

DEUTERONOMY

Conversational Yahveh Covenant

The Command to Leave Horeb

1:¹Moses spoke to Israel in the open country east of the Jordan, in the Arabah across from Suph between Paran and Tophel, Laban, Hazeroth, and Dizahab. **2**It takes 11 days to travel from Horeb/Sinai past Mount Seir to Kadesh-barnea. **3**The **first day, eleventh month, fortieth year**, Moses told Israel everything Yahveh had told him to give them. **4**That was after he'd defeated Sihon, king of the Amorites, in Heshbon and Og, king of Bashan, in Ashtaroth and Edrei. **5**East of the Jordan in Moab, Moses undertook to explain the Law. **Deut 1:1-5**

6“*Yahveh our God told us at Horeb/Sinai, ‘You’ve stayed long enough at this mountain. 7Go to the Amorites and their neighbors in the Arabah, the hill country, the western foothills, the Negev, the seacoast, the land of the Canaanites, and Lebanon as far as the Euphrates River. 8I’ve put the land in front of you. Go in and take over what I swore to give to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and their descendants.’*

Tribal Leaders Appointed

9“*At that time I told you, ‘I can’t handle the responsibility for you by myself. 10Yahveh has multiplied you, and there are as many of you as stars in the sky. 11May he multiply you a thousand times and bless you like he promised, 12but I can’t handle the responsibility for you and your conflict by myself. 13Choose wise, insightful, experienced men from your tribes, and I’ll appoint them as your leaders.’ 14You answered, ‘That’s good.’ 15I took those wise, insightful men, and appointed them over thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens.*

Deut 1:6-15

16“*I instructed your judges, ‘Hear cases between citizens. Judge justly between them or the foreigners among them. 17Don’t show favoritism; hear least and greatest the same way. Don’t be afraid of people; it’s God’s judgment. Any case that’s too hard, bring to me. 18I’ve told you everything to do.’*

Spies Sent Out

19“*Then we left Horeb/Sinai and went through that terrible desert you saw on our way to the hill country of the Amorites. We came to Kadesh-barnea. 20I told you, ‘You’ve come to the hill country of the Amorites that Yahveh is about to give us. 21Look, he has put the land in front of you. Take it over like he told you. Don’t be afraid or intimidated.’ 22Then you came and said to me, ‘Let’s send scouts ahead to look over the land, and report how to proceed against the*

towns we'll enter.' ²³I liked that idea and took a man from each tribe. ²⁴They went to the hill country and the Valley of Eschol and spied it out. ²⁵They brought some fruit down to us, and reported, 'The land Yahveh our God is about to give us is a good land.'

Deut 1:16-25

Israel's Rebellion Against the LORD

²⁶'But you wouldn't go up. You rebelled against Yahveh. ²⁷You complained in your tents, 'Yahveh hates us. He brought us out of Egypt to deliver us to the Amorites. ²⁸Where can we go up? Our relatives made our hearts melt when they said the people are bigger and taller than we are. The towns are large and fortified to the sky. They saw Anakim there.' ²⁹I told you, 'Don't be afraid of them. ³⁰Yahveh your God will go ahead of you and fight for you like you saw him do in Egypt. ³¹In the desert you saw how he carried you all the way here like a man carries his son.' ³²Despite that, you wouldn't trust the One ³³that goes ahead of you to find a place to camp and show you how to get there, the One that goes by fire at night and cloud by day.

Deut 1:26-33

Israel's Wanderings Decreed

³⁴'What Yahveh heard you say made him angry. He swore, ³⁵'None of you sinful people from this generation will see the good land I swore to give your ancestors. ³⁶Only Caleb Ben-Jephunneh will see it. I'll give him and his descendants the land he set foot on, because he's followed me faithfully.' ³⁷Yahveh was angry with me, too, as a lesson to you, 'You won't go in either. ³⁸Your assistant, Joshua Ben-Nun, will go in. Encourage him; he'll make Israel able to inherit the land. ³⁹What's more, your^{pl} little ones that you said would become prey, your offspring that don't know good from bad, will go in. I'll give it to them; they'll take it over. ⁴⁰You turn around and head out for the desert by the Red Sea.'

Deut 1:34-40

⁴¹'Then you said, 'We've sinned against Yahveh. We'll go up and fight like he commanded.' Every man put on his weapons and thought it would be easy to go up to the hill country.

⁴²'Yahveh said to tell them, 'Don't go up to fight. I'm not with you; they'll defeat you.' ⁴³But you ignored him. You acted on your own to go up to the hill country. ⁴⁴The Amorites came out like bees and chased you and crushed you from Seir to Hormah. ⁴⁵You came back and cried in Yahveh's presence, but he ignored you. ⁴⁶So you stayed at Kadesh a long time.

Deut 1:41-46

Israel's Wanderings Remembered

^{2:1}'We turned around and set out for the desert toward the Red Sea like Yahveh instructed me, and we circled Mount Seir for a long time. ²He told me,

³'You've circled this mountain long enough; turn north. ⁴Tell the people, "Go through the territory of your relatives, Esau's descendants, who live in Seir. ⁵Don't stir them up; I won't give you a foot of their land. I've given Mount Seir to Esau. ⁶Buy food and water from them so you can eat and drink. ⁷Yahveh has blessed you in everything you've done. He has known your wanderings through this big desert. He's been with you 40 years. You haven't lacked anything.'"

Deut 2:1-7

⁸"So we went past Esau's descendants in Seir, away from the Arabah Road, away from Elath and Ezion-geber. We turned and passed through the Wilderness of Moab. ⁹Yahveh told me, 'Don't harass Moab or stir them up to war, because I won't give you any of their land. I've given Ar to Lot's descendants. [¹⁰The Emim lived there before, a people as big, numerous, and tall as the Anakim. ¹¹Like the Anakim they're considered Rephaim, but the Moabites call them Emim. ¹²The Horites had previously lived in Seir, but Esau's descendants destroyed them and replaced them, like Israel did to the land Yahveh gave them.] ¹³Cross Wadi Zered.' ¹⁴It took 38 years to get from Kadesh-barnea across Wadi Zered. That whole generation of soldiers died—like Yahveh swore. ¹⁵Besides, he opposed them, destroying them from inside the camp.

¹⁶"When those soldiers had perished, ¹⁷Yahveh told me, ¹⁸'Cross over Ar, the border of Moab today. ¹⁹When you get across from Ammon, don't harass them; I won't give you any Ammonite land. I've given it to Lot's descendants. [²⁰It's regarded as the land of Rephaim as well because they lived in it before. The Ammonites call them Zamzummin, ²¹a people as big, numerous, and tall as the Anakim, but Yahveh destroyed them in front of the Ammonites. They drove them out and replaced them, ²²like he did for Esau's descendants in Seir. He destroyed the Horites. They drove them out and have settled in their place till now. ²³The Philistines came from Crete and destroyed the Avvim that lived in villages as far as Gaza and lived in their place.]

Defeat of King Sihon

²⁴Pass through Wadi Arnon. I've given you Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land. Start taking it over and confront him in battle. ²⁵Today I'm beginning to put the fear of you on nations all around so when they hear about you, they'll tremble with dread.'

Deut 2:8-25

²⁶"I sent ambassadors from the Wilderness of Kedemoth to Sihon with offers of peace, ²⁷'Let me go through your land. I'll stay on the highway. ²⁸Sell me food and water. Just let me go through on foot—²⁹like the descendants of Esau and the Moabites did—till I cross the Jordan to the land Yahveh is giving

us.’ ³⁰Sihon wouldn’t let us. Yahveh had hardened his spirit and made him stubborn to deliver him to you. ³¹He told me, ‘I’ve started to deliver Sihon and his land to you. Start occupying it.’

³²“Sihon and his people came out to fight us at Jahaz. ³³Yahveh delivered him, his sons, and his people to us. ³⁴We captured his towns, and completely wiped out their men, women, and children. ³⁵We just took the animals as spoil. ³⁶From Aroer on the edge of Arnon valley and from the city that’s in the valley, all the way to Gilead no city was too strong for us. Yahveh delivered them to us. ³⁷You didn’t go near the land of the Ammonites—along Wadi Jabbok and the towns in the hill country—or wherever Yahveh else prohibited.

Deut 2:26-37

Defeat of King Og

^{3:1}“Then we turned and went up the highway to Bashan. Og king of Bashan and his people came out to battle at Edrei. ²But Yahveh told me, ‘Don’t be afraid of him. I’ll deliver him, his people, and his land to you. Do what you did to Sihon.’ ³He delivered Og and his people to us. We didn’t leave any survivors.

⁴“We captured all 60 of Og’s towns, the whole region of Argob, his kingdom in Bashan. ⁵They were fortified towns with high walls, gates, and bars—besides a great many country villages. ⁶We destroyed them—men, women, and children—in every city, ⁷and took the animals and the spoil. ⁸We took the land of two Amorite kings east of the Jordan from Wadi Arnon to Mount Hermon. [⁹Sidonians call Hermon Sirion; the Amorites call it Senir.] ¹⁰We took all the towns on the plateau, all Gilead and Bashan as far as Salecah and Edrei. ¹¹Og was the only Rephaim left. He had an iron bed 6 x 13½ft. It’s in Rabbah with the descendants of Ammon.]

Deut 3:1-11

Division of the Land East of the Jordan

¹²“We took over that land. I gave Reuben and Gad the territory from Aroer by Wadi Arnon and half the hill country of Gilead and its towns. ¹³The rest of Gilead and all Bashan I gave to the Manasseh half-tribe—the whole region of Argob. [All Bashan is called The Land of Rephaim. ¹⁴Jair Ben-Manasseh took the whole region of Argob as far as the border of the Geshurites and the Maacathites. He called Bashan by his own name. It’s still Havvoth-jair.] ¹⁵I gave Gilead to Machir. ¹⁶I gave Reuben and Gad the territory from Gilead to the middle of the Arnon valley. Their territory continued to Wadi Jabbok, the border of the Ammonites. ¹⁷I also gave them the Arabah, with the Jordan for a border from Chinnereth to the Sea of Arabah [the Dead Sea] at the foot of Pisgah to the east.

18 “I told you at that time, ‘Yahveh your God has given you this land. You trained soldiers, cross over armed, with your relatives, the people of Israel. **19** Your wives, little ones, and livestock—I know you have lots of livestock—can stay in the towns I’ve given you. **20** Stay there till Yahveh gives your fellow citizens peace like he’s given you, and they take over the land west of the Jordan. Then you can go back to your possession.’

Moses Forbidden to Cross the Jordan

21 I told Joshua, ‘You saw what Yahveh did to those two kings. That’s what he’ll do to all the kingdoms you invade. **22** Don’t be afraid of them. He’ll fight for you.’

Deut 3:12-22

23 “I also pleaded with Yahveh, **24** ‘You’ve begun to show me how great and strong you are. What God is there in the sky or on earth that can demonstrate such power? **25** Let me cross over and see the fair land beyond the Jordan, the good hill country and Lebanon.’ **26** But he was angry with me out of regard for you. ‘That’s enough! Don’t bring it up again. **27** Go to the top of Pisgah and look in every direction. You’re not going to cross the Jordan. **28** Commission Joshua, encourage him and strengthen him. He’ll lead the people across and give them the land you’ll see.’ **29** We stayed in the valley across from Beth-peor.

Deut 3:23-29

Moses Commands Israel to Obey

4:1 “Listen, Israel, to the statutes and case laws I’m teaching you so you can take over the land. **2** Don’t add to or take away from what I’m telling you. **3** You’ve seen what Yahveh did to you at Baal-peor: he destroyed everyone that followed Baal-peor. **4** But every one of you is alive today that held onto Yahveh your God. **5** I’ve taught you statutes and case laws like Yahveh commanded me so you’d do them in the land you’re entering. **6** Keep them; that’s your wisdom and understanding in front of the nations that will hear those statutes and say, ‘This great nation has wisdom and understanding.’ **7** What great nation has a god as near it as Yahveh is when we call on him? **8** What great nation has statutes and case laws as good as this Law I’m setting in front of you today?

9 “Be careful not to forget what you’ve seen or let those memories ever leave your heart. Tell your sons and grandsons about them. **10** Think back to when you stood in front of Yahveh at Horeb/Sinai. He told me to gather you so you could hear what he was saying and learn to respect him all your lives and teach your children. **11** You stood at the foot of the mountain, and it burned as high as the sky—black clouds and dense darkness. **12** You heard him speak to you

out of the fire, but you didn't see any shape. ¹³*He declared the covenant to you, the Ten Commandments he wrote on two stone tablets.* ¹⁴*He told me then to teach you statutes and case laws so you'd do them in the land.*

Deut 4:1-14

Idolatry Forbidden

¹⁵*"Watch carefully* ¹⁶*not to do something corrupt by making a carved image of anything male or female,* ¹⁷*animal on land, bird in the sky,* ¹⁸*fish in the water, or what crawls on the ground.* ¹⁹*Don't gaze at the sun, moon, and countless stars, and get drawn away into worshiping and serving what Yahveh your God has allotted to everyone under the sky.* ²⁰*He brought you out of the iron furnace (Egypt) to be his own people like you are now.* [²¹] ²²*I'll die here, but you'll cross over and take possession of the land.* ²³*Watch that you don't forget his covenant and make a carved image of anything. He forbids it.* ²⁴*He's a consuming fire, an exclusive God.*

Deut 4:15-24

²⁵*"Later on, if your descendants make an idol and anger Yahveh,* ²⁶*you'll soon perish. I call earth and sky to witness against you today. You won't live there very long.* ²⁷*He'll scatter you among the nations, and there won't be many of you where he drives you.* ²⁸*You'll serve gods there made out of wood and stone, gods that can't see, hear, eat, or smell.* ²⁹*But you'll look to Yahveh your God from there, and you'll find him if you look with all your heart and soul.* ³⁰*When you're in distress and those things come on you later, you'll come back to him.* ³¹*He's a merciful God. He won't fail you, destroy you, or forget the covenant he swore with your ancestors.*

Only the LORD Is God

³²*"Indeed, ask about any earlier time since God created people. Ask about any other place from one end of the sky to the other. Has anything like this ever happened? Has anything like this ever been heard of?* ³³*Has any people heard God speak out of fire like you have, and lived?* ³⁴*Has any god taken a nation from inside another nation by trials, signs, and wonders; by warfare, a strong hand and outstretched arm; by great terrifying displays like Yahveh did for you in Egypt right in front of you?* ³⁵*Those things happened so you could know Yahveh is God. There's no god but him.* ³⁶*From the sky he let you hear his voice to discipline you. On the earth he let you see his great fire and hear him speak out of it.* ³⁷*Because he loved your ancestors, he chose their descendants and brought you out of Egypt by his great power.* ³⁸*He's driving out nations bigger and stronger than you, and giving you their land.* ³⁹*Take it to heart then that Yahveh is God in heaven above and on earth below. There isn't any other.*

40Keep his statutes and commandments that I'm giving you. Then things will go well for you and your descendants, and you'll live a long time in the land he's giving you permanently.”

Deut 4:25-40

Cities of Refuge

41Then Moses set aside three towns east of the Jordan **42**where a person who accidentally killed someone could flee to and live: **43**Bezar in the open country on the plateau for Reuben, Ramoth in Gilead for Gad, and Golan in Bashan for Manasseh.

44That's the Law Moses set in front of Israel—**45**the testimonies, statutes, and ordinances he gave them when they left Egypt. **46***He did that* beyond the Jordan in the valley near Beth-peor in the land of **47**the two kings that ruled the Amorites east of the Jordan. **48***Their land stretched from Aroer on the edge of Arnon valley to Mount Sion (Hermon).* **49**Their territories went all along the Arabah on the east side of the Jordan *south* to the Sea of Arabah at the foot of Pisgah.

Deut 4:41-49

The Ten Commandments

5:1Then Moses called Israel together,

*“Listen to these statutes and ordinances so you can learn them and observe them carefully. **2**Yahveh our God made a covenant with us at Horeb/Sinai. **3**He didn't make that covenant with our ancestors, but with us. **4**Out of the fire he spoke to you directly at the mountain **5**while I stood between him and you. I stood there to tell you what he said, because you were afraid of the fire and didn't go up the mountain. He said,*

6*I am Yahveh your God that brought you out of slavery in Egypt.*

7*Do not have^f any god but me.*

8*Do not make^f a carved image, any likeness of what is in the sky, on the ground, or in the water lower than the ground **9**to worship^f or serve^f, because I am an exclusive God. I visit the consequences of parents' sins on their descendants for three or four generations that hate me. **10**I am kind to thousands who love me and obey me.*

11*Do not use^f my name 'Yahveh' your God as a byword. I will punish whoever does that.*

12*Observe the Sabbath. Set it apart like I've commanded. **13**Work^f six days, **14**but the seventh day rest to me your God. Do not work^f that day—you, your son or daughter, male or female servant, ox, donkey, cattle, foreigner among you. **15**Remember^f that you were slaves in Egypt, and I brought you out with a strong hand and outstretched arm. That is why I have commanded you to observe the Sabbath.*

16 ‘Honor your parents so you can live a long time and things will go well for you in the land I your God am giving you.

17 ‘Do not commit murder’.

18 ‘Do not commit adultery.

19 ‘Do not steal’.

20 ‘Do not lie’ about other people.

21 ‘Do not covet someone else’s wife, his house, field, male servant, ox, donkey, or anything else.’

Deut 5:1-21

22 “With a loud voice Yahveh said that to your whole assembly at the mountain out of the fire, cloud, and dense darkness. He didn’t add anything else. He wrote it on two stone tablets and gave them to me. **23** You heard him speak out of the blackness while the mountain was burning. The leaders and elders in your tribes came to me, **24** ‘Yahveh our God has shown us how great and glorious he is. We’ve heard him speak out of the fire. We’ve seen him speak to people, but they still live. **25** But why should we die? This great fire will burn us up. If we hear him speak anymore, it’ll kill us. **26** Who ever heard the living God speak out of fire like we have, and lived? **27** You approach him and hear what he says. Then tell us, and we’ll do it.’

28 “Yahveh told me, ‘I’ve heard what they said. They’ve done well in saying it.

29 Oh that they had a heart to respect me and keep my commandments so it would be well with them and their descendants forever! **30** Tell them to go back home. **31** But you stand here with me so I can tell you the commandments, statutes, and case laws you’re to teach them. **32** Do exactly what he says. Don’t stray away from it. **33** That way you’ll live, things will go well for you, and you’ll occupy the land a long time.”

Deut 5:22-33

Call to Commitment

6:1 “Yahveh your God told me to teach you those statutes **2** so you and your descendants would respect him and keep them your whole life and live a long time. **3** Do them, Israel, so things will go well for you, and you’ll multiply in a land flowing with milk and honey.

4 “Listen, Israel, Yahveh is our God, Yahveh only. **5** Love him with all your heart, soul, and strength. **6** Keep in mind the things I’m commanding you. **7** Teach them diligently to your children. Talk about them when you’re sitting at home, walking down the road, lying down, or getting up. **8** Tie them like signs on your hand and make them like frontlets on your forehead. **9** Write them on your gates and doorposts.”

Deut 6:1-9

10 “The land Yahveh is taking you to has big, splendid cities you didn’t build, **11** houses full of good things you didn’t put there, hewn cisterns you didn’t

*dig, vineyards and olive trees you didn't plant. When you eat and are satisfied,
 12 make sure you don't forget him. 13 Respect him only. Worship him and swear by
 him. 14 Don't follow the gods of people around you. Yahveh is an exclusive God.
 15 If you follow other gods, his anger will flare at you and wipe you off the earth.*

*16 "Don't test Yahveh like you did at Massah. 17 Diligently keep his
 statutes. 18-19 Do what he considers right and good so things will go well, so he'll
 drive out your enemies and you'll take over the good land. 20 When your children
 ask you what his statutes mean, 21 tell them, 'We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt,
 and he brought us out with a tremendous demonstration of power. 22 He showed
 us great terrifying signs and wonders against Egypt, Pharaoh, and his
 household. 23 He brought us out to give us this land. 24 He told us to observe these
 statutes, to always respect him for our own good, for our survival, as is the case
 today. 25 We'll be good if we observe everything he's commanded.'* Deut 6:10-25

Driving Out the Nations

*7:1 "Yahveh will take you to the land and clear out the Hittites,
 Gergashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, Jebusites—seven nations
 bigger and stronger than you. 2 He'll deliver them to you, defeat them, and
 destroy them. Don't make treaties with them or show them mercy 3 or intermarry
 with them. 4 They'll turn your children away from following him to serving other
 gods. His anger will flare and soon destroy you. 5 Tear down their altars, smash
 their sacred pillars, cut down their Asherah poles, burn their carved images.*

*6 "You've been set aside to Yahveh your God. Out of all the earth's
 nations, he chose you as his own. 7 He didn't set his love on you because you
 were bigger than other nations; you were few compared to them. 8 Because he
 loved you and wanted to keep his oath to your ancestors, he brought you out with
 power and redeemed you from slavery under Pharaoh. 9 Know then that Yahveh
 is faithful and keeps covenant and kindness to a thousand generations that love
 him and obey him. 10 But he repays directly people that hate him. He won't delay
 repaying them with destruction. 11 Keep the commandments, statutes, and case
 laws I'm commanding you.* Deut 7:1-11

*12 "If you keep these case laws, he'll keep you with his covenant and
 kindness. 13 He'll love you, bless you, and multiply you. He'll bless your offspring
 and what your ground produces—grain, new wine, olive oil. He'll increase your
 herd and the young in your flock. 14 You'll be more blessed than any other nation.
 No male or female will be sterile among you or your livestock. 15 He'll keep you
 from getting sick and not put on you any of the diseases you knew in Egypt. He'll*

lay them on people that hate you. ¹⁶You'll consume the nations he delivers to you. Don't show them any mercy or serve their gods. That would be a snare to you.

¹⁷If you say to yourselves, 'These nations are bigger than we are. How can we overtake them?' ¹⁸You don't have to be afraid of them. Remember what Yahveh did to Pharaoh and to Egypt. ¹⁹Remember the great trials you saw, the signs and wonders, the strong hand and outstretched arm he delivered you with. That's what he'll do to the nations you're afraid of. ²⁰He'll send hornets after them till they perish who hide from you. ²¹A great, awesome God is among you. ²²He'll clear them away little by little. You won't be able to put an end to them right away. Wild animals would take over. ²³He'll deliver them by throwing them into confusion till you destroy them. ²⁴He'll deliver their kings to you to wipe out. Nobody will be able to resist you. ²⁵Burn the carved images of their gods. Don't covet the silver or gold that's on them or take it for yourselves. It would be a snare to you, and it's detestable to Yahveh. ²⁶Don't bring anything detestable into your house to serve as a devoted thing. Detest it completely; abhor it utterly.

Deut 7:12-26

Call Not to Forget the LORD

^{8:1}Do every commandment I'm giving you today, so you'll live and multiply, and take over the land. ²Remember the way Yahveh led you in the desert those 40 years to humble you. He was testing you to see if you were committed to obeying him. ³He let you get hungry, then fed you with manna, which you and your ancestors had never seen. He made you understand that a person doesn't live by bread alone, but by everything Yahveh says. ⁴All that time your clothes didn't wear out; your feet didn't swell. ⁵He was disciplining you like a father disciplines his children. ⁶So follow his commandments and respect him. ⁷He's taking you to a good land with streams and fountains, springs flowing in the hills and valleys. ⁸It's a land of wheat and barley; grapevines, fig trees, and pomegranates; olive oil and honey; ⁹a land where there's plenty of food, whose stones contain iron, whose hills have copper you can mine. ¹⁰When you eat till you're full, bless Yahveh for the good land he's given you.

Deut 8:1-10

¹¹Make sure you don't forget him or neglect his commandments, ordinances, and statutes. ¹²That way you'll eat till you're full, build nice houses and live in them, ¹³have herds and flocks that multiply, and increase your silver and gold along with everything else you have. ¹⁴Then you won't get proud and forget about him. ¹⁵He led you through the big, terrible desert, its poisonous

snakes and scorpions, its thirsty ground with no water. He brought water out of flint rock. ¹⁶He fed you manna to test you and humble you, to do you good in the end. ¹⁷Otherwise, you might say to yourselves that your own power and strength have created this wealth. ¹⁸Remember that he's giving you the opportunity to create wealth in confirmation of his covenant. ¹⁹If you ever forget him and go after other gods, I'm telling you today, you'll certainly perish ²⁰like the nations he'll make perish in front of you.

Deut 8:11-20

Victory by God's Power

^{9:1}"Israel, you're crossing the Jordan now to take over nations bigger and stronger than you, to take over big cities fortified to the sky, ²to take over people big and tall, the Anakim you've heard people say about, 'Who can stand up to the descendants of Anak?'

³"Understand that it's Yahveh your God who's crossing over ahead of you like a consuming fire. He'll conquer and destroy them so you can drive them out quickly.

⁴"When he drives them out, don't tell yourselves it's because of your goodness that he brought you to this land. Instead, it's because of their sinfulness that he drove them out. ⁵It's not that you're godly, but that they're sinful. He's confirming his oath to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Deut 9:1-5

⁶"It's not your goodness; you're stubborn.

The Gold Calf

⁷Don't forget how you've provoked Yahveh in the desert. From the time you left Egypt, you've been rebellious toward him. ⁸Even at Horeb/Sinai you provoked him. He was so angry with you he was ready to destroy you. ⁹When I went up on the mountain to receive the stone tablets of his covenant with you, I stayed there 40 days and nights without eating or drinking. ¹⁰He gave me the tablets he wrote that contained everything he'd told you out of the fire at your assembly. ¹¹At the end of the 40 days, he gave them to me, ¹²'Quick, go down. Your people have acted corruptly. They've turned aside so soon from what I commanded and made themselves a molten image. ¹³I've seen how stubborn they are. ¹⁴Stand aside so I can destroy them and erase their name. I'll make a nation out of you that's bigger and stronger than they are.'

¹⁵I came down from the burning mountain with the two tablets in my hands. ¹⁶I saw you'd really sinned against him and made a molten calf. ¹⁷I threw the tablets down and shattered them in front of you. ¹⁸I fell down to Yahveh as at the first for 40 days and nights. I didn't eat or drink anything because your sin stirred him up. ¹⁹I was afraid his anger was going to destroy you, but he listened

to me that time too. ²⁰He was angry enough with Aaron to destroy him; so I prayed for him at the same time. ²¹I burned the sinful calf you'd made, pulverized it, ground it up, and threw the dust into the creek that was running down from the mountain.

Deut 9:6-21

²²"Again at Taberah, Massah, and Kibroth-hattaavah you provoked him. ²³When he sent you from Kadesh-barnea to go up and take over the land he'd given you, you wouldn't listen or trust him. ²⁴You've kept rebelling since I first knew you.

²⁵"I fell down to him for 40 days and nights because he said he'd destroy you. ²⁶I prayed, 'Lord Yahveh, don't destroy your people, the permanent possession you redeemed with your greatness, the nation you brought out of Egypt by your power. ²⁷Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Don't just look at these people's stubbornness and sin. ²⁸Otherwise, the country you brought us from will say, "Yahveh took them out to kill them in the desert. He hated them and couldn't take them to the land he'd promised them." ²⁹But they're your people, your inheritance that you brought out with your great power and outstretched arm. 'Deut 9:22-29

The Second Stone Tablets

10:1 "At that time, Yahveh said, 'Carve out your own two stone tablets like the first ones, come up to me on the mountain, and make a wooden Ark. ²I'll write on the tablets what was on the ones you shattered. Put them in the Ark.' ³I made an Ark out of acacia wood and hewed out two stone tablets like the first ones and carried them up the mountain. ⁴He wrote the Ten Commandments on them that he'd given you on the mountain out of the fire when you assembled. He gave them to me. ⁵I came down and put the tablets in the Ark, and there they are.' Deut 10:1-5

[⁶The Israelites set out from Beeroth Benejaakan to Moserah. Aaron died and was buried there, and his son Eleazar began to serve as priest. ⁷From there they set out for Gudgodah, then to Jotbathah, a land full of streams. ⁸At that time, Yahveh set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the Ark, to stand in his presence, to serve him, and bless in his name till now. ⁹That's why Levi doesn't have a territory with his kin. Yahveh is his inheritance—like Yahveh your God told him.]

¹⁰"I stayed on the mountain 40 days and nights like the first time. Yahveh listened to me that time, too, and didn't destroy you. ¹¹He said, 'Go on with your journey ahead of the people so they can take over the land.'

Fear the LORD

¹²"Now, Israel, what does Yahveh require from you but to respect him, follow his ways, love him, serve him with all your heart and soul, ¹³and keep his commandments and statutes for your own good? ¹⁴The sky and highest heaven,

the earth and everything in it belong to him. ¹⁵*Yet he set his affection on your ancestors and chose their descendants above all the other nations, as it is now.* ¹⁶*Circumcise your heart and don't stiffen your neck.* ¹⁷*He is the God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, strong, awesome God that doesn't show favoritism or take bribes.* ¹⁸*He carries out justice for orphans and widows, and loves foreigners by giving them food and clothes.* ¹⁹*So love foreigners because you were foreigners in Egypt.* ²⁰*Respect Yahveh, serve him, hold onto him, swear by him.* ²¹*He's your praise and your God, who has done for you the great, awesome things you've seen.* ²²*Your ancestors went down to Egypt 70 people total. He's made you as countless as the stars.*

Deut 10:6-22

Love and Obey the LORD

11:¹“*Love Yahveh and always keep his ordinances.* ²*I'm not speaking to your sons today. They haven't seen his discipline, his greatness, his strong hand and outstretched arm;* ³*his signs and works against Pharaoh, his country,* ⁴*his army, its horses and chariots. He made the Red Sea overwhelm them when they chased you.* ⁵*Your children didn't see what he did to you in the desert before you got here.* ⁶*They didn't see what he did to Dathan and Abiram, Eliab's sons, when the ground swallowed them, their families, tents, and everything living with them.* ⁷*But you have seen his great work.*

8“*Keep every commandment I'm giving you so you'll be strong enough to take over the land,* ⁹*so you'll live a long time in that land flowing with milk and honey.* ¹⁰*That land is not like Egypt, where you sowed your seed and watered it by hand like a vegetable garden.* ¹¹*The land you're entering has hills and valleys that soak up rain,* ¹²*a land Yahveh takes care of and watches over year around.*

Deut 11:1-12

13“*If you'll love him and serve him with all your heart and soul,* ¹⁴*he'll give you the autumn and spring rains so you can harvest your grain, new wine, and olive oil.* ¹⁵*He'll grow grass in your pastures for your livestock, and you'll eat till you're satisfied.* ¹⁶*Don't let your hearts deceive you into serving other gods.* ¹⁷*His anger will flare at you, and he'll stop the sky from raining and the ground from growing crops, and you'll soon perish.*

18“*Impress these things on your heart and soul, tie them to your hand, wear them on your forehead.* ¹⁹*Teach them to your children. Talk about them when you're sitting at home, walking down the road, lying down, or getting up.* ²⁰*Write them on your gates and doorposts* ²¹*so you and your children will flourish in the land for as long as the sky's above the earth.* ²²*If you keep these commandments*

carefully, ²³Yahveh will drive out the nations. You'll take over nations bigger and stronger than you. ²⁴Everywhere you step you'll own. Your borders will stretch from the desert to Lebanon, from the Euphrates River to the Mediterranean Sea. ²⁵Nobody will be able to withstand you. Your God will make the whole land afraid of you.

²⁶"I'm setting in front of you a blessing and a curse: ²⁷a blessing if you listen to what I'm giving you, ²⁸a curse if you turn aside after other gods. ²⁹When Yahveh takes you to the land, put the blessing on Mount Gerizim and the curse on Mount Ebal. ³⁰Aren't they across the Jordan toward the sunset in the land of the Canaanites who live in the Arabah near Gilgal and the Oaks of Moreh? [³¹⁻³²]

Deut 11:13-32

One Central Place of Worship

^{12:1}"You're to observe these statutes and judgments as long as you live. ²Destroy the places where these nations worship their gods—on hills and mountains and under every green tree. ³Tear down their altars, smash their sacred pillars, burn their Asherah poles, cut down the carved images of their gods, erase their name from those places.

⁴Don't conduct yourselves that way with Yahveh your God. ⁵Look to him where he designates. ⁶Take your burnt offerings there, your sacrifices, your tithes and contributions, your offerings for fulfilling a vow, and your freewill offerings, the firstborn in your herds and flocks. ⁷Eat there with Yahveh and celebrate in your endeavors. ⁸Don't do like we're doing here today, with all of you doing what seems right to you. ⁹You haven't yet come to the resting place Yahveh's giving you. ¹⁰When he gives you security from your enemies, ¹⁴do everything I command you where he designates in one of your tribes—[¹¹] ^{12b}you, your children, your male and female servants, and the Levite inside your gates (since he doesn't have any inheritance with you). [^{12a, 13}]

Deut 12:1-14

¹⁵"But, you can butcher and eat meat inside your gates however you like with Yahveh's blessing. The ceremonially clean and unclean can eat it, as with the gazelle and the deer. ¹⁶Only don't eat the blood; drain it out on the ground. ¹⁷Don't eat inside your gates the tenth of your grain, any offering for fulfilling a vow, or your freewill offerings and contributions. ¹⁸Eat them with Yahveh where he designates and celebrate your endeavors. ¹⁹Make sure you don't leave him anytime in life.

²⁰"When Yahveh extends your border and you want some meat, go on and eat it. ²¹If the place he designates is too far away, butcher animals from your

herds and flocks where you live. ²²*Just like you eat a gazelle or deer, whether you're ceremonially clean or unclean.* [²³⁻²⁴] ²⁵*Don't eat the blood, so things will go well for you and your descendants; you'll be doing what's right in front of God.* ²⁶*But where he designates take your holy things and offerings to fulfill a vow.* ²⁷*Offer your burnt offerings on the altar, pour out the blood on the altar, and eat the meat.* [²⁸]

²⁹*"When Yahveh cuts off the nations you overtake^{sg}, ³⁰don't ask^{sg} how they serve their gods so you can do that.* ³¹*They do for their gods every disgusting thing Yahveh hates. They even burn their sons and daughters to their gods.*

³²*"Do what I tell you, nothing more or less.*

Deut 12:15-32

Warning Against Idolatry

13:1 *"If a prophet or dreamer arises and gives you a sign or wonder ²that comes true, and uses it to say, 'Let's serve other gods,' ³ignore him. Yahveh's testing you to see if you love him with all your heart and soul. ⁴Follow him, respect him, keep his commandments, listen to him, serve him, hold onto him. ⁵Execute that prophet or dreamer. He has advocated rebellion against Yahveh who brought you out of Egypt and redeemed you from slavery. He's seducing you to leave Yahveh. That's how you're to purge evil from among you.*

⁶*"If your brother, your son or daughter, the wife you love, your close friend tempts you privately to serve other gods—⁷of people near or far, from one end of the earth to the other—⁸don't yield to them. Don't show mercy or cover it up. ⁹Execute them. Be the first to strike against them, then the other people will join in. ¹⁰Stone them to death, because they have tried to tempt you away from Yahveh your God that brought you out of slavery in Egypt. ¹¹Israel will hear about it and show respect, and not do such a sinful thing again.*

Deut 13:1-11

¹²⁻¹³*"If you hear that some worthless individuals have tempted the people in their city to serve other gods, ¹⁴investigate the matter thoroughly. If it's true, ¹⁵strike them with the sword. Destroy the city, its people, and their livestock. ¹⁶Gather its spoil in its open square and burn it as a whole burnt offering to Yahveh. Make the city a permanent ruin; don't rebuild it. ¹⁷Get rid of any plunder marked for destruction so Yahveh will turn his furious anger away, have mercy on you, and make a big nation out of you—like he swore to your ancestors.* [¹⁸]

Deut 13:12-18

Ceremonially Clean and Unclean Animals

14:1 “You’re the people of Yahveh your God. Don’t cut yourselves or shave your eyebrows for the dead. **2** You’re set apart to Yahveh. Out of all the nations, he’s chosen you to be his nation.

3 “Don’t eat anything detestable. **4** You can eat these animals: cattle, sheep, goats, **5** deer, gazelles, roebucks, wild goats, ibexes, antelopes, mountain sheep. **6** You can eat any animal that has divided hoofs and chews their cud. **7** Don’t eat camels, rabbits, and rock-badgers. They chew the cud, but don’t divide the hoof. They’re unclean. **8** Don’t eat pigs. They divide the hoof, but don’t chew cud. They’re ceremonially unclean. Don’t touch their carcasses.

Deut 14:1-8

9 “You can eat water animals that have fins and scales. **10** If they don’t have both, they’re ceremonially unclean.

11 “You can eat any clean bird. **12** You can’t eat eagles, vultures, buzzards, **13** red kites, falcons, kites of any kind, **14** ravens of any kind, **15** horned owls, screech owls, sea gulls, hawks of any kind, **16** the little owls, great horned owls, white owls, **17** pelicans, carrion vultures, cormorants, **18** storks, herons of any kind, hoopoes, or bats.

19 “Flying insects are ceremonially unclean. [**20**]

21 “Don’t eat anything that dies on its own. You can give or sell it to foreigners in your town to eat. You’re a holy people.

“Don’t boil a kid in its mother’s milk.”

Deut 14:9-21

Tithes

22 “Make sure to present a tenth of everything you sow in the field each year. **23** Eat it in Yahveh’s presence where he designates—a tenth of your grain, new wine, olive oil, the firstborn in your herd and flock so you’ll learn to respect Yahveh always. **24** If you live too far away to take the tenth itself, **25** sell it and take the money where he designates. **26** You and your family can spend it on whatever you want—cattle, sheep, wine, alcohol—and eat it in his presence and celebrate. **27** Don’t neglect the Levites in your town. They don’t have a territory to inherit.

28 “At the end of the year, deposit a tenth of your produce in your town.

29 The Levites (who don’t have an inheritance), foreigners, orphans, and widows in your town can come and eat till they’re full; Yahveh your God will bless you in your work.”

Deut 14:22-29

The Year for Canceling Debts

15:1 “At the end of every seven years, cancel debts. **2** Creditors are to let go of what they’ve loaned to their fellow Hebrews. Don’t exact it from them; Yahveh has canceled the debt. **3** You can exact it from a foreigner, but not from fellow citizens. **4** There won’t be any poor among you because Yahveh will bless

you like he promised ⁵*if you obey this commandment.* ⁶*Lend to other nations, but don't borrow from them. You'll rule other nations; they won't rule you.*

⁷*"If there are poor fellow citizens in your town, be sensitive. ⁸Be willing to lend them what they need. ⁹Don't harbor the selfish thought, 'The seventh year is coming, the year of debt cancelation,' and not help them. They may call out to Yahveh, and it'll be a sin on you. ¹⁰Give generously without regret so Yahveh will bless what you undertake. ¹¹You'll always have poor people in your land. Be willing to open your hand to your kin, the needy, the poor.*

Deut 15:1-11

Release of Hebrew Slaves

¹²*"If you buy Hebrew men or women, they'll serve you six years and go free the seventh. ¹³When you set them free, don't send them away with nothing. ¹⁴Supply them liberally from your flock, your threshing floor, your wine vat. Give to them in proportion to how Yahveh has blessed you. ¹⁵Remember, you were a slave in Egypt, and he redeemed you. ¹⁶If a servant says he doesn't want to leave, because he loves you and your household and gets along well with you, ¹⁷pierce his ear with an awl. He'll be your servant permanently. Do the same thing with a maidservant. ¹⁸Don't let it bother you to set servants free. They've given you six years with twice the service a hired hand gives. That way Yahveh will bless you in whatever you do.*

Sacrifice of Firstborn Male Animals

¹⁹*"Consecrate to Yahveh the male firstborn in your herd and flock. Don't work the firstborn in your herd or shear the firstborn in your flock. ²⁰You and your family will eat it every year with Yahveh where he designates. ²¹Don't sacrifice it if it has any serious defect like lameness or blindness. ²²Eat it at home; ceremonially clean and unclean alike can eat it—like a gazelle or deer. ²³Only don't eat its blood. Drain it out on the ground.*

Deut 15:12-23

Passover Festival

16:1 *"In the month Abib, celebrate Passover to Yahveh your God. That's when he brought you out of Egypt at night. ²Sacrifice the Passover from the flock and the herd where he designates. ³For a week, only eat bread without yeast—the bread of suffering (you came out in a hurry)—so you'll remember all your life when you left Egypt. ⁴For a week no yeast will be anywhere in any of your houses. None of the meat you sacrifice the first evening is to remain till morning. ⁵You can't sacrifice the Passover anywhere except where Yahveh designates for his name. ⁶Sacrifice it at sundown, which is when you left Egypt. ⁷Cook it and eat it where he designates. In the morning go back home. ⁸For six days, eat bread with no*

yeast. On the seventh, hold a solemn assembly to Yahveh. Don't do any work that day.

Deut 16:1-8

Festival of Weeks

9“Count seven weeks from when you start using the sickle on standing grain. **10**Then celebrate the Festival of Weeks to Yahveh with a freewill offering. Give in proportion to how he blesses you. **11**Celebrate in his presence—you, your son and daughter, male and female servant, the Levite in your town, the foreigner, orphan, and widow among you. **12**Remember that you were a slave in Egypt. Observe these statutes carefully.

Deut 16:9-12

Festival of Tabernacles

13“Celebrate the Festival of Booths for a week after you've gathered in the grain from your threshing floor and the wine from your vat. **14**Celebrate at the festival—you, your son and daughter, male and female servants, the Levite, foreigner, orphan, and widow in your towns. **15**Celebrate a festival to Yahveh for a week where he designates. He'll bless everything you do and what you produce. You'll be altogether joyful.

16“Three times a year, males are to appear in Yahveh's presence where he designates: at the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the Festival of Weeks, and the Festival of Booths. They're not to appear empty-handed. **17**Every man will give as he can, in proportion to Yahveh's blessing.

Deut 16:13-17

Judges Appointed

18“Appoint judges and officers in your towns by tribes. Judge the people with justice. **19**Don't distort justice. Be impartial. Don't take bribes; they blind the wise and pervert the just. **20**Pursue justice and justice only, so you can live and possess the land Yahveh's giving you.

Worshiping Other Gods

21“Don't set up a wooden Asherah pole beside an altar you make for Yahveh. **22**Don't set up sacred pillars. That's something he despises.

Deut 16:18-22

17:1“Don't sacrifice an ox or sheep that has a blemish. Yahveh detests that.

2-4“In any of your towns, if you hear about a man or woman that breaks the covenant by serving other gods or worshiping the sun, moon, or stars, verify that detestable thing thoroughly. **5**Then take the person to your city gates and stone that man or woman to death. **6**You need the testimony of two or three witnesses to execute anyone. Don't execute anybody on the word of one witness. **7**The accuser needs to throw the first stone. Then the people will join in. That's how you're to purge evil from among you.

8 “If a case is too hard for you to decide in your courts—between one kind of homicide and another, between one kind of lawsuit and another, between one kind of assault and another—go to where Yahveh designates. **9** Go to the Levitical priest or judge that’s in office and lay the case in front of him. He’ll render a verdict. **10** Carry out all its terms. **11** Follow the law he teaches you in the verdict he gives. **12** The person will die that ignores the priest or judge. That’s how you’re to purge evil from Israel. **13** The other people will hear about it and show respect, and not act presumptuously again.

Deut 17:1-13

The King

14 “When you’re in the land, you’ll want to install a king like the nations around you. **15** Install a fellow citizen that Yahveh chooses. **16** He must not multiply horses for himself or send people to Egypt to multiply them. Yahveh has said never to go back there. **17** He must not multiply wives; they’ll turn his heart away. He must not amass silver and gold for himself.

18 “When he sits on the throne, he’s to write a copy of this Law on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. **19** It’ll be with him to read all his life so he’ll learn to respect Yahveh by doing what it says,
20 so he won’t lord it over fellow citizens,
so he won’t deviate from its commandments,
so he and his descendants will continue long in his kingdom. **Deut 17:14-20**

Offerings for Priests and Levites

18:1 “The Levitical priests won’t inherit territory. They’ll eat Yahveh’s offerings by fire and his portion. **2** He is their inheritance like he promised.

3 “This is what the people owe the priests. When they offer a sacrifice—ox or sheep—they’ll give the priest the shoulder, two cheeks, and stomach. **4** They’ll give him the first part of the harvest of their grain, new wine, and olive oil, as well as the first shearing of their sheep. **5** Out of all the tribes, Yahveh has permanently chosen Levi and his descendants to stand and serve in his name.

6 “If a Levite living in a town in Israel solemnly wants to come to where Yahveh designates, **7** then he’ll serve there in Yahveh’s name like his fellow Levites. **8** He’ll eat equal portions as well as what he receives from selling his fathers’ property.

Deut 18:1-8

Disgusting Practices Prohibited

9 “When you go to a land, don’t do the disgusting things its people do. **10** No one will burn a son or daughter as an offering, use fortunetelling, practice witchcraft, interpret omens, use sorcery, **11** cast spells, call up the dead, be a medium or spiritualist. **12** Yahveh detests whoever does those things. It’s because

of such detestable things that he's going to drive those people out. ¹³Be blameless toward him.

Prophets True and False

14 "Those nations listen to witches and fortunetellers, but Yahveh your God doesn't allow that. ¹⁵He'll raise up a prophet like me from among you; listen to him. ¹⁶That corresponds to what you asked Yahveh in assembly at Horeb/Sinai, 'Don't let us hear his voice again or see this great fire anymore. We're afraid we'll die.' ¹⁷Yahveh told me, 'They've spoken well. ¹⁸I'll raise up a prophet from among their fellow citizens like you. I'll give him my message, and he'll tell them everything I've told him. ¹⁹I'll hold responsible whoever ignores what he says in my name. ²⁰But any prophet will die that tries to speak in my name when I haven't authorized it. The same thing applies to anybody that speaks in the name of other gods. ²¹You may wonder how you can tell what I haven't said. ²²When a prophet speaks in my name and it doesn't happen, I didn't say it. The prophet has spoken without my authority. Don't pay any attention to him.'

Deut 18:9-22

Cities of Refuge

19^{:1} "When Yahveh cuts off the nations whose land he's giving you and you settle in their towns and houses, ²set aside three towns, ³build roads to them, and section the land into three parts so a person that's killed someone can flee to them.

⁴"This provision is for someone that kills another accidentally to flee to and live. ⁵It's for cases like when a couple friends go to the woods to cut wood. When one of them swings the axe to cut down a tree and the iron head comes off and kills the friend, the slayer can flee to one of these towns. ⁶That way the avenger of blood can't pursue in the heat of anger and take the slayer's life. The slayer doesn't deserve death because it didn't happen because of hate. ⁷So set aside three towns. [⁸If Yahveh enlarges your territory and gives you the land he promised your ancestors, ⁹and you always love him and follow his ways, then add three more towns.] ¹⁰That way you won't become guilty of shedding innocent blood.

Deut 19:1-10

¹¹"But it's another thing if one person hates another, lies in wait, commits murder, and flees to one of these towns. ¹²The elders back home are to get the slayer returned for the avenger of blood to execute. ¹³Don't show mercy. Purge from Israel the guilt for shedding innocent blood so things will go well for you.

¹⁴"Don't move a boundary marker that the ancestors have set.

Use of Witnesses

15 “A single witness can’t accuse somebody of a sin. It takes two or three witnesses to establish a matter. **16** If a malicious witness accuses someone, **17** both people will stand in the presence of Yahveh, that is, in front of the priests and judges in office. **18** The judges will investigate thoroughly. If the witness has accused falsely, **19** do to him what he’d intended to do to the fellow citizen. That’s how you’re to purge sin from you. **20** The rest of the people will show respect and not do such a sinful thing. **21** Don’t show mercy: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

Deut 19:11-21

Going to War

20 **1** “When you go to battle and see horses, chariots, and people more numerous than you, don’t be afraid. Yahveh your God, who brought you out of Egypt, is with you. **2** When you’re getting ready for battle, the priests will come to remind you, **3** ‘Don’t be fainthearted, Israel. Don’t panic or tremble. **4** Yahveh is with you to fight for you and save you.’ **5** The officers will also say,

‘Who has built a house and not dedicated it? He can go home so he won’t die in battle and somebody else dedicate it.

6 Who has planted a vineyard and not used its fruit? He can go home so he won’t die in battle and somebody else use it.

7 Who is engaged to a woman and not married her? He can go home so he won’t die in battle and somebody else marry her.

8 Who’s afraid? He can go home so he won’t make his companions’ hearts melt like his.’

9 When the officers have finished speaking, they’ll appoint commanders to lead the people.

Deut 20:1-9

10 “When you approach a city beyond your promised territory, offer it terms of peace. **11** If it makes peace, its people will serve you as forced laborers.

12 But, if it doesn’t make peace with you, besiege it. **13** When Yahveh gives it to you, strike the men with the sword. **14** Only the women, children, animals, and everything in the city take as spoil and use. **15** Do that to all distant towns. **16** In towns Yahveh’s giving you as an inheritance, don’t leave anything that breathes.

17 Destroy the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites.

18 That way they won’t teach you the disgusting things they do for their gods, so you won’t sin against Yahveh your God.

19 “When you besiege a city, don’t cut down its fruit trees. You can eat from them later. Is a tree a person, that you should besiege it? **20** Only what aren’t fruit trees can you cut down to build siege works.

Deut 20:10-20

Ceremonial Cleansing for Unsolved Murder

21:1 “If a slain body turns up in open country and nobody knows who killed it,² your elders and judges will figure how far it is to the towns nearby.³ The elders in the nearest town will take a heifer that hasn’t been worked,⁴ and go down to a valley with running water—a valley that hasn’t been plowed or sown—and break her neck.⁵ Then the priests, the Levites, will come—because Yahveh has chosen them to serve him—to bless in his name, to settle assaults.⁶ The elders in that city will wash their hands over the heifer⁷ and say, ‘We haven’t shed this blood and don’t know who did.⁸ Forgive your people that you’ve redeemed, Yahveh. Don’t hold the guilt for innocent blood against us.’ He’ll forgive the murderer.⁹ That’s how you’ll remove the guilt for murder when you do what God considers right.

Marrying a Captive Woman

10 “When Yahveh delivers your enemies to you in battle,¹¹ and you see among the captives a beautiful woman you want to take as your wife,¹² take her home and have her shave her head and trim her nails.¹³ She’ll change from the clothes you captured her in and live with you in your house for a full month, mourning her parents. After that you can sleep with her, and she’ll be your wife.¹⁴ If she becomes displeasing to you, let her go wherever she wants to. But don’t sell her or mistreat her, because you’ve humiliated her.

Deut 21:1-14

Rights of the Firstborn

15 “If a man has two wives, one loved and the other loved less, and both have had male firstborn, he can’t put the firstborn of the loved ahead of the firstborn of the one loved less if the latter is older.¹⁶⁻¹⁷ When he wills his possessions, he must give the double portion to the firstborn of the one less loved. The one that first issued from his virility holds the right of the firstborn.

A Rebellious Son

18 “If anyone has a stubborn, rebellious son that won’t obey his parents or pay attention when they discipline him,¹⁹ they’re to take hold of him and take him to the elders in court in his hometown.²⁰ They’ll tell them, ‘Our son is stubborn, rebellious, and disobedient. He’s a glutton and a drunk.’²¹ The men in the city are to stone him to death. That’s how you’re to purge evil from among you. All Israel will hear about it and show respect.

Various Regulations

22 “If someone has been hung on a tree for a crime that deserves death,²³ don’t leave the corpse on the tree overnight. Bury it the same day so you don’t defile the land Yahveh is giving you. (God considers cursed a person that’s been hanged.)

Deut 21:15-23

22:1 “Don’t watch your fellow citizen’s ox or sheep stray off and not take it to its owner. **2**If the owner doesn’t live close by or you don’t know who the owner is, take it home till the owner comes looking for it and then return it. **3**Do the same thing with someone’s donkey, piece of clothing, or anything a person lost. You can’t confiscate it. **4**Don’t watch your fellow citizen’s donkey or ox fall down on the road and not help it get it up.

5“A woman is not to wear a man’s clothes or vice versa. Whoever does that is detestable to Yahveh.

6“If you find a bird’s nest in a tree or on the ground with a mother sitting on eggs or chicks, **7**you can take the young, but let the mother go so you’ll prosper and have a long life.

8“When you build a house, build a short wall around the flat roof so you won’t be responsible for somebody falling off and dying.

9“Don’t sow in your vineyard a second kind of crop interspersed and thereby make both crops unusable. **10**Don’t plow with an ox and donkey together.

11Don’t wear clothing made from wool and linen mixed.

Deut 22:1-11

12“Put tassels on the hem of the four sides of your cloak.

Regulations for Sexual Purity

13If a man takes a wife and goes into her and then turns against her, **14**accuses her of shameful acts, publicly defames her, and says, ‘I took this woman, but when I came near her, I found out she wasn’t a virgin,’ **15**then her parents will bring the evidence for her virginity to the elders at the city gate. **16**Her father will tell them, ‘I gave her to him as a wife, but he turned against her’ **17**and accused her of not being a virgin. But this is the evidence of her virginity.’ They’ll spread the article of clothing in front of the elders of the city. **18**They’ll take the man and punish him. **19**They’ll fine him 2½ lbs ¹⁰⁰shekels of silver and give it to the girl’s father, because the husband publicly defamed a virgin of Israel. She’ll remain his wife, and he can’t divorce her. **20**But if the accusation is true, **21**they’ll take her out to the entrance to her father’s home. The men in her city will stone her to death because she committed a disgraceful act by serving as a prostitute in her father’s family. That’s how you’re to purge evil from among you.

Deut 22:12-21

22“If a man is caught lying with a married woman, both will die. That’s how you’re to purge evil from Israel.

23“If a virgin is engaged and another man lies with her, **24**take them both to the city gate and stone them to death—the girl, because she didn’t scream in the city, and the man because he violated another man’s fiancée. That’s how

you're to purge evil from Israel. ²⁵*But if the man finds an engaged girl in a field and rapes her, then only the man will die.* ²⁶*Don't do anything to her; there's no sin in her that deserves death. This case is like a man that murders someone.* ²⁷*When he found her in the field, she screamed, but there wasn't anybody there to rescue her.*

²⁸*"If a man finds a virgin that's not engaged and has sex with her and they're discovered,* ²⁹*the man will give her father 20 oz ⁵⁰ shekels of silver. She'll become his wife because he violated her. He can't divorce her.*

³⁰*"A man can't marry his father's former wife and thereby uncover his father's cloak.*

Deut 22:22-30

Exclusion from the Assembly

23:¹*"Nobody that's been castrated or has his penis cut off, can go into Yahveh's assembly.* ²*No illegitimate person or his descendant can go into Yahveh's assembly for ten generations.* ³*No Ammonite, Moabite, or their descendant can go into Yahveh's assembly for ten generations.* ⁴*They didn't meet you with food and water when you came out of Egypt. They hired Balaam Ben-Beor from Mesopotamia to curse you,* ⁵*but Yahveh wouldn't listen to him. He turned the curse into a blessing because he loves you.* ⁶*Never seek peace or prosperity with them.*

⁷*"Don't detest Edomites; they're kin. Don't detest Egyptians; you lived as foreigners in his land.* ⁸*The third generation can enter Yahveh's assembly.*

Uncleanness in Camp

⁹*"When you go out as an army, keep yourselves away from anything impure.* ¹⁰*If a man is ceremonially unclean from night emissions, he must leave the camp the rest of the day.* ¹¹*In the evening, he can take a bath and come back.* ¹²*Have a place outside the camp to go to.* ¹³*Keep a spade among your tools. When you defecate, dig a hole and cover up your feces.* ¹⁴*Since Yahveh lives in your camp to deliver you from your enemies, your camp must be holy. He must not see anything detestable among you, or he'll turn away from you.* **Deut 23:1-14**

Miscellaneous Laws

¹⁵*"Don't hand over to their master any slaves that escape to you.* ¹⁶*Let them live among you where they choose. Don't mistreat them.*

¹⁷*"No son or daughter will be a cult prostitute.* ¹⁸*Don't take the hire of a female or male prostitute* to Yahveh's house for an offering to fulfill a vow. They're detestable to your God.*

19 “Don’t charge your fellow citizens interest on money, food, or anything that can be loaned at interest, **20** so Yahveh can bless what you undertake. You can charge a foreigner interest.

21 “When you vow to Yahveh, don’t delay paying it. That would be a sin, and he’ll certainly hold you to it. (**22** Not taking any vow isn’t a sin.) **23** You have to do what you voluntarily promise your God.

24 “You can go into someone else’s vineyard and eat as many grapes as you want, but you can’t put any in a container. **25** You can go into someone’s standing grain and pick off heads, but you can’t use a sickle on it. **Deut 23:15-25**

24:1 “When a man gets married and his wife becomes displeasing to him because he finds something wrong with her, he’s to give her a certificate of divorce and send her away. **2** If she marries another man **3** and he divorces her or dies, **4** her first husband can’t marry her again because she’s been defiled. That would be detestable to Yahveh. Don’t bring sin on the land he’s giving you.

5 “When a man gets married, he won’t be charged with any military duty for a year. He’ll be free at home to make his wife happy.

6 “Don’t take a hand mill or upper millstone as a pledge. You’d be taking a livelihood as a pledge.

7 “If someone kidnaps and enslaves or sells a fellow citizen, execute the kidnapper. That’s how you’re to purge evil from among you.

8 “Keep an eye on a spot of leprosy and follow the priests’ instructions.

9 Remember what Yahveh did to Miriam on the way from Egypt. **Deut 24:1-9**

10 “When you loan somebody something, don’t go into his house to get it. **11** Let him bring it out to you. **12** If he’s poor, don’t keep his pledge overnight.

13 Give it back at sundown so he can sleep in his cloak and have a good attitude toward you. Yahveh will consider you good.

14 “Don’t oppress hired hands that’ are poor, citizen or foreigner. **15** Pay them each day before sundown. They’re poor and their life depends on it. That way they won’t call out to Yahveh, and it becomes sin in you.

16 “Don’t execute parents for children or vice versa. Execute each person for that person’s sin.

17 “Don’t pervert justice with a foreigner or orphan, or take a widow’s cloak as a pledge. **18** Remember that you were a slave in Egypt and Yahveh freed you. That’s why I’m telling you this.

19 “When you harvest your field and overlook a bundle, don’t go back to get it. Leave it for foreigners, orphans, or widows. Yahveh your God will bless you in your work. **20** When you beat the limbs on your olive tree, don’t go back

over them. Leave them for foreigners, orphans, and widows. ²¹*When you gather grapes from your vineyard, don't pick back over them. Leave them for foreigners, orphans, and widows.* ²²*Remember that you were a slave in Egypt. That's why I'm telling you this.*

Deut 24:10-22

25:1“*When people go to court and the judges decide their case,* ²*if the offender deserves to be scourged, the judge will make the offender lie down and be scourged in his presence the number of stripes appropriate to the offence.* ³*He can scourge him 40 times at most. More than that would be despising him.*

4“*Don't muzzle an ox while it's threshing.*

5“*When brothers live together and one dies with no son, the wife of the deceased can't remarry outside the family. Her brother-in-law will take her as his wife and perform the duty of a brother-in-law.* ⁶*Her first son will carry on her dead husband's lineage so it won't disappear from Israel.* ⁷*If the brother-in-law doesn't want to take his brother's wife, she's to go to the elders at the gate and say, 'My brother-in-law refuses to carry on my husband's name in Israel. He doesn't want to perform the duty of a brother-in-law to me.'* ⁸*The elders will send for him and talk to him about it. If he persists and says, 'I don't want to take her,'* ⁹*she's to take his sandal off, spit in his face, and declare, 'That's what's done to the man who doesn't build up his brother's house.'* ¹⁰*His name in Israel will be 'The house of the man whose sandal's off [Bet-chaluts-hanna'al].'*

Deut 25:1-10

11“*If two men are fighting and one of the wives comes to help her husband by grabbing his attacker's testicles,* ¹²*cut her hand off. Don't show mercy.*

13“*Don't have different-sized weights in your bags,* ¹⁴*and don't have different-sized measures in your houses.* ¹⁵*Use full-sized, exact weights and measures so you'll live long in the land.* ¹⁶*Yahveh detests whoever cheats with weights and measures.*

17“*Don't forget what Amalek did when you came out of Egypt.* ¹⁸*He attacked the stragglers in the rear when you were faint and tired. He didn't fear God.* ¹⁹*When Yahveh your God has given you peace from all your other enemies, remember to totally erase the memory of Amalek.*

Deut 25:11-19

Firstfruits and Tithes

26:1“*Once you're living in the land,* ²*put some of its first produce in a basket and go where Yahveh chooses to put his name.* ³*Go to the priest and say,*

'I declare to Yahveh my God that I've entered the land he swore he'd give us.' ⁴*The priest will set the basket down at the altar.* ⁵*You'll answer, 'My ancestor was an Aramean nomad. He went down to Egypt and lived few in number, but he became a big strong nation there.* ⁶*The Egyptians abused us with hard labor,* ⁷*and*

we cried out to our ancestors' God. He heard us and saw our misery, toil, and oppression. ⁸*He brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand and outstretched arm, with terror, signs, and wonders.* ⁹*He brought us here and gave us this land, flowing with milk and honey.* ¹⁰*I've brought the first produce of the ground you've given me.' Set it down by Yahveh and worship him there.* ¹¹*You, the Levite, the foreigner among you will celebrate over the good he's given you and your family.*

Deut 26:1-11

¹²*"When you pay a tenth of your crop the third year, give it to the Levite, foreigner, orphan, and widow in your towns so they can eat till they're satisfied.*

¹³*Say in front of Yahveh,*

'I've removed the sacred portion from my house, and given it to the Levite, foreigner, orphan, and widow. I haven't disobeyed any of your commandments.'

¹⁴*I've not eaten some of it while in mourning, removed any of it while ceremonially unclean, or offered any of it to the dead.* ¹⁵*Look down from your holy house in heaven and bless your people Israel and the land you've given us, a land flowing with milk and honey—like you swore to our ancestors.'*

Obeying the LORD

¹⁶*"Today Yahveh commands you to do these ordinances with all your heart and soul.*

¹⁷*Today you've declared that Yahveh is your God and that you'll follow his ways, keep his commandments, listen to him.*

¹⁸*Today Yahveh has declared that you're his people, the treasured possession he promised you'd be.* ¹⁹*He has declared that he'll set you high above all other nations for praise, fame, and honor; and you'll be consecrated to him."*

Deut 26:12-19

The Altar on Mount Ebal

27:1Then Moses and the elders in Israel charged the people,

"Keep the commandments I'm giving you. ²*When you cross the Jordan, set up large stones coated with lime.* ³*Write this Law on them clearly so you can go to the promised land that's flowing with milk and honey.* ⁴*Set up these stones on Mount Ebal.* ⁵*Build an altar there out of uncut stones—don't use any iron tools on them.* ⁶*Offer a burnt offering to Yahveh on it,* ⁷*and sacrifice peace offerings. Eat there and celebrate in his presence."* [⁸]

⁹Then Moses and the Levitical priests told Israel,

"Be still and listen. Today you've become a people for Yahveh your God, ¹⁰*so obey him."*

Deut 27:1-10

Curses from Mount Ebal

¹¹Moses charged them,

¹²“When you cross the Jordan, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin will stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people. ¹³Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali will stand on Mount Ebal to pronounce a curse. ¹⁴With a loud voice the Levites will answer the people of Israel,

Deut 27:11-14

¹⁵‘Accursed is anyone that makes an idol or molten image—a thing detestable to Yahveh, the work of a craftsman—and sets it up secretly.’

The people will say, ‘Amen.’

¹⁶‘Accursed is anyone that disrespects father or mother.’

The people will say, ‘Amen.’

¹⁷‘Accursed is anyone that moves a boundary marker.’

The people will say, ‘Amen.’

¹⁸‘Accursed is anyone that misleads someone that’s blind.’

The people will say, ‘Amen.’

¹⁹‘Accursed is anyone that distorts justice with a foreigner, orphan, or widow.’

The people will say, ‘Amen.’

²⁰‘Accursed is the man that lies with his father’s wife; he has uncovered his father’s cloak.’

The people will say, ‘Amen.’

²¹‘Accursed is the man that lies with any animal.’

The people will say, ‘Amen.’

²²‘Accursed is the man that lies with his sister, the daughter of his father or his mother.’

The people will say, ‘Amen.’

²³‘Accursed is the man that lies with his mother-in-law.’

The people will say, ‘Amen.’

²⁴‘Accursed is anyone that strikes another person in secret.’

The people will say, ‘Amen.’

²⁵‘Accursed is anyone that accepts a bribe to assassinate an innocent person.’

The people will say, ‘Amen.’

²⁶‘Accursed is everyone that doesn’t conform to this Law.’

The people will say, ‘Amen.’

Deut 27:15-26

Blessings for Obedience

28:1 “If you diligently obey Yahveh your God, he’ll set you high above every nation on earth. **2** These blessings will come on you:

3 “Blessed you’ll be in the city and the country.

4 “Blessed will be your offspring,

the produce of your ground,
the offspring of your animals,
the increase of your herd,
the young of your flock.

5 “Blessed will be your basket and kneading bowl.

6 “Blessed you’ll be when you come and go.

7 “Yahveh will defeat your enemies. They’ll attack you from one direction and flee in seven.

8 “Yahveh will direct his blessing on you in your barns and endeavors, and bless you in the land he’s giving you.

9 “Yahveh will establish you as a people reserved for himself.

10 “The nations will see that you’re called by Yahveh’s name and be afraid of you.

Deut 28:1-10

11 “Yahveh will make you prosperous in your offspring and your animals’ offspring, and in the produce from your ground.

12 “Yahveh will open his storehouse in the sky, send you rain in its season, and bless what you do. You’ll lend to many nations, but you can’t borrow from them.

13 “Yahveh will make you the head, not the tail. You’ll be above, not below **14** if you don’t stray from my commandments and serve other gods.

Curses for Disobedience

15 “If you don’t obey Yahveh, these curses will come on you:

16 “Accursed you’ll be in the city and the country.

17 “Accursed will be your basket and kneading bowl.

18 “Accursed will be your offspring,

the produce of your ground,
the increase of your herd,
the young in your flock.

19 “Accursed you’ll be as you come and go.

Deut 28:11-19

20 “Yahveh will send curses, confusion, and rebuke on everything you try to do, till you soon perish because you’ve done sinful things and left him.

- 21** *Yahveh will send disease on you till none of you are left in the land.*
- 22** *Yahveh will strike you with consumption, fever, inflammation, scorching heat, sword, blight, and mildew. They'll dog you till you die.*
- 23** *The sky above you will be bronze, and the ground under you will be iron.*
- 24** *Yahveh will turn rain into dust. It'll come down on you till you suffocate.*
- 25** *The LORD will let your enemies defeat you. You'll go out against them one way and flee from them seven ways. You'll be an example of panic for the kingdoms. **26** Your corpses will feed the birds and wild animals. There won't be anybody to scare them off.*
- 27** *"Yahveh will strike you with the boils you saw in Egypt, with hemorrhoids, scab, and itch that won't heal.*
- 28** *"Yahveh will strike you with madness, blindness, and faintheartedness.*
- 29** *You'll grope at noon like a blind man in the dark; you won't prosper. You'll be oppressed and robbed continually, and nobody will be there to save you.*
- Deut 28:20-29**
- 30** *"You'll be engaged to a wife, but another man will rape her. You'll build a house, but not live in it. You'll plant a vineyard, but not eat its fruit.*
- 31** *"Your ox will be butchered in front of you, and you won't eat any of it. Your donkey will be torn away from you and not returned. Your sheep will be given to your enemies, and nobody will save you.*
- 32** *"Your sons and daughters will be given to another nation while you watch and yearn for them. But you won't be able to do anything about it.*
- 33** *"A people you don't know will eat the produce you've labored on. You'll be oppressed and crushed all the time.*
- 34** *"You'll be driven mad by what you see.*
- 35** *"Yahveh will strike your knees and legs with sore boils that won't heal from the crown of your head to the sole of your feet.*
- 36** *"You and the king you'll appoint, God will take to a nation you and your ancestors never heard of. You'll serve wooden and stone gods there. **37** You'll become something to abhor, a proverb, a taunt in the nation where Yahveh drives you.*

38 “You’ll take lots of seed to the field, but bring little in. Locusts will eat it.

39 “You’ll cultivate vineyards, but you won’t drink any wine or gather any grapes. Worms will eat them.

40 “You’ll have olive trees everywhere, but you won’t anoint yourself with the oil. Your olives will fall off.

41 “You’ll have sons and daughters, but they won’t be yours. They’ll go into captivity.

42 “Locusts will overtake your trees and produce.

43 “Foreigners among you will rise higher and higher above you, and you’ll sink lower and lower. **44** He’ll lend to you, but you won’t lend to him. He’ll be the head; you’ll be the tail. **Deut 28:30-44**

45 “These curses will come on you till they destroy you, because you wouldn’t obey Yahveh. **46** They’ll become a sign and a wonder on you and your descendants forever. **47** Since you didn’t serve him with joy and happiness for the abundance of everything, **48** you’ll serve the enemies he sends against you, and you’ll do so in hunger, thirst, nakedness, and the lack of everything. He’ll put an iron yoke on your neck till he’s destroyed you.

49 “Yahveh will bring a nation against you from the end of the earth like a swooping eagle, a nation whose language you can’t understand. **50** It’ll be a nation that doesn’t respect the old or favor the young. **51** It’ll eat the offspring of your herd and the produce from your ground. It won’t leave you any grain, new wine, olive oil, increase in your herd, or the young in your flock till its people wipe you out. **52** It will besiege you in your towns till your high, fortified walls you trusted come down all over your land. **53** In the sieges you’ll be so oppressed you’ll eat the offspring of your own body, the sons and daughters Yahveh gave you. **54** Your refined, cultured gentleman will be hostile toward his brother, the wife he cherishes, his children that remain. **55** He won’t give a one of them any of his children’s flesh he’s eating, because he won’t have anything left during the oppressive siege. **56** Your refined, cultured lady that wouldn’t walk on the ground barefoot, will be hostile toward the husband she cherishes, her son and daughter, **57** the afterbirth from between her legs, the children she bears. She’ll eat them secretly for lack of anything else during the oppressive siege. **Deut 28:45-57**

58 “If you don’t observe the laws in this scroll and respect this honored and awesome name, ‘Yahveh Your God’ [Yahveh-Elohekha], **59** he’ll bring severe plagues, miserable chronic diseases on you and your descendants. **60** He’ll bring

on you Egypt's diseases that you feared and still cling to you. ⁶¹He'll even bring on you sicknesses and plagues that aren't in this scroll.

⁶²"Although you were like stars in the sky, you'll end up being few. ⁶³As Yahveh delighted in prospering you, he'll delight in destroying you. He'll tear you from the land you're entering ⁶⁴and scatter you among the nations from one end of the world to the other. You'll serve wooden and stone gods there. ⁶⁵You won't find anywhere to rest your feet. He'll give you a cringing heart, failing eyes, despairing souls. ⁶⁶Your life will hang uncertain in front of you, and you'll dread night and day with no assurance that you'll live. ⁶⁷In the morning you'll say, 'Oh that it was evening!' In the evening you'll say, 'Oh that it was morning!' ⁶⁸Yahveh will take you back to Egypt in ships. You'll never see your country again. You'll try to sell yourselves to your enemies as male and female slaves, but nobody will buy you."

Deut 28:58-68

Renewal of the Covenant

29:¹Yahveh told Moses to make this covenant with Israel in Moab besides the covenant he made with them at Horeb/Sinai. ²Moses called Israel together and said,

"You've seen what Yahveh did in Egypt to Pharaoh, his officials, and his land. ³You saw the great trials, signs, and wonders. ⁴Yet he still hasn't given you a heart to know, eyes to see, or ears to hear. ⁵I've been leading you for 40 years in the desert. Your clothes and sandals haven't worn out. ⁶You didn't eat bread or drink wine or alcohol, but he provided for you so you would know he's Yahveh your God. ⁷When you got here, Sihon and Og came out to meet us, but we defeated them. ⁸We gave their land to Reuben, Gad, and the Manasseh half-tribe. ⁹So keep this covenant so you can prosper in everything you do.

10*"You're standing today in Yahveh's presence: your chiefs, tribes, elders, officers, all the men in Israel, ¹¹your children and wives, foreigners in your camps from the ones that chop your wood to the ones that draw your water. ¹²You're standing here to enter the covenant with Yahveh and into the oath he's taking with you today ¹³to establish you as his people and himself as your God—like he swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.*

Deut 29:1-13

14*"It's not just with you that he's making this covenant and taking this oath. ¹⁵It's with the ones that aren't standing here yet. ¹⁶You know how we lived in Egypt, and how we passed through the nations. ¹⁷You've seen their detestable things and their idols made out of wood, stone, silver, and gold.) ¹⁸He's making this covenant so there won't be any man or woman, family or tribe, whose heart turns away from him to serve those nations' gods. He's doing it so there won't be among you a*

root that bears bitter, poisonous fruit,¹⁹ or anyone that gloats with this curse, ‘I have peace though I’m living in stubbornness to destroy the watered land with the dry.’²⁰ Yahveh will never forgive such people. His anger and jealousy will burn against them. Every curse in this scroll will lie on them, and he’ll erase their names from under the sky.²¹ He’ll single them out for adversity.

Deut 29:14-21

²²“Your future generations and the foreigners from distant lands will see the plagues and diseases Yahveh inflicts on this land. They’ll say, ²³‘This whole land is sulfur and salt, a burning wasteland, unsown, unproductive, and without vegetation. It’s like Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboiim, which he overthrew.’²⁴ The nations will ask, ‘Why’d Yahveh do that to it? Why’s he so angry?’²⁵ People will answer, ‘Because they forsook his covenant with them and their ancestors when he brought them out of Egypt.²⁶ They served other gods he hadn’t given them.²⁷ So his anger burned against their land, and he brought on it every curse in this scroll.²⁸ He uprooted them and threw them into other lands, like they are now.’

²⁹“The secret things belong to Yahveh, but the revealed things belong to us and our descendants permanently so we can observe everything in this Law.

Deut 29:22-29

Prosperity for Turning to the LORD

***30:**¹⁻²“When these blessings and curses have come down on you, and you and your descendants remember them where Yahveh banishes you, and you change and obey him with all your heart and soul—³then he’ll show you mercy and bring you back from captivity in the nations where he’s scattered you.⁴ Even if you’re far away, he’ll return you⁵ to your ancestors’ land to possess it again. He’ll prosper you and multiply you more than your forebears.⁶ He’ll circumcise your and your descendants’ hearts so you’ll love him heart and soul, and have life.⁷ Yahveh will inflict these curses on people that hate you and persecute you.⁸ You’ll obey him again in everything I’m telling you now.⁹ Then he’ll prosper you in what you do, in the offspring from your body and your livestock, and in the produce from your ground. He’ll delight in you again like he did in your ancestors.^[10]*

The Choice Between Life and Death

¹¹“This commandment’s not too hard for you. It’s not out of reach¹² in the sky, that would make you say, ‘Who’ll go up to get it for us so we can hear it and do it?’¹³ It’s not beyond the ocean that would make you say, ‘Who’ll go get it for us so we can hear it and do it?’¹⁴ It’s right beside you, in your mouth and heart, so you can do it.

Deut 30:1-14

15 “Look, today I’m setting life and prosperity in front of you, death and adversity. **16** It’s prosperity if you love Yahveh, follow his ways, and keep his commandments so you can live and multiply, and he can bless you in the land. **17** It’s adversity if your heart turns away and you go serve other gods. **18** You’ll completely perish. You won’t live long in the land you’re crossing the Jordan to possess. **19** I call earth and sky as witnesses: I’ve set life and death in front of you, a blessing and a curse. Choose life so you and your descendants will live. Choose life **20** by loving Yahveh your God, obeying him, holding tight to him. This is your life and length of days: to live in the land he^Y swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”

Deut 30:15-20

Joshua to Succeed Moses

31:1 Moses went and told all Israel,

2 “I’m 120 years old today. I can’t do like I used to, and Yahveh has told me I won’t cross the Jordan. **3** He’ll^Y cross ahead of you and destroy those nations, and you’ll take over their land. Joshua will cross ahead of you like Yahveh said. **4** Yahveh will do to them what he did to Sihon, Og, and their lands. **5** He’ll deliver them up to you, and you’ll do to them like I’ve commanded you. **6** Be strong and courageous; don’t tremble with fear at them. Yahveh’s going with you. He won’t fail you or abandon you.”

7 Then Moses called Joshua and told him in the presence of all Israel,

“Be strong and courageous. You’ll^g go with these people into the land and give it to them to inherit. **8** Yahveh will go ahead of you. He won’t fail you or abandon you. Don’t be afraid or intimidated.

Public Reading of the Law

9 Moses wrote this Law and gave it to the priests, the Levites who carried the Ark of the Covenant, and to the elders in Israel. **10** Then he told them,

“At the end of every seven years, at the time of year for forgiving debts, at the Festival of Booths—**11** when Israel appears in Yahveh’s presence—read this Law to all Israel. **12** Gather the people, men and women, children, foreigners in your town so they can hear and learn to respect Yahveh. Be sure to observe everything in this Law. **13** The children who haven’t known will hear and learn to respect Yahveh as long as they live on the land they’re about to take over.”

Deut 31:1-13

Israel’s Rebellion Predicted

14 Yahveh told Moses,

"It's time for you to die. Call Joshua and present yourselves at the Tent of Meeting so I can commission him."

So Moses and Joshua presented themselves at the Tent of Meeting. ¹⁵Yahveh appeared in a pillar of cloud at the doorway ¹⁶and told Moses,

"You're about to lie down with your ancestors. This nation will carry on prostitution with the foreign gods in the land they're entering. They'll leave me and break my covenant. ¹⁷My anger will flare at them, and I'll leave them and make myself invisible to them. They'll be consumed, and many troubles will come on them. They'll say then, 'Isn't it because our God is not among us?' ¹⁸But I'll hide from them because of all the sins they'll do in turning to other gods. ¹⁹So write this song and teach it to Israel. Have them learn it so it will be evidence for me against them. ²⁰When I take them to the land flowing with milk and honey, they'll eat till they're satisfied and become prosperous. Then they'll turn to other gods and serve them. They'll spurn me and break my covenant. ²¹When many troubles have come on them, this song will confront them. (Their descendants won't forget it.) I know what they're already heading for even before I've taken them into the land."

Deut 31:14-21

²²Moses wrote this song the same day and taught it to Israel.

²³Then Yahveh commissioned Joshua Ben-Nun, *"Be strong and courageous; you'll take the people into the land, and I'll be with you."*

²⁴When Moses had finished writing the whole Law in a scroll, ²⁵he told the Levites who carried the Ark of the Covenant,

²⁶"Put this Law beside the Ark as a witness against you. ²⁷I know you're rebellious and stubborn. While I've been alive with you up to now, you've rebelled against Yahveh. How much more after I die? ²⁸Gather the elders and officials in your tribes so I can tell them these things and call earth and sky as witness against them. ²⁹I know that after I die, you'll turn away from what I've commanded you. Disaster will come on you because you'll do what Yahveh forbids and make him angry."

Deut 31:22-29

The Song of Moses

³⁰Then Moses presented this whole song to the assembly:

32:¹ *"Listen, sky; let me speak;
earth, hear what I say.*

*²Let my teaching fall like rain;
let my speech distill like dew,
like drops on fresh grass,*

*like showers on plants;
 3because I'm proclaiming Yahveh.*

Credit greatness to our God, the Rock!

Deut 31:30-32:1-3

4His work is perfect;

*his ways are just,
 a faithful and just God,
 good and upright.*

5His people have acted corruptly toward him;

*they're not his children because of their defect;
 they're a perverse, crooked generation.*

6Is that the way you repay Yahveh,

*you foolish people?
 Isn't he your Father who bought you,
 who made you and made you secure?*

Deut 32:4-6

7Remember the old days;

consider the years of past history.

Ask your father, he'll inform you;

ask your elders, they'll tell you.

8When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance,

when he divided up the human race,

he set people's boundaries

in comparison to the numbers in Israel.

9For Yahveh's people are his portion;

Jacob is his allotted inheritance.

10He found them a desert land;

in the howling wasteland of a desert

he surrounded them, cared for them,

guarded them like the pupil of his eye.

Deut 32:7-10

11Like an eagle that stirs up its nest,

that hovers over its young,

he spread his wings and caught them;

he carried them on his pinions.

12Yahveh alone guided them;

no foreign god was among them.

13He made them ride above the high places of the earth;

they ate the crops in the field.

He enabled them to suck honey from rock

and olive oil from flint stone,

¹⁴*curds from cows, milk from the flock,
with the fat of lambs
and rams—the breed from Bashan—and goats,
with the finest wheat,*

They drank wine made from grape juice.

Deut 32:11-14

¹⁵*“But Jeshurun soon got fat and rebelled;
they grew fat, thick, and sleek.*

*They forsook the God that made them
and scorned the Rock that saved them.*

¹⁶*They made him jealous with foreign gods
and provoked him with disgusting deeds.*

¹⁷*They sacrificed to demons that aren’t God,
to gods they hadn’t known,
to new gods that came lately,
that their ancestors didn’t dread.*

¹⁸*They neglected the Rock that begot them
and forgot the God that bore them.*

Deut 32:15-18

¹⁹*“Yahveh saw that and spurned them
because his sons and daughters provoked him.*

²⁰*He said, ‘I’ll hide from them
and see what their end will be;
they’re a perverse generation of unfaithful offspring.*

²¹*They made me jealous with what’s not God;
they provoked me with their idols.*

*So I’ll make them jealous with those who aren’t a people;
I’ll provoke them with a foolish nation.*

²²*A fire has kindled my anger,
one that burns to the bottom of Sheol;
it consumes the ground along with its yield
and sets on fire the foundations of the mountains.*

Deut 32:19-22

²³*“I’ll pile misfortunes on them
and shoot my arrows at them.*

²⁴*They’ll be wasted by famine
and consumed by scorching heat and bitter destruction;
I’ll sic the animals on them
and the venom of snakes that slither in the dirt.*

25 *A sword will bereave them outside,
and panic inside—
young man and virgin,
nursing baby and graying grandpa.*

26 *I would've said, 'I'll cut them in pieces
and erase their memory from people's minds,'*
27 *if I hadn't feared provocation by enemies
or adversaries that would misjudge and say,
'We won! Yahweh hasn't done all that.'*

Deut 32:23-27

28 *"They're a nation without counsel,
bereft of understanding.*

29 *Oh that they'd be wise and understand
so they'd discern their own future!*

30 *How could one chase 1,000
and two put 10,000 to flight
unless their Rock had sold them out,
unless Yahweh had given them up?*

31 *Their rock is certainly not like our Rock;
even our enemies can see that.*

32 *Their grapevine grows from Sodom's vines
from Gomorrah's vineyards.
Their grapes are poisonous;
their clusters are bitter.*

33 *Their wine is snake venom,
cobras' deadly poison.*

Deut 32:28-33

34 *"Yahweh says, 'Isn't that stored up with me
and sealed in my treasuries?'*

35 *Vengeance and retribution belong to me;
in due time their foot will slip.*

*Their time for catastrophe is coming;
impending things are rushing at them,'*

36 *because Yahweh will vindicate his people
and show mercy to his servants.*

*When he sees their strength is gone
and nobody remains, bond or free,*
37 *he'll say, 'Where are their gods,*

the rock they looked to for refuge?

38 *Who ate the fat of their sacrifices
and drank the wine of their liquid offerings?
Let their gods rise up and help them;
let them be their hiding place!*

39 *See now that I'm the One;
there's no god but me.
I'm the One that puts to death and gives life.
I've wounded, and I'm the One that heals.
Nobody can deliver them from me.*

40 *Indeed, I lift up my hand to the sky
and say, 'as I live forever.'*

41 *When I sharpen my flashing sword
and begin to render justice,
I'll carry out vengeance on my enemies
and pay back the ones that hate me.*

42 *I'll make my arrows drunk with blood.
My sword will devour flesh
with the blood of the slain and the captives
from the heads of the enemy's leaders.'*

Deut 32:34-39

43 *Celebrate, Gentiles, with his people;
for he'll avenge his servants' blood.
He'll carry out vengeance on his adversaries
and atone for his land and his people."*

Deut 32:40-43

Moses to Die on Mount Nebo

44 Then Moses came with Joshua and presented the song to the people. **45** When he'd finished, **46** he told them,

*"Take my warnings to heart. Tell your sons to observe them carefully.
47 It's not an idle message; it's your life. It affects how long you'll live in the land
you're crossing Jordan to take over."*

48 Yahveh told Moses that same day,

49 *"Go up to this mountain of the Abarim, Mount Nebo, in Moab across
from Jericho, and look across at Canaan. **50** Then die on the mountain and pass on
to your people, like Aaron your brother did on Mount Hor. **51** You broke faith with
me among the Israelites at the water of Meribah-kadesh in the Wilderness of Zin.*

You didn't honor me as holy among them. ⁵²*You'll see the land at a distance, but you can't go in."*

Deut 32:44-52

Moses Blesses the Tribes

33:1 Moses the man of God gave this blessing to Israel before he died:

²*"Yahveh came from Sinai
and dawned from Seir;
he shined out from Mount Paran.
He came with ten thousand holy ones
with flashing lightning at his right hand.*

³*He loved his people;
all the ones consecrated to him
were in his hand;
so they followed in his steps
and received direction from him*

⁴*when Moses commanded us a law
as a possession for the assembly of Jacob.*

⁵*Yahveh became king in Jeshurun,
when the leaders of the people gathered
all the tribes of Israel."*

⁶*"Let Reuben live,
let his people not be few."*

Deut 33:1-6

⁷*He said about Judah,
"Listen, Yahveh, to Judah
and bring him to his people.
With your hands, contend for him
and help him against his enemies."*

Deut 33:7

⁸*He said about Levi,*
*"You've given Levi your Thummim
and your Urim to that godly man
that you tested at Massah
and strove with at Meribah;*

⁹*who said of his parents,
'I don't care about them';
who disowned his relatives
and ignored his children*

*in preference to observing your word
and keeping your covenant.*

10 *He'll teach Jacob your ordinances
and Israel your Law.
He'll put incense in front of you
and whole burnt offering on your altar.*

11 *Yahveh, bless his substance
and accept his ministry.
Crush the loins of his adversaries,
the ones who hate him,
so they won't get up again."*

Deut 33:8-11

12 He said about Benjamin,

*"Yahveh's beloved
lives in safety beside him.
He surrounds him all day long
and makes his home
between his shoulders."*

Deut 33:12

13 He said about Joseph,

*"May Yahveh bless his land
with the best gifts from the sky above
and the deep below,*

14 *with the best fruits of the sun
and the rich yield of the months,*

15 *with the finest produce of the ancient mountains
and the abundance of the everlasting hills,*

16 *with the best gifts of the soil and its bounty,
and the favor of him that appeared in the bush.*

*May these come on Joseph's head
and on the crown of the one that's
chief among his brothers.*

17 *He has the majesty of a young bull
and the horns of the wild ox.*

*He'll gore the nations away,
to the ends of the earth.*

*Such are the thousands of Manasseh
and the ten thousands of Ephraim."*

Deut 33:13-17

18He said about Zebulun and Issachar,
 “Celebrate, Zebulun, in your travels,
 and Issachar, in your tents.
19Call the people to the mountain
 to offer proper sacrifices.
 Draw wealth from the sea
 and hidden treasures from the sand.” **Deut 33:18-19**

20He said about Gad,
 “Blessed is the one that enlarges Gad’s territory.
 Gad crouches like a lion
 to tear off an arm and the crown from the head.
21He chose the best land for himself,
 because a commander’s portion was reserved there.
 He came to the heads of the people;
 with Israel he carried out Yahveh’s commands
 and just decrees.” **Deut 33:20-21**

22He said about Dan,
 “Dan is a lion’s cub
 that leaps out from Bashan.” **Deut 33:22**

23He said about Naphtali,
 “Naphtali, satisfied by being favored
 and full of Yahveh’s blessing,
 possess the lake and the south.” **Deut 33:23**

24He said about Asher,
 “May Asher be more blessed than other sons;
 let him be his brothers’ favorite,
 and let him dip his foot in olive oil.
25Your bars will be iron and bronze;
 your strength will be like your days.” **Deut 33:24-25**

26“There’s none like the God of Jeshurun,
 who rides through the heavens to help you,
 who rides through the sky in his majesty.

27The eternal God is where you live;
 his everlasting arms undergird you.

*He thrust out your enemy in front of you
and said, ‘Destroy them.’*

28*So Israel lives in safety,
the fountain of Jacob alone,
in a land of grain and wine;
his sky drops dew.*

29*You’re blessed, Israel.
Who is like you,
a people Yahveh has saved,
Yahveh, the shield that protected you,
the sword that gave you triumph?*

*Your enemies will come cringing before you;
you’ll walk on their backs.”*

Deut 33:26-29

The Death of Moses

34:1Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah across from Jericho. Yahveh showed him the land, Gilead to Dan; **2**Naphtali, Ephraim and Manasseh; the land of Judah to the Mediterranean Sea; **3**the Negev and the Valley of Jericho, the City of Palms as far as Zoar. **4**He told him, “*This is the land I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, ‘I’ll give it to your descendants.’ I’ve let you see it, but not enter it.*” **5**So Moses died in Moab. **6***Yahveh buried him in an unknown place in a valley in Moab across from Beth-peor.* **7**Although he was 120 when he died, his sight was still clear, and his energy was good. **8**Israel mourned him for 30 days in the plains of Moab.

9Joshua was wise because Moses had laid his hands on him. The Israelites listened to him and did what Yahveh told Moses. **10**Since then no prophet has risen in Israel that Yahveh related to directly. **11***There was nobody like him for the signs and wonders Yahveh sent him to do in Egypt against Pharaoh, his officials, and his country,* **12**and for the great power and terrifying deeds he performed for Israel to see.

Deut 34:1-12