

וַיִּשְׁמָע יְתֵר־כֹּהֵן מִדְיָן חֹתֵן מֹשֶׁה אֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה אֱלֹהִים לְמֹשֶׁה
וּלְיִשְׂרָאֵל עַמּוֹ כִּי־הוֹצִיא יְהוָה אֶת־יִשְׂרָאֵל מִמִּצְרָיִם:

וַיִּקַּח יִתְרוֹ חֹתֵן מֹשֶׁה אֶת־צִפּוֹרָה אִשְׁתּוֹ מִשָּׁה אַחֵר שְׁלֹחִיָּה:

וְאֵת שְׁנֵי בָנֶיהָ אֲשֶׁר שָׁם הָאֶחָד גִּרְשָׁם כִּי אָמַר גֵּר הֵיכֵנִי בְּאֶרֶץ
נִכְרִיה:

וּשְׁם הָאֶחָד אֱלִיעֶזֶר כִּי־אֱלֹהֵי אָבִי בְּעֻזִּי וַיִּצְלַנִי מִחֶרֶב פְּרָעָה:

וַיֵּבֹא יִתְרֹ חֹתֵן מֹשֶׁה וּבָנָיו וְאִשְׁתּוֹ אֶל־מֹשֶׁה אֶל־הַמִּדְבָּר אֲשֶׁר־הָוָא חֲנֹה שֵׁם הָרֹהַּ אֱלֹהִים:

וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־מֹשֶׁה אֲנִי חֹתֶנְךָ יִתְּרוֹ בֹּא אֵלַיךְ וְאִשְׁתָּהּ וּשְׁנֵי בָנֶיהָ עִמָּהּ:

וַיֵּצֵא מֹשֶׁה לִקְרֹאת חֲתָנָיו וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוּ וַיִּשְׁקְלוּ וַיִּשְׁאַלְוּ
אִישׁ-לְרֵעֵהוּ לְשָׁלוֹם וַיָּבֹאוּ הָאָהֳלָה:

וַיִּסְפָּר מֹשֶׁה לְחֹתְנָו אֶת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה יְהוָה לְפָרְעֹה וּלְמִצְרַיִם עַל־
אֹדֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת כָּל־הַתְּלָאָה אֲשֶׁר מָצְאתֶם בְּדַלְכְּךָ וּבִצְלֹם יְהוָה:

וַיִּחַדּוּ יִתְּרוֹ עַל כָּל־הַטּוֹבָה אֲשֶׁר־עָשָׂה יְהוָה לְיִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר הֻצִּילָו מִיַּד מִצְרַיִם:

וַיֹּאמֶר יְתָרוֹ בְּרוּךְ יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר הֻצֵּל אֶתְכֶם מִיַּד מִצְרַיִם וּמִיַּד
פַּרְעֹה אֲשֶׁר הֻצֵּל אֶת־יְהוָה מִתַּחַת יְד־מִצְרַיִם:

עֲתָה יִלְעָתִי כִּיגְדֹל יְהוָה מִכְּלִי־הָאֱלֹהִים כִּי בִדְבַר אֲשֶׁר זָדוּ
עֲלֵיהֶם:

וַיִּקָּח יִתְרוֹ חֹתֵן מֹשֶׁה עֲלֶיהָ וּזְבָחִים לֵאלֹהִים וַיָּבֵא אֶהָרֹן וְכָל אֲזַקְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לֵאכֹל־לֶחֶם עִם־חֹתֵן מֹשֶׁה לִּפְנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים:

1 Jethro priest of Midian, Moses' father-in-law, heard all that God had done for Moses and for Israel, God's people, how יהוה had brought Israel out from Egypt.

2 So Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, took Zipporah, Moses' wife, after she had been sent home,

3 and her two sons—of whom one was named Gershom, that is to say, “I have been a stranger (stranger Heb. ger.) in a foreign land”;

4 and the other was named Eliezer, (Eliezer Lit.
“(My) God is help.”) meaning, “The God of my
father’s [house] was my help, delivering me from
the sword of Pharaoh.”

5 Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, brought Moses' sons and wife to him in the wilderness, where he was encamped at the mountain of God.

6 He sent word to Moses, "I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you, with your wife and her two sons."

7 Moses went out to meet his father-in-law; he bowed low and kissed him; each asked after the other's welfare, and they went into the tent.

8 Moses then recounted to his father-in-law everything that הוֹדִי had done to Pharaoh and to the Egyptians for Israel's sake, all the hardships that had befallen them on the way, and how הוֹדִי had delivered them.

9 And Jethro rejoiced over all the kindness that הוהי had shown Israel when delivering them from the Egyptians.

10 “Blessed be יהוה,” Jethro said, “who delivered you from the Egyptians and from Pharaoh, and who delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians.

11 Now I know that יהוה is greater than all gods, yes, by the result of their very schemes against [the people].” (yes, by the result of their very schemes against [the people] Meaning of Heb. uncertain.)

12 And Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, brought a burnt offering and sacrifices for God; and Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to partake of the meal before God with Moses' father-in-law.

וַיֹּם הַשְּׁבִיעִי שָׁבַת | לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לֹא-תַעֲשֶׂה כָל-מְלָאכָה אַתָּה |
וּבְנוֹךְ-יִבְרָתְךָ עַבְדְּךָ וְאִמְתְּךָ וּבְהֵמָתְךָ וְגֵרְךָ אֲשֶׁר
בְּשַׁעְרֶיךָ:

כִּי שֵׁשֶׁת־יָמִים עָשָׂה יְהוָה אֶת־הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת־הָאָרֶץ אֶת־הַיָּם
וְאֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־בָּם וַיָּנַח בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי עַל־כֵּן יְהוָה יְבָרַךְ יוֹם
הַשַּׁבָּת וַיְקַדְּשֶׁהוּ:

כִּכְבֵּד אֶת־אֲבִיךָ וְאֶת־אִמְךָ לְמַעַן יֵאָרְכּוֹן יְמֶיךָ עַל הָאֲדָמָה אֲשֶׁר־יְהִיָּה
אֱלֹהֶיךָ נָתַן לָךְ:

לֹא תִרְצַח: לֹא תִנְאַף: לֹא תִגְנוֹב: לֹא תַעֲנֶה בְרֵעֲךָ עַד שִׁקְרָ:

לֹא תִחְמַד בֵּית רֶעֶךָ לֹא־תִחְמַד אֶשֶׁת רֶעֶךָ וְעַבְדְּךָ וְאִמָּתְךָ וְשׁוֹרְךָ וְחִמְלֹךָ וְכָל אֲשֶׁר לְרֶעֶךָ:

וְכָל־הָעָם רֹאִים אֶת־הַקּוֹלֹת וְאֶת־הַלְּפִיזִים וְאֵת קוֹל הַשֹּׁפָר וְאֶת־הַהָרָה עֹשֶׂה וְיֵרָא הָעָם וְיִלְעוּ וְיִעֲמָדוּ מֵרַחֵק:

וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֶל־מֹשֶׁה דַּבֵּר־אֵתָה עִמָּנוּ וְנִשְׁמָעָה וְאֶל־יְדִבֵּר עִמָּנוּ
אֱלֹהִים פֶּךְ־נִמּוּת:

וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־הָעָם אֱלֹהֵינוּ כִּי לְבַעֲבוֹר נִסּוֹת אֶתְכֶם בָּא הָאֱלֹהִים
וּבַעֲבוֹר תִּהְיֶה יְרֵאתוֹ עֲלֵיפִינִיכֶם לְבִלְתִּי תַחֲטְאוּ:

וַיַּעֲמֵד הָעָם מֵרָחֹק וַיִּמְשָׁה נֹגֵשׁ אֶל־הָעַרְפָּל אֲשֶׁר־שָׁם הָאֱלֹהִים:

