh will forgive the Israelites for the
murder, 9 because you will be doing what Yahweh considers
to be right. You will not be considered guilty for murdering
that person.

10 When your fighting men go to fight against your
enemies, and Yahweh our God enables you to defeat them,
and they become your prisoners, 11 one of you may see
among them a beautiful woman that he likes, and he may
want to marry her. 12 He should take her to his home, and
there she must shave all the hair off her head and cut her
fingernails. 13 She must change out of the clothes that she
was wearing when she was captured. She must stay in that
man's house and mourn for her parents for a month. After
that, he may marry her and have sex with her. 14 Later, if
he no longer is pleased with her, he must let her leave him
and go wherever she wants. But because *sending her away*
will humiliate her, he may not sell her to anyone else like a
slave.

15 Suppose that a man has two wives, but he loves one of
them more than the other. Suppose that they both give birth
to sons, and that the oldest son is the child of the woman
that he does not favor. 16 On the day when that man decides
which of his possessions each son will obtain after he dies,
he must not favor the son of the wife that he loves by giving
him the larger share that should go to the firstborn son of
the wife he does not favor. 17 He must give the firstborn son
twice as much of his possessions as he gives to any other sons,
even though he is from the wife whom he does not favor.
That son is the first proof that the father can reproduce, and
the largest share belongs to him because he was born first.

18 Suppose there is a young man who is very stubborn
and is always rebelling against his parents, and who will not
heed what they say to him. Suppose that they punish him
but he still does not pay attention to what they tell him.
19 If that happens, his parents must take him to the gate
of the city where they live and have him stand in front of
the elders of the city. 20 Then the parents must say to the
elders of that city, 'This son of ours is stubborn and always
rebelling against us. He will not pay attention to what we
tell him. He eats too much, and he gets drunk.' 21 Then all
the men of that city must execute him by throwing stones at
him. By doing that, you will make sure no one from among
you does this evil action. Everyone in Israel will hear about
what happened and they will be afraid to do what he did.

22 If you execute someone for committing a crime for
which he deserves to die, and you hang his corpse on a post,

23 you must not allow his corpse to remain there all night.
You must bury it on the day that he died, because if you
keep the corpse on a post, God will curse the land. You must
bury the corpse that day, in order that you do not defile the
land that Yahweh our God is giving to you to inherit.

22 If you see an Israelite's ox or sheep that has strayed
away, do not act as though you did not see it. Take
it back to its owner. 2 But if the owner does not live near you,
or if you do not know who he is, take the animal to your
house. It can stay with you until the owner comes, searching
for it. Then you must give the animal to him. 3 You must
do that same thing if you see a donkey, a piece of clothing,
or anything else that someone has lost. Do not refuse to do
what you should do.

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

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

6 If you happen to find a bird's nest in a tree or on the
ground, and the mother bird is sitting in the nest on its eggs
or with the baby birds, do not take both the mother bird
and the babies. 7 You may take the baby birds, but you must
allow the mother bird to fly away. Do this in order that
things will go well for you and that you will live for a long
time.

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

9 Do not plant any crop in the area where your grapevines
are growing. If you do, the harvest of both will become
sacred.

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

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

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

13 Suppose a man marries a young woman and has sex
with her and later decides that he does not want her anymore,
14 and suppose that he says false things about her, making
people think badly about her by claiming that she was not
a virgin when he married her. 15 If that happens, the young
woman's parents must take the sheet that was on the bed
when the man and their daughter were married, which still
has bloodstains on it, and show it to the elders of the city at
the gate of the city. 16 Then the father of the young woman
must say to the elders, 'I gave my daughter to this man to
be his wife. But now he says that he does not want her
anymore. 17 And he has falsely said that she was not a virgin
when he married her. But look! Here is what proves that my
daughter was a virgin! Look at the bloodstains on the sheet
where they slept the night that they were married!' And he
will show the sheet to the city elders. 18 Then the elders of
that city must punish that man. 19 They must force him to
pay 100 pieces of silver to the father of the young woman,
because the man has shamed a young Israelite woman. Also,
that woman will be his wife for the rest of his life. He is not
allowed to divorce her.

20 But if what the man said is true, and there is nothing to
prove that she was a virgin when he married her, 21 they must
take that young woman to the door of her father's house.
Then the men of that city must execute her by throwing
stones at her. They must do that because she has done
something in Israel that is very disgraceful, by sleeping with
some man while she was still living in her father's house.
By executing her like that, you will make sure no one from
among you does this evil action.

22 If someone catches a man having sex with another
man's wife, you must execute both of them, the man and
the woman. By doing that, you will make sure no one from
Israel does this evil action.

23 Suppose in some town a man sees a young woman
who is engaged to another man and has sex with her. 24 You
must take both of them to the gate of that town. There you
must execute them both by throwing stones at them. You
must execute the young woman because she did not shout
for help even though she was in the town. You must execute
the man because he has defiled someone who was supposed
to be someone else's wife. By doing that, you will make sure
no one among you does this evil action.

25 But suppose out in the open countryside a man meets a
young woman who is engaged to be married, and he forces
her to have sex with him. If that happens, you must execute
only that man who forced her to have sex. 26 You must not
punish the young woman, because she did not do anything
to die for. This case is like when one man attacks another
man in the countryside and murders him, 27 because the man
who forced her to have sex with him saw her when she was
in the open countryside, and even though she called out for
help, there was no one there who could rescue her.

28 If a man forces a young woman who is not engaged to
be married to have sex with him, and if someone sees him
while he is doing that, 29 the man who forced her to have sex
with him must pay 50 pieces of silver to the young woman's
father, and he must marry her, because he defiled her. He is
not allowed to divorce her during the rest of his life.

30 A man must not disgrace his father by having sex with
any of his father's wives.

23 No man with crushed testicles or a severed penis
may worship with Yahweh's people.

2 No child of an Israelite father and a non-Israelite mother
or his descendants, extending to the tenth generation, may
worship with Yahweh's people.

3 No Ammonites or Moabites may worship with Yahweh's
people, extending to the tenth generation. 4 One reason for
this is that their leaders refused to give you food and water
when they were traveling from the nation of Egypt *to the
region of Canaan*. Another reason is that they paid Balaam
son of Beor from the town of Pethor in the region of Aram
Naharaim to curse you Israelites. 5 But Yahweh our God did
not pay attention to Balaam; instead, he caused Balaam to
bless you rather than curse you, because Yahweh our God
loves you. 6 As long as Israel is a nation, you must not do
anything to cause things to go well for those two people
groups to enable them to prosper.

7 But do not despise any Edomites, because they are
descendants of your ancestor Isaac, just like you are. Likewise,
do not despise people from Egypt, because they treated
your ancestors well when they first lived in Egypt. 8 The
grandchildren of people from Edom and Egypt who live
among you now may worship with Yahweh's people.

9 When your fighting men are living in a camp in time of
war, they must avoid doing things that would make them

unacceptable to God. 10 If any soldier becomes unacceptable
to God because semen comes out of his body during the
night, the next morning he must go outside the camp and
stay there during that day. 11 But in the evening of that day
he must bathe, and at sunset he will be allowed to come
back into the camp.
12 Your fighting men must have a toilet area outside the
camp where you can go when you need to. 13 *When you go to
fight against your enemies,* carry something to dig with along
with your weapons, in order that when you need to defecate,
you can dig a hole, and then cover up the hole when you
have finished defecating in it. 14 You must keep the camp
acceptable to Yahweh our God, because he is with you in
your camp to protect you and to enable you to defeat your
enemies. Do not do anything disgraceful that would cause
Yahweh to abandon you.
15 If slaves who escape from their masters come to you
and request you to protect them, do not send them back to
their masters. 16 Allow them to stay among you, in whatever
town they choose because they like it, and do not mistreat
them.
17 Do not allow any Israelite man or woman to become
religious prostitutes. 18 Also, do not allow any woman who
earned money from being a prostitute or any man who
earned money being a homosexual prostitute to bring any
of that money into the temple of Yahweh our God, even if
they solemnly promised to pay that money to him. Both of
these sexual practices are disgusting to Yahweh our God.
19 When you lend money or food or anything else to
a fellow Israelite, do not charge them interest. 20 You are
allowed to charge interest when you lend money to foreigners,
but not when you lend money to Israelites. Do this in order
that Yahweh our God will bless you in everything that you
do in the land that you are about to enter and occupy.
21 When you solemnly promise to give something to
Yahweh your God or to do something for him, do not delay
in doing it. Yahweh expects you to do what you promised,
and if you do not do it, you will be sinning. 22 But it is not
sinful not to solemnly promise things to Yahweh. 23 But if
you voluntarily promise to do something for Yahweh our
God, you must surely do it.
24 When you walk through someone else's vineyard, you
are allowed to *pick and* eat as many grapes as you want, but
you must not put any in a container *and take them away*.
25 When you walk along a path in someone else's field of
grain, you are allowed to pluck some of the grain by hand
and eat it, but you must not cut any of his grain with a sickle.

24 Suppose a man marries a woman and later decides
that he does not want her because he finds something
about her offensive. Then he must write a paper in which
he says that he is divorcing her, give the paper to her, and
send her away from his house. 2 After she leaves his house
she is allowed to marry another man. 3 Suppose that that
man later also decides that he does not like her, and that
he also writes a paper in which he says that he is divorcing
her, gives it to her, and sends her away from his house. Or,
suppose that the second husband dies. 4 If either of those
things happen, her first husband must not marry her again.
She is now unclean to him. Yahweh would consider it to be
disgusting if he married her again. You must not desecrate
the land that Yahweh our God is giving to you by doing that.
5 When a man has just married a woman, he must not
become a soldier in the army. He must not have to do any
other kind of government work. He must not do those things
during the first year after he gets married. Instead, he must
stay at home and do what he can to make his new wife
happy.
6 If someone lends money to another person, he may take
something from that person as a guarantee that he will pay
the money back. But he must not take a millstone. That is
what the family needs to grind grain into flour in order to
bake bread and stay alive.
7 If someone kidnaps a fellow Israelite to make that person
his slave or to sell him to become someone else's slave, you
must execute the person-stealer. By doing that, you will
make sure no one among you does this evil action.
8 If you are suffering from leprosy, be sure to do everything
that the priests, who are from the tribe of Levi, tell you to
do. Obey carefully the instructions that I have given to them.
9 Remember that Yahweh our God caused Miriam to have
leprosy as your ancestors were coming out of Egypt. That is
a warning for you.
10 When you lend something to someone, do not go into
his house to take whatever item he says that he will give
you to guarantee that he will return what he has borrowed.
11 Stand outside his house, and the man to whom you are
lending something will bring the item out to you. 12 But if
he is poor *and can only give you his cloak as a guarantee*, do
not keep that cloak overnight. 13 When the sun sets, be sure
to take the cloak back to him, in order that he may wear it
while he sleeps. If you do that, he will ask God to bless you,
and Yahweh our God will be pleased with you.
14 Do not mistreat any servants whom you have hired who
are poor and needy, whether they are Israelites or foreigners
who are living in your towns. 15 Every day, before sunset,
you must pay them the money that they have earned. They
are poor and they need to get their pay. If you do not pay
them right away, they will cry out against you to Yahweh,
and he will punish you for having sinned like that.
16 You must not execute any parents for crimes that
their children have committed, and you must not execute
any children for crimes that their parents have committed.
You should only execute someone for the crimes that they
themselves have committed.
17 You must do for foreigners who live among you and
for orphans the things that the law commands you to do for
them. Also, if you lend something to a widow, do not take
her coat from her as a guarantee that she will return it. 18 Do
not forget that you had great troubles when you were slaves
in Egypt, and that Yahweh our God rescued you from there.
That is why I am commanding you to help others who have
troubles.
19 When you harvest your crops, if you forget a bundle in
the field, do not go back to get it. Leave it there for foreigners,
orphans, and widows. If you do that, Yahweh our God will
bless you in everything that you do. 20 And when you have
harvested all your olives from the trees once, do not go back
to pick the ones that are still on the trees. Leave them for
foreigners, orphans, and widows. 21 Similarly, when you pick
the grapes in your vineyard, do not go back a second time
to try to find more. Leave them for foreigners, orphans, and
widows. 22 Do not forget that you were slaves in Egypt. That
is why I am commanding you to be kind to those who are
needy.

25 If people have a dispute and they go to a court,
the judge will decide who is innocent and who is

guilty. 2 If the judge says that someone must punish the guilty
person, he will command him to lie on the ground. While the
judge watches, someone will strike the guilty person with
a whip a certain number of times depending on what kind
of crime he committed. 3 The judge may order someone to
strike him up to forty times. Do not strike him more than
that, since that would humiliate him publicly.
4 When your ox is walking on the grain to separate it from
the stalks, do not prevent it from eating some of grain.
5 If two brothers live on the same property, and one of
them who has no son dies, the man's widow should not
marry someone who is not a member of his family. The dead
man's brother must marry her and sleep with her. It is his
duty to do that. 6 If she later gives birth to a son, everyone
should consider that first son as the son of the man who
died, in order that the dead man's name will not disappear
from Israel.
7 But if the dead man's brother does not want to marry
that woman, she must go to the city leaders at the city gate.
She must say to them, 'My husband's brother refuses to
marry me in order that I may give birth to a son who will
prevent the dead man's name from disappearing in Israel.
He does not want to do his duty to me as a brother-in-law.'
8 Then the elders must summon that man and talk to him.
Perhaps he will still refuse to marry that widow. 9 In that
case, she must go up to him while the elders are watching,
and take off one of his sandals *to symbolize that he would not
receive any of her property*, spit in his face, and say to him,
'This is what happens to the man who refuses to preserve
his brother's family line.' 10 After that happens, people will
know that man's family as 'the family of the man of the
pulled-off sandal.'
11 When two men are fighting with each other, and the
one man's wife comes up to help her husband by grabbing
hold of the other man's private parts, 12 do not act mercifully
toward her; cut off her hand.
13 Do not cheat people by having one weight which you use
when you buy something and a different weight which you
use when you sell something, 14 or by having one measure
which you use when you buy something and a different
measure which you use when you sell something. 15 Always
be honest in your transactions by using correct weights and
correct measures, in order that Yahweh our God will allow
you to live a long time in the land that he is giving to you.
16 Yahweh our God hates all those who act dishonestly.
17 Continue to remember what the people of Amalek did
to your ancestors when they were coming out of Egypt.
18 They attacked your ancestors as they were traveling, when
they were weak and exhausted. Those people were not afraid
of God at all, so they attacked your ancestors from the rear
and killed all those who were unable to walk as fast as the
others. 19 Therefore, when Yahweh our God has given you
the land that he promised to give you, and when he has
enabled you to rest from fighting all your enemies around
you, kill all the people of Amalek, with the result that no
one will remember them anymore. Do not forget to do this!

26 After you arrive and settle in the land that Yahweh
our God is giving to you to own forever, 2 each of
you must put some of the first crops that you harvest from
the land that Yahweh our God is giving you in a basket. Take
them to the place that Yahweh will have chosen for you to
worship. 3 Go to the high priest who is serving at that time
and say to him, 'Yahweh our God solemnly promised our
ancestors to give us this land. Today *by this offering* I declare
to him that I am settled here *in fulfillment of his promise*.'
4 Then the priest must take the basket of food from you and
hold it in front of the altar for sacrificing to Yahweh our God.
5 There in Yahweh our God's presence you must say this: 'My
ancestor was a nomadic man in Aram. He took his family to
Egypt. They were a small group when they went there, but
they lived there and their descendants became a very large
and powerful nation. 6 Then the people of Egypt acted very
harshly toward them, and they forced them to become their
slaves and to work very hard. 7 Then our ancestors prayed
to you, Yahweh our God, and you heard them. You saw that
they were suffering, and that the Egyptians were forcing
them to work very hard and oppressing them. 8 Then by
your great power and by performing many kinds of miracles,
and other terrifying things, you brought them out of Egypt.
9 You brought us to this land and gave it to us, a land that is
very fertile. 10 So now, Yahweh, I have brought to you the
first part of the harvest from the land that you gave me.'
Then you must set the basket down in Yahweh's presence
and worship him there. 11 Then you must celebrate *by eating
a meal together* to thank Yahweh our God for all the good
things that he has given to you and to your family. You must
invite the descendants of Levi and the foreigners who are
living among you to also rejoice *and eat with you*.
12 Every third year, you must bring to the descendants
of Levi, to the foreigners who are living among you, to the
orphans, and to the widows the offering of a tenth of your
crops, in order that in every town they will have plenty
to eat. 13 Then you must say to Yahweh our God, 'I have
brought to you, from my house, all of the tenth from my
harvest this year that I have set aside for you. I am giving it
to the descendants of Levi, to the foreigners, to the orphans,
and to the widows, as you commanded us to do. I have not
disobeyed any of your commands *about the tenth portion*,
and I have not forgotten any of your commands *about it*. 14 I
have not eaten any food from the tenth portion while I was
mourning *for someone who died*. I have not taken any of it
out of my house while I was in any condition unacceptable
to you. I have not offered any of it to spirits of dead people.
Yahweh my God, I have obeyed you and done everything that
you have commanded us concerning the tenth portion. 15 So
please look down from your holy living place in heaven, and
bless us, your Israelite people. Also bless this very fertile land
which you have given to us, as you promised our ancestors
you would give it to us.'
16 Today Yahweh our God is commanding you to obey
all these rules and decrees. So obey them faithfully, with all
that you are. 17 Today you have declared that it is Yahweh
who is your God, and that you will conduct your lives as he
wants you to do, that you will obey all his commands, rules,
and decrees, and that you will do all that he tells you to do.
18 And today Yahweh has declared that you are his people,
like a prized possession, which is what he promised that you
would be, and he commands you to obey all his commands.
19 If you do that, he will cause you to become greater than
any other nation that he has established. Other nations will
consider you famous and beautiful, and they will praise you.
You will be a special people to Yahweh, set apart and holy
to him, just as he promised."

27 Moses, along with the other Israelite leaders, said
this to the people, "Obey all the commandments that
I am giving to you today. 2 Soon you will cross the Jordan

River and enter the land that Yahweh, our God, promised
to give to you. There, set up some large stones and cover
them with plaster. 3 Write on those stones all these laws and
teachings, when you enter that very fertile land that Yahweh,
the God whom our ancestors worshiped, promised to give
to you. 4 When you have crossed the Jordan River, set up
some large stones on Mount Ebal, just as I told you, and
cover them with plaster. 5 And build a stone altar there to
offer sacrifices to Yahweh our God, but do not do any work
on those stones with iron tools. 6 You must make Yahweh
our God's alter with uncut stones. You must present wholly
burnt sacrifices to him on it. 7 You must make fellowship
sacrifices to Yahweh and eat them there. You must rejoice
in the presence of Yahweh our God. 8 When you write these
laws on those stones, you must write them very clearly."

9 Then Moses, along with the priests descended from Levi,
said to all the Israelites, "Israelites! Be quiet and listen to
what I am saying! Today you have become the people who
belong to Yahweh, our God. 10 So you must do what he tells
you, and obey all the rules and regulations that I am giving
to you today."

11 On that same day Moses said to the Israelites, 12 "After
you have crossed over the Jordan River, the tribes descended
from Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin
must stand on Mount Gerizim *and request Yahweh* to bless
the people. 13 And the tribes descended from Reuben, Gad,
Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali must stand on Mount
Ebal and listen to the *things that Yahweh will do when he*
curses *the people*.

14 The descendants of Levi must shout these words loudly
so the Israelites can hear:

15 'Yahweh will curse anyone who carves a figure from
wood or stone or casts a figure from metal,
and secretly sets it up and worships it.
Yahweh considers that those things are detestable.'
And all the people must reply, 'Amen.'
16 'Yahweh will curse anyone who dishonors his
father or his mother.'
And all the people must reply, 'Amen.'
17 'Yahweh will curse anyone who removes someone
else's markers of property boundaries.'
And all the people must reply, 'Amen.'
18 'Yahweh will curse anyone who leads a blind person
to go in the wrong direction.'
And all the people must reply, 'Amen.'
19 'Yahweh will curse anyone who refuses to act
toward foreigners, orphans, or widows in
the way that the law requires.'
And all the people must reply, 'Amen.'
20 'Yahweh will curse anyone who violates his
father's marriage rights
by having sexual relations with any of
his father's wives.'
And all the people must reply, 'Amen.'
21 'Yahweh will curse anyone who has sexual
relations with any animal.'
And all the people must reply, 'Amen.'
22 'Yahweh will curse anyone who has sexual relations
with his sister or with his half-sister.'
And all the people must reply, 'Amen.'
23 'Yahweh will curse anyone who has sexual relations
with his mother-in-law.'
And all the people must reply, 'Amen.'
24 'Yahweh will curse anyone who secretly
murders someone else.'
And all the people must reply, 'Amen.'
25 'Yahweh will curse anyone who murders someone who
is innocent because someone else has given
him money or something else to do that.'
And all the people must reply, 'Amen.'
26 'Yahweh will curse anyone who does not
carefully obey these laws.'
And all the people must reply, 'Amen.'

28 If you do what Yahweh our God tells you to do
and faithfully obey everything that I am today
commanding you to do, he will cause you to become greater
than any other people group on the earth. 2 If you obey
Yahweh your God, he will bless you in all these ways:

3 He will bless everything that you do when
you are in the cities, and he will bless everything
that you do when you are working in the fields.
4 He will bless you by giving you many
children, abundant crops, plenty of fertile cattle,
and many sheep.
5 He will bless you by giving you plenty of
grain to make bread.
6 He will bless you everywhere—whether you
are at home or elsewhere.

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

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

9 If you obey all that Yahweh our God is commanding
you to do, he will keep you as his own holy people, just as
he promised you. 10 Then all the peoples on the earth will
realize that you belong to Yahweh, and they will be afraid
of you. 11 And Yahweh will cause you to prosper very much.
He will give you many children, many cattle, and abundant
crops in the land that he solemnly promised to our ancestors
that he would give to you.

12 At the time that your land needs rain, Yahweh will
send it from where he stores it in the sky, and he will bless
all your work, with the result that you will be able to lend
money to many other people groups, but you will not need to
borrow money from them. 13 If you faithfully obey all of the
commands of Yahweh our God that I am giving you today,
then Yahweh will cause your people group to be superior
to other people groups, not inferior *to them*. 14 *Yahweh will*
do all these things for you if you do not stop obeying what I
am commanding you today, and if you never worship other
gods.

15 But if you do not do what Yahweh our God tells you
to do and do not faithfully obey all his rules and regulations
that I am today commanding you to do, he will curse you in
all these ways:

16 He will curse everything that you do when
you are in the cities, and he will curse everything
that you do when you are working in the fields.
17 He will curse you by not giving you much
grain to make bread.
18 He will curse you by giving you few and
sickly children, crops, cattle, and sheep.
19 He will curse you everywhere—whether
you are at home or elsewhere.

20 Yahweh will curse you by confusing and frustrating you
in all that you do until your enemies destroy you. They will
quickly kill you for your wicked sins and for rebelling against
him. 21 Yahweh will make you very sick, until all of you die
in the land that you are about to enter and occupy. 22 Yahweh
will afflict you with diseases that shrivel your bodies, with
fever, with inflammation. It will be extremely hot, there will
be violence everywhere, there will be scorching winds, and
he will cause your crops to rot. He will afflict you with these
until you die. 23 It will not rain so the ground will be very
hard and unproductive. 24 Instead of sending rain, Yahweh
will send strong winds to blow sand and dust over your land
to *ruin your crops and* starve you to death.
25 Yahweh will enable your enemies to defeat you; your
soldiers will attack them from one direction, but will run
away from them in many directions. People from every other
nation will be horrified at what Yahweh has done to you.
26 You will die, and birds and wild animals will come and
eat your corpses, and there will not be anyone to scare them
away. 27 Yahweh will cause you to have boils on your skin,
like he caused the people of Egypt to have many years ago.
He will cause you to have tumors, open sores, and your
skin will itch, but there will be nothing that will cure those
diseases. 28 Yahweh will cause some of you to become insane;
he will cause some of you to become blind, and he will cause
some of your minds to become confused. 29 At midday you
will feel around with your hands, like you are blind or in the
dark. You will not prosper in anything that you do. Enemies
will continually oppress and rob you, and there will not be
anyone to help you.
30 A man will formally arrange to marry a young woman,
but someone else will rape her. You will build houses, but
you will never live in them. You will plant grapevines, but
you will not pick any grapes or drink any wine. 31 Your
enemies will butcher your cattle while you watch them,
but you will not get any of the meat to eat. They will drag
away your donkeys while you watch them do it, and they
will not give them back to you. They will take away your
sheep and there will not be anyone to help you rescue them.
32 Foreigners will steal your sons and daughters. You will
constantly watch for your children to return, but you will
not be able to do anything for them. 33 People from a foreign
nation will eat all the crops that you worked hard to produce,
and they will constantly treat you harshly and cruelly. 34 All
these terrible things that you see will cause you to become
insane. 35 Yahweh will cause painful boils that no one can
heal to cover your knees and legs, and you will have boils
from the bottom of your feet to the top of your head.
36 Yahweh will cause enemies to take your king (who
you will have chosen for yourself) and the rest of you to
another country where you and your ancestors have never
lived. There you will worship strange gods that men made of
wood or stone. 37 The people in the nations where Yahweh
drives you will use what has happened to you as a horror
story, a proverb, and something to mock.
38 You will plant plenty of seeds in your fields, but you
will reap only a small harvest, because locusts will eat the
crops. 39 You will plant grapevines and take care of them,
but you will not pick any grapes or drink any wine, because
worms will eat the vines. 40 Olive trees will grow everywhere
in your land, but you will not get any olive oil to rub on
your skin because the olives will drop on the ground before
they are ripe. 41 You will have sons and daughters, but they
will not stay with you, because enemies will capture and
take them away. 42 Swarms of crickets will eat your crops
and the leaves of all your trees.
43 Foreigners who live in your land will become more and
more powerful, and you will become less and less powerful.
44 They will have money to lend to you, but you will not
have any money to lend to them.

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

45 When all these disasters happen to you and continue
to happen to you until they destroy you, you will know it
is because you did not do what Yahweh your God told you
to do and did not obey all the rules and regulations that he
gave to you. 46 These disasters that Yahweh will bring on you
and your descendants will forever show everyone his mighty
power. 47 Because Yahweh our God blessed you abundantly
in many ways, you should have served him very joyfully,
but you did not do that. 48 Therefore, you will work for the
enemies whom Yahweh will send to attack you. You will be
hungry and thirsty; you will not have clothes to wear and
you will lack everything else that you need. Yahweh will
cause you to become slaves and work hard until he destroys
you.
49 Yahweh will bring against you an army from very far
away. Their soldiers will speak a language that you will
not understand. They will swoop down on you quickly like
an eagle. 50 They will be fierce looking. They will not act
mercifully toward anyone, not even old people or young
children. 51 They will kill and eat your livestock, and they
will eat your crops, and you will starve. They will not leave
for you any grain, wine, olive oil, calves, or lambs. You
will all die from hunger. 52 Your enemies will surround your
towns throughout the land that Yahweh your God is about
to give to you. They will break down the high and strong
walls around your towns, walls which you trusted would
protect you.
53 When your enemies are surrounding your towns, you
will be so extremely hungry that you will eat your own sons
and daughters whom Yahweh your God has given to you.
54–55 When your enemies have surrounded your towns, even
the most dainty and sensitive men among you will want
food very desperately, with the result that they will kill
their own children and eat them, because they will not have
anything else to eat. They will be greedy and not even share
any of it with their brothers or wives whom they love very
much or with any of their other children who are still alive.
56–57 Even the most dainty and sensitive women among you,
so sensitive and dainty that they have never walked barefoot,
will do the same thing. When your enemies have surrounded
your towns, those women will be extremely hungry, with
the result that, after they give birth to a child, they will
secretly kill the baby and eat it and also eat the afterbirth.
They will be greedy and will not share any of it with their
husbands whom they love very much or with any of their
other children.
58 If you do not faithfully obey all of the laws that I
am writing, and if you do not have the utmost respect for
Yahweh our glorious and amazing God, 59 he will punish you
by sending on you and on your descendants great afflictions
and plagues which will last for many years. 60 He will bring
on you all the plagues that he sent on the people of Egypt,
which terrified you, and you will always be sick. 61 He will
also send on you many other sicknesses and diseases that I
have not talked about in these laws, until you all will die.
62 You became as numerous as the stars in the sky, but only

a few of you will remain alive, if you do not obey Yahweh your God. 63 Yahweh was very happy to do good things for you and to cause you to become very numerous, but now he will be happy to ruin you and get rid of you. Those of you who do not die from these plagues, he will snatch away from the land that you will soon be entering to possess.

64 Yahweh will scatter you among all the peoples of the earth, and in those places, you will worship other gods that men made of wood or stone, gods which you and your ancestors have never known. 65 In those areas you will not have any peace or rest. Yahweh will make you afraid, hopeless, and discouraged. 66 You will always be afraid that your enemies will kill you. You will be very fearful, all day and all night. 67 Because you will be very fearful and because you will very distressed because of the terrible things that you see, each morning you will say 'I wish it were evening already!' and each evening you will say 'I wish it were morning already!' 68 Yahweh will send some of you back to Egypt in ships, even though he promised that he would never force you to go there again. There in Egypt you will try to sell yourselves to become slaves of your enemies *in order to have food to eat*, but no one will buy you."

29 Yahweh commanded Moses to have the Israelites commit to all the following things when they were in the Moab region *on the east side of the Jordan River*. This was in addition to what they and Yahweh promised each other at Horeb:

2 Moses summoned all the Israelites and said to them, "You saw for yourselves what Yahweh did to the king of Egypt and to his officials and to his entire country. 3 You saw all the plagues that Yahweh sent on them, and all the various miracles that he performed. 4 But to this day, Yahweh has not enabled you to understand the meaning of all that you have seen and heard. 5 For forty years Yahweh has led you while you traveled through the desert. During that time, your clothes and your sandals have not worn out. 6 You did not have bread to eat or wine or other fermented drinks to drink, *but Yahweh took care of you,* in order that you would know that he is your God.

7 And when we came to this place, Sihon, the king who ruled in the city of Heshbon, and Og, the king who ruled the region of Bashan, came out with their armies to attack us, but we defeated them. 8 We took their land and divided it among the tribes of Reuben and Gad, and half of the tribe of Manasseh.

9 So obey faithfully all that you have promised Yahweh you will do, in order that you will prosper in everything that you do. 10 Today all of us are standing in the presence of Yahweh our God—I, the leaders of all your tribes, your elders, your officials, all you Israelite men, 11 your wives, your children, and the foreigners who live among us and cut wood for us and carry water for us. 12 You are all here today to agree with Yahweh our God, and to commit to obey him. 13 He is agreeing with you in order to make sure that you are his people, and that he is your God. This is what he promised to do for you, and what he solemnly promised to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, that he would do. 14 It is not just that you and Yahweh are agreeing today. 15 What we agree with Yahweh our God here today we are committing for us and also for our descendants who are not yet born.

16 You remember the things that our ancestors suffered in Egypt, and how they traveled through the land that belonged to other people groups after they came out of Egypt. 17 In those countries they saw those disgusting idols made of wood and stone and decorated with silver and gold. 18 So be sure that no man or woman or family or tribe that is here today stops worshiping Yahweh our God and starts worshiping any of the gods of those people groups. That would start to make you seem like something very bad tasting to Yahweh.

19 Be sure that no one here today who hears us agreeing with Yahweh says to himself, 'Everything will go well with me, even if I stubbornly do what I want to.' If you do that, the result will be that Yahweh will eventually destroy all of you, both good people and evil people. 20 Yahweh will not forgive anyone who is stubborn like that. Instead, he will be extremely angry with that person. He will cause all the curses that I have written down here to happen to that person, until Yahweh destroys that person and his family forever. 21 From all the tribes of Israel, Yahweh will choose that individual to suffer all the disasters that I have listed in the scroll that contains this agreement and its laws.

22 In future years, your descendants and people from other countries will see the disasters and the illnesses that Yahweh has caused to happen to you. They will exclaim, 23 'This land is a wasteland full of sulfur and burning salt! No one is planting anything! Nothing grows, not even weeds! This land is like the place where the cities Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboyim used to be. Yahweh destroyed those when he was very angry with those people.' 24 And the people from those other people groups will ask, 'Why did Yahweh do this to this land? Why was he so angry with the people who lived here?'

25 Then other people will reply, 'It is because they refused to do what they had agreed with Yahweh, the God whom their ancestors worshiped, when he brought them out of Egypt. 26 Instead, they worshiped other gods that they had never worshiped before, gods that Yahweh had told them not to worship. 27 So Yahweh became very angry with the people of this land, and he has caused to happen to them all the disasters that their leader warned them about. 28 Yahweh became extremely angry with them and took them out of their land, and threw them into another land, and they are still there.'

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

30 If, despite Yahweh our God blessing you in all the ways I have just told you about, *you disobey him, and when* he curses you in all the ways I have just told you about, and you are living in the countries to which he will have scattered you, you may realize what you have done. 2 Then, if you and your children begin to worship Yahweh our God again and faithfully obey all that I have today commanded you to do, 3 he will act mercifully toward you by rescuing you. He will bring you back from the nations to which he scattered you. 4 Even if he scatters you to the most distant places on the earth, Yahweh our God will gather you from there and bring you back to your land. 5 He will enable you to possess again the land where your ancestors lived. He will cause you to be more prosperous and more numerous than you are now. 6 Yahweh our God will change your and your children's inner beings, with the result that you will love him with all that you desire and with all that you feel and that you will continue to live *in that land*. 7 Yahweh our God will send all the disasters *that I have told you about* on

your enemies and on those who oppressed you. 8 As you did
before, you will do what Yahweh wants you to do and you
will obey all that I have commanded you today. 9 Yahweh
our God will cause you to be very prosperous in all that
you do. You will have many children and many cattle, and
you will produce abundant crops. He will again be happy
to enable you to prosper, just like he was happy to enable
your ancestors to prosper. 10 But he will do those things only
if you do what he has told you to do, and only if you obey
all his rules and regulations that I have written about in
this instruction book, and only if you again worship Yahweh
with all that you desire and with all that you feel.

11 The commands that I am giving to you today are not
very difficult for you to obey, and they are not difficult to
know. 12 They are not hiding in heaven. You do not need
to say, 'Someone will need to go up to heaven for us and
bring them back to us, in order than we can hear them and
obey them.' 13 And they are not on the other side of the sea.
You do not need to say, 'Someone will need to cross the sea
for us and bring them back to us, in order than we can hear
them and obey them.' 14 No, his commands are here with
you. You have memorized them and you can tell them to
anyone. So you can easily obey them.

15 So listen! Today I am allowing you to choose between
doing what is good resulting in you living and doing what is
evil resulting in you dying. 16 I say again, if you love Yahweh
our God, conduct your lives as he wants you to do and obey
everything he commands you, you will prosper and become
very numerous. Yahweh our God will bless you in the land
that you are about to enter and possess.

17 But if you stop worshiping Yahweh, and if you refuse
to obey what he says, and if you allow others to persuade
you to worship other gods, 18 I am warning you today that
you will soon die. Your people will not live for very long
in the land that you are about to cross the Jordan River to
enter and possess.

19 I am requesting everyone in heaven and on the earth
to testify to you, that today I am allowing you to choose
whether you want to live for a long time or to soon die,
whether you want Yahweh to bless you or to curse you. So
choose to obey and therefore live; choose for you and for
your descendants. 20 Decide to love Yahweh our God, to obey
him and to always be faithful to him. If you do that, he will
enable you and your descendants to live for a long time in
the land that Yahweh solemnly promised to your ancestors
Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, that he would give to them."

31 Then Moses also told the Israelites, 2 "I am 120 years
old. I am no longer able to go everywhere that you
need to go*, so I cannot be your leader any longer*. Furthermore,
Yahweh has told me that I will not cross the Jordan River.
3 Instead of me, Yahweh our God will lead you across *the
Jordan River*. He will destroy the people groups that are
living there for you, in order that you can occupy their land.
Yahweh has appointed Joshua to lead you across *the Jordan
River* in my place. 4 Yahweh will do to those people groups
what he did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites
when, he destroyed them and their people. 5 Yahweh will
enable you to conquer those people groups, but you must
kill all of those people, which is what I have commanded
you to do. 6 Be brave and confident. Do not be afraid of those
people. Do not forget that it is Yahweh our God who will go
with you. He will always help you and never abandon you."

7 Then Moses summoned Joshua, and while all the Israelites
were listening, he said to him, "Be brave and confident. You
are the one who will lead these people into the land that
Yahweh promised to our ancestors that he would give to
them, and you will enable them to occupy it. 8 It is Yahweh
who will go ahead of you. He will be with you. He will
always help you. He will never abandon you. So do not be
afraid or dismayed."

9 Moses wrote down all these laws and gave the scroll to
the priests, the descendants of Levi, who carried Yahweh's
sacred chest. He gave another copy of the laws to all the
Israelite elders. 10 Moses told them, "At the end of every
seven years, at the time that you must cancel all debts, that
is, during the Festival of Shelters, 11 when all the Israelites
gather at the place that Yahweh our God chooses for them
to worship him, read this law to them all. 12 Gather together
everyone—men, women, children, even the foreigners who
are living in your towns—in order that they may hear these
laws and learn to fear and respect Yahweh our God, and to
faithfully obey everything that I have written in these laws.
13 This is so that your descendants, who will not yet know
these laws, will hear them and learn to fear and respect
Yahweh our God, during all the years that they live in the
land that you are about to cross the Jordan River to occupy."

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

15 There Yahweh appeared to them in a pillar of cloud,
and that cloud was over the entrance to the tent. 16 Yahweh
said to Moses, "Listen, you will soon die. Then these people
will become unfaithful to me. They will stop obeying the
covenant that I made with them. They will begin to worship
the foreign gods the people of the land that they will enter
are worshiping. 17 When that happens, I will become very
angry with them. I will abandon them and refuse to help
them any longer. I will cause many bad things to happen to
them, and I will destroy them. Then they will realize that I
stopped protecting them. 18 Because of all the evil things that
they will have done, and especially because they will have
started to worship other gods, I will refuse to help them.

19 So I am going to give you, Moses, a song. Write it on a
scroll, teach it to the Israelites, and make them memorize it. It
will be like a witness that accuses them. 20 I am about to take
them into a very fertile land, a land that I solemnly promised
their ancestors that I would give to them. There they will
have plenty to eat, with the result that their stomachs will
always be full and they will become complacent. But then
they will turn to other gods and start to worship them, and
they will despise me and break the covenant that I have made
with them. 21 When many terrible disasters are happening
to them, their descendants will remember this song. It will
be like a witness that saw them commit to worship me and
accuses them of breaking their promises. I will soon take
them into the land that I solemnly promised that I would
give to them, but even now, before I do that, I know what
they are thinking that they will do when they are living
there." 22 So on the day *that Yahweh gave Moses this song,* he
wrote it down and taught it to the Israelites.

23 Then Yahweh commanded Joshua, whose father was
Nun, "Be brave and confident, because you will lead the
Israelites into the land that I solemnly promised that I would
give to them. I will be with you."

24 Moses finished writing all the law onto a scroll. 25 Then
he told the descendants of Levi, whose job was carrying the
sacred chest that contained the agreement with Yahweh,
26 "Take this law scroll and place it beside the sacred chest
that contains the agreement with Yahweh our God, in order
that it may remain there to testify about what Yahweh will
do to the people if they disobey him. 27 I say this because I
know that these people are very stubborn. They have rebelled
against Yahweh all during the time that I have been with
them, and they will rebel much more after I die! 28 So gather
all the elders of the tribes and your officials, in order that
I can teach them the words of this song, and so that I can
request all those who are in heaven and on the earth to be
witnesses to testify against these people. 29 I say this because
I know that after I die, the people will become very wicked.
They will stop doing everything that I have commanded
them to do. In the future, because of all the evil things that
they will do, they will cause Yahweh to become angry with
them. Then he will cause them to experience disasters."

30 Then, while all the Israelites listened, Moses sang the
entire song to them *(people will sing this in the future)*:

32 "Listen to me, all you who are in the heavens,
let me sing *this song*,
all you who are on the earth, *do the same:*
listen to what I sing.
2 I wish that my song may help you like the
rain helps you,
may it refresh you like the dew on the
ground in the morning,
like a gentle rain on the young plants,
or like showers of rain on the grass.
3 *This song will refresh you if you listen to it* because
I will praise Yahweh.
All you people should praise how great our God is.
4 He is like a rock on top of which we are safe;
everything that he does is perfect and completely just.
He always does what he says that he will do, and
he never breaks his promises;
he always does the right thing.
5 But you Israelite people have been very
unfaithful to him;
because of your sins, you no longer deserve
to be his children.
You are extremely wicked and deceitful.
6 You foolish and senseless people,
this is certainly not the way that you should repay
Yahweh for all that he has done for you.
He is your father; he created you;
he caused you to become a nation.
7 Think about what happened long ago
by considering what happened to your ancestors.
Ask your parents, and they will inform you;
ask the older people, and they will tell you.
8 Long ago when the Greatest God divided humanity into
people groups and gave them their lands,
he set their boundaries according to the number
of Jacob's descendants,
9 because Yahweh decided that we would be his people.
He chose us, Jacob's descendants, to belong to him.
10 He saw our ancestors when they were in a desert,
wandering in a land that was desolate.
He protected them and took care of them,
as every person takes good care of his own eyes.
11 Yahweh trained and protected his people just like
an eagle encourages its babies to fly
and flutters over them,
spreading its wings and catching them if
they start to fall.
12 Yahweh was the only one who led them;
no other foreign god helped them.
13 Yahweh enabled them to rule the hill country;
they ate the crops that grew in the fields.
They found honey in the rocks,
and their olive trees grew even in stony ground.
14 Their cows produced very creamy milk,
the sheep and goats gave them plenty of milk,
they ate choice lamb fat, Bashan-bred rams, and goats,
they had choice wheat kernels,
and they made and drank delicious wine
from their grapes.
15 The Israelites became so rich and prosperous
that they became very fat,
but then they rebelled against God;
they abandoned him, the one who created them.
They disregarded the God who powerfully saves them.
16 The Israelites made God jealous by worshiping
other gods.
Because they did disgusting things while worshiping
idols, he became angry.
17 They offered sacrifices to gods who were really
demons instead of sacrificing to God,
to gods that they had not known before.
They offered sacrifices to gods that they had
recently found out about,
to gods whom your ancestors had never been afraid of.
18 They ignored their Protector who created them,
forgetting the *true* God who made them *a nation*.
19 When Yahweh saw *that they had abandoned
him*, he became angry,
so he rejected the Israelites who were like
his sons and daughters.
20 He said, 'They are very wicked people,
very unfaithful,
so I will no longer help them,
and then I will watch and see what happens to them.
21 Because they worship worthless idols that
are not real gods,
they have made me angry like a jealous husband.
So I will make them angry in return by using a foolish
nation that is not really a people.
22 My anger is like a fierce fire that burns in my nostrils;
it will burn all the way down to the place
where dead people are.
That fire will destroy the land and the crops,
it will even burn deep under the mountains.
23 I will cause so many disasters to happen to them
that they will feel like I am shooting all my
arrows into them.
24 They will die because of being hungry and
because of having hot fevers
and because of terrible diseases.
I will send wild animals to attack them,
and poisonous snakes to bite them.
25 Outside their houses, their enemies will kill
them with swords,
and in their homes, their enemies will terrify them.
Their enemies will kill young men and young women,

and they will kill infants and old people with gray hair.
26 I almost completely destroyed them
in order that no one would ever remember them.
27 But I worried that if I did that, their enemies
would boast.
They would think the wrong thing.
I did not want them to say, “We are the stronger
than the Israelites;
it was us, not Yahweh who destroyed them.”’
28 You are a nation of people who do not have any sense.
None of you are wise.
29 If you were wise, you would understand why
I would punish you;
you would have realized what was going
to happen to you.
30 You would have realized why one soldier could
defeat a thousand soldiers,
and why two soldiers could chase away ten
thousand soldiers.
You would realize that this could happen only if the
Israelites’ Protector, Yahweh, had given
their enemies power to defeat them.
31 Even our enemies know
that their protector gods are not like our Protector God.
32 Their gods are as deeply evil as those of
Sodom and Gomorrah,
so those who worship them are bitter and toxic,
33 they love celebrating things as deadly as snakes’ poison.
34 Yahweh says, ‘The things I will do to punish them, I
have kept hidden with me,
protected like a treasure.
35 It is for me to punish and to pay back.
When everything sudden goes wrong
I am starting to destroy them.
I am prepared to punish them quickly.’
36 Yahweh will see that his people are helpless
and that almost no one remains—neither
prisoner nor free person.
Then he will pity his servants
and judge on behalf of them.
37 Then Yahweh will ask you, ‘Where are the gods
that you thought would protect you?
38 You gave to those gods the best parts of the
animals that you sacrificed,
and you poured out wine for them to drink.
So they should take action to help you;
they should be the ones who will protect you!
39 But now you will realize that I, only I, am God;
there is no other god who is a real god.
I alone can kill people and can cause people to live;
I can wound people, and I alone can heal people,
and there is no one who can prevent me from
doing those things.
40 I solemnly swear
that just as surely as I live forever, I will act.
41 I will prepare to judge my enemies
like a warrior sharpens his sword until it shines.
I will strike my enemies back
by repaying those who hate me for what
they have done.
42 The arrows *of the army that I send to destroy my enemies* will have so much blood on them
that it would make them drunk if it were
wine and they were people.
Their swords will kill a lot of people.
The blood will come from enemies that they kill or
that they wound and capture,
some will come from the enemies’ leaders’ heads.’
43 Everyone joyfully praise Yahweh,
because Yahweh gets revenge on those who kill
the people who serve him,
and he cleanses his people’s land
which has become defiled because of their sins.”

44 Moses and Joshua son of Nun sang that song while the Israelites listened. 45 Then Moses finished telling all the Israelites all Yahweh’s instructions. 46 He concluded by telling them, “Never forget all these commands that I have been giving you today. Teach these laws to your children, in order that they will faithfully obey all of them. 47 These instructions are very important. If you obey them, you will live a long time in the land that you are about to cross the Jordan River to occupy.”

48 On that same day, Yahweh said to Moses,

49 “Go to the Abarim mountain range here in the region of Moab, across from the city of Jericho. Climb Mount Nebo and look *toward the west* to see Canaan, the land that I am about to give to the Israelites. 50 You will die on the mountain after you go up. You will join your people *in the place where dead people stay*, just like your older brother Aaron died on Mount Hor and went to join your people *in the place where dead people stay*. 51 You will die because both of you disobeyed me in the presence of the Israelites, when you all were at the springs of Meribah near Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin. You did not honor and respect me in the presence of the Israelites in the way that I deserve because I am God. 52 When you are on that mountain where I told you to go, you will see in the distance in front of you the land that I am about to give to the Israelites, but you will not enter it.”

33 Before God’s prophet Moses died, he blessed the Israelites. 2 This is what he said,

“Yahweh came from Mount Sinai,
he came to Israel like the sun rising over Mount Seir,
his light shone from near Mount Paran.
He came with ten thousand holy angels,
and there was a flaming fire at his right side.
3 Yahweh truly loves his people
and protects all his special people.
So they worship him
and listen to his instructions.
4 *They said that* I gave them laws to obey,
laws that would forever be for the descendants of Jacob.
5 So Yahweh became the king of his precious people
when all the tribes and their leaders had
gathered together.

6 I say this about the tribe of Reuben,

I desire that their tribe will never disappear,
but that they will never become numerous.

7 I say this about the tribe of Judah,

Yahweh, listen to them *when they call out for help*.
When they are fighting a battle,

help them against the enemy,
and bring them back home safely.

8 I say this about the tribe of Levi,

Yahweh's *sacred lots called* Thummim and Urim belong
to the tribe that stayed loyal to him
after he tested them at Massah
and where they quarreled with him at Meribah spring.
9 They did what you told them to do
by faithfully keeping the solemn agreement between
Yahweh and the Israelites.
Obeying Yahweh was much more important to them
than their parents, siblings, or children.
10 They teach Yahweh's decrees and laws to the Israelites,
they will burn incense for him to enjoy and will
completely burn the offerings *that the people bring* on Yahweh's altar.
11 Yahweh, make them prosper
and accept all that they do.
Crush their attackers' ability to have children,
so those that hate them will never be able to
fight against them again.

12 I say this about the tribe of Benjamin,

Yahweh loves them;
he keeps them safe.
He protects them continually,
and he lives among their hills.

13 I say this about the tribes of Joseph,

I desire that Yahweh will bless their land
by giving them dew from the sky,
and water from deep in the ground
14 to produce for them wonderful fruit that
the sun makes ripe,
wonderful crops in the right months,
15 and wonderful things produced on their ancient
hills and mountains.
16 Indeed, may he give them plenty of wonderful things
from all that the earth produces
and may *Yahweh who* lived in the *burning*
bush be kind to them.
I desire that Yahweh will bless the tribes of
Joseph in all those ways,
because he was the leader over his brothers
when they were in Egypt.
17 There are ten thousand upon ten thousand people
in the tribe of Ephraim
and thousands upon thousands of people in
the tribe of Manasseh
which will be as strong as a bull;
with their weapons they will wound their enemies like
a wild ox gores other animals with its horns.
Together they will push other people groups
to the most distant places on the earth.

18 I say this about the tribes of Zebulun *and Issachar*,

I desire that the people of Zebulun will prosper
whenever they go *across the seas*,
and that the people of Issachar will prosper
while they stay at home *and take care of their cattle and crops*.
19 They will invite people *from the other Israelite tribes* to the mountain
where they worship Yahweh by offering correct
sacrifices to him.
They will become rich from *the work that they do on* the seas
and from *using* the sand along the sea *to make things*.

20 I say this about the tribe of Gad,

Praise Yahweh, the one who made their territory large.
The people of their tribe will attack their enemies
fiercely like a lion that crouches,
waiting to tear off the arm or the scalp of some animal.
21 They chose the best part of the land for themselves;
they got a share big enough for a leader.
When the leaders of the tribes of Israel
gathered together,
the tribe of Gad did the righteous things Yahweh
commanded Israel to do.

22 I say this about the tribe of Dan,

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

23 I say this about the tribe of Naphtali,

Yahweh has blessed and been very kind to the
people of the tribe of Naphtali;
their land extends far south from the Sea of Chenneroth.

24 I say this about the tribe of Asher,

May Yahweh bless the descendants of Asher more
than he will bless the other tribes.
I desire that they have a lot of olive trees that will
produce a lot of olives to make olive oil.
25 Their towns will have high walls with gates that
have bronze and iron bars.
They will be strong as long as they live."

26 *Then Moses said to all the Israelites,* "You Israelites,
there is no god like your God,
who travels swiftly through the heavens to rescue you.
27 God, who lives forever, is the one who gives you refuge;
it is as though he puts his everlasting arms
under you to support you.
He will drive out your enemies while you advance;
he has told you to destroy all of them.
28 So you Israelite people will live safely;
no one will disturb you descendants of Jacob;
in the land *where you will live*, there will be
plenty of grain and wine,
and plenty of dew will fall from the sky.
29 You people of Israel are very fortunate.
There is certainly no nation like your nation,
whom Yahweh has rescued *from being slaves in Egypt*.
He will be like a shield to protect you

and like a powerful sword to enable you to
defeat your enemies.
Your enemies will come to you begging for you
to act mercifully toward them,
but you will thoroughly overcome them."

34 Then Moses climbed up from the plains in the region
of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the highest point on
Mount Pisgah, which is across *the Jordan River* from Jericho.
There Yahweh showed him all the *land that the Israelites would occupy. He showed him the region of* Gilead as far north as
the city of Dan; 2 all the land that the tribes of Naphtali,
Ephraim, Manasseh, and Judah would occupy as far the sea
to the west, 3 the desert area in the south part of Judah, and
the plain in the valley with Jericho (which is called the City
of Palms), from there *on the north end of the Salt Sea* to the
city of Zoar *on the south end*. 4 Then Yahweh said to him,
"This is the land that I solemnly promised Abraham, Isaac,
and Jacob that I would give to their descendants. I have
allowed you to see it clearly from a distance, but you will
not go there."

5 So Moses, who always served Yahweh faithfully, died
there in the land of Moab, which is what Yahweh said would
happen. 6 Yahweh buried Moses' body in the valley in the
land of Moab, across from the town of Beth Peor, but until
now, no one knows where Yahweh buried him. 7 Moses was
120 years old when he died, but he was still very strong,
and he could still see very well. 8 The Israelites mourned for
Moses in the plains of Moab for thirty days and then they
stopped crying for him.

9 Because Moses had put his hands on Joshua the son of
Nun *to appoint him to be the Israelites' new leader*, God gave
Joshua a spirit that made him very wise. The Israelites obeyed
Joshua, and they obeyed all that Yahweh had commanded
them through Moses.

10 Since the time that Moses lived, there has never been
a prophet in Israel like him, for Yahweh spoke with him
personally. 11 No other prophet has performed all the kinds
of powerful miracles that Yahweh caused him to do against
Pharaoh, king of Egypt, against all his servants, and against
the people of Egypt. 12 No other prophet has been able to
perform all the great and terrifying deeds that all the Israelites
saw Moses perform.