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קרח Korach

Numbers 16:1-18:32

16

- בְּיָלֹוּי וְדָתָן וְאַבְיָלָם בְּנֵי אֶלְיָאָב וְאֹחֵי בְּרִפְלֵת בְּנֵי רְאוּבֵן:
וַיִּקַּח קֹרַח בֶּן־יִצְחָר בֶּן־קֹהָת

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. —
- חֲמִשִּׁים וּמֵאתַיִם נָשִׂימָא עִדָּה קִרְאִי מוֹעֵד אֲנָשֵׁי־שָׁם:
וַיָּקֻמוּ לִפְנֵי מֹשֶׁה וְאֲנָשִׁים מִבְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל

2 to rise up against Moses, together with two hundred and fifty Israelites, chieftains of the community, chosen in the assembly, men of repute.
- כָּל־מִשְׁחָה וְעַל־אַהֲרֹן וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֲלֵהֶם רַב־לָכֶם כִּי כָל־הָעֵדָה
וַיִּקְהָלוּ

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.”
- וְאַתָּה־הַקֹּדֶשׁ וְהַקְרִיב אֵלָיו וְאַתָּה אֲשֶׁר יִבְחָרְבוּ יִקְרִיב אֵלָיו:
אֶל־קֹרַח וְאֶל־כָּל־עֲדָתוֹ לֵאמֹר בֹּקֶר וַיֵּדַע יְהוָה אֶת־אֲשֶׁר־לּוֹ
וַיִּדְבֹּר

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 קַחְו־לָכֶם מִחֲתוֹת קֹרַח וְכָל־עֲדָתוֹ:

6 Do this: You, Korah and all your*your Lit. “his.” band, take fire pans,
- וְהַיּוֹם הָאֵשׁ אֲשֶׁר־יִבְחָר יְהוָה הוּא הַקֹּדֶשׁ רַב־לָכֶם בְּנֵי לֵוִי:
וַתִּנֶּן בָּהֶן אֵשׁ וְשִׂימוּ עָלֵיהֶן אֶת־קִטְרֹת לִפְנֵי יְהוָה מִחֹר

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.
- אֵלָיו לַעֲבֹד אֶת־עֲבֹדַת מִשְׁכַּן יְהוָה וְלַעֲמֹד לִפְנֵי הָעֵדָה לְשִׁרְתָּם:
כִּי־הִבְדִּיל אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶתְּכֶם מֵעַדְת יִשְׂרָאֵל לְהַקְרִיב אֶתְּכֶם
הַמִּקְטָב מִכֶּם

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 אֹתָם וּבִקְשׁוּם גַּם־כֹּהֲנָה:

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

- 11 Truly, it is against הוֹדִי that you and all your company have banded together. For who is Aaron that you should rail against him?"
- 12 Moses sent for Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab; but they said, "We will not come!
- 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?
- 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!"
- 15 Moses was much aggrieved and he said to הוֹדִי, "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."
- 16 And Moses said to Korah, "Tomorrow, you and all your company appear before הוֹדִי, you and they and Aaron.
- 17 Each of you take your fire pan and lay incense on it, and each of you bring that fire pan before הוֹדִי, two hundred and fifty fire pans; you and Aaron also [bring] your fire pans."
- 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.
- 19 Korah gathered the whole community against them at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting. Then the Presence of הוֹדִי appeared to the whole community,
- 20 and הוֹדִי spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying,
- 21 "Stand back from this community that I may annihilate them in an instant!"
- הַנֶּעֱדִים עַל־יְהוָה וְאַהֲרֹן מִה־הוּא כִּי (תלונו) [תלינו] עליו:
לִבָּן אֹתָהּ וְכָל־עֲדָתָךְ.
- מֹשֶׁה לָקָרָא לְדָתָן וְלֵאבִירָם בְּנֵי אֵלִיאָב וַיֹּאמְרוּ לֹא נֵעֲלֶה:
וַיִּשְׁלַח
- חֵלֶב וּדְבַשׁ לְהַמִּיתָנוּ בַּמִּדְבָּר כִּי־תִשְׁתַּרְרַר עָלֵינוּ גַם־הַשְׂתַּרְרָה:
הַמֶּלֶט כִּי הֵעֲלִיתָנוּ מֵאֶרֶץ זֶבֶת
- נִחַלְתָּ שָׂדֶה וְכָרֶם הַעֵינִי הָאֲנָשִׁים הָהֵם תִּנְקֹר לֹא נֵעֲלֶה:
אִף לֹא אֶל־אֶרֶץ זֶבֶת חֵלֶב וּדְבַשׁ הִבִּיאָתָנוּ וְתָתֵן־לָנוּ
- לֹא חָמָר אֶחָד מֵהֶם נִשְׂאָתִי וְלֹא הִרְעֵתִי אֶת־אֶחָד מֵהֶם:
וַיַּחֲרֹ לְמֹשֶׁה מְאֹד וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־יְהוָה אֲלִי־תִפֶּן אֶל־מִנְחָתָם
- אֹתָהּ וְכָל־עֲדָתָךְ הָיוּ לִפְנֵי יְהוָה אֹתָהּ וְהֵם וְאַהֲרֹן מִחֶרֶ:
וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־קֹרַח
- מִחֻתָּתוֹ חֲמִשִּׁים וּמֵאֲתַיִם מִחֻתָּת וְאַתָּה וְאַהֲרֹן אִישׁ מִחֻתָּתוֹ:
| אִישׁ מִחֻתָּתוֹ וּנְתַתֶּם עֲלֵיהֶם קִטְרֶת וְהִקְרַבְתֶּם לִפְנֵי יְהוָה אִישׁ וִיקָחוּ
- וַיַּעֲשׂוּ עֲלֵיהֶם קִטְרֶת וַיַּעֲמִדוּ אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וּמֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן:
וַיִּקְחוּ אִישׁ מִחֻתָּתוֹ וַיִּתְּנוּ עֲלֵיהֶם אֵשׁ
- אֶל־פֶּתַח אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וַיֵּרָא כְבוֹד־יְהוָה אֶל־כָּל־הָעֵדָה:
וַיִּקְהַל עֲלֵיהֶם קֹרַח אֶת־כָּל־הָעֵדָה
- וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה וְאַל־אַהֲרֹן לֵאמֹר:
הַבְדִּילוּ מִתּוֹךְ הָעֵדָה הַזֹּאת וְאַכְלָה אֹתָם כְּרָגַע:

- לְכַלְבֶּשֶׁר הָאִישׁ אֶחָד יִחַטֵּא וְעַל כָּל־הָעֵדָה תִּקְנָץ׃
וַיִּפְּלוּ עַל־פְּנֵיהֶם וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵל אֱלֹהֵי הָרוּחַת
- 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?”
- וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה לֵּאמֹר׃
- 23 וְדַבֵּר אֶל־הָעֵדָה לֵאמֹר הֶעֱלוּ מִסִּבִּיב לְמִשְׁכַּן־קֹרַח דָּתָן וַאֲבִירָם׃
- 24 “Speak to the community and say: Withdraw from about the abodes of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.”
- וַיָּקָם מֹשֶׁה וַיֵּלֶךְ אֶל־דָּתָן וַאֲבִירָם וַיִּלְכוּ אַחֲרָיו וְקִנֵּי יִשְׂרָאֵל׃
- 25 Moses rose and went to Dathan and Abiram, the elders of Israel following him.
- וַיֹּאמֶר וְאֶל־תִּגְּעוּ בְּכָל־אֲשֶׁר לָהֶם פְּרוֹת־סִפּוֹ בְּכָל־חַטָּאתָם׃
וַיְדַבֵּר אֶל־הָעֵדָה לֵאמֹר סֹוּרוּ לֹא מַעַל אֱלֹהֵי הָאֲנָשִׁים הַרְשָׁעִים
- 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.”
- וַאֲבִירָם יֵצְאוּ נֹצְצִים פָּתַח אֶהְלֵיהֶם וּנְשֵׁיהֶם וּבְנֵיהֶם וְטַפָּם׃
וַיַּעֲלוּ מַעַל מִשְׁכַּן־קֹרַח דָּתָן וַאֲבִירָם מִסִּבִּיב וּדְתָן
- 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.
- כִּי־יְהוָה שְׁלַחֲנִי לַעֲשׂוֹת אֵת כָּל־הַמַּעֲשִׂים הָאֵלֶּה כִּי־לֹא מִלְּבִי׃
וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה בְּזֹאת תִּדְּעוּן
- 28 And Moses said, “By this you shall know that it was הוֹדִי who sent me to do all these things; that they are not of my own devising:
- יִמָּתוּן אֵלֶּה וּפְקֻדַּת כָּל־הָאָדָם יִפְקַד עֲלֵיהֶם לֹא יְהוָה שְׁלַחֲנִי׃
אִם־כְּמוֹת כָּל־הָאָדָם
- 29 if these people’s death is that of all humankind, if their lot is humankind’s common fate, it was not הוֹדִי who sent me.
- וַיִּרְדּוּ חַיִּים שְׂאֵלָה וַיִּדְעֻתָם כִּי נֶאֱצָצוּ הָאֲנָשִׁים הָאֵלֶּה אֶת־יְהוָה׃
יְהוָה וּפְצָתָהּ הִאֲדָמָה אֶת־פִּיהָ וּבִלְעָה אֹתָם וְאֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר לָהֶם
וְאִם־בְּרִיאָה יִבְרָא
- 30 But if הוֹדִי 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 הוֹדִי.”
- לְדַבֵּר אֵת כָּל־הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וַתִּבָּקַע הָאֲדָמָה אֲשֶׁר תַּחְתֵּיהֶם׃
וַיִּהְיֶה כְּכֹלָתוֹ
- 31 Scarcely had he finished speaking all these words when the ground under them burst asunder,
- אֹתָם וְאֶת־בֵּיתֵיהֶם וְאֶת כָּל־הָאָדָם אֲשֶׁר לָקְרַח וְאֶת כָּל־הָרֶכֶשׁ׃
וַתִּפְתָּח הָאָרֶץ אֶת־פִּיהָ וַתִּבְלַע
- 32 and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up with their households, all Korah’s people and all their possessions.

לָהֶם חַיִּים שָׁאֵלָה וְנָתַם עֲלֵיהֶם הָאָרֶץ וַיֵּאבְדוּ מִתּוֹךְ הַקֹּהֵל:
וַיֵּרְדּוּ הֵם וְכָל־אֲשֶׁר

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.

אֲשֶׁר סְבִיבֹתֵיהֶם נָסּוּ לְקֹלָם כִּי אָמְרוּ פְּתֹבֶלְעֵנוּ הָאָרֶץ:
וְכָל־יִשְׂרָאֵל

34 All Israel around them fled at their shrieks, for they said, “The earth might swallow us!”

וַתֵּאכַל אֶת הַחֲמִשִּׁים וּמֵאתַיִם אִישׁ מִקְרִיבֵי הַקֹּטֶרֶת:
וְאֵשׁ יִצְאָה מֵאֵת יְהוָה

35 And a fire went forth from הוהי 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

וַיְדַבֵּר 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. הוהי spoke to Moses, saying:

אֶת־הַמִּחֲתוֹת מִבֵּין הַשְּׂרָפָה וְאֶת־הָאֵשׁ וְרַהֲלָאָה כִּי קִדְּשׁוּ:
אָמַר אֶל־אֶלְעָזָר בֶּן־אַהֲרֹן הַכֹּהֵן וַיִּרָם

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.

כִּי־הִקְרִיבֵם לִפְנֵי־יְהוָה וַיִּקְדָּשׁוּ וַיְהִיו לְאוֹת לִבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:
הַחֲטָאִים הָאֵלֶּה בְּנִפְשׁוֹתָם וַעֲשׂוּ אֹתָם רִקְעֵי פָחִים צָפוּי לַמִּזְבֵּחַ
אֵת מִחֲתוֹת

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 הוהי, they have become sacred—and let them serve as a warning to the people of Israel.

מִחֲתוֹת הַנְּחֹשֶׁת אֲשֶׁר הִקְרִיבוּ הַשְּׂרָפִים וַיִּרְקְעוּם צָפוּי לַמִּזְבֵּחַ:
וַיִּלָּח אֶלְעָזָר הַכֹּהֵן אֹת

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,

יְהוָה וְלֹא־יִהְיֶה כְּקֹרַח וְכַעֲדָתוֹ כֹּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר יְהוָה בְּיַד־מֹשֶׁה לֵּאמֹר:
אִישׁ זֶר אֲשֶׁר לֹא מִזֶּרַע אַהֲרֹן הוּא לְהִקְטִיר קֹטֶרֶת לִפְנֵי
זִכְרֹן לִבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לְמַעַן אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יִקְרָב

5 as הוהי 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 הוהי and suffer the fate of Korah and his band.

מִמָּחֳלֵת עַל־מֹשֶׁה וְעַל־אַהֲרֹן לֵאמֹר אַתֶּם הִמַּתְם אֶת־עַם יְהוָה:
וַיִּלְנוּ כָּל־עַדָּת בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל

6 Next day the whole Israelite community railed against Moses and Aaron, saying, “You two have brought death upon הוהי’s people!”

וַיָּפְנוּ אֶל־אַהֲרֹן מוֹעֵד וְהָיָה כִּסֵּהוּ הָעֵנָן וַיֵּרָא כְבוֹד יְהוָה:
וַיֵּזְי בְּהִקְהֵל הָעֵדָה עַל־מֹשֶׁה וְעַל־אַהֲרֹן

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 הוהי appeared.

וַיָּבֹאוּ מֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן אֶל־פְּנֵי אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד:

8 When Moses and Aaron reached the Tent of Meeting,

- 9 וידבר יהוה אל־משה לאמר: 10 spoke to Moses, saying,
- 10 הרמו מתוך העדה הזאת ואכלה אתם כרגע ויפלו על־פניהם: 11 "Remove yourselves from this community, that I may annihilate them in an instant." They fell on their faces.
- 11 אלה־העדה וכפר עליהם כִּי־יצא הקצף מלפני יהוה החל הנגף: 12 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 יהוה: the plague has begun!"
- 12 ויתן־עליה אש מעל המזבח ושים קטרת והולך מהרה ויאמר משה אל־אהרן קח את־המחתה 13 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;
- 13 ויעמד בין־המתים ובין החיים ותעצר המגפה: 14 he stood between the dead and the living until the plague was checked.
- 14 ארבעה עשר אלף ושבע מאות מלבד המתים על־דבר־קרח: 15 Those who died of the plague came to fourteen thousand and seven hundred, aside from those who died on account of Korah.
- 15 וישב אהרן אל־משה אל־פֶּתַח אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד והמגפה נעצרה: 16 Aaron then returned to Moses at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, since the plague was checked.
- 16 וידבר יהוה אל־משה לאמר: 17 *This verse constitutes 17.1 in some editions. יהוה spoke to Moses, saying:
- 17 לבית אבתם שנים עשר מטות איש את־שמו תכתב על־מטהו: 18 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,
- ישראל וקח מאתם מטה מטה לבית אב מאת כל־נשיאיהם דבר | אל־בני 19 there being one staff for each head of an ancestral house; also inscribe Aaron's name on the staff of Levi.
- 19 אהרן תכתב על־מטה לוי כי מטה אחד לראש בית אבותם: 20 Deposit them in the Tent of Meeting before the Pact, where I meet with you.
- 20 והנחתם באהל מועד לפני העדות אשר אועד לכם שמה: 21 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.
- 21 לבית אבתם שנים עשר מטות ומטה אהרן בתוך מטותם: 22 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.
- אליו | כל־נשיאיהם מטה לנשיא אחד מטה לנשיא אחד וידבר משה אל־בני ישראל ויתנו 22 וינח משה את־המטות לפני יהוה באהל העדות: 22 Moses deposited the staffs before יהוה, in the Tent of the Pact.

- 23 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.
- 24 Moses then brought out all the staffs from before the Tent of the Pact to all the Israelites; each identified and recovered his staff.
- 25 The Lord said to Moses, "Put Aaron's staff back before the Tent of 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 the Lord 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 the Tabernacle must die. Alas, we are doomed to perish!"
- 23 פָּרַח מִטֵּה־אֶהָרֶן לְבֵית לֹוֹ וַיֵּצֵא פָּרַח וַיֵּצֵץ צִיץ וַיִּגְמַל שְׂקָדִים:
וַיְהִי מִמָּחֳרָת וַיָּבֹא מֹשֶׁה אֶל־אֶהָרֶן הָעֲדוּת וְהִנֵּה
- 24 מִלִּפְנֵי יְהוָה אֶל־כָּל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיֵּרְאוּ וַיִּקְחוּ אִישׁ מִטֵּהוּ:
וַיֵּצֵא מֹשֶׁה אֶת־כָּל־הַמִּטָּה
- 25 לְמַשְׁמֶרֶת לְאוֹת לְבְנֵי־מִרִי וְתָכַל תְּלוּנָתָם מֵעַלְיָ וְלֹא יָמָתוּ:
וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה הִשָּׁב אֶת־מִטֵּה אֶהָרֶן לִפְנֵי הָעֲדוּת
- 26 וַיַּעַשׂ מֹשֶׁה כְּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוָה אֹתוֹ כֵּן עָשָׂה:
- 27 בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל־מֹשֶׁה לֹא־מָר הֵן גִּנָּעֵנוּ אֲבָדְנוּ כָּלְנוּ אֲבָדְנוּ:
וַיֹּאמְרוּ
- 28 הַקֶּרֶב | הַקֶּרֶב אֶל־מִשְׁכַּן יְהוָה יָמוּת הָאָם תָּמְנוּ לָגוֹעַ:
כָּל

18

- 1 The Lord 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 the Lord, to do the work of the Tent of Meeting;
- 1 אֶת־עֲנֹן הַמִּקְדָּשׁ וְאֹתָהּ וּבְנֶיהָ אֹתָךְ תִּשָּׂאוּ אֶת־עֲנֹן כְּהִנְיָתָם:
וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־אֶהָרֶן אֹתָהּ וּבְנֶיהָ וּבֵית־אֲבִיהָ אֹתָךְ תִּשָּׂאוּ
- 2 אֹתָךְ וַיְלֻנוּ עֲלֶיךָ וּשְׂרָתְךָ וְאֹתָהּ וּבְנֶיהָ אֹתָךְ לִפְנֵי אֶהָרֶן הָעֲדוּת:
וְגַם אֶת־אֲחֵיךָ מִטֵּה לֹוֹ שְׁבֹט אֲבִיךָ הַקֶּרֶב
- 3 הַקֹּדֶשׁ וְאֶל־הַמִּזְבֵּחַ לֹא יִקְרְבוּ וְלֹא־יָמָתוּ גְּמִיהֶם גְּמִי־אֹתָם:
וְשִׁמְרוּ מִשְׁמֶרֶתוֹ וּמִשְׁמֶרֶת כָּל־הָאֶהָל אֹךְ אֶל־כָּל־
- 4 אֶהָל מוֹעֵד לְכָל עֲבֹדַת הָאֶהָל וְזָר לֹא־יִקְרַב אֲלֵיכֶם:
וַיְלֻנוּ עֲלֶיךָ וְשִׁמְרוּ אֶת־מִשְׁמֶרֶת
- 5 וְאֵת מִשְׁמֶרֶת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ וְלֹא־יִהְיֶה עוֹד קֶצֶף עַל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:
וְשִׁמְרָתָם אֵת מִשְׁמֶרֶת הַקֹּדֶשׁ
- 6 יִשְׂרָאֵל לָכֶם מִתְּנָה נְתַנִּים לַיהוָה לַעֲבֹד אֶת־עֲבֹדַת אֶהָל מוֹעֵד:
וְאֵלֵי הִנֵּה לְקַחְתִּי אֶת־אֲחֵיכֶם הַלְוִיִּם מִתּוֹךְ בְּנֵי

- ועבדתם עבדת מתנה אתן את־כהנתלם והזר הקרב יומת:
אתן תשמרו את־כהנתלם לכל־דבר המזבח ולמבית לפרכת
ואתה ובניך
- 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.
- לכל־קדש בני־ישראל לך נתתם למשחה ולבניך לחק־עולם:
וידבר יהוה אל־אהרן ואני הנה נתתי לך את־משמרת תרומתי
- 8 הוה 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.
- ולכל־אשמם אשר ישיבו לי קדש קדשים לך הוא ולבניך:
הקדשים מן־האש כל־קרבנם לכל־מנחתם ולכל־חטאתם
זה־יהיה לך מקדש
- 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.
- בקדש הקדשים תאכלנו כל־זכר יאכל אתו קדש יהיה־לך:
- 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."
- ולבניך ולבנותיך אתן לחק־עולם כל־טהור בביתך יאכל אתו:
וזה־לך תרומת מתנם לכל־תנופת בני ישראל לך נתתם
- 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.
- וכל־חלב תירוש ודגן ראשיתם אשר־יתנו ליהוה לך נתתם:
כל חלב יצהר
- 12 All the best of the new oil, wine, and grain—the choice parts that they present to הוה —I give to you.
- בארצם אשר־יביאו ליהוה לך יהיה כל־טהור בביתך יאכלנו:
בכורי כל־אשר
- 13 The first fruits of everything in their land, that they bring to הוה, shall be yours; everyone of your household who is pure may eat them.
- כל־חרם בישראל לך יהיה:
- 14 Everything that has been proscribed in Israel*proscribed in Israel See Lev. 27.28. shall be yours.
- תפלה את בכור האדם ואת בכור־הבהמה הטמאה תפדה:
אשר־יקריבו ליהוה באדם ובבהמה יהיה־לך אך | פדה
כל־פטר רחם לכל־בשר
- 15 The first [male] issue of the womb of every being, human or beast, that is offered to הוה, 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.

- בְּעֶרְכָּךְ כְּסָף חֲמִשָּׁת שֶׁקֶלִים בְּשֶׁקֶל הַקֹּדֶשׁ עֲשִׂימָה הָיָה הוּא:
וּפְדוּיָו מִבְּיָחֶדֶשׁ תִּפְלֶה
- 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.
- תִּזְרֹק עֲלֵה־מִזְבִּיחַ וְאֶת־חֵלְבָם תִּקְטִיר אֵשָׁה לְרִיחַ נִיחַח לַיהוָה:
אִו־בְּכֹר לָשֵׁב אִו־בְּכֹר עֹז לֹא תִפְדֶּה קֹדֶשׁ הֵם אֶת־דַּמָּם
אֵךְ בְּכֹר־שׁוֹר
- 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 יהוה.
- וּבִשְׂרָם יִהְיֶה־לָּךְ כַּחֲזֶה הַתְּנוּפָה וּכְשׂוֹק הַיָּמִין לָךְ יִהְיֶה:
- 18 But their meat shall be yours: it shall be yours like the breast of elevation offering and like the right thigh.
- לְחֻק־עֹלָם בְּרִית מִלֹּחַ עֹלָם הוּא לִפְנֵי יְהוָה לָךְ וּלְזֶרְעֶךָ אֲתָךְ:
אֲשֶׁר יִרְיָמוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל לַיהוָה נְתַתִּי לָךְ וּלְבָנֶיךָ וּלְבָנֶיךָ אֲתָךְ
כָּל | תְּרוֹמַת הַקֹּדֶשִׁים
- 19 All the sacred gifts that the Israelites set aside for יהוה 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 יהוה for you and for your offspring as well.
- לָךְ בְּתוֹכָם אֲנִי חֶלֶקְךָ וְנִחְלַתְךָ בְּתוֹךְ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:
וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־אַהֲרֹן בְּאַרְצָם לֹא תִנְחַל וְחֶלֶק לֹא־יִהְיֶה
- 20 And יהוה 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.
- לְנִחְלָה חֶלֶף עֲבַדְתָּם אֲשֶׁר־הֵם עֲבָדִים אֶת־עֲבַדְתָּ אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד:
וּלְבָנֵי לֵוִי הִנֵּה נְתַתִּי כָל־מַעֲשֶׂר בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל
- 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 לְשֹׂאת חֲטָא לָמוֹת:
- 22 Henceforth, Israelites shall not trespass on the Tent of Meeting, and thus incur guilt and die:
- עוֹנָם חֲקַת עֹלָם לְדֹרֹתֵיכֶם וּבְתוֹךְ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לֹא יִנְחָלוּ נִחְלָה:
וְעַבְדֵּי הַלֵּוִי הוּא אֶת־עֲבַדְתָּ אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וְהֵם יִשְׂאוּ
- 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;
- לְנִחְלָה עַל־כֵּן אֲמַרְתִּי לָהֶם בְּתוֹךְ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לֹא יִנְחָלוּ נִחְלָה:
אֶת־מַעֲשֶׂר בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר יִרְיָמוּ לַיהוָה תְּרוֹמָה נְתַתִּי לָלוֹיִם
כִּי
- 24 for it is the tithes set aside by the Israelites as a gift to יהוה that 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 יהוה spoke to Moses, saying:
- בְּנִחְלַתְכֶם וְהִרְמַתֶם מִמֶּנּוּ תְּרוֹמַת יְהוָה מַעֲשֶׂר מִן־הַמַּעֲשֶׂר:
כִּי־תִקְחוּ מֵאֵת בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת־הַמַּעֲשֶׂר אֲשֶׁר נְתַתִּי לָכֶם מֵאִתָּם
וְאֶל־הַלוֹיִם תִּדְבַּר וְאֲמַרְתָּ אֲלֵהֶם
- 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 יהוה.

- 27 וְנִחְשֹׁב לָכֶם תְּרוּמַתְכֶם כְּדִגְנֵן מִן־הַגֶּרֶן וְכַמְלֵאָה מִן־הַיֶּקֶב: This shall be accounted to you as your gift. As with the new grain from the threshing floor or the flow from the vat,
- 28 מֵאֵת בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וּנְתַתֶּם מִמֶּנּוּ אֶת־תְּרוּמַת יְהוָה לְאַהֲרֹן הַכֹּהֵן: כֵּן תָּרִימוּ גַם־אַתֶּם תְּרוּמַת יְהוָה מִכָּל מַעֲשֵׂי־יֶדְיָכֶם אֲשֶׁר תִּקְחוּ הוּדִי הוּדִי לְאַהֲרֹן הַכֹּהֵן: so shall you on your part set aside a gift for הוּדִי from all the tithes that you receive from the Israelites; and from them you shall bring the gift for הוּדִי to Aaron the priest.
- 29 תָּרִימוּ אֶת כָּל־תְּרוּמַת יְהוָה מִכָּל־חֶלְבוֹ אֶת־מִקְדָּשׁוֹ מִמֶּנּוּ: מִכָּל מִתְּנֵי־יָדְכֶם הוּדִי You shall set aside all gifts due to הוּדִי from everything that is donated to you, from each thing its best portion, the part thereof that is to be consecrated.
- 30 אֶת־חֶלְבוֹ מִמֶּנּוּ וְנִחְשֹׁב לְלוֹלִים כְּתִבּוּאָת גֶּרֶן וְכְתִבּוּאָת יֶקֶב: וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲלֵהֶם בְּהִרְיָמָכֶם 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 אַתֶּם וּבֵיתְכֶם כִּי־שָׂכָר הוּא לָכֶם חֶלֶף עֲבַדְתֶּם בְּאַהֲלֵ מוֹעֵד: וְאַכְלֹתֶם אֹתוֹ בְּכָל־מְקוֹם You and your households may eat it anywhere, for it is your recompense for your services in the Tent of Meeting.
- 32 מִמֶּנּוּ וְאֶת־קֹדְשֵׁי בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל לֹא תַחֲלִלּוּ וְלֹא תִמּוּתוּ: וְלֹא־תִשְׂאוּ עָלֶיךָ חֵטָא בְּהִרְיָמָכֶם אֶת־חֶלְבוֹ You will incur no guilt through it, once you have removed the best part from it; but you must not profane the sacred donations of the Israelites, lest you die.