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה כֹּה תֹאמַר אֶל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אַתֶּם רְאִיתֶם כִּי מִן־הַשָּׁמַיִם דִּבַּרְתִּי עִמָּכֶם:

לֹא תַעֲשׂוּן אֶתִּי אֱלֹהִי כִסֵּף וְאֱלֹהִי זָהָב לֹא תַעֲשׂוּ לָכֶם:

but the seventh day is a sabbath of your God יהוה: you shall not do any work—you, your son or daughter, your male or female slave, or your cattle, or the stranger who is within your settlements.

11 For in six days הוהי made heaven and earth and sea—and all that is in them—and then rested on the seventh day; therefore הוהי blessed the sabbath day and hallowed it.

12 Honor your father and your mother, that you may long endure on the land that your God יהוה is assigning to you.

13 You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

14 You shall not covet your neighbor's house: (house I.e., the corporate household, both persons and possessions. (Cf. Deut. 5.18.) Heb. bayith, in construct form (beth). See the Dictionary under "house.") you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, (wife In ancient Israel, a typical man could take a woman (even more than one) into his household as a wife; but a typical woman was not in a symmetrical position—which explains why "husband" is not also mentioned. See also note at v. 3.) or male or female slave, or ox or ass, or anything that is your neighbor's.

15 All the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the blare of the horn and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they fell back and stood at a distance.

16 “You speak to us,” they said to Moses, “and we will obey; but let not God speak to us, lest we die.”

17 Moses answered the people, "Be not afraid; for God has come only in order to test you, and in order that the fear of God may be ever with you, so that you do not go astray."

18 So the people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick cloud where God was.

19 הוֹדִי said to Moses: Thus shall you say to the Israelites: You yourselves saw that I spoke to you from the very heavens:

20 With Me, therefore, you shall not make any gods of silver, nor shall you make for yourselves any gods of gold.

13 Next day, Moses sat as magistrate among the people, while the people stood about Moses from morning until evening.

14 But when Moses' father-in-law saw how much he had to do for the people, he said, "What is this thing that you are doing to the people? Why do you act (act Lit. "sit" as magistrate; cf. v. 13.) alone, while all the people stand about you from morning until evening?"

15 Moses replied to his father-in-law, "It is because the people come to me to inquire of God.

16 When they have a dispute, it comes before me, and I decide between one party and another, and I make known the laws and teachings of God."

17 But Moses' father-in-law said to him, "The thing you are doing is not right;

18 you will surely wear yourself out, and these people as well. For the task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone.

19 Now listen to me, I will give you counsel, and God be with you! You represent the people before God: you bring the disputes before God, and enjoin upon them the laws and the teachings, the practices they are to follow.

20 You shall also seek out, from among all the people, capable individuals (individuals Lit. "participants whose involvement defines the depicted situation"; trad. "men." See the Dictionary under 'ish.) who fear God—trustworthy ones who spurn ill-gotten gain. Set these over them as chiefs of thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens, and

21 let them judge the people at all times. Have them bring every major dispute to you, but let them decide every minor dispute themselves. Make it easier for yourself by letting them share the burden with you.

22 If you do this—and God so commands you—you will be able to bear up; and all these people too will go home unwearied."

23 Moses heeded his father-in-law and did just as he had said.

23 But Moses said to "והי, The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai, for You warned us saying, 'Set bounds about the mountain and sanctify it.'"

24 So ויהי said to him, "Go down, and come back together with Aaron; but let not the priests or the people break through to come up to ויהי, lest [God] break out against them."

25 And Moses went down to the people and spoke to them.

26 God spoke all these words, (these words Tradition varies as to the division of the Commandments in vv. 2–14, and as to the numbering of the verses from 2 on. Cf. note at Deut. 5.6.) saying:

27 I ויהי am your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, the house of bondage:

3 You (You The Decalogue is couched both in the second-person masculine singular and in terms of a household—the basic social and economic unit. Such a format addresses the legal provisions to whichever responsible party they apply—most typically the (male) household, or he and his (primary) wife as household administrators, or every man, or every adult member of the community. Cf. note at Deut. 12.7. See further the Dictionary under "house," "householder," and "you.") shall have no other gods besides Me.

4 You shall not make for yourself a sculptured image, or any likeness of what is in the heavens above, or on the earth below, or in the waters under the earth.

5 You shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I your God ויהי am an impassioned God, visiting the guilt of the parents upon the children, upon the third and upon the fourth generations of those who reject Me.

6 but showing kindness to the thousandth generation of those who love Me and keep My commandments.

7 You shall not swear falsely by (swear falsely by Others "take in vain.") the name of your God ויהי; for ויהי will not clear one who swears falsely by God's name.

8 Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy.

9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

20

13 And Moses said to ויהי, "The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai, for You warned us saying, 'Set bounds about the mountain and sanctify it.'"

14 So ויהי said to him, "Go down, and come back together with Aaron; but let not the priests or the people break through to come up to ויהי, lest [God] break out against them."

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21 but showing kindness to the thousandth generation of those who love Me and keep My commandments.

22 You shall not swear falsely by (swear falsely by Others "take in vain.") the name of your God ויהי; for ויהי will not clear one who swears falsely by God's name.

23 Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy.

24 Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

10 and said to Moses, “Go to the people and warn them to stay pure (pure Cf. v. 15.) today and tomorrow. Let them wash their clothes.

11 Let them be ready for the third day; for on the third day הוהי will come down, in the sight of all the people, on Mount Sinai.

12 You shall set bounds for the people round about, saying, ‘Beware of going up the mountain or touching the border of it. Whoever touches the mountain shall be put to death

13 without being touched—by being either stoned or shot; beast or person, a trespasser shall not live.’ When the ram’s horn sounds a long blast, (sounds a long blast Meaning of Heb. uncertain.) they may go up on the mountain.”

14 Moses came down from the mountain to the people and warned the people to stay pure, and they washed their clothes.

15 And he said to the people, “Be ready for the third day: [the men among] ([the men among] See the Dictionary under “you.”) you should not go near a woman.”

16 On the third day, as morning dawned, there was thunder, and lightning, and a dense cloud upon the mountain, and a very loud blast of the horn; and all the people who were in the camp trembled.

17 Moses led the people out of the camp toward God, and they took their places at the foot of the mountain.

18 Now Mount Sinai was all in smoke, for הוהי had come down upon it in fire; the smoke rose like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain (the whole mountain Some Hebrew manuscripts and the Greek read “all the people”; cf. v. 16.) trembled violently.

19 The blare of the horn grew louder and louder. As Moses spoke, God answered him in thunder.

20 הוהי came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain, and הוהי called Moses to the top of the mountain and Moses went up.

21 נאמר הוהי אלימשה ד העד בעם פוֹהֶרְסוּ אִלְיֵהוּ לראות ונקל ממנו רב:

22 The priests also, who come near הוהי, must stay pure, lest הוהי break out against them.”

25 Moses chose capable individuals (individuals See note at v. 21.) out of all Israel, and appointed them heads over the people—chiefs of thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens;

26 and they judged the people at all times: the difficult matters they would bring to Moses, and all the minor matters they would decide themselves.

27 Then Moses bade his father-in-law farewell, and he went his way to his own land.

וַיִּבְחַר מֹשֶׁה אֲנָשִׁי־יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיָּתֵן אֹתָם רִאשִׁים עַל־הָעָם שָׂרֵי אֲלָפִים שָׂרֵי מֵאוֹת שָׂרֵי חֲמִשִּׁים וְשָׂרֵי עֶשְׂרֹת:

וַשִּׁפְטוּ אֶת־הָעָם בְּכָל־עֵת אֶת־הַדָּבָר הַקָּשֶׁה יָבִיאוּן אֶל־מֹשֶׁה וְכָל־הַדָּבָר הַקָּטָן יִשְׁפֹּטוּהוּ הֵם:

וַיִּשְׁלַח מֹשֶׁה אֶת־חֲתָנּוֹ וַיֵּלֶךְ לוֹ אֶל־אֶרְצָהוּ:

19

1 On the third new moon after the Israelites had gone forth from the land of Egypt, on that very day, they entered the wilderness of Sinai.

2 Having journeyed from Rephidim, they entered the wilderness of Sinai and encamped in the wilderness. Israel encamped there in front of the mountain,

3 and Moses went up to God. הוהי called to him from the mountain, saying, “Thus shall you say to the house of Jacob and declare to the children of Israel:

4 ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Me.

5 Now then, if you will obey Me faithfully and keep My covenant, you shall be My treasured possession among all the peoples. Indeed, all the earth is Mine,

6 but you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the children of Israel.”

7 Moses came and summoned the elders of the people and put before them all that הוהי had commanded him.

8 All those assembled answered as one, saying, “All that הוהי has spoken we will do!” And Moses brought back the people’s words to הוהי.

9 And הוהי said to Moses, “I will come to you in a thick cloud, in order that the people may hear when I speak with you and so trust you ever after.” Then Moses reported the people’s words to הוהי,

בַּחֹדֶשׁ הַשְּׁלִישִׁי לְצֵאת בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם בַּיּוֹם הַזֶּה בָּאוּ מִדְבַּר סִינַי:

וַיָּסַעו מִרְפִּידִים וַיָּבֹאוּ מִדְבַּר סִינַי וַיַּחֲנוּ בַּמִּדְבָּר וַיַּחֲרֹשׁם יִשְׂרָאֵל נֶגֶד הָהָר:

וּמֹשֶׁה עָלָה אֶל־הָאֱלֹהִים וַיְקַלֵּא אֵלָיו יְהוָה מִן־הָהָר לֵאמֹר כֹּה תֹאמַר לְבֵית יִשְׂרָאֵל וְעַלֹב וְתֹנִיד לְבָנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:

אִתְּם רְאִיתֶם אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתִי לַמִּצְרַיִם וְאֲשָׂא אֶתְכֶם עַל־כַּנְפֵי נְשׁוּרִים וְאָבָא אֲתֶכֶם אֵלַי:

וְעַתָּה אֲמַשְׁמוּעַ תִּשְׁמַעוּ בְּקוֹלִי וְשָׁמַרְתֶּם אֶת־בְּרִיתִי וְהָיִיתֶם לִי סֻגְלָה מִכָּל־הָעַמִּים כִּי־לִי כָל־הָאָרֶץ:

וְאַתֶּם תִּהְיֶינָה מְמַלְכֶת כֹּהֲנִים וְגוֹי קָדוֹשׁ אֵלֶּה הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר תִּדְבֹּר אֶל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:

וַיָּבֹא מֹשֶׁה וַיִּקְרָא לְזִקְנֵי הָעָם וַיִּשֶׂם לִפְנֵיהֶם אֶת כָּל־הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר צִוָּהוּ יְהוָה:

וַיַּעֲנוּ כָל־הָעָם יְחָדָּו וַיֹּאמְרוּ כָּל אֲשֶׁר־דִּבֶּר יְהוָה נַעֲשֶׂה וְנִשְׁבַּח מֹשֶׁה אֶת־דִּבְרֵי הָעָם אֶל־יְהוָה:

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה הִנֵּה אֲנִכִּי בֹא אֵלֶיךָ בְּעָבֹר בְּעָבֹר יִשְׁמַע הָעָם בְּדִבְרִי עֹלָךְ וְגַם־בֹּךְ יֵאֱמִינוּ לְעוֹלָם וַיְגֵד מֹשֶׁה אֶת־דִּבְרֵי הָעָם אֶל־יְהוָה: