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קרח Korach

Numbers 16:1-18:32

16

- וַיִּקַּח קֹרַח בֶּן־יִזְחָר בֶּן־קֹהָת בֶּן־לֵוִי וְדָתָן וְאַבִּיחֵלֶם בְּנֵי אֱלִיאָב
וְאֹנֹן בֶּן־פִּלֶּת בְּנֵי רְאוּבֵן:

1 Now Korah, son of Izhar son of Kohath son of Levi, betook himself, (betook himself Lit. “took”; nuance of Heb. uncertain.) along with Dathan and Abiram sons of Eliab, and On son of Peleth—descendants of Reuben (descendants of Reuben According to Num. 26.5, 8–9, Eliab was son of Pallu, son of Reuben.) —
- וַיָּקֻמוּ לִפְנֵי מֹשֶׁה וְאַנְשֵׁי־מִבְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל חֲמִשִּׁים וּמֵאוֹתָם גְּשִׁי־אִי
עֹדָה קְרָאִי מוֹעֵד אֲנָשֵׁי־שָׁם:

2 to rise up against Moses, together with two hundred and fifty Israelites, chieftains of the community, chosen in the assembly, men of repute.
- וַיִּקְהָלוּ עַל־מֹשֶׁה וְעַל־אַהֲרֹן וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֲלֵהֶם רַב־לָכֶם כִּי כָל־הָעֵדָה
כָּלֶם קֹדָשִׁים וּבְתוֹכָם יְהוָה וּמִדּוּעַ תִּתְנַשְּׂאוּ עַל־קֹהֶל יְהוָה:

3 They combined against Moses and Aaron and said to them, “You have gone too far! For all the community are holy, all of them, and הוֹדִי is in their midst. Why then do you raise yourselves above הוֹדִי’s congregation?”
- וַיִּשְׁמַע מֹשֶׁה וַיִּפֹּל עַל־פָּנָיו:

4 When Moses heard this, he fell on his face. (he fell on his face Perhaps in the sense of “his face fell.”)
- וַיְדַבֵּר אֶל־קֹרַח וְאֶל־כָּל־עֲדָתוֹ לֵאמֹר בֹּקֶר וַיֵּדַע יְהוָה אֶת־אֲשֶׁר־לּוֹ
וְאֶת־הַקֹּדֶשׁ וְהַקְרִיב אֵלָיו וְאֶת אֲשֶׁר יִבְחָר־בּוֹ יִקְרִיב אֵלָיו:

5 Then he spoke to Korah and all his company, saying, “Come morning, הוֹדִי will make known who is [God’s] and who is holy by granting direct access; the one whom [God] has chosen will be granted access.
- זֹאת עֲשׂוּ קַחוּ־לָכֶם מִחֻלּוֹת קֹרַח וְכָל־עֲדָתוֹ:

6 Do this: You, Korah and all your (your Lit. “his.”) band, take fire pans,
- וּתְנִנוּ בָהֶן | אֵשׁ וְשִׁמּוֹ עֲלֵיהֶן | קִטְרֶת לִפְנֵי יְהוָה מִחֹר וְהִזָּה הָאִישׁ
אֲשֶׁר־יִבְחָר יְהוָה הוּא הַקֹּדֶשׁ רַב־לָכֶם בְּנֵי לֵוִי:

7 and tomorrow put fire in them and lay incense on them before הוֹדִי. Then the candidate (candidate Lit. “participant whose involvement defines the depicted situation”; trad. “man.” See the Dictionary under ’ish.) whom הוֹדִי chooses, he shall be the holy one. You have gone too far, sons of Levi!”
- וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־קֹרַח שְׁמָעוּ־נָא בְנֵי לֵוִי:

8 Moses said further to Korah, “Hear me, sons of Levi.
- הַמֶּעֶט מִכֶּם כִּי־הִבְדִּיל אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶתְכֶם מֵעַדְת יִשְׂרָאֵל לְהַקְרִיב
אֶתְכֶם אֵלָיו לַעֲבֹד אֶת־עֲבֹדַת מִשְׁכַּן יְהוָה וְלַעֲמֹד לִפְנֵי הָעֵדָה לְשֹׁרֵתָם:

9 Is it not enough for you that the God of Israel has set you apart from the community of Israel and given you direct access, to perform the duties of הוֹדִי’s Tabernacle and to minister to the community and serve them?
- וַיִּקְרַב אֹתָם וְאֶת־כָּל־אֶחָיֶךָ בְּנֵי־לֵוִי אֹתָךְ וּבִקְשׁוּתְם גַּם־כֹּהֲנָה:

