

unfoldingWord® Simplified Text

v92

Joshua

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Joshua

1 After Moses the servant of Yahweh died, Yahweh spoke
to Joshua son of Nun. He had been Moses' helper.
Yahweh said, 2 "*You know that* my servant Moses has died.
So now get ready to cross over the Jordan River, you and
all these people. Enter the land that I will soon give to all of
you Israelites. 3 I will certainly give you every place where
you walk in that land, just as I promised Moses. 4 That land
will extend from the wilderness *in the south* to the Lebanon
mountains *in the northwest*, to the Euphrates River *in the*
northeast, and to the Great Sea *in the west* where the sun goes
down. It will include all the land where the Hittites live.
5 No people group will be able to defeat you as long as you
live. I will help you as I helped Moses. I promise that I will
not abandon you and I will never leave you.

6 Be strong and brave, because you are the one who will
lead these people so that they can possess this land that
I promised to give to their ancestors. 7 Just be strong and
very brave so that you can be sure to obey all the laws that
my servant Moses gave to you. *Obey those laws* so that you
may be successful wherever you go. Do not stop obeying
any of them. 8 Make sure to read continually the laws that
God gave Moses. Constantly think about those laws so that
you will carefully obey each one. If you do that, then you
will be successful in the things you do. 9 Do not forget that
I have commanded you to be strong and brave. Do not be
afraid and do not be discouraged, because I, Yahweh your
God, will be with you wherever you go."

10 So Joshua commanded the leaders of the people of
Israel, 11 "Go throughout the camp and give these orders to
the people: 'Prepare all the food that you will take with you,
because the day after tomorrow we will cross the Jordan
River. We are going across in order to conquer the land that
Yahweh, our God, has promised to give us.'"

12 Then Joshua spoke to the people of the tribes that were
the descendants of Reuben and Gad. He also spoke to the
people of half of the tribe of Manasseh. *All those people were*
going to settle on the east side of the Jordan River. Joshua said,
13 "Keep in mind the orders that Moses the servant of Yahweh
gave you. Moses said, 'Yahweh your God will give you this
land so that you can live here peacefully.' 14 Your wives, your
little children, and your cows, sheep, and goats may stay
here in this land that Moses gave you on the east side of the
Jordan River. But all the men of fighting age*, twenty years old*
or older, must cross the Jordan River. They must go ahead
of the people of the other tribes. Your soldiers must take all
their weapons so that they can help their fellow Israelites.
15 You must help your fellow Israelites to fight against the
inhabitants of the land until Yahweh has enabled them to
defeat the inhabitants and settle in the land permanently and
live peacefully there. That is what Yahweh has done for you
in the land he has given you. Yahweh our God will do the
same thing for them. After you help them, then your soldiers
may return to live in this land that Yahweh's servant Moses
gave to you here on the east side of the Jordan River."

16 The people answered Joshua, "We will do everything
you have told us to do, and we will go wherever you tell us
to go. 17 As we obeyed all that Moses told us to do, so we will
obey all that you tell us to do. We pray that Yahweh your
God will help you just as he helped Moses. 18 We will execute
anyone who refuses to obey what you say and does not do
everything that you command. But *we want you, Joshua*, to
be strong and brave!"

2 Then Joshua son of Nun chose two men from their
camp at Shittim. He told them, "Go secretly and find
out all that you can about the land, especially about the
city of Jericho." They left the camp and went to Jericho. A
prostitute whose name was Rahab lived in that city. They
stayed in her house that night. 2 Someone told the king of
Jericho, "Be careful! Some Israelite men have come here
tonight to spy on our land!" 3 So the king of Jericho sent
messengers to Rahab. They told her, "We know that some
men are staying in your house. Surrender them to the king,
because they have come here to spy on our land!" 4 But
Rahab had already hidden the two men *inside her house*. She
told the messengers, "Yes, it is true that those men came to
me. But I did not know that they were spies. 5 Those men
left Jericho at dusk, before the guards closed the city gates.
I do not know where they were going. But if you hurry,
you might catch up with them." 6 *But she was lying.* She had
actually taken the two men up to the *flat* roof of her house.
There she had hidden them under bundles of flax that she
had laid out *to dry* on her roof. 7 Soldiers looked for the men
all along the road that leads from Jericho to the place where
people can walk across the Jordan River. *They thought the*
men would travel on that road back to the Israelite camp. As
soon as the soldiers left the city, guards shut the city gates
to keep the spies from escaping if they were actually still in the
city.

8 The two men expected to sleep on the roof, hiding under
the flax stalks. But Rahab went up to the roof and spoke
with them before they went to sleep. 9 She said to them,
"We know that Yahweh is going to enable you Israelites to
conquer this land. As a result, all the people living in this
land are so afraid of you that we will not be able to fight
with you. 10 We have heard about how Yahweh dried up
the water of the Sea of Reeds so that you could cross it
when you left Egypt. We also heard how you killed Sihon
and Og, the two kings of the Amorite people group who
lived on the eastern side of the Jordan River. We heard how
you totally destroyed them. 11 When we heard about those
things, we were very dismayed. Because of the way your
God has helped you, we no longer feel courageous enough to
fight against you. *We know that* Yahweh, whom you worship,
is the true God. He is the God who rules over everything.
And if he is helping you, then we cannot resist you. 12 So now I
want you to swear a solemn oath to me by Yahweh that you
will act kindly to me and my family because I have acted
kindly toward you. I also want you to give me some proof
that you will do what you promise, 13 Spare the lives of my
father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all of their
families. Promise me that you Israelites will not kill us *when*
you destroy this city." 14 The two men told her, "May Yahweh
cause us to die if we let anyone kill you or your family!
If you do not tell others what we are planning to do, then
we will act kindly toward you and all your family. We will
not kill you when Yahweh enables us to conquer this land."
15 *One of* the outside walls of the house where Rahab lived
was part of the wall that was around the city of Jericho. She
fastened a rope and hung it outside a window that was in

that wall. That allowed the men to climb down the wall *and escape from the city, even though the king's men had closed the gates*. 16 Then she said to them, "When you leave the city, go up into the hills so that the men who are searching for you will not find you. Hide in caves in the hills for three days, until the men who are searching for you return to the city. Then you will be able to safely return to your camp." 17 The two men *gave her a red cord, and* said to her, "This is what you must do. If you do not do this, we will not have to do what you made us promise to do. 18 When we come into the land, you must tie this red cord in the window through which you let us down. You must gather together your father and mother, your brothers and sisters, and their families inside your house. 19 If anyone in your family leaves the house and goes into the street, *our soldiers* will kill them, and we will not be guilty. But if they injure anyone who is in this house with you, we will be guilty. 20 But if you tell anyone what we are planning to do, we will not have to do what you made us promise to do." 21 Rahab said, "I agree to do what you say." Then she sent them away, and they left her house. And she tied the red cord so it would hang out of the window. 22 When the two men left the city, they went up into the hills. They stayed there for three days while the men who had been sent by the king continued to search for them. They searched all along the road, but they did not find the two men. *So they gave up and returned to Jericho.* 23 Then the two men started back toward their camp. They came down from the hills, crossed the Jordan River, and returned to the Israelite camp. They told Joshua everything that had happened to them. 24 They said to Joshua, "We are certain that Yahweh is going to enable us to conquer that whole land. We know that because all the people there are very afraid of us."

3 Joshua *and all the other Israelites* got up early the next morning. They left their camp at Shittim and went down to the Jordan River. They camped there before they crossed over the river. 2 They rested for one day, and the morning after that, the leaders of the people went throughout the camp. 3 They instructed the people, "When you see some of the priests, who are the descendants of Levi, carrying the sacred chest of Yahweh your God, then *you will know* it is time to leave this place and follow the sacred chest. 4 Since you have not gone this way before, you do not know where you should go. So you *must follow the priests so that you* will know the direction that you should travel, but stay at least 1, 000 yards away from the sacred chest. Do not come closer than that."

5 Then Joshua told the Israelites, "Perform the ceremonies that will make yourselves acceptable to Yahweh, because tomorrow he is going to do things for you that will amaze you!"

6 Then Joshua said to the priests, "Carry the sacred chest and go in front of the people." So they lifted up the sacred chest and went in front of the people.

7 Then Yahweh said to Joshua, "This is the day when I will begin to cause all the people of Israel to honor you greatly as their leader. They will understand that I am helping you just as I helped Moses. 8 Tell the priests who are carrying the sacred chest, 'When you come to the edge of the Jordan River, stand still in the water.'" 9 Then Joshua said to the people of Israel, "Come close to me and listen to what Yahweh, your God, will tell you." 10 *When they came near*, Joshua said, "This is how you will know that God, who lives and can do anything, acts on your behalf. You will certainly see him expel from the land the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Hivites, the Perizzites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, and the Jebusites. 11 Know with certainty that Yahweh is the one who rules over all the earth. The sacred chest belongs to him, and the priests will carry it into the Jordan River ahead of you. 12 So choose 12 men, one from each of the tribes of Israel. 13 When the priests who are carrying the chest of Yahweh, who rules over all the earth, put their feet in the waters of the Jordan River, the water will stop flowing. The water coming from upstream will pile up *because Yahweh will cause them to be blocked*."

14 So the Israelites packed up their tents so that they could go across the Jordan River. The priests who were carrying the sacred chest went in front of the people. 15 *It was springtime,* when people harvest their crops, and at that time the Jordan River floods over all its banks. But the moment the priests who carried the sacred chest reached the edge of the river and stepped into the water, 16 the water stopped flowing. The water piled up far upstream, at a town named Adam, near the city named Zarethan. The water stopped flowing down to the Sea of Arabah, which people also call the Sea of Salt. *The water* completely stopped flowing, and the people were able to cross the river near Jericho. 17 The priests who were carrying the sacred chest of Yahweh stood on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan *riverbed*. They continued to stand there until all the people of Israel had crossed the river on dry ground.

4 After all the people of Israel had finished crossing the Jordan River, Yahweh said to Joshua, 2 "Choose 12 men, one from each tribe *of Israel*. 3 Tell them to pick up 12 stones from the middle of the dry Jordan *riverbed* where the priests are standing. Tell them to carry those stones and put them down at the place you will stay tonight."

4 *So Joshua chose 12 men,* one from each tribe of Israel. Then Joshua called them together 5 and said to them, "Go into the middle of the Jordan *riverbed*, in front of *the priests who are standing and holding* the sacred chest of Yahweh your God. Each of you must pick up a *large* stone, one for each tribe. Each of you is to carry a stone on his shoulder. That will be a total of 12 stones for the 12 tribes of the people of Israel. 6 These stones will be a monument for you to see. In the future, your children will ask, 'What do these stones mean?' 7 Tell them that *these stones are here* because Yahweh blocked the water in the Jordan River *so that it stopped flowing* when the priests were carrying the sacred chest of Yahweh. When the chest was carried into the Jordan River, Yahweh blocked the water *so that we were able to cross the Jordan on dry ground*. These stones will cause our descendants to remember forever what Yahweh has done."

8 So those 12 men did exactly what Joshua had told them to do. They went and picked up 12 *large* stones from the middle of the Jordan *riverbed*, one stone for each of the tribes of Israel. That was what Yahweh had told Joshua. Then they carried the stones to their camp. They put the stones down there. 9 Then Joshua *took* 12 *other large* stones and stacked them in a pile in the middle of the Jordan *riverbed* where the priests who carried the sacred chest were standing. And those stones are still there.

10 The priests who carried the chest remained standing in the middle of the Jordan *riverbed* until the Israelites had finished doing everything that Yahweh had commanded Joshua to tell them to do. These were the same instructions

that Moses had given to Joshua. The Israelites crossed *the riverbed* quickly. 11 As soon as all the people had crossed over, then the priests carried the sacred chest of Yahweh across the river. The people watched them do that. 12 The soldiers from the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh, crossed over ahead of the rest of the Israelite people. They brought their weapons with them. That was what Moses had ordered them to do. 13 As Yahweh was watching, about 40,000 soldiers crossed the riverbed. These men were ready fight in the Israelite army. They were heading for the plains of Jericho, where they would fight a battle. 14 On that day, Yahweh caused all the people of Israel to honor Joshua greatly as their leader. And they deeply respected Joshua his entire life, just as they had deeply respected Moses. 15 Yahweh said to Joshua, 16 "Order the priests who are carrying the sacred chest of the testimony to come up from the Jordan *riverbed*." 17 So Joshua commanded the priests to come up from the Jordan *riverbed*. 18 Then the priests, carrying the sacred chest of Yahweh, came up out of the Jordan *riverbed*. As soon as the priests walked up out of the riverbed onto the riverbank, the water of the Jordan River started flowing again, and the river overflowed its banks as it had been doing before.

19 It was on the tenth day of the first month of their year that the Israelite people crossed over the Jordan *riverbed* and camped at a place called Gilgal. That is east of the land near the city of Jericho. 20 At Gilgal, Joshua set up the 12 *large* stones that the 12 men had carried from the Jordan *riverbed*. 21 Then Joshua said to the people of Israel, "In the future, when your descendants ask, 'Why are these stones here?' 22 tell them, 'This is where we Israelites crossed the Jordan River on dry ground.' 23 While you were watching, Yahweh, the God you worship, dried up the river for you, until we had all crossed it. Yahweh, the God we worship, did *to the Jordan River* exactly what he did to the Sea of Reeds. He caused that to become dry, as our parents were watching, until they all crossed it. 24 *Yahweh did that* in order that all the peoples of the earth would know that he is very powerful. And because you have seen this, as a result, you will always revere Yahweh your God."

5 The leaders of the Amorites and Canaanites heard about how Yahweh had dried up the water of the Jordan River in front of the Israelites so that they could cross it. Those leaders included all the kings of the Amorites who *lived* on the west side of the Jordan River, toward the *Great* Sea. They also included all the kings of the Canaanites, who *lived* close to the *Great* Sea. When those kings heard *what Yahweh had done*, they became very afraid and no longer desired to fight *the Israelites*.

2 While *the Israelites were staying at Gilgal,* Yahweh said to Joshua, "*Someone had circumcised the Israelite males who lived in Egypt before they left there. Now* make knives from flint stones and circumcise all the Israelite males whom no one has yet circumcised." 3 So Joshua *commanded the people* to make knives from flint stones and circumcise the Israelite males at *a place that people now call* Circumcision Hill. 4 This is why they circumcised the Israelite males at this time. All of the men who left Egypt, all those old enough to be soldiers, had died in the desert after they left Egypt. 5 Someone had circumcised those men when they were children in Egypt. But no one had circumcised the boys whose mothers gave birth to them while they were in the wilderness, after they left Egypt. 6 The people of Israel traveled through the wilderness for 40 years, until all the men who were old enough to be soldiers, who had left Egypt, had died. This happened because they had not obeyed Yahweh. So Yahweh swore to them that they would not be able to enter the land that he had promised to our ancestors. He said that he would give that very fertile land to us, their descendants. 7 The sons of those who had disobeyed Yahweh were the ones whom Joshua and other Israelite leaders circumcised *at Gilgal*. They circumcised them there because no one had done that while they were traveling in the wilderness. 8 After the leaders had circumcised all the Israelite males, they remained in the camp and rested until they had healed. 9 Then Yahweh said to Joshua, "People thought badly of you because they considered you to be just former Egyptian slaves. But now I have made you a distinct nation." Because of that, people called that place Gilgal, and it still has that name even now.

10 On the evening of the fourteenth day of that month, while the people of Israel were staying at Gilgal, on the plain near the city of Jericho, they celebrated the Passover festival. 11 The day after they celebrated the Passover festival, they gathered barley grain in that area. They made some of the barley grain into unleavened bread and ate, and they roasted and ate some of it. 12 The next day, *Yahweh* stopped *sending* manna for the people of Israel *to eat*. From then on, they ate food that grew in the land of Canaan.

13 One day, when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw someone who appeared to be a man standing in front of him. The man was holding a sword in his hand. Joshua approached him and asked him, "Are you going to fight for us or against us?" 14 The man replied, "I am not a soldier in any human army. Rather, I am the commander of Yahweh's army. I have come *here to help you*." Then Joshua very respectfully got down on his knees and touched his face to the ground. Joshua said to him, "What do you want me to do? I will do it." 15 The commander of Yahweh's army replied, "The ground on which you are standing is holy *because I am here*. So take off your sandals." So Joshua took off his sandals.

6 Because *the people of Jericho were afraid* of the army of Israel, *the guards of Jericho* tightly shut the city gates. No one was allowed to enter *the city* or leave *it*. 2 Then Yahweh said to Joshua, "Pay attention *to what I am about to tell you*! I am going to enable your army to conquer the city of Jericho and its king and its soldiers. 3 You and your army must march around the city once a day for six days. 4 Tell seven priests to march around *with you and the army*. Each of the priests must carry a ram's horn that they can blow as they march ahead of the sacred chest of Yahweh. On the seventh day, you and the army and the seven priests must march around the city seven times, and the priests must be blowing the horns while they march. 5 *After they have all marched around the city seven times, then* the priests must blow their horns very loudly. When you and the Israelite soldiers hear that, you must all shout very loudly. Then the city wall will collapse onto itself, and all the Israelite soldiers will go straight into the city."

6 So Joshua summoned the priests and said to them, "Tell *four* priests to carry Yahweh's sacred chest, and tell seven *other* priests to carry horns and walk ahead of the sacred chest of Yahweh." 7 And he told the Israelite soldiers and priests, "Start marching. March around the city with some soldiers with weapons marching in front. Behind them will march the seven priests with horns, and behind them will march the *four* priests carrying Yahweh's sacred chest."

8 After Joshua told them that, the seven priests, each
one carrying a horn, began marching ahead of Yahweh's
sacred chest while blowing their horns. *The four priests who*
were carrying Yahweh's sacred chest followed them. 9 The
group of soldiers carrying their weapons marched in front
of the priests who were blowing on their horns. The rest of
the soldiers followed the sacred chest. While *they were all*
marching, the priests kept blowing their horns. 10 But *all the*
Israelites, except the priests who were blowing their horns, were
silent, because Joshua had commanded them to say nothing.
He had told them, "Do not make a war cry. Do not yell or say
even one word until the seventh day *when we have walked*
around the city and I tell you to shout. On that day, you must
shout!" 11 So the men carrying Yahweh's sacred chest and all
the others did what Joshua told them to do. They marched
around the city one time. Then they all returned to their
camp and stayed there that night.

12 The next morning, Joshua and the soldiers and priests
got up early and the *four* priests again carried Yahweh's
sacred chest. 13 The seven priests who were carrying horns
went in front of *the four priests who were carrying* Yahweh's
sacred chest. The seven priests were continually walking
ahead of the sacred chest and making loud blasts with their
horns as they marched. The armed soldiers walked in front
of them and the rest of the soldiers followed the sacred chest
of Yahweh. All this time, the seven priests kept blowing their
horns. 14 So on the second day, they *again* marched around
the city one time and *then* returned to their camp. They did
the same thing for six days.

15 On the seventh day, they got up as soon as the sun rose,
and they all marched around the city as they had done the
previous six days. But this time they marched around the city
seven times. 16 As they were marching around the city the
seventh time, when the priests were blowing the long blasts
on their horns, Joshua commanded the Israelite soldiers,
"Shout, because Yahweh is about to enable you to capture
this city! 17 Yahweh has declared that you must destroy the
city and everything in it *to show that* it belongs to him. You
must only spare Rahab the prostitute and all the people who
are in her house with her, because she hid the spies we sent
to Jericho. 18 But be very careful of this: Yahweh has declared
that we must destroy the people, animals, and things in the
city. So you certainly must not take any of the things in the
city. If you take anything, you will cause Yahweh to destroy
our people and cause terrible things to happen to us. 19 All
the silver and gold and all the iron and bronze articles*that*
you find, you must set apart for Yahweh. You must put those
things in his treasury."

20 So they obeyed Joshua. When the Israelite army heard
the priests begin blowing a long blast on their horns, then
they shouted loudly, and the wall of the city collapsed! Then
the Israelite army went up into the city. Each soldier went
straight into the city from wherever he was standing when
the wall fell. In that way, the Israelite army captured the
city. 21 They killed every living thing in Jericho. They killed
all the men, women, boys, and girls. They also killed all the
cattle and sheep and donkeys.

22 Then Joshua said to the two men who had spied on
the land, "Go to the house of that prostitute woman *who*
helped you. Bring her out, along with all her family, just as
you promised her you would do." 23 So, the young men who
had spied on the land went and brought Rahab out of her
house. They brought out her father, mother, brothers, and
all her relatives *who were with her*. They brought them to a
place outside the camp of Israel's army. 24 Then the Israelite
soldiers burned the city, along with everything in it. But *they*
saved the silver and gold and articles of bronze and iron and
put them into the treasury of things for the tent of meeting.
25 But Joshua allowed Rahab the prostitute to live, along
with her father's household and everyone who was with her.
He did that because she hid the spies that Joshua sent to spy
on Jericho. She has lived among the people of Israel until
this time.

26 After Joshua and his soldiers had destroyed the city of
Jericho, he made each of the Israelites swear that they would
not rebuild the city. He said, "Yahweh will curse anyone
who rebuilds this city, Jericho. When that person lays its
foundation, Yahweh will cause his oldest son to die. When
he finishes building the city wall and sets up its gates, Yahweh
will cause his youngest son to die." *All the people agreed that*
this should be the punishment for anyone who rebuilt the city.

27 Yahweh helped Joshua, and as a result, he became
famous throughout the whole land of Canaan.

7 *Yahweh had commanded the Israelites to show that all the*
things they found in Jericho belonged to him. To do that, the
Israelites were to destroy them or put them in his treasury. But
there was a man from the tribe of Judah whose name was
Achan. He was the son of Karmi, the grandson of Zabdi, and
the great-grandson of Zerah. He disobeyed what Yahweh
had commanded the Israelites. He took for himself some of
the things Yahweh had said belonged only to him. Therefore,
Yahweh became very angry with the Israelites.

2 Now Joshua told some of his men to go from the city of
Jericho to the town of Ai. That town was east of the city of
Bethel and near the town of Beth Aven. Joshua said to them,
"Go to Ai and see what we need to do to conquer it." So the
men went and did what Joshua had instructed them to do.

3 When they returned, they told him, "Only a small number
of people live in Ai. So just send 2,000 or 3,000 men to
attack them. There is no need to send all of our soldiers."
4 So about 3, 000 Israelite men went to attack Ai. But the
men of Ai defeated the men of Israel so badly that the men of
Israel ran away. 5 The soldiers of Ai killed about 36 Israelite
soldiers. They chased the rest of them from the city gate
to the stone quarries. They even killed Israelite soldiers on
the slopes *that led back down to the Jordan River*. When the
Israelite people saw this, they became very afraid. They no
longer had the courage to fight.

6 Joshua and the leaders of Israel tore their clothes *to show*
that they were very sad that their enemies had defeated them.
They lay down on the ground in front of the sacred chest of
Yahweh, and they stayed there until evening time. They also
put dirt on their heads *to show that they were very sad about*
what had happened. 7 Then Joshua prayed and said, "Lord
Yahweh, you brought us Israelites safely across the Jordan
River. So I do not understand why you are now allowing the
Amorites to destroy us. I really wish that we had stayed on
the other side of the Jordan River! Then we would not be
in this situation. 8 O Lord, I do not know what to say, now
that we Israelites have run away from our enemies. 9 The
Canaanites and all the other people who are living in this
land will hear *that the army of the city of Ai defeated us*. Then
they will surround us and kill us all! Then people will no
longer think that you are a great and powerful God!"

10 But Yahweh said to Joshua, "Stand up! Stop lying there
with your face in the dirt! 11 The people of Israel have sinned.
They have disobeyed the commands that I instructed them to

obey. They have taken from the things that I said they must devote to me. They have stolen and been deceptive and put what they have stolen in with their own possessions. 12 That is why the Israelite soldiers could not defeat the soldiers of Ai. That is why they ran away from them. And now Israelites you have become something that someone should destroy. Unless you do as I commanded you and destroy the things you took from Jericho that you were supposed to devote to me, then I will not help you anymore!

13 Now go and tell the people of Israel that they must prepare themselves for what will happen tomorrow. They must perform the rituals that will cause them to become acceptable to me *again*. Tell them that I said that one of you has kept some of the things that I told you to devote to me. Tell them that I said you will not be able to defeat your enemies until you get rid of those things.

14 Tomorrow morning you must present yourselves before me, tribe by tribe. Then I will indicate to you which tribe *the guilty person belongs to*. Then I will indicate to you which clan *from that tribe the guilty person belongs to*. Then I will indicate to you which family he belongs to, and then I will indicate which man *in that family took the things I said you must devote to me*. 15 Then you must *kill and* burn *the body of* the person who has taken some of the things that you should have given to me. You must burn him and his family and everything he owns, because he has disobeyed the agreement that I, Yahweh made with you Israelites, and because he has done a disgraceful act among the people of Israel."

16 Early the next morning, Joshua instructed all the Israelite people to come near *to the sacred tent*, tribe by tribe. *When they did that,* Yahweh indicated that a person from the tribe of Judah *was the one who had taken the things that the Israelites should have given him*. 17 Then the clans of Judah presented themselves, and Yahweh indicated that someone from the clan of Zerah *was the guilty person*. Then the families of Zerah's clan presented themselves, and Yahweh indicated that someone from the family of Zabdi *was the guilty person*. 18 Then Joshua told the men from the family of Zabdi to present themselves. *When they did that,* Yahweh indicated that Achan was the guilty man. He was the son of Carmi, the grandson of Zabdi, the great-grandson of Zerah, and the great-great-grandson of Judah.

19 Then Joshua said to Achan, "Young man, honor Yahweh, the God we Israelites worship, by telling the truth and confessing it before him. Now tell me what you did, and do not try to conceal it from me."

20 Achan replied, "It is true. I have sinned against Yahweh, the God we Israelites worship. This is what I did: 21 I saw among the plunder *from Jericho* a beautiful coat from Babylon. I also saw 200 pieces of silver and a piece of gold that weighed the equivalent of 50 pieces of silver. I wanted those things very much, so I took them. I buried them in the ground under my tent. You will find them there. The silver pieces are buried under the other things."

22 So Joshua sent some men *to find the things that Achan had stolen from Yahweh*. They ran to Achan's tent and found all the things he had hidden there. 23 The men took the things Achan had stolen out of his tent and brought them to Joshua and to the Israelites. Then they spread them out on the ground in front of the sacred tent *as evidence that Achan was guilty of stealing from the plunder, as Yahweh had said an Israelite had done*.

24 Then Joshua and the Israelites brought Achan son of Zerah up to a place that people later called the Valley of Achor. They brought the things he had stolen from Yahweh, and they also brought his sons and daughters and his wife and his cattle and donkeys and sheep and goats. They also brought his tent and everything else that belonged to him. 25 Joshua said, "You have troubled us Israelites greatly, so today Yahweh will trouble you." Then all the people of Israel threw stones at Achan and his family until they died. Then they burned them *and all their possessions* with fire.

26 They piled rocks over the ashes of their corpses, and those rocks are still there now. After that, Yahweh was no longer angry *with the Israelites*. That is why the Israelites named that place the Valley of Achor. People still call it by that name now.

8 Then Yahweh said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid or discouraged *because of what happened last time you fought against the men of Ai*. Take with you all the soldiers you have and go up to Ai *again*. I will certainly enable you to defeat the king of Ai and his people, and I will give you his city and his land. 2 Your army must do to the city of Ai and its people and king the same thing that you did to the city of Jericho and its people and king. But *this time* I will allow you to take all their possessions and keep them for yourselves. Tell some of your soldiers to hide behind the city and prepare to attack it suddenly."

3 So Joshua led all his army toward the city of Ai. He chose 30, 000 of his best soldiers and prepared them to go out during the night. 4 Joshua said to them, "Listen carefully! Some of you must hide on the other side of Ai. Do not go very far from the city. Each one of you must be ready *to attack it*. 5 I and the soldiers who are with me will march toward the city *in the morning*. Then the soldiers who are in the city will come out to fight us, as they did before. We will turn around and start to run away from them. 6 Because they will think that we are running away from them as we did before, they will leave the city and chase after us. While we are running away from them, 7 those of you who are hiding must come out and enter the city and capture it. Yahweh, your God, will enable you to conquer the city. 8 After you capture the city, burn it. Do what Yahweh has commanded us to do. Those are the orders I am giving to you."

9 Then Joshua sent some of the Israelite soldiers to hide and wait at a place between Bethel and Ai. That place was on the west side of Ai. But Joshua slept that night among his other soldiers.

10 Early the next morning, Joshua gathered his soldiers together. Then he and the other Israelite leaders went in front of them to Ai. 11 They all set up their tents close to Ai, just to the north of the city, where all the people of the city could see them. There was a valley between them and the city of Ai. 12 Joshua chose about 5, 000 of his soldiers and told them to go and hide just west of Ai, between Ai and Bethel. 13 So that was how Joshua and the elders *prepared for the battle. They* stationed the main group of Israelite soldiers north of Ai and they stationed the other group on the west side of Ai. That night Joshua went down into the valley.

14 When the king of Ai saw *the Israelite army*, he and all his soldiers got up early *the next morning* and quickly went out of the city to fight them at a place where they had agreed to meet. That place was near the Jordan River valley. But the king of Ai did not know that some of the Israelite soldiers were hiding behind the city, ready to attack it. 15 Joshua and all the Israelite soldiers *who were with him* allowed the army of Ai to push them back. They retreated toward the

wilderness. 16 Then the king of Ai ordered all the men in
the city to chase after Joshua and his men. So they left the
city and pursued them. 17 All the men of Ai and also the
men from the city of Bethel pursued the Israelite army. They
did not leave a guard behind to defend their cities. They
even left the city *gates* wide open as they went to pursue the
soldiers of Israel.
18 Then Yahweh said to Joshua, "Lift up your curved
sword and point it toward Ai, because I am going to enable
your soldiers to capture it!" So Joshua pointed his curved
sword toward Ai. 19 When the Israelite men who were hiding
saw Joshua do that, they rushed out from the places where
they were hiding and ran into the city. They captured it and
quickly set it on fire.
20 When the men of Ai looked back, they saw smoke
rising from their city up to the sky. They could not escape in
any direction, because the Israelite soldiers stopped running
away towards the wilderness and turned back toward them.
21 Joshua and all the Israelite soldiers knew that the men
who had been hiding had captured the city and were burning
it because they saw the smoke rising. So they turned around
and began killing the men of Ai. 22 Meanwhile, the soldiers
who had captured the city came out and attacked them *from*
the rear. So the men of Ai were *caught* in the middle of the
two groups of Israelite soldiers. The Israelites fought against
the men of Ai until they killed them all. None of the men
of Ai escaped. 23 But the king of Ai was still alive. They
captured him and brought him to Joshua.
24 The Israelite soldiers killed all the men of Ai who had
come out into the fields that were in the open country
to pursue them. When they had killed every one of them,
then all the Israelite soldiers went back to Ai and killed
everyone who was there. 25 *The Israelites* killed 12, 000 men
and women that day. They killed everyone who lived in Ai.
26 Joshua continued to point his curved sword toward Ai
until the Israelites had killed all the people who lived in Ai.
27 The Israelite soldiers took for themselves the animals and
the other things that had belonged to the people of Ai, just
as Yahweh had told Joshua that they should do.
28 Joshua and his soldiers burned Ai and caused it to
become a pile of ruins that no one ever rebuilt. It is still
an abandoned place now. 29 Joshua hanged the king of Ai
on a tree. He left his corpse hanging there until evening. At
sunset, Joshua told his men to take the king's body down
from the tree and throw it on the ground at the entrance of
the city gate. *After they did that,* they piled a great mound of
rocks on top of the king's corpse. That pile of rocks is still
there now.
30 Then Joshua *instructed his men to* build on Ebal Mountain
an altar for Yahweh, the God whom the Israelites worship.
31 They built it just as Moses, Yahweh's servant, had written
previously in the book of instructions that Yahweh had given
to him. They made the altar from stones that no one had
cut. No one had done any work on these stones using iron
tools. The Israelites then offered on the altar sacrifices to
Yahweh that were burned completely, and they also made
fellowship sacrifices. 32 At that place, Joshua wrote on the
stones *of the altar* a copy of the instructions that Yahweh had
previously given to Moses. The Israelites watched Joshua do
this. 33 The leaders, officials, and judges of Israel and all the
other Israelites were standing on both sides of the sacred
chest. They were all standing facing the Levitical priests
who carried the sacred chest of Yahweh. Both native-born
Israelites and foreigners who were living among the Israelites
were there. Half of the people stood *on one side of the valley*
below Gerizim Mountain, and the other half of the people
stood *on the other side of the valley* below Ebal Mountain. The
sacred chest was *in the valley* between the two groups. This
is what Moses, Yahweh's servant, had previously instructed
them to do when he had given instructions for blessing the
people of Israel.
34 Then Joshua read *to the people* everything that Moses
had written. That included the things Yahweh had instructed
them to do and not to do. That also included Yahweh's
teachings and the ways that he said he would bless them
if they obeyed his commands or curse them *if they disobeyed*
his commands. 35 Joshua made sure to read every word that
Moses had commanded them. He read every word in front of
the entire assembly of Israelites. All the women and children
were there as well, and also the foreigners who were living
among the people of Israel.

9 All the kings on the west side of the Jordan River heard
about what the Israelites had done at Ai. These kings
lived in the hilly region, in the western foothills, and along
all the coast of the Great Sea as far as Lebanon. They were
the kings of the Hittites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the
Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. Once these kings
heard about what Israel had done to Ai, 2 they all agreed to
gather *their armies* together to fight against Joshua and the
Israelite army.
3 However, when the people who lived in the city of
Gibeon heard that Joshua's army had killed all the people
of Jericho and Ai, 4 they *decided to act differently toward*
the Israelites than the other kings had. The Gibeonites decided
to trick *the Israelites*. They sent some of their men to be
ambassadors *for their people*. These men gathered old packs
and old leather wine bags that people had mended after
they had cracked. Then they put these on the backs of their
donkeys. 5 They put on old sandals that people had patched,
and they wore old, ragged clothes. They took along bread
that was hard and had become crumbled. 6 They went to
where Joshua and the other Israelites had set up their tents
at Gilgal. They said to Joshua and the Israelite leaders, "We
have traveled from a land that is far away. We want you to
make a treaty with us."
7 The Israelite leaders said to these Hivite men, "You
might actually live close by us. If you do, we certainly
cannot make a treaty with you*, because if we did, then we*
would be disobeying Yahweh's command to dispossess all the
people-groups who live near us!"
8 But they replied to Joshua, "We are willing to become
your subjects."
But Joshua answered, "What people-group do you belong
to, and from what place did you come from?"
9 The men from Gibeon answered him, "We have come
here from a faraway country because Yahweh your God has
become famous. People have told us about all the *miraculous*
things he did *for you* in Egypt. 10 We have also heard that he
helped you defeat the two Amorite kings who were on the
east side of the Jordan River. These kings were Sihon, who
ruled in the city of Heshbon, and Og, who ruled in the city
of Ashtaroth in the region of Bashan. 11 So our leaders and
the rest of our people said to us, 'Take some food with you
and go to talk with the Israelites. Tell them, "We are willing
to become your subjects. So make a peace agreement with
us."' 12 When we left our homes to come to you, we packed
this bread fresh from the oven. But see how it is now dry

and has become hard and crumbled. 13 And *when we left our homes to come to you*, these leather wine bags were new. But look at them now! They are old and cracked. Our clothes have become ragged and our sandals have become worn because of our long journey here."

14 The Israelite leaders looked at the food that the men from Gibeon had brought with them *to see if it was old as they claimed*. But the Israelite leaders did not ask Yahweh what they should do. 15 Then Joshua agreed to make a treaty with the men from Gibeon. He promised that the Israelites would not kill the Gibeonites. The Israelite leaders made the same promise to the men from Gibeon.

16 A whole day went by after Joshua and the Israelite leaders made this treaty with the men from Gibeon. On the day after that, the Israelites learned that they actually lived close by them. 17 So they travelled to see where the Gibeonites lived. They left Gilgal on one day, traveled for another whole day, and on the day after that arrived at the city of Gibeon and the surrounding towns of Kephirah, Beeroth, and Kiriath Jearim. 18 But the Israelites still did not kill the Gibeonites *even after seeing that they lived nearby*. That was because their leaders had made a solemn vow by Yahweh their God promising them that they would not kill them.

All the people of Israel grumbled against their leaders *for making this treaty*. 19 But all the leaders replied, "We made a solemn vow by Yahweh our God promising them *that we would not kill them*. So now we may not kill them. 20 What we must do to the Gibeonites is let them live. If we kill them, God will be angry with us *and punish us* because we did not keep our promise to them." 21 Then the leaders announced this decision to all of the Israelites: "We must allow them to live." But they also told the Israelites that they could make the Gibeonites slaves who would cut wood and get water for all of them. So the Israelites obeyed the instructions of their leaders.

22 Joshua summoned the men from Gibeon and said to them, "Tell me why you lied to us by saying that you live very far from here, when in fact you actually live nearby! 23 Because you did that, Yahweh has cursed you. You will always be our slaves. We will make you cut wood and carry water for the place where we worship our God."

24 The Gibeonites answered, "We lied to you because we were very afraid that you would kill us. We had heard that your God Yahweh instructed his servant Moses to give you all this land and kill everyone who lives in it. 25 So now, you have control over us. Do to us what you think is the right thing to do."

26 So Joshua saved the lives of the Gibeonites and did not permit the army of Israel to kill them. 27 But from that day on, Joshua forced the Gibeonites to become the Israelites' slaves. They cut wood and carried water for the Israelites. They also cut wood and carried water for Yahweh's altar, at whatever place he was going to choose *for them to build it*. They still cut wood and carry water at this present time.

10 This is what happened next. Adoni Zedek was the king who ruled the city of Jerusalem. He heard that Joshua's army had captured the city of Ai and completely destroyed it, just as they had done to the city of Jericho and its king. He also heard that the people of the city of Gibeon had made a peace agreement with the Israelites and were living among them. 2 The people of Jerusalem and their king became very afraid, because the city of Gibeon was as large as the cities that had kings ruling them. It was larger than the city of Ai, and all its men were strong warriors. 3 So Adoni Zedek, the king of Jerusalem, sent messages to several other kings. He sent them to Hoham, who ruled the city of Hebron, to Piram, who ruled the city of Jarmuth, to Japhia, who ruled the city of Lachish, and to Debir, who ruled the city of Eglon. 4 Adoni Zedek told them, "Come and help me attack the city of Gibeon because its people have made a peace agreement with Joshua and the Israelites."

5 So these five kings of the Amorites joined their armies together. These were the kings of the cities of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish, and Eglon. These kings and their armies went up with all their soldiers and surrounded the city of Gibeon and started to attack it.

6 The men of Gibeon sent this message to Joshua at the camp at Gilgal: "Protect us, because we are your subjects. Come quickly and save us! Help us, because all the Amorite kings who live in the hill country have joined their armies together to attack us!"

7 So Joshua marched up from Gilgal with his entire army, including his best fighting men. 8 Yahweh told Joshua, "Do not be afraid of those armies. I will enable you to defeat them. None of them will be able to resist you."

9 Joshua and his army marched all night from Gilgal and surprised the enemy armies. 10 Yahweh caused the enemy armies to become confused when they saw the Israelites. The Israelites won a great victory at Gibeon. They chased their enemies along the road that goes up to Beth Horon. They continued to kill enemy soldiers all the way to the cities of Azekah and Makkedah. 11 As the enemies were running away from the Israelites down the road from Beth Horon, Yahweh threw large hailstones on them from the sky. These hailstones continued to fall on them all the way to the city of Azekah. The hailstones killed more of the enemy soldiers than the Israelites killed with their swords.

12 On that same day, when Yahweh was helping the Israelites defeat the Amorites, Joshua spoke to Yahweh. While the Israelites were watching, Joshua prayed, asking Yahweh to make the sun stay in place over the city of Gibeon and to make the moon stay in place over the Valley of Aijalon.

13 And the sun stayed in place, and the moon did not move, until the Israelites had defeated their enemies. There is an account of this in the Book of Jashar. The sun stopped moving, and it stayed in the middle of the sky and did not go down for about a whole day.

14 There has never been another day like that one, either before or after it, when Yahweh answered someone's prayer in such an amazing way. Yahweh was truly fighting for the Israelites.

15 Then Joshua and all of the Israelite soldiers returned to their camp at Gilgal.

16 During the battle, the five kings ran away and hid in a cave near the city of Makkedah. 17 But Joshua's soldiers discovered their hiding place and they told him that the five kings were hiding in a cave near Makkedah. 18 Joshua told his men, "Roll some large stones to block the entrance of the cave. Put some guards there to watch it." 19 Then Joshua said to all the other soldiers, "Do not stay here in the camp. Chase after your enemies and attack those who have been the slowest to escape. Do not let them reach their cities. Yahweh your God will enable you to defeat them."

20 So Joshua and his soldiers chased and killed the Amorite soldiers until they had destroyed them almost completely.

Only a few of them escaped to the safety of their cities, which had defensive walls. 21 Then the whole Israelite army returned to Joshua at the camp at Makkedah with no enemy soldiers pursuing them. No one in that region dared to say anything bad about any of the Israelites.

22 Then Joshua said, "Remove the stones from the entrance of the cave and bring those five kings to me." 23 So his soldiers brought out the five kings from the cave. They were the kings of the cities of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish, and Eglon. 24 When they brought these kings to Joshua, he called together the whole Israelite army. He said to the commanders who fought the battle with him, "Come here and put your feet on the necks of these kings." So they came and put their feet on the kings' necks *to show that they had completely defeated them and their armies*. 25 Then Joshua said to his commanders, "Yahweh will do the same thing to all the enemies whom you will fight. So you have no reason to be afraid of them. Fight very bravely!" 26 Then Joshua killed the five kings and hanged their bodies on five trees. He left their bodies hanging on the trees until evening. 27 At sunset, Joshua ordered his men to take the bodies down from the trees and throw them into the cave where the kings had hidden. They put large stones at the entrance of the cave. Those stones are still there today.

28 That same day, Joshua's army captured the city of Makkedah. They completely destroyed that city and its king. They also completely destroyed all of the people and animals in the city. They made sure no one survived. This is just what they had done to the city of Jericho.

29 Then Joshua led the whole Israelite army from Makkedah to the city of Libnah and they attacked it. 30 Yahweh also helped the Israelites conquer this city and its king. The Israelite soldiers killed everyone in the city. They made sure no one survived. They treated the king of Libnah the same way they had treated the king of Jericho.

31 Next, Joshua led the whole Israelite army from Libnah to the city of Lachish. They set up their camp near the city and began their attack. 32 After one day of fighting, Yahweh helped the Israelites conquer Lachish. They killed everyone in the city, just as they had done to Libnah. 33 During this time, King Horam of the city of Gezer brought his army to help Lachish. But Joshua's army defeated them and killed them all.

34 Then Joshua led the whole Israelite army from Lachish to the city of Eglon. They set up their camp near the city and began their attack. 35 They captured Eglon that same day. They killed everyone in the city. They destroyed all the people, just as they had done in Lachish.

36 After this, Joshua led the whole Israelite army up from Eglon to the city of Hebron, and they attacked it. 37 They captured the city and all the nearby towns. They killed everyone, including the king. They made sure no one survived, just as they had done in Eglon.

38 Then Joshua and the whole Israelite army turned back and went to the city of Debir and attacked it. 39 They captured the city, its king, and all the nearby towns. They killed everyone. They made sure that. No person who lived in that area survived. They did the same things to Debir and its king that they had done to the cities of Hebron and Libnah and their kings.

40 This is how Joshua conquered the whole region. He defeated all the kings and their people in the hill country, the southern desert, the western foothills, and the eastern slopes. He killed everyone in these places, as Yahweh, the God of Israel, had commanded. 41 Joshua's army defeated all the people living in the area from Kadesh Barnea to the city of Gaza, including the region of Goshen all the way to the city of Gibeon. 42 Joshua defeated all these kings and took control of their territories in a single campaign. He was able to do that because Yahweh, the God of Israel, was fighting for his people.

43 After this, Joshua and the whole Israelite army returned to their camp at Gilgal.

11 When King Jabin of the city of Hazor learned what had happened, he sent messages to several other kings. He sent them to King Jobab of the city of Madon, to the king of the city of Shimron, and to the king of the city of Achshaph. 2 He also sent messages to the kings who ruled in the northern hill country and to the kings in the Jordan River Valley, south of the lake of Chinnereth; the kings in the low country, and the kings in the western foothills near the city of Dor. 3 He sent messages to the Canaanite peoples who lived on both the eastern and western sides of the Jordan River. He also sent them to the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, and Jebusites who lived in the hill country, and to the Hivites who lived near Mount Hermon in the region of Mizpah. 4 All these kings gathered their armies together to fight. Their soldiers were as numerous as the grains of sand on the seashore. They also brought a great number of horses and chariots with them. 5 All these kings joined their forces and set up their camp together near the lake of Merom, preparing to fight against the Israelites.

6 Then Yahweh said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid of these armies, because at about this time tomorrow, I will help you defeat all of them. When you attack them, you must cripple their horses and burn their chariots."

7 So Joshua and his whole army traveled to the lake of Merom and made a surprise attack against their enemies. 8 Yahweh helped the Israelites defeat them. The Israelite army pursued them all the way to the great city of Sidon in the north, to Misrephoth Maim, and to the Valley of Mizpah in the east. The Israelites kept fighting until they had killed all their enemies. 9 Then Joshua did exactly what Yahweh had told him to do. He crippled their horses and burned their chariots.

10 After that, Joshua went back and captured the city of Hazor. He killed its king. Hazor was the main city that ruled all the kingdoms that had fought against Israel. 11 The Israelite army killed everyone in the city. They made sure that no person survived. Then they burned the city.

12 Joshua's army captured all these cities and killed all their kings. They destroyed everything that was in the cities. They did exactly what Moses, Yahweh's servant, had commanded them to do. 13 The Israelites did not burn any of the cities that people had built on hills*, because they wanted to live in them*. But Joshua did burn the city of Hazor, even though it was on a hill. 14 The Israelites took for themselves all the valuable things and all the livestock from these cities. But they killed all the people. They did not let any of the people live. 15 Moses had passed on to Joshua everything that Yahweh had told him to do. And Joshua carried out all of these commands completely. He did exactly what Yahweh had ordered Moses to do.

16 Joshua and his army took control of all these regions: the hill country, the southern desert, the whole region around Goshen, the western foothills, the Jordan River Valley, and the mountains of Israel with their foothills. 17 They conquered

all the land from Mount Halak which rises toward Seir and
even as far as the town of Baal Gad in the Valley of Lebanon
below Mount Hermon. Joshua captured and killed all the
kings of these areas. 18 Joshua and his army spent many years
fighting against all these kings. 19 Only the people of the city
of Gibeon, who were Hivites, agreed to become subjects of
the Israelites. The Israelite army had to capture all the other
cities by fighting. 20 Yahweh led the people in all these cities
to want to fight against Israel so that the Israelites would
destroy them completely without showing any mercy. This
is what Yahweh had commanded Moses to do.
21 During that time, Joshua's army went through all the
hill country and killed all the descendants of Anak who lived
there. They killed them in the cities of Hebron, Debir, and
Anab and in every other place in the hills where the tribes
of Judah and Israel lived. Joshua's army destroyed all these
people and their cities. 22 No descendants of Anak remained
alive in the land of Israel. The only ones who survived lived in
the cities of Gaza, Gath, and Ashdod. 23 Joshua took control
of all the land, just as Yahweh had told Moses to do. Then
Joshua gave the land to the Israelites. He assigned each tribe
a part of the land that would belong to them. After this,
none of the people groups who had been living in the land
fought against the Israelites again.

12 While the Israelites were still on the east side of
the Jordan River, they defeated the kings who ruled
there, and they took their land. This land extended from
the Arnon River gorge in the south to Mount Hermon in the
north. It included all of the plain on the eastern side of the
Jordan.
2 *One king they defeated was* Sihon, the king of the Amorites.
He lived in the city of Heshbon. He ruled the area *south of
Heshbon* as far as the middle of the Arnon River gorge. So
his land included the city of Aroer on the edge of that gorge.
Sihon ruled the area *north of Heshbon* to the Jabbok River.
That river was the boundary between his land and the land
of the Ammonites. Sihon also ruled over half of the region
of Gilead. 3 Sihon also ruled over the land on the eastern
plain along the Jordan, from the Sea of Chinnereth south to
the Sea of Salt. He also ruled over the land east of the Sea
of Salt from Beth Jeshimoth south to Mount Pisgah.
4 The other king whom the Israelite army defeated was Og,
the king of the region of Bashan. He was the last of the
descendants of the giant Raphaites. He lived in the cities of
Ashtaroth and Edrei. 5 He ruled over the area from Mount
Hermon and Salekah in the north, and over all Bashan in the
east, and to the borders of the Geshurites and Maacathites
to the west. Og ruled over half of the region of Gilead, as far
as the border of the land ruled by Sihon, king of Heshbon.
6 Moses, Yahweh's servant, and the whole Israelite army
had defeated the armies of those kings. Then Moses gave
their land to the tribes of Reuben and Gad and the half tribe
of Manasseh.
7 Joshua and the Israelite army also defeated kings who
ruled over the land on the west side of the Jordan River.
That land was between Baal Gad in the valley near Lebanon
to Mount Halak, which goes up to Seir. Joshua gave land
to the tribes of Israel for them to possess, 8 This land
included the hill country, the lowlands, the plain along the
Jordan, the mountainsides, in the desert, and in the southern
Judean wilderness. It had belonged to the Hittites, Amorites,
Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and the Jebusites. 9 The kings
that the Israelites conquered were those of the following
cities: Jericho, Ai (which was near Bethel), 10 Jerusalem,
Hebron, 11 Jarmuth, Lachish, 12 Eglon, Gezer, 13 Debir, Geder,
14 Hormah, Arad, 15 Libnah, Adullam, 16 Makkedah, Bethel,
17 Tappuah, Hepher, 18 Aphek, Lasharon, 19 Madon, Hazor,
20 Shimron Meron, Akshaph, 21 Taanach, Megiddo, 22 Kedesh,
Jokneam in the Carmel area, 23 Dor in the Naphoth Dor area,
Goiim in the region of Gilgal, 24 and Tirzah.
There was a total of thirty-one kings that the Israelite army
defeated.

13 When Joshua was very old, Yahweh said to him,
"Joshua, you are now an old man, but there is still
a lot of land for your army to capture. 2 Here is a list of the
lands you must still capture: The Geshur region and all the
area where the Philistines live. 3 Those go as far south as
Shihor, the brook that forms a boundary with Egypt. They
go as far north as the city of Ekron. Conquer this land as
you have conquered the Canaanite lands. Capture the cities
that the five rulers of the Philistines govern: Gaza, Ashdod,
Ashkelon, Gath, and Ekron. Next, also conquer the land of the
Avvites, 4 who live south of the Philistines and Geshurites.
Next, you must also capture the rest of the regions where
the Canaanites live. They extend from Arah, which belongs
to the Sidonians, to Aphek, near the boundary with the
Amorites. 5 Also conquer the land where the Gebalites live
and all of Lebanon east of there, from the city of Baal Gad
near Mount Hermon to Lebo Hamath.
6 I will force the people to leave who live in the hill
country from Lebanon to Misrephoth Maim, including all
the people of the city of Sidon. That way you will be able
to live there instead. Your job will be to give that area to
the Israelite people when you divide the land among them.
That is what I have ordered you to do. 7 Divide all that land
among the nine tribes and the half tribe of Manasseh so that
it will always belong to them."
8 Moses had already assigned the rest of the tribe of Manasseh
land where it could live. Moses, Yahweh's servant, had also
already assigned land to the tribes of Reuben and Gad on the
east side of the Jordan River. 9 Their lands went as far south
as Aroer, which is on the edge of the Arnon River valley.
They included the city that is located in the middle of the
valley. They also included the whole plateau of Medeba, all
the way to the city of Dibon. 10 These lands also included
the cities that Sihon king of the Amorites had ruled. He
had reigned in Heshbon. These lands went all the way to
the border of the Ammonites. 11 They included Gilead and
the region of the Geshurites and Maacathites, including all
of Mount Hermon. They also included all of the region of
Bashan as far as the city of Salekah. 12 They also included
the whole kingdom of Og within the region of Bashan. He
had reigned in the cities of Ashtaroth and Edrei. (Og was the
last living descendant of the Rapahites.) Moses had attacked
the people who had lived in all of these places, and he forced
them to leave. 13 However, the Israelites did not force the
Geshurites and Maacathites to leave. Instead, these people
live with the Israelites even at the present time.
14 But Moses did not give the Levites any assignment
of land. They were the only tribe that received no land.
Yahweh, the God of Israel, told them that the burnt offerings he
received*, which provided their food,* would be their possession.
15 This is the land that Moses assigned to all of the clans
of the tribe of Reuben: 16 It went as far south as the city
of Aroer on the edge of the Arnon River valley. It included
the city that is in the middle of the valley. It also included

the region of the plateau near Medeba. 17 It also included
Heshbon and all the cities that were in the plateau. These
cities were Dibon, Bamoth Baal, Beth Baal Meon, 18 Jahaz,
Kedemoth, Mephaath, 19 Kiriathaim, Sibmah, and Zereth
Shahar, which stands on a hill within the valley. 20 Their
territory also included Beth Peor, the slopes of Mount Pisgah,
Beth Jeshimoth, 21 and all the cities situated along the plateau,
and the whole kingdom of Sihon, king of the Amorites. He
formerly reigned in the city of Heshbon. Moses defeated
Sihon, and he also defeated the leaders of Midian. Their
names were Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur and Reba. The Midianites
lived within Sihon's kingdom, and these leaders served him
as vassals. 22 When the Israelites used their swords to kill
many of their enemies, they also killed Balaam son of Beor.
He was a man who tried to use magic to tell the future.
23 The border of the people of the tribe of Reuben was the
Jordan River. This was the land that Moses gave to the clans
of the tribe of Reuben. They lived in the cities and villages
there.

24 Moses also gave land to the tribe of Gad. He gave each
of the clans of the Gadites the land they would need to live
on. 25 They lived near Jazer and in all the cities of Gilead.
Their land included half of the land where the Ammonites
had once lived *before King Sihon took it from them.* Their land
went all the way to Aroer, which is a city east of Rabbah.
26 Their land extended from Heshbon to Ramath Mizpah
and Betonim, all the way to Mahanaim and to the region of
Debir. 27 Their land was also in the valley. It included the
cities of Beth Haram, Beth Nimrah, Succoth, and Zaphon.
This was the rest of the kingdom of Sihon, who had ruled
from the city of Heshbon. His kingdom had bordered on the
Jordan River and extended to the lower end of the Sea of
Chinnereth, eastward beyond the Jordan River. 28 This is the
land that Moses assigned to the clans of the tribe of Gad.
They lived in the cities and villages there.

29 Moses also gave land *on the east side of the Jordan River*
to half of the tribe of Manasseh. Moses gave each clan of this
half-tribe the land it would need to live on. 30 Their territory
went as far as Mahanaim. It included the whole region of
Bashan, the whole former kingdom of Og king of Bashan,
and all the towns of Jair, which are in Bashan. There are
sixty cities in that region. 31 Their land also included half of
the region of Gilead, as well as the cities of Ashtaroth and
Edrei. (People sometimes call those the royal cities of Og
in Bashan). Moses gave these lands to the descendants of
Machir son of Manasseh. The clans of about half of Machir's
descendants lived there.

32 These were the lands that Moses distributed to those
Israelites on the plains of Moab, on the other side of the
Jordan River, just east of Jericho. 33 But Moses gave no land
to the tribe of Levi. Yahweh, the God of Israel, promised
them that he would be their inheritance.

14 Here is a description of the areas where the Israelites
settled in the land of Canaan. Eleazar the high priest,
Joshua, and the family leaders of the Israelite tribes divided
the land among them. 2 They decided what land to give to
each of the remaining nine and one-half tribes by casting
lots. Yahweh had told Moses to tell them to do it that way,
and so they did. 3–4 Moses had given land as a permanent
possession to two and a half tribes before Israel crossed
over the Jordan River. Moses did not give any land to the
tribe of Levi. (Rather than give them part of the land, Moses
gave them cities to live in. He also gave them pastureland
around those cities for their livestock so they could sustain
their families.) Even so, there were nine and a half of the
twelve Israelite tribes that still needed land, because the
descendants of Joseph had become two tribes, Manasseh
and Ephraim. 5 The people of Israel did just what Yahweh
commanded Moses. They gave out portions of the land as
permanent possessions.

6 Some men from the tribe of Judah went to Joshua while
he and all the Israelites were at Gilgal. Among those men
was Jephunneh's son Caleb. He said to Joshua, "I am sure
that you remember what Yahweh said to the prophet Moses
concerning you and me when we were at Kadesh Barnea. 7 I
was 40 years old at that time. Moses sent me from Kadesh
Barnea with you and some other men to explore this land.
When we returned, I gave to Moses an accurate report about
what we had seen. 8 The other Israelites who went with
us gave a report that caused the people to be afraid. But
I did everything that Yahweh my God wanted me to do. *I*
encouraged the people to conquer the land. 9 That day Moses
promised me, 'The land that you walked on will become
yours as your permanent possession. It will always belong
to you and your descendants. I promise that it will be yours
because you did everything that Yahweh, my God, wanted
you to do.'

10 Now Yahweh has done for me what he promised he
would do. It has been 45 years since Moses made that promise
to me during the time when we Israelites were still in the
wilderness. But just as Yahweh promised, he has kept me
alive and well all during that time. Look at me! I am now
85 years old. 11 But I am still as strong today as I was on the
day that Moses sent me to explore this land. I have the same
strength now that I had as a young man. I can still fight wars
as a soldier or as a commander. 12 So please give me the hill
country that Yahweh promised to give to me on that day
long ago. At that time, you heard me say that the Anakim
lived there. You heard me say that their cities were large
and that they had walls around them to protect them. *And*
that is still true today. But I hope that Yahweh will help me to
force the people there to leave, just as Yahweh promised."

13 Then Joshua asked God to bless Caleb the son of
Jephunneh. Joshua gave Caleb the city of Hebron as his
possession. 14 In this way, Hebron became the permanent
possession and the home of Caleb son of Jephunneh the
Kenizzite. To this day his descendants live there because
Caleb did everything that Yahweh, the God of Israel, wanted
him to do. 15 (Now people used to call Hebron Kiriath Arba.
Arba had been a very famous Anakite.) No enemies were
attacking the Israelites at this time*, so they were able to divide*
up the land peacefully.

15 The Israelite leaders assigned land by lot to the
clans of the tribe of Judah. In the south, their land
extended to the wilderness of Zin at the border of Edom.

2 Their southern border started at the bay
of the Sea of Salt that turns toward the south.
3 From there, the border of the territory of Judah
went southward and up the hill of Akrabbim. It
continued along to Zin, and then it went up once
more south of Kadesh Barnea, beside Hezron.
It went up to Addar and then bent around to
Karka. 4 From there it continued past Azmon,
and from there it ran beside the brook of Egypt.
From there, it turned west to the Great Sea. That
was the southern border of the territory of the

tribe of Judah. 5 Its eastern border was the Sea of
Salt, up to where the Jordan River flows into it.
Its northern border began at the bay of the Sea of
Salt near where the Jordan River flows in. 6 The
northern border continued from that point and
went to Beth Hoglah. From there it went to the
north of Beth Arabah until it reached the great
stone that Bohan son of Reuben set up. 7 From
that point, the border went through the Valley
of Achor to Debir. From there it turned north
again to go to Gilgal. Gilgal is north of the road
that goes over the hill of Adummim, on the south
side of the river valley. From Gilgal, the border
extended west to the springs at En Shemesh
until it reached En Rogel. 8 From that point, the
border went along the south slope of the hill
of the city of Jerusalem, where the Jebusites
live. The boundary went to the top of the hill
on the west side of the Valley of Hinnom, at the
northern end of the Valley of Rephaim. 9 From
there, the border extended northwest to the top
of the hills leading to the spring of Nephtoah.
From there, it went to the cities near Mount
Ephron. From there, the border extended west
toward Baalah. (People now call that city Kiriath
Jearim.) 10 Then the border continued west past
Baalah to Mount Seir. Then it went southwest
along the north side of Mount Jearim. (People
also call that Mount Chesalon.) The border then
went down to Beth Shemesh, and from there
it passed by Timnah. 11 The border continued
northwest to the hill north of Ekron. From there,
it extended west to Shikkeron and past Mount
Baalah. It went on to Jabneel and then northwest
to the Great Sea.

12 The western border of the territory of the
tribe of Judah was the Great Sea. All the clans
of Judah lived inside those borders.

13 Yahweh commanded Joshua to give part of the land of the tribe of Judah to Caleb. So Joshua gave Caleb a city that people called Kiriath Arba. They named it after Arba, the ancestor of the Anakites. But people now call that city Hebron. 14 Caleb forced the three clans of the Anak people group to leave Hebron. Those were the Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmai clans. 15 Then Caleb left there and went to fight against the people who were living in Debir. (People used to call that city Kiriath Sepher). 16 Caleb said, “I need someone to lead the attack against Kiriath Sepher and conquer that city. I will allow the man who does that to marry my daughter Aksah.” 17 Caleb had a younger brother whose name was Kenaz. Kenaz had a son whose name was Othniel. Othniel commanded the soldiers who captured the city of Kiriath Sepher. So Caleb allowed Othniel to marry his daughter Achsah.

18 Aksah came *to Kiriath Sepher* to marry Othniel. When she got there, she convinced Othniel to let her ask her father for some land they could farm. She *went to see her father and respectfully* got off the donkey she was riding. Caleb asked her, “What would you like me to do for you?”

19 She replied, “Please do a favor for me. You have given *my husband and* me some land in an area where it is very dry. So please also give us some land that has springs on it.” So Caleb gave her some land on higher ground that had a spring and some land on lower ground that had a spring.

20 Here is a list of the towns in the land that belonged to the clans of the tribe of Judah.

21 The following cities that belonged to the tribe of Judah were in the southern wilderness, near the border of the region of Edom:

Kabzeel, Eder, Jagur, 22 Kinah, Dimonah,
Adadah, 23 Kedesh, Hazor, Ithnan, 24 Ziph, Telem,
and Bealoth, 25 Hazor Hadattah, Kerioth Hezron
(people also call that city Hazor), 26 Amam,
Shema, Molodah, 27 Hazar Gaddah, Heshmon,
Beth Pelet, 28 Hazar Shual, Beersheba, Biziothiah,
29 Baalah, Iyim, Ezem, 30 Eltolad, Kesil, Hormah,
31 Ziklag, Madmannah, Sansannah, 32 Lebaoth,
Shilhim, Ain, and Rimmon. There were these
29 cities in the southern part of the territory of
Judah. The people of Judah lived in them and
in their surrounding villages,

33 The following cities were in the northern part of the western foothills within the territory of Judah: Eshtaol, Zorah, Ashnah,

34 Zanoah, En Gannim, Tappuah, Enam,
35 Jarmuth, Adullam, Sokoh, Azekah,
36 Shaaraim, Adithaim, and Gederah. (People
also call that city Gederothaim). These were
the 14 cities in that area. The people of Judah
lived in them and in their surrounding villages.

37 The following cities were in the southern
part of the western foothills within the territory
of Judah: Zenan, Hadashah, Migdal Gad,
38 Dilean, Mizpah, Joktheel, 39 Lachish, Bozkath,
Eglon, 40 Kabbon, Lahmas, Kitlish, 41 Gederoth,
Bethdagon, Naamah, and Makkedah.

These were the 16 cities in that area. The
people of Judah lived in them and in their
surrounding villages.

42 The following cities were in the central part
of the western foothills within the territory of
Judah: Libnah, Ether, Ashan, 43 Iphtah, Ashnah,
Nezib, 44 Keilah, Aczib, and Mareshah. These
were the nine cities in that area. The people of
Judah lived in them and in their surrounding
villages.

45 Judah’s territory also included the city of
Ekron and its surrounding towns and villages.
46 From Ekron to the Great Sea, Judah’s territory
also included all the settlements near the city
of Ashdod, including their villages.

47 Judah’s territory also included the city of Ashdod itself. And its surrounding towns and villages. It also included the city of Gaza and its surrounding towns and villages. It included all of the land down to the brook of Egypt and to the Great Sea. The border followed the coastline.

48 The following cities were in the
southwestern part of the hill country within
the territory of Judah: Shamir, Jattir, Sokoh,
49 Dannah, Kiriath Sannah (people also call that
city Debir), 50 Anab, Eshtemoh, Anim, 51 Goshen,
Holon, and Giloh. These were the 11 cities in
that area. The people of Judah lived in them
and in their surrounding villages.

52 The following cities were in the south
central part of the hill country within the territory
of Judah: Arab, Dumah, Eshan, 53 Janim, Beth
Tappuah, Aphekah, 54 Humtah, Kiriath Arba

(now called Hebron), and Zior. These were the nine cities in that area. The people of Judah lived in them and in their surrounding villages.
55 The following cities were in the southeastern part of the hill country within the territory of Judah: Maon, Carmel, Ziph, Juttah,
56 Jezreel, Jokdeam, Zanoah, 57 Kain, Gibeah, and Timnah. These were the ten cities in that area. The people of Judah lived in them and in their surrounding villages.
58 The following cities were in the central part of the hill country within the territory of Judah: Halhul, Beth Zur, Gedor, 59 Maarath, Beth Anoth, and Eltekon. These were the six cities in that area. The people of Judah lived in them and in their surrounding villages.
60 The following two cities and their villages were in the northern part of the hill country within the territory of Judah: Rabbah and Kiriath Baal. (People also call that city Kiriath Jearim).
61 The following cities were in the desert near the Sea of Salt within the territory of Judah: Beth Arabah, Middin, Secacah, 62 Nibshan, the City of Salt, and En Gedi. These were the six cities in that area. The people of Judah lived in them and in their surrounding villages.
63 However, the army of the tribe of Judah was not able to force the Jebusites who were living Jerusalem to leave. So the Jebusites are still living among the people of Judah in Jerusalem today.

16 The Israelite leaders assigned land to the two tribes that were descendants of Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh. The southern border of this land started at the city of Jericho by the Jordan River. It went through the springs east of Jericho and up into the desolate area in the hill country around the city of Bethel. 2 From Bethel it went to the city of Luz and then to the city of Ataroth. That city was in the territory where the Arkite people group lived. 3 From there it extended west to the edge of the land where the Japhletite people group lived. It then went farther west to the area near the city of Lower Beth Horon. From there it continued west to the city of Gezer and from there to the Great Sea. 4 That was the territory that the descendants of Joseph, the tribes of Manasseh and Ephraim, received as their permanent possession. 5 The border of the land that the leaders assigned to the clans of the tribe of Ephraim started at the town of Ataroth Addar. From there, it went west to Upper Beth Horon. 6 From there it headed west and went north of the town of Mikmethath. Then it turned eastward toward the town of Taanath Shiloh and went east of the town of Janoah. 7 Then it continued from Janoah to the towns of Ataroth and Naarah. From there it went to the city of Jericho, and it ended at the Jordan River. 8 The northern border extended west from the town of Tappuah to the valley of Kanah and from there to the Great Sea. This was the land that the Israelite leaders assigned to all the clans of the tribe of Ephraim. 9 The leaders assigned some cities and their dependent villages to the people of Ephraim that were actually within the territory of the tribe of Manasseh. Those cities were part of their total territory.
10 The people of the tribe of Ephraim could not force the Canaanites who were living in Gezer to leave. So those Canaanites still live there. However, the people of Ephraim did force them to become their slaves.

17 This is a description of the land that the Israelite leaders gave to the tribe of Manasseh, the descendants of the oldest son of Joseph. Manasseh's oldest son was Machir, and his grandson was Gilead. Their descendants were great soldiers, so Moses gave them land that they conquered in the regions of Gilead and Bashan. 2 The Israelite leaders gave land on the west side of the Jordan River to the other clans that were descendants of Manasseh. The were the clans of Abiezer, Helek, Asriel, Shechem, Hepher, and Shemida. Manasseh was a son of Joseph, and those were the names of his male descendants.
3 There was a man whose name was Zelophehad. His father was Hepher, his grandfather was Gilead, his great-grandfather was Machir, and his great-great-grandfather was Manasseh. Zelphehad had no sons. He only had daughters. Their names were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milkah, and Tirzah. 4 These women went to speak with Eleazar the high priest, to Joshua, and to the other Israelite leaders. They told them, "We want you to give us some land just as you have given to the men in our tribe. Yahweh told Moses that he should give to us some land." So Eleazar did what Yahweh had commanded. He gave some land to the daughters of Zelophehad, just as he had done for their uncles. 5 So the tribe of Manasseh eventually had ten sections of land west of the Jordan River and two sections on the east side of the Jordan River in Gilead and Bashan. 6 That was because the Israelite leaders gave land on the west side of the Jordan River to these female descendants of Manasseh, just as they had given to his male descendants The leaders had also given land in the region of Gilead to other descendants of Manasseh.
7 The land that the leaders gave to the tribe of Manasseh was between the land where the tribe of Asher lives and the town of Mikmethath, which is near the city of Shechem. The border of this land extended south to the spring of Tappuah.
8 The land near the city of Tappuah belonged to the tribe of Manasseh. But Tappuah itself was on the border with the tribe of Ephraim, and in fact it belonged to the Ephraimites. 9 The border extended south to the brook of Kanah. All the cities south of that stream belonged to the tribe of Ephraim. The border of Manasseh was on the north side of the brook of Kanah. It extended to the Great Sea. 10 The land to the south belonged to the tribe of Ephraim, and the land to the north belonged to the tribe of Manasseh. The Great Sea was Manasseh's border. The tribe of Asher was on the north side of the boundary, while the tribe of Issachar was to the east.
11 But there were cities inside the territory of the tribes of Issachar and Asher that belonged to people from the tribe of Manasseh. So did the towns around these cities. These cities were Beth Shan, Ibleam, Dor, Endor, Taanach, and Megiddo. Those last three cities are in the hilly area around the city of Dor.
12 The men of the tribe of Manasseh were not able to force the people who lived in those cities to leave. The Canaanite people resisted them and continued to live in their land.
13 When the people of Israel became strong enough, they

forced those Canaanites to work for them as slaves. But they were not able to take their land away from them.

14 Some representatives of the descendants of Joseph (that is, of the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh) came to speak with Joshua. They told him, "Yahweh has blessed us by giving us many children. So you should have given us more than one small portion of land to live on."

15 Joshua replied to them, "As you say, there is probably not enough room for you in the hill country we have assigned you. But since you do have a lot of people, you can also occupy the land where the Perizzites and the Raphaites now live. You can go up to that forest area and cut down trees to clear fields where you can plant your crops."

16 The representatives of the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh answered, "The hill country is not big enough for us. But we cannot spread out into the plain because of the Canaanites who live there. The Canaanites in Beth Shan and the surrounding towns have chariots that have iron parts."

17 Joshua replied further to these representatives of the descendants of Joseph, that is, of the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh. He told them, "Your people are indeed very numerous and very powerful. So I will give you some more land. 18 The hill country will also belong to you. You will have to cut down the trees in order to clear fields where you can plant crops. But all of that land will belong to you. I also believe that you will be able to force the Canaanites to leave the plain so you can live there. You will be able to do that even though they are strong and have chariots that have iron parts."

18 Since no people groups were fighting against the Israelites any longer, they were able to meet together. They gathered at the city of Shiloh, and there they set up the tent where they worshiped Yahweh. 2 Now seven of the Israelite tribes had not yet occupied any land. 3 Joshua said to the people of those seven tribes, "Yahweh, the God whom your ancestors worshiped, has promised to give to you land. So you should not delay going into that land and occupying it.

4 Choose three men from each of your seven tribes. I will send them out to explore the parts of the land that no tribe has occupied yet. They are to write a description of seven different regions that will become the territories of your seven tribes. Then they are to bring the description back to me. 5 They will divide the remaining land into seven parts. The tribe of Judah will keep its land in the south, and the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh will keep their land in the north. 6 But in their report, the men from the seven tribes should describe how we can divide the remaining land into seven parts. They will bring the report to me. Then, while Yahweh our God is watching, I will cast lots to decide which part should be assigned to each tribe. 7 But I will not assign any land to the tribe of Levi. Instead, their reward is to be Yahweh's priests. And the tribes of Gad and Reuben and half of the tribe of Manasseh have already received land on the east side of the Jordan River. Moses, Yahweh's servant, gave it to them."

8 When the men the tribes had chosen got ready to leave, Joshua told them, "Go and explore the land. Then write a report of what you have seen and bring it back to me. Then, while Yahweh is watching, I will cast lots here at Shiloh to determine what area each tribe will receive." 9 So the men left and walked through the land that no tribe had yet occupied. Then they described in a scroll each of the seven parts into which they would divide the land. They listed the cities in each part of the land. Then they returned to Joshua, who was still at Shiloh. 10 *Joshua read their report. Then,* while Yahweh was watching, he cast lots at Shiloh to decide which parts of the land would belong to each of the seven Israelite tribes.

11 The lot selected the clans of the tribe of Benjamin to receive the first part of the land. This part was between the territory of the tribe of Judah and the territory of the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh.

12 Its northern border started at the Jordan River and extended west, along the northern side of Jericho, into the hill country. From there the border extended farther west to the wilderness near Beth Aven. 13 From there it extended to Luz and went south of that city. (People now call that city Bethel). From there it went down to Ataroth Addar, which is on the hill south of Lower Beth Horon.

14 Then, from the hill opposite the south side of the city of Beth Horon, the western side of the border turned and extended south to Kiriath Baal. (People now call that town Kiriath Jearim. People from the tribe of Judah live there.) That was the western border.

15 The southern border of their land started near Kiriath Jearim and extended west to the springs of Nephtoah. 16 From there, it extended down to the bottom of the hill near the Valley of Ben Hinnom, on the north side of the Valley of the Raphaites. The border then extended down along the Hinnom Valley, south of the city where the Jebusites lived, to En Rogel. 17 From there the border went north to En Shemesh and continued to Geliloth near the hill of Adummim. Then it extended to the big stone that Reuben's son Bohan set up. 18 From there the border extended to the northern edge of Beth Arabah and down into the plain along the Jordan. 19 From there, it extended east to the northern edge of Beth Hoglah and ended at the north end of the Sea of Salt, where the Jordan River flows into that sea. That was the boundary on the south.

20 The Jordan River was the eastern boundary. These were the borders all round the territory of the clans of the tribe of Benjamin.

21 In the eastern part of their territory, the clans of the tribe of Benjamin lived in these cities: Jericho, Beth Hoglah, Emek Keziz, 22 Beth Arabah, Zemaraim, Bethel, 23 Avvim, Parah, Ophrah, 24 Kephar Ammoni, Ophni, and Geba. The people of Benjamin lived in these 12 cities and their villages.

25 In the western part of their territory, the people of Benjamin lived in these cities: Gibeon, Ramah, Beeroth, 26 Mizpah, Kephirah, Mozah, 27 Rekem, Irpeel, Taralah, 28 Zelah, Haeleph, Jebus (the city where the Jebusites lived, which people now call Jerusalem), Gibeah, and Kiriath. The people of Benjamin lived in these 14 cities and their villages. The clans of the tribe of Benjamin received this land and these cities as a permanent possession.

19 Then Joshua threw the lot again, and this time it selected the clans of the tribe of Simeon to receive

the second part of the land. The land Joshua gave them was in the middle of Judah's territory.

2 Simeon's territory included the following cities: Beer Sheba, Sheba, Moladah, 3 Hazar Shual, Balah, Ezem, 4 Eltolad, Bethul, and Hormah. 5 Simeon's land also included the cities of Ziklag, Beth Markaboth. Hazarsusah, 6 Beth Lebaoth, and Sharuhen. There were 13 cities, together with their surrounding villages.

7 The land that Joshua assigned to the tribe of Simeon also included the four cities of Ain, Rimmon, Ether, and Ashan and their surrounding villages. 8 It also included some villages in an area that extended south to Baalath Beer. (People also call that city Ramah of the Negeb.) This was the land that Joshua assigned to the clans of the tribe of Simeon.

9 The leaders of Israel had assigned more land to the tribe of Judah than it needed, so they gave part of that land to the tribe of Simeon.

10 Then Joshua threw the lot again, and this time it selected the clans of the tribe of Zebulun to receive the third part of the land.

Its southern border started at Sarid. 11 It extended west to Maralah and on to Dabbesheth, and then it extended to the brook in front of the city of Jokneam. 12 The border turned to the east from Sarid and went to the area near Chisloth Tabor. Then it went on to Daberath and farther on to Japhia. 13 From there, it extended east to Gath Hepher and Eth Kazin and north to Rimmon. From there, the border turned toward Neah. 14 From Neah, the border extended south to Hannathon, and from there it went to the Valley of Iphtah El. 15 Zebulun's territory included the cities of Kattath, Nahalal, Shimron, Idalah, and Bethlehem. Altogether there were 12 cities, together with their surrounding villages.

16 That was the land that Joshua allotted to the clans of the tribe of Zebulun, including the cities and their surrounding villages.

17 Then Joshua threw the lot again, and this time it selected the clans of the tribe of Issachar to receive the fourth part of the land. 18 Their land included the cities of Jezreel, Kesulloth, Shunem, 19 Hapharaim, Shion, and Anaharath. 20 Issachar's land also included the cities of Rabbith, Kishion, Ebez, 21 Remeth, En Gannim, En Haddah, and Beth Pazzez. 22 The border of Issachar's territory was close to the cities of Tabor, Shahazumah, and Beth Shemesh. It ended in the east at the Jordan River. Altogether there were 16 cities, together with their surrounding villages.

23 Those were the cities and surrounding villages in the land that Joshua assigned to the clans of the tribe of Issachar.

24 Then Joshua threw the lot again, and this time it selected the clans of the tribe of Asher to receive the fifth part of the land.

25 Their land included the cities of Helkath, Hali, Beten, Akshaph, 26 Allammelek, Amad, and Mishal. The western border started at Mount Carmel and Shihor Libnath. 27 From there it extended southeast to the city of Beth Dagon until it reached the territory of tribe of Zebulun at the Valley of Iphtah El. From there, the border extended north to Beth Emek and Neiel and Cabul. 28 From there, it extended west to the cities of Abdon, Rehob, Hammon, and Kanah and then continued to Great Sidon. 29 From Sidon, the border extended south toward Ramah and to the city of Tyre, which had strong walls around it. From there, the border extended west to Hosah. It ended at the Great Sea, in the region of Aczib. 30 The territory of Asher included the cities of Ummah, Aphek, and Rehob. Altogether there were 22 cities, together with their surrounding villages.

31 Those cities and their villages were within the land that Joshua assigned to the clans of the tribe of Asher.

32 Then Joshua threw the lot again, and this time it selected the clans of the tribe of Naphtali to receive the sixth part of the land.

33 The border of Naphtali's land started in the west at the huge oak tree at Zaanannim, near the city of Heleph. It extended east through Adami Nekeb and Jabneel. It then went to Lakkum, and it ended at the Jordan River. 34 The western boundary extended through Aznoth Tabor as far as Hukkok. It extended to the borders of the tribe of Zebulun at the south, to the border of the tribe of Asher on the west, and to the border of the tribe of Judah at the Jordan River to the east. 35 Within Naphtali's territory, there were many cities that had strong walls around them. These cities were Ziddim, Zer, Hammath, Rakkath, Chinnereth, 36 Adamah, Ramah, Hazor, 37 Kedesh, Edrei, and En Hazor. 38 Naphtali's cities with strong walls also included Yiron, Migdal El, Horem, Beth Anath, and Beth Shemesh. Altogether there were 19 cities, together with their surrounding villages.

39 Those cities and surrounding villages were in the land that Joshua assigned to the clans of the tribe of Naphtali.

40 Then Joshua threw the lot again, and this time it selected the clans of the tribe of Dan to receive the seventh part of the land. 41 Their land included the cities of Zorah, Eshtaol, Ir Shemesh, 42 Shaalabbin, Aijalon, and Ithlah. 43 Dan's land also included the cities of Elon, Timnah, Ekron, 44 Eltekeh, Gibbethon, Baalath, 45 Jehud, Beneberak, Gath Rimmon, 46 Me Jarkon, Rakkon, and the area near Joppa.

47 But the people of the tribe of Dan were not able to take control of the whole land that Joshua assigned to them. So they went northeast and fought against the people who lived in the city of Leshem. They defeated and killed all those people. Then they settled in that city. They changed its name to Leshem Dan. Dan was the name of the ancestor of their tribe.

48 All of those cities and surrounding villages were in the land that Joshua assigned to the clans in the tribe of Dan.

49 After the Israelite leaders had divided the land among the tribes, they also assigned some land to Joshua. 50 They gave him the city of Timnath Serah to live in. Yahweh had said that he could have whatever city he wanted, and that was the city he chose. It was in the hill country in the territory of the tribe of Ephraim. Joshua repaired the city and lived there.

51 Those were the areas that the Israelite leaders assigned to the various tribes. The high priest Eleazar, Joshua son of Nun, and the leaders of each tribe divided up the land while they were all at Shiloh. They cast lots to decide which area

each tribe would receive. They did that at the entrance of the sacred tent while Yahweh was watching. In that way they completed dividing up the land.

20 Then Yahweh said to Joshua, 2 "Tell the Israelite people that they should choose some cities to which people can flee in order to be safe, as I told Moses that you should do. 3 If someone kills another person accidentally, without intending to kill that person, then he can run to one of these cities and be safe.

4 When that person arrives at the gate of one of those cities, he must stop there and tell the leaders of the city what happened. *If they believe him,* they must allow him to enter the city, and they must give him a place to live among them. 5 Suppose some relative of the dead person comes to that city to try to take revenge by killing the person who fled. The leaders of that city must not allow the relative to take him away and kill him, because what happened was accidental. He did not hate that person in the past. 6 The person who killed someone must stay in the city where he fled until it holds a trial to decide his case. *If they determine that the killing was accidental,* he must still stay there until the current high priest dies. Then the man may return safely to his own home."

7 So the Israelites chose several cities where people could flee to be safe. They chose Kedesh in the region of Galilee, in the hill country where the tribe of Naphtali lived. They chose Shechem, in the hill country where the tribe of Ephraim lived. And they chose Kiriath Arba in the hill country where the tribe of Judah lived. (People now call that city Hebron.) 8 They also chose some cities on the other side of the Jordan River, east of Jericho. They chose Bezer, on elevated land in the wilderness where the tribe of Reuben lived. They chose Ramoth in the region of Gilead, in the land where the tribe of Gad lived. And they chose Golan in the region of Bashan, where the tribe of Manasseh lived. 9 Any Israelite or any foreigner who lived among them who had killed someone accidentally was allowed to flee to one of those cities. There he would be safe from any relative of the dead person who wanted to come and kill him in revenge. He could stay in that city until the people there held a trial to decide whether he was telling the truth when he said that he did not kill that person on purpose.

21 The family leaders of the Levite clans came to Shiloh to speak with Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun, and the family leaders of the Israelite tribes. 2 There in Shiloh, west of the Jordan River, they said to them, "Yahweh told Moses that you should give us cities where we can live and where our animals can graze." 3 So the Israelites obeyed this command from Yahweh. They gave some cities and the surrounding fields to the tribe of Levi out of their own lands that their leaders had assigned to them.

4 First, the Israelite leaders cast lots to assign some cities to the Levites from the clan of Kohath who were priests because they were descendants of Aaron. The leaders assigned 13 cities to them within the territories of the tribes of Judah, Simeon, and Benjamin. 5 To the other Levites from the clan of Kohath, the Israelite leaders assigned ten cities within the territories of the tribes of Ephraim, Dan, and the part of the tribe of Manasseh that lived on the west side of the Jordan River.

6 To the Levites from the clan of Gershon, the Israelite leaders assigned 13 cities within the territories of the tribes of Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, and the half tribe of Manasseh in the region of Bashan.

7 To the Levites from the clan of Merari, the Israelite leaders assigned 12 cities within the territories of the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Zebulun.

8 In this way, the Israelite leaders assigned these cities and the surrounding fields to the people of the tribe of Levi. That was just what Yahweh had told Moses they should do. 9 These are the names of the cities that the Israelite leaders assigned to the tribe of Levi within the territory of the tribes of Judah and Simeon.

10 First, the Israelite leaders assigned cities by lot to the descendants of Aaron. They belonged to the Kohathite clan of the tribe of Levi.

11 The Israelite leaders assigned Kiriath Arba to them in the hill country of Judah. They also gave the pasturelands around the city. (That city got its name from Arba, the ancestor of the Anak people group. But people now call that city Hebron.) 12 However, the Israelite leaders had already assigned the cultivated fields and villages surrounding Kiriath Arba to Caleb son of Jephunneh.

13 In this way, the Israelite leaders assigned Hebron and its surrounding fields to the descendants of Aaron the priest. Hebron was one of the cities to which people could flee if they accidentally killed a person. The leaders also gave Aaron's descendants the city of Libnah with its surrounding fields, 14 Jattir with its surrounding fields, and Eshtemoa with its surrounding fields, 15 They also gave Holon with its surrounding fields, and Debir with its surrounding fields, 16 and Ain, Juttah, and Beth Shemesh. In total, the leaders gave them nine cities with their surrounding fields. These cities were within the territory of the tribes of Judah and Simeon.

17 The Israelite leaders also gave the descendants of Aaron some cities, with the surrounding fields, in the area that the tribe of Benjamin possessed: Gibeon, Geba, 18 Anathoth, and Almon, four cities with their surrounding fields.

19 Altogether, the Israelite leaders assigned 13 cities with their surrounding fields to the Levites who were priests because they were descendants of Aaron.

20 The other Levite clans who were descendants of Kohath received four cities within the territory of the tribe of Ephraim.

21 The leaders gave them Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim along with its surrounding fields. It was a city to which someone could flee for safety who killed a person unintentionally. The leaders also gave them Gezer with its surrounding fields, 22 Kibzaim, and Beth Horon, four cities. All with their surrounding fields.

23 These clans that were descendants of Kohath also received four cities with their surrounding fields within the territory of the tribe of Dan. These cities were Eltekeh, Gibbethon, 24 Aijalon, and Gath Rimmon, four cities, all with their surrounding fields.

25 These clans that were descendants of Kohath also received cities within the territory of the half of the tribe of Manasseh that had

settled on the west side of the Jordan River.
These cities were Taanach and Gath Rimmon,
two cities with their surrounding fields.
26 There were ten cities in all, together with their surrounding
fields, that these other clans that were descendants of Kohath
received.
27 The Israelite leaders also cast lots in order to assign
cities and their surrounding fields to the Levite clans of the
descendants of Gershon.
These clans received two cities within the
territory of the half of the tribe of Manasseh
that had settled on the east side of the Jordan
River. One of those cities was Golan in the
region of Bashan. It was one of the cities to
which someone could flee for safety who killed
a person unintentionally. The other city was
Beeshtarah. That made two cities, with their
surrounding fields.
28 These clans also received some cities and
the surrounding fields within the territory of
the tribe of Issachar. Those cities were Kishion,
Daberath, 29 Jarmuth, and En Gannim, four cities,
all with their surrounding fields.
30 These clans also received some cities and
the surrounding fields within the territory of the
tribe of Asher. These cities were Mishal, Abdon,
31 Helkath, and Rehob, four cities, all with their
surrounding fields.
32 These clans also received some cities within
the territory of the tribe of Naphtali. One of these
cities was Kedesh in the region of Galilee. It was
one of the cities to which people could flee for
safety if they killed a person unintentionally.
The other cities were Hammoth Dor and Kartan.
That made three cities, all with their surrounding
fields.
33 Altogether, therefore, the Gershonite clans received 13
cities, together with their surrounding fields.
34 The Israelite leaders also assigned cities to the last group
of Levites, those who belonged to the clans that were
descendants of Merari.
These clans received some cities, with the
surrounding fields, within the territory of the
tribe of Zebulun. These cities were Jokneam,
Kartah, 35 Dimnah, and Nahalal, four cities, all
with their surrounding fields.
36 These clans also received cities, with their
surrounding fields, within the territory of the
tribe of Reuben. These cities were Bezer, Jahaz,
37 Kedemoth, and Mephaath, four cities, all with
their surrounding fields.
38 These clans also received cities, with their
surrounding fields, within the territory of the
tribe of Gad. One of these cities was Ramoth,
which was one of the cities in Gilead to which
people could flee for safety if they killed a person
unintentionally. Another city was Mahanaim.
39 There were also the cities of Heshbon, and
Jazer. That made four cities in all, together with
their surrounding fields.
40 In all, this last group of Levite clans, the ones that were
descendants of Merari, received 12 cities when the Israelite
leaders cast lots for them.
41 So altogether, the Levites received 48 cities within the
territories of the other tribes of Israel. They also received
the fields around those cities. 42 Yes, for each one of these
cities, the Levites also received the surrounding fields. That
was true for all of them.
43 Yahweh had promised the ancestors of the Israelites
that he would give them all this land, and this was how he
did that. The Israelite people took control of these areas and
settled down in them. 44 Yahweh had also told the ancestors
of the Israelites that they would be able to live peacefully in
the land, and he made that happen too. None of their enemies
were able to fight against them and defeat them. Instead,
Yahweh helped Israel defeat all their enemies. 45 Yahweh
kept every promise he made to the Israelites. Every promise
came true.

22 Joshua then summoned the leaders of the Reubenites,
Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh. 2 He told
them, “You have done everything that Moses the servant
of Yahweh, commanded you to do. You have also done
what I commanded you to do. 3 For a long time you have
helped the other tribes to defeat their enemies. You have
obeyed everything that Yahweh your God taught you and
commanded you to do. 4 He promised to settle your fellow
Israelites peacefully in this land, and he has done what he
promised. So now you may go back to your homes in the
land that Moses gave to you on the east side of the Jordan
River. 5 But now you must be careful to do what Moses
commanded and taught you to do. You must love Yahweh
your God and live your life as he wants you to live. You
must obey his commands and be loyal only to him. Do this
as you worship him and serve him by everything that you
think and everything that you do.”
6 Then Joshua wished for Yahweh to do good things for
them, and he sent them back to their homes. 7 The people
Joshua sent back to the east side of the Jordan River included
half of the tribe of Manasseh. Moses had given them the
region of Bashan there. Joshua had given the other half of
that tribe land on the west side of the Jordan River with
the other Israelites. When Joshua sent them away to their
homes, he wished for Yahweh to do good things for them
too. 8 He said to them, “You may take back to your homes
much money, many animals, and silver, gold, bronze, iron,
and very many beautiful clothes. You got these things from
your enemies when you defeated them. Share them with the
people of your tribes back home.”
9 So the people of Reuben, Gad, and the half tribe of
Manasseh left the other people of Israel at Shiloh in the
region of Canaan. They returned home to the region of
Gilead, which belonged to them because they had conquered
it when Moses told them that Yahweh had said they could
do that.
10 They arrived at the western bank of the Jordan River,
still in the land of Canaan. There the people of Reuben, Gad,
and the half tribe of Manasseh built an altar. It was a very
large and impressive altar. 11 People from that area began
to report to the other Israelites, “The people of Reuben,
Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh have built an altar at
the entrance to the land of Canaan. It is on the banks of
the Jordan River, on the western side where most of the
Israelites live.” 12 When the other Israelites heard this, they
all met together at the city of Shiloh. They decided they
would fight against those tribes *to make them tear down that
altar*.

13 But first, the Israelites sent Phinehas son of Eleazar,
who was the leader of all the priests, across the river to
talk with the people of Reuben, Gad, and eastern Manasseh.
14 They also sent one leader from each of the ten tribes of
Israel *that had settled west of the Jordan River*. Each of those
men was an important person within his own clan.
15 Those leaders went to the region of Gilead to talk with
the people of Reuben, Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh.
They said, 16 "All the other Israelites want to know why
you have been so disloyal to the God whom we Israelites
worship! *He commanded that there should only be one altar,
at his sacred tent.* But you have now disobeyed Yahweh by
building your own altar here in this place. You have rebelled
against Yahweh! 17 You are acting as if we did not disobey
Yahweh badly enough at Mount Peor*, where we worshiped
a false god*. We still feel very ashamed for doing that. As
a punishment, Yahweh sent a deadly sickness among the
Israelites, and many of them died from it. 18 So you should
not disobey Yahweh like this! If you rebel against Yahweh
like this now, soon he will severely punish all of the Israelites.
19 *You seem to think you need your own altar, but you have
built it on our side of the Jordan River.* If *you built it there
because you think* your land is ritually impure, move back
to the land that belongs to Yahweh, where Yahweh's sacred
tent is. We will share our land with you. But do not rebel
against Yahweh or against us by building yourselves an
altar other than the one at the sacred tent. 20 Recall how
Achan son of Zerah was so disloyal to Yahweh and kept
some things from Jericho even though we were supposed to
destroy everything there. This made Yahweh angry with all
of us Israelites. Because of what that one man did wrong,
many other Israelites died."
21 The leaders of the tribes of Reuben and Gad and of the
half tribe of Manasseh replied to the Israelite clan leaders,
22 "We affirm that Yahweh is the only true God! He knows
why we built this altar, and we want all the Israelites to
know why as well. If we have broken our promise to obey
Yahweh, punish us by killing us right now! 23 If we have
disobeyed Yahweh's command by building ourselves an altar
other than the one at the sacred tent, or if we have built this
altar so we can offer sacrifices, grain offerings, or sacrifices
to promise friendship with him, in violation of the law,
Yahweh will find out what we have done and punish us.
24 But that is not why we built this altar. We built it
because we were afraid that your descendants might speak
to our descendants at some future time and tell them that
they had no right to worship Yahweh, the God whom
Israelites worship. 25 We were afraid that they would tell
our descendants that Yahweh had made the Jordan River a
boundary between themselves and the people of the tribes
of Reuben and Gad *and half of Manasseh*. We were afraid
that your descendants would tell our descendants that they
had nothing to do with Yahweh. And then they might try to
stop our descendants from worshiping Yahweh.
26 So we decided that we should build an altar, but not for
burning sacrifices or making offerings. 27 Instead, we wanted
it to be a monument to prove to you, to ourselves, and to
all of our descendants after us that we will truly worship
Yahweh. We will indeed worship him by bringing to his
sacred tent our sacrifices to burn and our other sacrifices
and the other offerings we make to promise friendship with
him. We built this altar so your descendants would never
say to our descendants in the future that they had nothing
to do with Yahweh.
28 In the future, if your descendants said that, then our
descendants could tell them to look at the altar that we, their
ancestors, had made. They would see that it was exactly like
the altar at Yahweh's sacred tent. Our descendants would
tell them that they do not burn sacrifices on it, but it is a
monument that proves that Israelites on both sides of the
Jordan River worship Yahweh. 29 We certainly do not want
to rebel against Yahweh or disobey him. We never intended
to use this altar for burning sacrifices, making flour offerings,
or making any other sacrifices. We know that there is only
one true altar for Yahweh our God, and that is the one in
front of the sacred tent."
30 When Phinehas the priest and the clan leaders whom
the Israelites had chosen when they met together heard what
the people of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh had said, they were
pleased. 31 And Phinehas said to them, "Now we recognize
that Yahweh is helping all of us Israelites. We understand
that you were not being disloyal to him when you built that
altar. Because you have not disobeyed Yahweh, we are sure
that he will not punish us."
32 Then Phinehas son of Eliazar, the high priest, and the
Israelite leaders who had accompanied him left the people
of the tribes of Reuben and Gad. They returned from the
region of Gilead to Canaan, where the other Israelites were.
There they told them what had happened. 33 They were all
pleased, and they thanked God. They did not talk anymore
about fighting against the people of the tribes of Reuben and
Gad *and half of Manasseh* to destroy them in the land where
they lived.
34 The other Israelites no longer planned to attack the
people of the tribes of Reuben and Gad *and Manasseh* because
they had explained that the altar was a monument that proved
to the eastern tribes that the western tribes also worshiped
Yahweh as their God.

23 A long time later, once Yahweh had enabled the
Israelites to live peacefully, with none of the
surrounding nations threatening them, Joshua had become
very old.
2 Joshua then called for all of Israel's elders, leaders,
judges, and officials to come and listen to him. When they
arrived, he told them, "I am now very old. 3 You have seen
how, for your sake, Yahweh defeated all of these enemy
people groups. Yahweh our God has fought for us. 4 I am
telling you now that you will be able to defeat the nations
that still remain. Their lands will also become the permanent
possession of your tribes. You will have all of the land from
the Jordan River *in the east* to the Great Sea in the west,
including the land of the nations I defeated when I was
commanding the Israelite army. 5 Yahweh your God will
enable you to defeat them, and he will force those people to
leave their lands. Then you will be able to live there, just as
he promised you would.
6 But you must be very careful to obey everything that
Moses wrote in the Book of the Law. Do not disobey anything
that he wrote. 7 Do not make friends with any of the people
groups that are still in this land. Do not pray to their gods,
and do not make oaths using the names of their gods. Do not
worship those gods, and do not bow down to them. 8 Instead,
remain loyal to Yahweh your God, as you have been doing.
9 Yahweh has forced many very strong nations to leave
so that you could live here. From the time you entered this
land until now, no one has been able to resist you. 10 It is as
if one of your soldiers can make a thousand enemy soldiers

run away. That is because Yahweh your God is fighting for
you as he promised to do. 11 But you must be very careful to
keep loving Yahweh your God.
12 Suppose you become disloyal to Yahweh and make
friends with the people groups that are still living in this
land. Suppose you let your daughters marry their sons and
your sons marry their daughters. Suppose you regularly
do things together. 13 I can assure you that if you do that,
Yahweh your God will no longer force them to leave so that
you can live here. They will become like different kinds
of traps that will catch you. They will become like whips
that hurt your skin. They will become like thorns that stick
you in the eye. Your people group will become weaker and
weaker until none of you live any longer in this good land
that Yahweh your God has given to you.
14 It is almost time for me to die, as everyone else does.
You know deep within you that Yahweh he has done every
single thing he promised to do for you. 15 He has given to you
all the good things that he promised to give you. However,
if you do these wrong things that I have described, he will
just as surely make the bad things happen to you that he
also described. None of you will still be living in this good
land that Yahweh your God has given to you. 16 Suppose
you do not obey the covenant that Yahweh made with you.
Suppose you go and worship other gods and bow down to
them. Then Yahweh will become very angry with you. Very
soon none of you will be living any longer in this good land
that he has given to you."

24 Joshua brought all of the Israelites together in the
city of Shechem. Their elders, leaders, judges, and
officials all reported there in the presence of God. 2 Joshua
told all the Israelites, "This is what Yahweh, the God we
Israelite people worship, wants me to tell you: 'Long ago, your
ancestors, including Abraham's father Terah and Abraham's
younger brother Nahor, lived far beyond the Euphrates River.
There they worshiped other gods. 3 But I took your ancestor
Abraham from beyond the Euphrates River, and I led him into
the land of Canaan. I gave him many descendants through
his son Isaac. 4 I gave Isaac his own sons, Jacob and Esau. I
gave Esau the hill country of Seir to live in. But I sent Jacob
and his children down to Egypt, and they lived there for
many years.
5 *When the Egyptians made your ancestors slaves,* I sent
Moses and his brother Aaron to Egypt *to rescue them*. I
caused many terrible plagues that made the people of Egypt
suffer. After that, I brought your people out of Egypt. 6 When
I brought your ancestors out of Egypt, they came to the
sea. The Egyptian army pursued them with chariots and on
horseback as far as the Sea of Reeds. 7 Then you pleaded with
me to help you, and I caused darkness to come between you
Israelites and the Egyptian army. *I made a dry path through
the sea so that the Israelites could go through it, but when the
Egyptians tried to follow them,* I made the water come back
and it covered the Egyptian army *so all the soldiers drowned*.
You Israelites saw what I did to the Egyptians. After that
you lived in the desert for many years.
8 Then I brought you to the land where the Amorites lived,
on the east side of the Jordan River. They attacked you, but I
enabled you to defeat them and capture their land. You saw
everything that I did for you. 9 Then Balak son of Zippor,
king of Moab, prepared his army and attacked Israel. He sent
for Balaam son of Beor and told him to get me to curse your
people. 10 But I would not do what Balaam asked. Instead, I
made him bless you, so that he was not able to harm you.
11 Then you all crossed the Jordan River and came to
Jericho. The army of Jericho fought against you, as did the
armies of the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the
Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. But I
enabled you to conquer them all. 12 I sent swarms of hornets
ahead of you, and this helped you two Amorite kings. You
did not do this with your own weapons. *I, Yahweh, was the
one who actually defeated them.* 13 So I gave you a land that
you had not cleared or plowed, and I gave you cities that
you did not build. Now you live in those cities, and you eat
the grapes from grapevines that you did not plant and olives
from trees that you did not plant.'
14 *That was what Yahweh wanted me, Joshua, to tell all of
you.* Now you must worship Yahweh and obey him genuinely
and consistently. Throw away the idols that your ancestors
worshiped when they lived on the far side of the Euphrates
River and when they lived in Egypt. Worship Yahweh alone.
15 Now if you do not want to worship Yahweh, then you
must decide today what gods you will worship. You may
decide that you want to worship the gods that your ancestors
worshiped when they lived on the other side of the Euphrates
River. You may decide that you want to worship the gods
that the Amorites worshiped who used to live in this land.
But as for me and my family, we will worship Yahweh."
16 The Israelites responded, "We would never abandon
Yahweh and worship other gods! 17 Yahweh is our God!
After all, he was the one who brought our ancestors here
from Egypt. He rescued them from that land where they
were slaves. We saw him perform great miracles, and he
protected us when we were traveling, even though we had to
pass through the territory of many other nations. 18 Yahweh
forced all the people who were here to leave so that we
could live here. He defeated the Amorites who lived in this
land. So we will worship only Yahweh. He is our God."
19 But Joshua replied to the people, "You do not seem
to realize what is involved in worshiping Yahweh! He is a
holy God, and he will not allow you to worship any other
gods. He will not overlook it if you break his laws or sin
against him. 20 If you abandon Yahweh and worship other
gods, then he will stop helping you and instead he will harm
you until he has destroyed you. He will do that even after
he has done such good things for you." 21 But the people
answered Joshua, "Even so, we want to worship Yahweh."
22 Then Joshua said, "You are making a promise to what
you have said. You have chosen Yahweh, and you are
promising to worship him alone." They replied, "Yes, that
is what we promise to do." 23 So Joshua told them, "Then
you must throw away any other idols you have, and devote
yourselves entirely to Yahweh, the God who has done so
much for us Israelites." 24 The people replied, "We will
worship Yahweh as our God, and we will obey what he tells
us to do."
25 On that same day, Joshua made a covenant with the
people. There at Shechem, he wrote down for them all the
decrees and laws that Yahweh commanded them to obey.
26 He wrote all those things down in the book of the law
of God. Then he got a large stone and set it up there at
Shechem, under the large oak tree that grew beside the
place where Yahweh's sacred tent was. 27 Joshua told all the
people, "Look! This stone will always be a reminder to us.
This is the place where I told you what Yahweh wanted to
say to you *and you promised that you would serve him*. This

stone will remind you of your promise so that you are not disloyal to God.” 28 Then Joshua sent the people back to their homes in the places that the leaders had assigned to them.

29 After this, Joshua son of Nun, the servant of Yahweh, died. He was 110 years old when he died. 30 The Israelites buried his body on his own property in Timnath Serah. That is in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash. 31 The people of Israel continued to worship Yahweh during Joshua’s lifetime and during the lifetimes of the elders who outlived Joshua. Those elders had seen everything that Yahweh had done for Israel. 32 The people of Israel had brought Joseph’s bones with them when they left Egypt. Now they buried his bones at Shechem, in the piece of land that Jacob had bought long ago for the price of 100 pieces of silver. He had bought it from Hamor, the father of Shechem. That piece of land became a permanent possession for Joseph’s descendants. 33 Eleazar son of Aaron also died. The Israelites buried his body at Gibeah, the city that belonged to his son Phinehas, in the hill country of Ephraim.