10 Now that [God] has advanced you and all your fellow Levites with you, do you seek the priesthood too?

- לכן אתה וכל־עדתך הנעדים עלי־הנה ואהרן מה־הוא כי (תלוננו)
[תלינו] עליו: 11 Truly, it is against הוהי that you and all your company have banded together. For who is Aaron that you should rail against him?"
- וישלח משה לקרא לדתן ולַאבִירָם בְּנֵי אֶלִיאָב וַיֹּאמְרוּ לֹא נָעֲלֶה: 12 Moses sent for Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab; but they said, "We will not come!
- הַמַּעֲט כִּי הֶעֱלִיתָנוּ מֵאֶרֶץ זָבַת חֶלֶב וּדְבַשׁ לְהַמִּיתָנוּ בַּמִּדְבָּר
כִּי־תִשְׁתָּרֵר עָלֵינוּ גַם־הַשְׁתָּרֵר: 13 Is it not enough that you brought us from a land flowing with milk and honey to have us die in the wilderness, that you would also lord it over us?
- אִם לֹא אֶל־אֶרֶץ זָבַת חֶלֶב וּדְבַשׁ הִבִּיאָתָנוּ וְתָתַן־לָנוּ נַחֲלֹת שָׂדֶה
וּבָרֶם הָעֵינִי הָאֲנָשִׁים הָהֵם תִּנָּקֵר לֹא נָעֲלֶה: 14 Even if you had (Even if you had Lit. "You have not even.") brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey, and given us possession of fields and vineyards, should you gouge out the eyes of those involved? (gouge out the eyes of those involved Gouging out the eyes was punishment for runaway slaves and rebellious vassals; cf. 2 Kings 25.4–7; Jer. 39.4–7; 52.7–11. "Those involved" (NJPS "those men"; see the Dictionary under 'ish) is a euphemism for self-reference; cf. 1 Sam. 29.4.) We will not come!"
- וַיַּחַר לְמֹשֶׁה מְאֹד וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־יְהוָה אֲלֵי־תָפֹן אֶל־מִנְחָתָם לֹא חָמּוֹר אֶחָד
מֵהֶם נִשְׁאַתִּי וְלֹא הִרְעֵתִי אֶת־אֶחָד מֵהֶם: 15 Moses was much aggrieved and he said to הוהי, "Pay no regard to their oblation. I have not taken the ass of any one of them, nor have I wronged any one of them."
- וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־קֹרַח אַתָּה וְכָל־עֲדַתְךָ הֵיוּ לִפְנֵי יְהוָה אַתָּה וְהֵם
וְאַהֲרֹן מִתָּר: 16 And Moses said to Korah, "Tomorrow, you and all your company appear before הוהי, you and they and Aaron.
- וַיִּקְחוּ | אִישׁ מִחֲתָתוֹ וַיִּנְתְּתֵם עֲלֵיהֶם קִטְרֶת וְהִקְרַבְתֶּם לִפְנֵי יְהוָה
אִישׁ מִחֲתָתוֹ חֲמֵשִׁים וּמֵאֲתָיִם מִחֲתָת וְאַתָּה וְאַהֲרֹן אִישׁ מִחֲתָתוֹ: 17 Each of you take your fire pan and lay incense on it, and each of you bring that fire pan before הוהי, two hundred and fifty fire pans; you and Aaron also [bring] your fire pans."
- וַיִּקְחוּ אִישׁ מִחֲתָתוֹ וַיִּתְּנוּ עֲלֵיהֶם אֵשׁ וַיִּשְׁעִימוּ עֲלֵיהֶם קִטְרֶת
וַיַּעֲמִדוּ פֶתַח אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וּמֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן: 18 They each took their fire pan, put fire in it, laid incense on it, and took a place at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, as did Moses and Aaron.
- וַיִּקְהַל עֲלֵיהֶם קֹרַח אֶת־כָּל־הָעֵדָה אֶל־פֶּתַח אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וַיֵּרָא
כְּבוֹד־יְהוָה אֶל־כָּל־הָעֵדָה: 19 Korah gathered the whole community against them at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting. Then the Presence of הוהי appeared to the whole community,
- וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה וְאַל־אַהֲרֹן לֵאמֹר: 20 and הוהי spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying,
- הִבְדְּלוּ מִתּוֹךְ הָעֵדָה הַזֹּאת וְאַכְלָה אֹתָם כְּרָגַע: 21 "Stand back from this community that I may annihilate them in an instant!"
- וַיִּפְּלוּ עַל־פְּנֵיהֶם וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵל אֱלֹהֵי הָרוּחַת לְכָל־בֶּשָׂר הָאִישׁ אֶחָד
יִחָטֵא וְעַל כָּל־הָעֵדָה תִּקְצָף: 22 But they fell on their faces and said, "O God, Source (Source Lit. "God.") of the breath of all flesh! When one member (member Lit. "participant whose involvement defines the depicted situation." Trad. "man." See the Dictionary under 'ish.) sins, will You be wrathful with the whole community?"

- 23 וידבר יהוה אל־משה לאמר: 23 הוה spoke to Moses, saying,
- 24 דבר אל־העדה לאמר העלו מסביב למשכן־קרח דתן ואבירם: 24 “Speak to the community and say: Withdraw from about the abodes of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.”
- 25 ויקם משה וילך אל־דתן ואבירם וילכו אחריו וקני ישראל: 25 Moses rose and went to Dathan and Abiram, the elders of Israel following him.
- 26 וידבר אל־העדה לאמר סורו נא מעל אהלי האנשים הרשעים האלה ואל־תגעו בכל־אשר להם פִּתְּסֵפוּ בְּכָל־חַטָּאתָם: 26 He addressed the community, saying, “Move away from the tents of these wicked men (wicked men Or “guilty parties”—alluding to the crime of insurrection, for which they are about to be punished. Cf. Exod. 2.13; Deut. 25.1; 2 Sam. 4.11. On “men,” see note at Gen. 19.5.) and touch nothing that belongs to them, lest you be wiped out for all their sins.”
- 27 ויעלו מעל משכן־קרח דתן ואבירם מסביב ודתן ואבירם יצאו נצבים פתח אהליהם ונשיהם ובניהם וטפם: 27 So they withdrew from about the abodes of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. Now Dathan and Abiram had come out and they stood at the entrance of their tents, with their wives, their adult children, (adult children So Ibn Ezra. Lit. “children.”) and their little ones.
- 28 ויאמר משה בואת תדעו כי־יהוה שלחני לעשות את כל־המעשים האלה כי־לא מלבי: 28 And Moses said, “By this you shall know that it was הוה who sent me to do all these things; that they are not of my own devising:
- 29 אם־כמות כל־האדם ימתנו אלה ופקדת כל־האדם יפקד עליהם לא יהוה שלחני: 29 if these people’s death is that of all humankind, if their lot is humankind’s common fate, it was not הוה who sent me.
- 30 ואם־בריא־ה יהוה ופצתה האדמה את־פיה ובלעה אתם ואת־כל־אשר להם וירדו חיים שאלה וידעתם כי נאצו האנשים האלה את־יהוה: 30 But if הוה brings about something unheard-of, so that the ground opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and they go down alive into Sheol, you shall know that those involved have spurned הוה.”
- 31 ויהי ככלתו לדבר את כל־הדברים האלה ותבקע האדמה אשר תחתיהם: 31 Scarcely had he finished speaking all these words when the ground under them burst asunder,
- 32 ותפתח הארץ את־פיה ותבלע אתם ואת־בתיהם ואת כל־האדם אשר לקרח ואת כל־הרכוש: 32 and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up with their households, all Korah’s people and all their possessions.
- 33 וירדו הם וכל־אשר להם חיים שאלה ותכס עליהם הארץ ויאבדו מתוך הקהל: 33 They went down alive into Sheol, with all that belonged to them; the earth closed over them and they vanished from the midst of the congregation.
- 34 וכל־ישראל אשר סביבתיהם נסו לקלם כי אמרו פִּתְּבִלְעֵנוּ הָאָרֶץ: 34 All Israel around them fled at their shrieks, for they said, “The earth might swallow us!”
- 35 ואש יצאה מאת יהוה ותאכל את התמשים ומאתים איש מקריבי הקטרת: 35 And a fire went forth from הוה and consumed the two hundred and fifty contestants (contestants Lit. “participants whose involvement defines the depicted situation.” Trad. “men.” See the Dictionary under 'ish.) offering the incense.

17

- וַיִּדְבֹר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר:

1 (In some editions, the following passage is counted as the continuation of chapter 16; see note at v. 16, below.) וְהוּא spoke to Moses, saying:
- אֱמַר אֶל־אֱלֶעָזָר בֶּן־אַהֲרֹן הַכֹּהֵן וְיָרֵם אֶת־הַמִּחֲתָת מִבֵּין הַשְּׂרָפָה וְאֶת־הָאֵשׁ זֶרֶה־הֶלְאָה כִּי קֹדֶשׁ:

2 Order Eleazar son of Aaron the priest to remove the fire pans—for they have become sacred—from among the charred remains; and scatter the coals abroad.
- אֵת מִחֲתֹת הַחֹטָאִים הָאֵלֶּה בְּנַפְשָׁתָם וַעֲשׂוּ אוֹתָם רִקְעֵי פָחִים צָפוּי לַמִּזְבֵּחַ כִּי־הִקְרִיבָם לַפָּנִי־יְהוָה וַיִּקְדָּשׁוּ וַיְהִי לְאוֹת לִבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:

3 (Meaning of parts of verse uncertain.) [Remove] the fire pans of those who have sinned at the cost of their lives, and let them be made into hammered sheets as plating for the altar—for once they have been used for offering to הוּא, they have become sacred—and let them serve as a warning to the people of Israel.
- וַיֵּלֶךְ אֱלֶעָזָר הַכֹּהֵן אֶת מִחֲתֹת הַנְּחֹשֶׁת אֲשֶׁר הִקְרִיבוּ הַשְּׂרָפִים וַיִּרְקְעוּם צָפוּי לַמִּזְבֵּחַ:

4 Eleazar the priest took the copper fire pans which had been used for offering by those who died in the fire; and they were hammered into plating for the altar,
- זָכַרְוֹן לִבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לְמַעַן אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יִקְרַב אִישׁ זֶר אֲשֶׁר לֹא מִזֶּרַע אַהֲרֹן הוּא לְהִקְטִיר קֹטֶרֶת לַפָּנִי יְהוָה וְלֹא־יִהְיֶה כְּקֹרַח וְכַעֲדָתוֹ כְּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר יְהוָה בְּיַד־מֹשֶׁה לוֹ:

5 as הוּא had ordered him through Moses. It was to be a reminder to the Israelites, so that no outsider—one not of Aaron's offspring—should presume to offer incense before הוּא and suffer the fate of Korah and his band.
- וַיֵּלְנוּ כָּל־עַדָּת בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל מִמִּחֲתָת עַל־מֹשֶׁה וְעַל־אַהֲרֹן לֵאמֹר אַתֶּם הִמַּתֶּם אֶת־עַם יְהוָה:

6 Next day the whole Israelite community railed against Moses and Aaron, saying, "You two have brought death upon הוּא's people!"
- וַיְהִי בַּהֲקָהֶל הָעֵדָה עַל־מֹשֶׁה וְעַל־אַהֲרֹן וַיִּפְּנוּ אֶל־אַהֲלֵ מוֹעֵד וַהֲנִה כֶּסֶהוּ הָעָנָן וַיֵּרָא כְבוֹד יְהוָה:

7 But as the community gathered against them, Moses and Aaron turned toward the Tent of Meeting; the cloud had covered it and the Presence of הוּא appeared.
- וַיָּבֹאוּ מֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן אֶל־פְּנֵי אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד:

8 When Moses and Aaron reached the Tent of Meeting,
- וַיִּדְבֹר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר:

9 הוּא spoke to Moses, saying,
- הִלַּמּוּ מִתּוֹךְ הָעֵדָה הַזֹּאת וְאִכְלָה אוֹתָם כְּרָעָה וַיִּפְּלוּ עַל־פְּנֵיהֶם:

10 "Remove yourselves from this community, that I may annihilate them in an instant." They fell on their faces.
- וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־אַהֲרֹן קח אֶת־הַמִּחֲתָה וְתַן־עָלֶיהָ אֵשׁ מִעַל הַמִּזְבֵּחַ וְשִׂים קֹטֶרֶת וְהוֹלֵךְ מִהֲרָה אֶל־הָעֵדָה וְכַפֵּר עֲלֵיהֶם כִּי־יָצָא הַקֶּצֶף מִלִּפְנֵי יְהוָה הַחַל הַנֶּגֶף:

11 Then Moses said to Aaron, "Take the fire pan, and put on it fire from the altar. Add incense and take it quickly to the community and make expiation for them. For wrath has gone forth from הוּא: the plague has begun!"

- 12 וַיִּקַּח אַהֲרֹן כַּאֲשֶׁר | דִּבֶּר מֹשֶׁה וַיֵּרָץ אֶל־תּוֹךְ הַקְהָל וַהֲנִה הַחֵל
הַנֶּגֶף בָּעָם וַיִּתֵּן אֶת־הַקֹּטֶרֶת וַיִּכְפֹּר עַל־הָעָם:
- 13 וַיַּעֲמֵד בֵּין־הַמֵּתִים וּבֵין הַחַיִּים וַתֵּעָצֵר הַמִּגֶּפֶה:
- 14 וַיְהִיו הַמֵּתִים בַּמִּגֶּפֶה אַרְבָּעָה עָשָׂר אֶלֶף וּשְׁבַע מֵאוֹת מִלֶּכֶד
הַמֵּתִים עַל־דִּבְרֵי־קֹרַח:
- 15 וַיָּשָׁב אַהֲרֹן אֶל־מֹשֶׁה אֶל־פֶּתַח אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וַהֲמִגֶּפֶה נִעְצְרָה:
- 16 וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר:
- 17 דַּבֵּר | אֶל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְקַח מֵאֲתָם מִטָּה מִטָּה לְבֵית אָב מֵאֵת
כָּל־נִשְׂאִיָּהֶם לְבֵית אֲבֹתָם שְׁנַיִם עָשָׂר מִטּוֹת אִישׁ אֶת־שְׁמוֹ תִּכְתֹּב
עַל־מִטָּהוּ:
- 18 וְאֵת שֵׁם אַהֲרֹן תִּכְתֹּב עַל־מִטָּה לְוִי כִּי מִטָּה אֶחָד לְרֹאשׁ בֵּית אָבוֹתָם:
- 19 וַהֲנַחֲתָם בְּאֹהֶל מוֹעֵד לִפְנֵי הָעֵדוּת אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי עֹשֶׂה לָכֶם שָׁמָּה:
- 20 וַהֲלִיָּה הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר אֶבְחַר־בּוֹ מִטָּהוּ יִפְרָח וַהֲשַׁכְתִּי מֵעָלַי אֶת־תִּלְלוֹת
בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר הֵם מְלִינִים עָלַיָּכֶם:
- 21 וַיְדַבֵּר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּתְּנוּ אֵלָיו | כָּל־נִשְׂאִיָּהֶם מִטָּה
לְנִשְׂאִי אֶחָד מִטָּה לְנִשְׂאִי אֶחָד לְבֵית אֲבֹתָם שְׁנַיִם עָשָׂר מִטּוֹת וּמִטָּה
אַהֲרֹן בְּתוֹךְ מִטּוֹתָם:
- 22 וַיָּנַח מֹשֶׁה אֶת־הַמִּטּוֹת לִפְנֵי יְהוָה בְּאֹהֶל הָעֵדוּת:
- 23 וַיְהִי מִמָּחָרֹת וַיָּבֹא מֹשֶׁה אֶל־אֹהֶל הָעֵדוּת וַהֲנִה פָּרַח מִטָּה־אַהֲרֹן
לְבֵית לְוִי וַיֵּצֵא פָּרַח וַיִּצָּץ צִיץ וַיִּגְמַל שְׂקָדִים:
- 24 וַיֵּצֵא מֹשֶׁה אֶת־כָּל־הַמִּטּוֹת מִלִּפְנֵי יְהוָה אֶל־כָּל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיֵּרְאוּ
וַיִּקְחוּ אִישׁ מִטָּהוּ:
- 25 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה הִשָּׁב אֶת־מִטָּה אַהֲרֹן לִפְנֵי הָעֵדוּת לְמַשְׁמֶרֶת
לְאוֹת לְבְנֵי־מִרְי וְתִכַּל תְּלוֹנֹתָם מֵעָלַי וְלֹא יָמָתוּ:
- Aaron took it, as Moses had ordered, and ran to the midst of the congregation, where the plague had begun among the people. He put on the incense and made expiation for the people;
- he stood between the dead and the living until the plague was checked.
- Those who died of the plague came to fourteen thousand and seven hundred, aside from those who died on account of Korah.
- Aaron then returned to Moses at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, since the plague was checked.
- (This verse constitutes 17.1 in some editions.)
יהוה spoke to Moses, saying:
- Speak to the Israelite people and take from them—from the chieftains of their ancestral houses (of their ancestral houses I.e., of their tribes.)—one staff for each chieftain of an ancestral house: twelve staffs in all. Inscribe each one's name on his staff,
- there being one staff for each head of an ancestral house; also inscribe Aaron's name on the staff of Levi.
- Deposit them in the Tent of Meeting before the Pact, where I meet with you.
- The staff of the candidate (candidate See note at 16.7.) whom I choose shall sprout, and I will rid (I will rid Meaning of Heb. wa-hashikkothi uncertain.) Myself of the incessant mutterings of the Israelites against you.
- Moses spoke thus to the Israelites. Their chieftains gave him a staff for each chieftain of an ancestral house, twelve staffs in all; among these staffs was that of Aaron.
- Moses deposited the staffs before יהוה, in the Tent of the Pact.
- The next day Moses entered the Tent of the Pact, and there the staff of Aaron of the house of Levi had sprouted: it had brought forth sprouts, produced blossoms, and borne almonds.
- Moses then brought out all the staffs from before יהוה to all the Israelites; each identified and recovered his staff.
- יהוה said to Moses, "Put Aaron's staff back before the Pact, to be kept as a lesson to rebels, so that their mutterings against Me may cease, lest they die."

- 26 This Moses did; just as הוהי had commanded him, so he did.
- 27 But the Israelites said to Moses, “Lo, we perish! We are lost, all of us lost!”
- 28 Everyone who so much as ventures near הוהי’s Tabernacle must die. Alas, we are doomed to perish!”

18

- 1 הוהי said to Aaron: You and your sons and the ancestral house under your charge shall bear any guilt connected with the sanctuary; you and your sons alone shall bear any guilt connected with your priesthood.
- 2 You shall also associate with yourself your kinsmen the tribe of Levi, your ancestral tribe, to be attached to you and to minister to you, while you and your sons under your charge are before the Tent of the Pact. (while you and your sons ... Tent of the Pact Force of Heb. uncertain.)
- 3 They shall discharge their duties to you and to the Tent as a whole, but they must not have any contact with the furnishings of the Shrine or with the altar, lest both they and you die.
- 4 They shall be attached to you and discharge the duties of the Tent of Meeting, all the service of the Tent; but no outsider shall intrude upon you
- 5 as you discharge the duties connected with the Shrine and the altar, that wrath may not again strike the Israelites.
- 6 I hereby take your fellow Levites from among the Israelites; they are assigned to you in dedication to הוהי, to do the work of the Tent of Meeting;
- 7 while you and your sons shall be careful to perform your priestly duties in everything pertaining to the altar and to what is behind the curtain. I make your priesthood a service of dedication; any outsider who encroaches shall be put to death.
- 8 הוהי spoke further to Aaron: I hereby give you charge of My gifts, all the sacred donations of the Israelites; I grant them to you and to your sons as a perquisite, (perquisite See the first note at Lev. 7.35.) a due for all time.
- וַיַּעַשׂ מֹשֶׁה כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוָה אֹתוֹ כֵּן עָשָׂה:
- וַיֹּאמְרוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל־מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר הֵן גִּנַּעְנוּ אֶבְדָּנוּ כָּלֵנוּ אֶבְדָּנוּ:
- כָּל הַקָּרֵב אֶל־מִשְׁכַּן יְהוָה יָמוּת הָאֵם תָּמוּנוּ לְגֹעַ:
- וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־אַהֲרֹן אַתָּה וּבְנֶיךָ וּבֵית־אֲבִיךָ אַתָּה תִשָּׂאוּ אֶת־עֹנֶן הַמִּקְדָּשׁ וְאַתָּה וּבְנֶיךָ אַתָּה תִשָּׂאוּ אֶת־עֹנֶן כְּהִנְתְּכֶם:
- וְגַם אֶת־אֲחֵיךָ מִטֵּה לְוִי שֶׁבֶט אֲבִיךָ הַקָּרֵב אַתָּה וַיִּלְנוּ עֲלֶיךָ וַיִּשְׁרְתוּךָ וְאַתָּה וּבְנֶיךָ אַתָּה לִפְנֵי אֹהֶל הָעֵדֻת:
- וְשָׁמְרוּ מִשְׁמֶרֶתְךָ וּמִשְׁמֶרֶת כָּל־הָאֹהֶל אֲךָ אֶל־כְּלֵי הַקֹּדֶשׁ וְאֶל־הַמִּזְבֵּחַ לֹא יִקְרְבוּ וְלֹא־יָמְתוּ גַם־הֵם גַּם־אַתֶּם:
- וַיִּלְנוּ עֲלֶיךָ וְשָׁמְרוּ אֶת־מִשְׁמֶרֶת אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד לְכָל עֲבֹדַת הָאֹהֶל וְזָר לֹא־יִקְרַב אֲלֵיכֶם:
- וְשָׁמְרֶתֶם אֶת מִשְׁמֶרֶת הַקֹּדֶשׁ וְאֶת מִשְׁמֶרֶת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ וְלֹא־יִהְיֶה עוֹד קֶצֶף עַל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:
- וְאַנִּי הִנֵּה לִקְחֹתִי אֶת־אֲחֵיכֶם הַלְוִיִּם מִתּוֹךְ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לָכֶם מִתְּנָה נְתֻנִים לַיהוָה לַעֲבֹד אֶת־עֲבֹדַת אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד:
- וְאַתָּה וּבְנֶיךָ אַתָּה תִשְׁמְרוּ אֶת־כְּהֻנַּתְכֶם לְכָל־דְּבַר הַמִּזְבֵּחַ וּלְמִבְּרֵית לְפָרֶכֶת וְעֲבֹדֹתָם עֲבֹדַת מִתְּנָה אֲתָן אֶת־כְּהֻנַּתְכֶם וְהָזָר הַקָּרֵב יוּמָת:
- וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל־אַהֲרֹן וְאַנִּי הִנֵּה נֹתֵנִי לָךְ אֶת־מִשְׁמֶרֶת תְּרוֹמָתִי לְכָל־קֹדֶשִׁי בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל לָךְ נְתָתִים לְמִשְׁחָה וּלְבִנְיָךְ לְחֻק־עוֹלָם:

- זֶה־יְהִיָּה לָךְ מִקֹּדֶשׁ הַקֹּדֶשִׁים מִן־הָאֵשׁ כְּלִי־קֶרֶבָנִם לְכֹל־מִנְחָתָם
וּלְכֹל־חֻטָּאתָם וּלְכֹל־אֲשָׁמָם אֲשֶׁר יֵשִׁיבוּ לִי קֹדֶשׁ קֹדֶשִׁים לָךְ הוּא
וּלְבָנֶיךָ:
- 9 This shall be yours from the most holy sacrifices, the offerings by fire: (the offerings by fire Force of Heb. min ha-'esh uncertain; lit. "from the fire.") every such offering that they render to Me as most holy sacrifices, namely, every meal offering, sin offering, and guilt offering of theirs, shall belong to you and your sons.
- בִּקְדֹשׁ הַקֹּדֶשִׁים תֹּאכְלֵנּוּ כָל־זָכָר יֹאכֵל אֹתוֹ קֹדֶשׁ יְהִיָּה־לָּךְ:
- 10 You shall partake of them as most sacred donations: only males may eat them; you shall treat them as consecrated. (you shall treat them as consecrated Or "they are consecrated for your use.")
- וְזֶה־לָּךְ תְּרוּמַת מִתְּנִים לְכֹל־תְּנוּפֹת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לָךְ נְתָתִים וּלְבָנֶיךָ
לְחִקְעוֹלָם כָּל־טָהוֹר בְּבֵיתְךָ יֹאכֵל אֹתוֹ:
- 11 This, too, shall be yours: the gift offerings (gift offerings Cf. Lev. 7.29ff.) of their contributions, all the elevation offerings of the Israelites, I give to you [and your wives], to your sons, and to the daughters that are with you, as a due for all time; everyone of your household who is pure may eat it.
- כָּל חֵלֶב יִצְהָר וְכֹל־חֵלֶב תִּירוֹשׁ וְדִגָּן רִאשִׁיתָם אֲשֶׁר־יִתְּנוּ לַיהוָה לָךְ
נְתָתִים:
- 12 All the best of the new oil, wine, and grain—the choice parts that they present to הוֹדִי —I give to you.
- בְּכוֹרֵי כָל־אֲשֶׁר בְּאֶרֶצָם אֲשֶׁר־יָבִיאוּ לַיהוָה לָךְ יְהִיָּה כָל־טָהוֹר
בְּבֵיתְךָ יֹאכְלֵנּוּ:
- 13 The first fruits of everything in their land, that they bring to הוֹדִי, shall be yours; everyone of your household who is pure may eat them.
- כָּל־חֹרֵם בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל לָךְ יְהִיָּה:
- 14 Everything that has been proscribed in Israel (proscribed in Israel See Lev. 27.28.) shall be yours.
- כָּל־פֶּטֶר רֶחֶם לְכָל־בֶּשָׂר אֲשֶׁר־יִקְרִיבוּ לַיהוָה בְּאָדָם וּבְבֶהֱמָה
יְהִיָּה־לָּךְ אַךְ פֶּדָה תַּפְּדֶה אֶת בְּכוֹר הָאָדָם וְאֶת בְּכוֹר־הַבְּהֵמָה
הַטְּמֵאָה תַּפְּדֶה:
- 15 The first [male] issue of the womb of every being, human or beast, that is offered to הוֹדִי, shall be yours; but you shall have the male first-born of human beings redeemed, and you shall also have the firstling of impure animals redeemed.
- וּפְדוּיוֹ מִבְּיַחַד־דָּשׁ תַּפְּדֶה בְּעֶרְכָּךְ כֶּסֶף חֲמִשֶּׁת שֶׁקֶלִים בְּשֶׁקֶל
הַקֹּדֶשׁ עֲשֶׂרִים גֶּרָה הוּא:
- 16 Take as their redemption price, (their redemption price I.e., for human first-born; cf. Num. 3.44ff. For animals see Exod. 34.19–20.) from the age of one month up, the money equivalent of five shekels by the sanctuary weight, which is twenty gerahs.
- אֶךְ בְּכוֹר־שׁוֹר אֹי־בָכוֹר כְּשֶׁב אֹי־בָכוֹר עַז לֹא תַּפְּדֶה קֹדֶשׁ הֵם
אֶת־דָּמָם תִּזְרֹק עַל־הַמִּזְבֵּחַ וְאֶת־חֵלְבָם תִּקְטִיר אֵשָׁה לְרִיחַ נִיחֹחַ
לַיהוָה:
- 17 But the firstlings of cattle, sheep, or goats may not be redeemed; they are consecrated. You shall dash their blood against the altar, and turn their fat into smoke as an offering by fire for a pleasing odor to הוֹדִי.
- וּבִשְׂרָם יְהִיָּה־לָּךְ כְּחֵזֶה הַתְּנוּפָה וּכְשֹׁק הַיָּמִין לָךְ יְהִיָּה:
- 18 But their meat shall be yours: it shall be yours like the breast of elevation offering and like the right thigh.

- כל | תְּרוּמַת הַקִּדְשִׁים אֲשֶׁר יָרִימוּ בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל לַיהוָה נְתַתִּי לָךְ
וּלְבָנֶיךָ וּלְבָנֹתֶיךָ אִתְּךָ לְחֶק־עוֹלָם בְּרִית מִלַּח עוֹלָם הוּא לִפְנֵי יְהוָה
לָךְ וּלְיֹרְשֶׁךָ אִתְּךָ:
- 19 All the sacred gifts that the Israelites set aside for I give to you, to your sons, and to the daughters that are with you, as a due for all time. It shall be an everlasting covenant of salt (covenant of salt See Lev. 2.13.) before I give to you and for your offspring as well.
- וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־אַהֲרֹן בְּאַרְצָם לֹא תִּנְחַל וְחֵלֶק לֹא־יִהְיֶה לָּךְ בְּתוֹכָם
אֲנִי חֵלֶקְךָ וְנִחְלַתְךָ בְּתוֹךְ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:
- 20 And I said to Aaron: You shall, however, have no territorial share among them or own any portion in their midst; I am your portion and your share among the Israelites.
- וּלְבָנִי לֹא־יִהְיֶה נְתַתִּי כָּל־מַעֲשֶׂה בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל לְנִחְלָה חֵלֶף עֲבֹדָתָם
אֲשֶׁר־הֵם עֹבְדִים אֶת־עֲבֹדַת אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד:
- 21 And to the Levites I hereby give all the tithes in Israel as their share in return for the services that they perform, the services of the Tent of Meeting.
- וְלֹא־יִקְרְבוּ עוֹד בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל־אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד לִשְׂאֵת חֲטָא לָמוֹת:
- 22 Henceforth, Israelites shall not trespass on the Tent of Meeting, and thus incur guilt and die:
- וְעֹבֵד הַלֵּוִי הוּא אֶת־עֲבֹדַת אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וְהֵם יִשְׂאוּ עוֹנֶם חֶקֶת עוֹלָם
לְדֹרֹתֵיכֶם וּבְתוֹךְ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לֹא יִנְחָלוּ נִחְלָה:
- 23 only Levites shall perform the services of the Tent of Meeting; others (others Lit. "they.") would incur guilt. It is the law for all time throughout the ages. But they shall have no territorial share among the Israelites;
- כִּי אֶת־מַעֲשֶׂה בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר יָרִימוּ לַיהוָה תְּרוּמָה נְתַתִּי
לְלוֹיִם לְנִחְלָה עַל־כֵּן אִמַּרְתִּי לָהֶם בְּתוֹךְ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לֹא יִנְחָלוּ
נִחְלָה:
- 24 for it is the tithes set aside by the Israelites as a gift to I give to the Levites as their share. Therefore I have said concerning them: They shall have no territorial share among the Israelites.
- וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר:
- 25 I spoke to Moses, saying:
- וְאֶל־הַלוֹיִם תְּדַבֵּר וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵהֶם כִּי־תִקְחוּ מֵאֵת בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל
אֶת־הַמַּעֲשֹׂר אֲשֶׁר נְתַתִּי לָכֶם מֵאֵתָם בְּנִחְלַתְכֶם וְהִרְמַתֶּם מִמֶּנּוּ
תְּרוּמַת יְהוָה מַעֲשֹׂר מִן־הַמַּעֲשֹׂר:
- 26 Speak to the Levites and say to them: When you receive from the Israelites their tithes, which I have assigned to you as your share, you shall set aside from them one-tenth of the tithe as a gift to I.
- וְנִחְשַׁב לָכֶם תְּרוּמַתְכֶם כַּדָּגָן מִן־הַגֶּרֶן וְכַמְלֶאָה מִן־הַיֶּקֶב:
- 27 This shall be accounted to you as your gift. As with the new grain from the threshing floor or the flow from the vat,
- כֵּן תִּרְיִמוּ גַם־אֵתָם תְּרוּמַת יְהוָה מִכָּל מַעֲשֵׂרְתֵיכֶם אֲשֶׁר תִּקְחוּ מֵאֵת
בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְנִתְּתָם מִמֶּנּוּ אֶת־תְּרוּמַת יְהוָה לְאַהֲרֹן הַכֹּהֵן:
- 28 so shall you on your part set aside a gift for I from all the tithes that you receive from the Israelites; and from them you shall bring the gift for I to Aaron the priest.
- מִכָּל מִתְּנִיתֵיכֶם תִּרְיִמוּ אֵת כָּל־תְּרוּמַת יְהוָה מִכָּל־חִלְבּוֹ אֶת־מִקְדָּשׁוֹ
מִמֶּנּוּ:
- 29 You shall set aside all gifts due to I from everything that is donated to you, from each thing its best portion, the part thereof that is to be consecrated.
- וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵהֶם בְּהִרְיַמְכֶם אֶת־חִלְבּוֹ מִמֶּנּוּ וְנִחְשַׁב לְלוֹיִם כַּתְּבוּאָת
גֶּרֶן וְכַתְּבוּאָת יֶקֶב:
- 30 Say to them further: When you have removed the best part from it, you Levites may consider it the same as the yield of threshing floor or vat.

- 31 וְאָכַלְתֶּם אֹתוֹ בְּכָל־מְקוֹם אֲתֶם וּבְיַחְכָּם כִּי־שָׁכַר הוּא לָכֶם חֶלֶף
עֲבַדְתֶּם בְּאֹהֶל מוֹעֵד:
32 וְלֹא־תִשְׂאוּ עָלֶיךָ חַטָּא בְּהַרְימְכֶם אֶת־חִלְבּוֹ מִמֶּנּוּ וְאֶת־קֹדְשׁוֹ
בְּנִי־יִשְׂרָאֵל לֹא תִחַלְלֻהוּ וְלֹא תָמוּתוּ: