

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

21 Make for Me an altar of earth and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your sacrifices of well-being,*sacrifices of well-being Others

22 "peace-offering." Meaning of Heb. shelamim uncertain. your sheep and your oxen; in every place where I cause My name to be mentioned I will come to you and bless you.

23 And if you make for Me an altar of stones, do not build it of hewn stones; for by wielding your tool upon them you have profaned them.

24 Do not ascend My altar by steps, that your nakedness may not be exposed upon it.

Exodus 18:1-20:23

יִצְחָק יִצְחָק

	8	Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy.	זכור את־יום השבת לקדשו:
	9	Six days you shall labor and do all your work,	ששת ימים תעבד ועשית כל־מלאכתך:
	10	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.	וּבַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי עֲבַדְתָּ וְעָמַלְתָּ וְגֵרְךָ אֲשֶׁר בְּשַׁעְרֶיךָ: הַשְּׁבִיעִי שַׁבָּת לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לֹא־תַעֲשֶׂה כְלִמְלָכָה אִתָּה וְיוֹם
	11	For in six days יהוה made heaven and earth and sea—and all that is in them—and then rested on the seventh day; therefore יהוה blessed the sabbath day and hallowed it.	הַשְּׁבִיעִי עַל־כֵּן בָּרַךְ יְהוָה אֶת־יוֹם הַשַּׁבָּת וַיְקַדְּשֵׁהוּ: אֶת־הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת־הָאָרֶץ אֶת־הַיָּם וְאֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־בָּם וַיְנַח בַּיּוֹם כִּי שֵׁשֶׁת־יָמִים עָשָׂה יְהוָה
	12	Honor your father and your mother, that you may long endure on the land that your God יהוה is assigning to you.	יֹאמְרוּ יְלִידֶיךָ עַל הָאֲדָמָה אֲשֶׁר־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ נָתַן לָךְ: כְּכִד אֶת־אֲבִיךָ וְאֶת־אִמְךָ לְמַעַן
	13	You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.	תִּנְאֹף: לֹא תִגְנֹב: לֹא־תַעֲנֶה בְרֵעֲךָ עַד שֹׁקֶר: לֹא תִרְצֹחַ: לֹא
	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.	אֶשֶׁת רֵעֲךָ וְעַבְדּוֹ וְאִמּוֹ וְשׁוֹר וְחֶמְלֹו וְכָל אֲשֶׁר לְרֵעֲךָ: לֹא תַחְמֹד בֵּית רֵעֲךָ לֹא־תַחְמֹד
	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.	וְאֵת קוֹל הַשֹּׁפָר וְאֶת־הַקֶּהֱרַק עֲשָׂן וְנִרָא הָעָם וַיִּזְעוּ וַיַּעֲמֹדוּ מֵרָחֹק: וְכָל־הָעָם רָאִים אֶת־הַקּוֹלֹת וְאֶת־הַלִּפְיִידִם
	16	"You speak to us," they said to Moses, "and we will obey; but let not God speak to us, lest we die."	הִבְרֹאתָה עִמָּנוּ וְנִשְׁמָעָה וְאִל־יִדְבָּר עִמָּנוּ אֱלֹהִים פֶּרַח־מֹות: וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֶל־מֹשֶׁה
	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."	בָּא הָאֱלֹהִים וּבַעֲבוּר תִּהְיֶה יִרְאתוֹ עַל־פְּנִיכֶם לְבַלְתִּי תַחְטְאוּ: וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־הָעָם אֲלֵי־הָעָם אֲלֵי־יִרְאָו כִּי לְבַעֲבוּר נְסוּת אֲתֹכֶם
	18	So the people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick cloud where God was.	הָעָם מֵרָחֹק וּמֹשֶׁה נָגַשׁ אֶל־הָעֲרָפֶל אֲשֶׁר־שָׁם הָאֱלֹהִים: וַיִּעֲמֹד
	19	יהוה said to Moses: Thus shall you say to the Israelites: You yourselves saw that I spoke to you from the very heavens:	אֶל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אָתָּם רָאִיתֶם כִּי מִן־הַשָּׁמַיִם דִּבַּרְתִּי עִמָּכֶם: וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה כֹּה תֹאמַר
למשה ול־ישראל עמו כִּי־הוֹצִיא יְהוָה אֶת־יִשְׂרָאֵל מִמִּצְרָיִם: וַיִּשְׁלַח יִתְרוֹ כֹּהֵן מִדְיָן חֹתֵן מֹשֶׁה אֶת כְּלִיאֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה אֱלֹהִים	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.	
וַיָּלֶךְ יִתְרוֹ חֹתֵן מֹשֶׁה אֶת־צִפּוֹרָה אִשְׁתּוֹ מֹשֶׁה אַחֵר שְׁלוֹחִיתָה:	2	So Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, took Zipporah, Moses' wife, after she had been sent home,	
בְּנֵיהֶם אֲשֶׁר שָׁם הָאֵחָד גֶּרְשֹׁם כִּי אָמַר גֵּר חַיִּיתִי בְּאֶרֶץ נִכְרִיָּה: וְאֵת שֵׁנִי	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";	
וְשֵׁם הָאֶחָד אֱלִיעֶזֶר כִּי־אֱלֹהֵי אָבִי בְּעוֹרִי וַיִּצְלַנִי מִתּוֹכָהּ פָּרָעָה:	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."	
וְאִשְׁתּוֹ אֶל־מֹשֶׁה אֶל־הַמִּדְבָּר אֲשֶׁר־הָיָה חֶנֶּה שָׁם הָרָה הָאֱלֹהִים: וַיָּבֵא יִתְרוֹ חֹתֵן מֹשֶׁה וּבְנָיו	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.	
אֶל־מֹשֶׁה אָנִי חֹתֶנְךָ יִתְרוֹ בָּא אֵלֶיךָ וְאִשְׁתּוֹ וּשְׁנֵי בְנֵיהֶם עִמָּה: וַיֹּאמֶר	6	He sent word to Moses, "I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you, with your wife and her two sons."	
וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוֶה וַיִּשְׁקֹלֵו וַיִּשְׁאַלֻּוּ אִישׁ־לְרֵעֵהוּ לְשָׁלוֹם וַיָּבֹאוּ הָאֲהֻלָּה: וַיֵּצֵא מֹשֶׁה לְקִרְיַת חֹתְנּוֹ	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.	
אוֹדֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת כְּלִי־הַתְּלָאָה אֲשֶׁר מִצָּאֲתָם בַּדֶּבֶר וַיִּצְלַם יְהוָה: מֹשֶׁה לִּחְתָּנוֹ אֶת כְּלִיאֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה יְהוָה לְפָרָעָה וּלְמִצְרַיִם עַל נִיִּסָּפָה	8	Moses then recounted to his father-in-law everything that יהוה had done to Pharaoh and to the Egyptians for Israel's sake, all the hardships that had befallen them on the way, and how יהוה had delivered them.	
כְּלִי־הַטּוֹבָה אֲשֶׁר־עָשָׂה יְהוָה לְיִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר הִצִּילֹו מִיַּד מִצְרַיִם: וַיִּחַד יִתְרוֹ עַל	9	And Jethro rejoiced over all the kindness that יהוה had shown Israel when delivering them from the Egyptians.	
מִצְרַיִם וּמִיַּד פָּרָעָה אֲשֶׁר הִצִּיל אֶת־הָעָם מִתַּחַת יְדֵי־מִצְרַיִם: וַיֹּאמֶר יִתְרוֹ בְּרוּךְ יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר הִצִּיל אֶתְכֶם מִיַּד	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.	
וְלִעֲתִי כִי־גִדּוֹל יְהוָה מְכִל־הָאֱלֹהִים כִּי בִדְבַר אֲשֶׁר זָדוּ עָלֵיהֶם: עֵתָה	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.	
וְכָל ׀ זָקְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לֹא־כָלִילָתָם עִם־חֹתֵן מֹשֶׁה לִפְנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים: וַיָּלֶךְ יִתְרוֹ חֹתֵן מֹשֶׁה עִלָּה חֻבְרָיִם לְאֱלֹהִים וַיָּבֵא אֶהָרֹן	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.	

עֲלֵהֶם שָׂרֵי אֲלָפִים שָׂרֵי מֵאוֹת שָׂרֵי חֲמִשִּׁים וּשְׂרֵי עֶשְׂרֵת: וַיִּבְחַר מֹשֶׁה אֲנָשֵׁי־חַיִל מִכָּל־יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיָּתֶן אוֹתָם רָאשִׁים

הַקֶּשֶׁה יִבְיֹאוּ אֶל־מֹשֶׁה וְכָל־הַדָּבָר הַקָּטָן יִשְׁפּוּטוּ הֵם: וְשִׁפְטוּ אוֹתֵיהֶם בְּכָל־עֵצַת אֹתֵי־הַדָּבָר

וַיִּשְׁלַח מֹשֶׁה אֶת־חֲתָנּוֹ וַיֵּלֶךְ לוֹ אֶל־אֶרְצָה:

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.

19

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

וַיֵּבֹאוּ מִדְבַּר סִינַי וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּמִדְבַּר וַיַּחֲרֹשֶׁם יִשְׂרָאֵל נֶגֶד הָהָר: וַיִּסְעוּ מִרְפִּידִים

מִן־הָהָר לֵאמֹר כֹּה תֹאמַר לְבֵית יַעֲקֹב וְתִגִּיד לִבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: וּמֹשֶׁה עָלָה אֶל־הָאֱלֹהִים וַיְקַרְא אֵלָיו יְהוָה

לְמַצְרִים וְאָשָׁא אוֹתְכֶם עַל־כַּנְפֵי נְשָׁרִים וְאָבָא אוֹתְכֶם אֵלַי: אוֹתָם רָאִיתֶם אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתִי

אוֹת־בְּרִיתִי וְהָיִיתִם לִי סִגְלָה מִכָּל־הָעַמִּים כִּי־לִי כָל־הָאָרֶץ: וְעַתָּה אֲסִשְׁמוּעַ תִּשְׁמְעוּ בְּקוֹלִי וּשְׁמַרְתֶּם

כִּהְנִים וְנָתַתִּי קֹדֶשׁ אֵלֶּה הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר תְּדַבֵּר אֶל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: וְאוֹתָם תְּהַיִּיר־לִי מִמְּלֶכֶת

הָעָם וַיָּשֶׁם לִפְנֵיהֶם אֶת כָּל־הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר צִוָּהוּ יְהוָה: וַיָּבֹא מֹשֶׁה וַיְקַרְא לְזֻקְנֵי

כָּל אֲשֶׁר־דָּבָר יְהוָה נִעְשָׂה וַיִּשָּׁב מֹשֶׁה אוֹתֵי־דְבָרֵי הָעָם אֶל־יְהוָה: וַיָּעֲזֹבוּ כָל־הָעָם יְחִידוֹ וַיָּאֲמְרוּ

וְגַם־בָּךְ יִצְמִינּוּ לַעֲוֹלָם וַיָּגֵד מֹשֶׁה אוֹתֵי־דְבָרֵי הָעָם אֶל־יְהוָה: הֲנֵה אֲנֹכִי בָּא אֵלֶיךָ בְּעֵבֶר תַּעֲנֵנִי בְּעֵבֶר יִשְׁמַע הָעָם בְּדַבְרֵי עַמֶּךָ וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה

אֶל־מֹשֶׁה לֵךְ אֶל־הָעָם וְקֹדַשְׁתֶּם הַיּוֹם וּמָחָר וְכַבְסוּ שְׂמֹלֹתֶם: וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה

כִּי אֶבְיֹם הַשֹּׁלֶשִׁי יוֹד יְהוָה לַעֲיֹנֵי כָל־הָעָם עַל־הָרִי סִינַי: וְהָיוּ נִכְנָים לְיוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי

הַשֹּׁמְרוֹ לָכֶם עֲלוֹת בְּהָר וּנְגַע בַּקֶּצֶה כָל־הַנֶּגֶעַ בְּהָר מוֹת יוֹמָת: וְהַגְבַּלְתָּ אוֹתֵיהֶם סָבִיב לֵאמֹר

אִם־בָּהֶמָּה אִם־אִישׁ לֹא יַחֲזִיהַּ בְּמִשְׁחָן הַיָּבֵל הֵמָּה יַעֲלוּ בְּהָר: לֹא־תִגַּע בּוֹ יָד כִּי־סָקוֹל יִסָּקֵל אוֹרִי־הָהָה יִיכָּה

וַיָּגֵד מֹשֶׁה מִן־הָהָר אֶל־הָעָם וַיְקַדֵּשׁ אוֹתֵיהֶם וַיְכַבְּסוּ שְׂמֹלֹתֶם:

וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־הָעָם הָיוּ נִכְנָים לְשִׁלְשֹׁת יָמִים אֶל־תִּגְשׁוּ אֶל־אִשָּׁה:

עַל־הָהָר וְקוֹל שֹׁפָר חֲזֹק מְאֹד וַיִּחַדֵּד כָּל־הָעָם אֲשֶׁר בַּמַּחֲנֶה: וַיְהִי בַיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי בְּהֵיכַל הַבִּקְרָה וַיְהִי קוֹל וּבִרְקִים וַעֲנָן כָּבֵד

אוֹתֵיהֶם לְקִרְאָת הָאֱלֹהִים מִן־הַמַּחֲנֶה וַיִּתְּצֻבּוּ בַּתַּחְתִּית הָהָר: וַיּוֹצֵא מֹשֶׁה

יְהוָה בָּאֵשׁ וַיַּעַל עֲשָׂנוּ כַעֲשָׁנוֹ הַכֶּבֶשֶׁן וַיִּחַדֵּד כָּל־הָהָר מְאֹד: וְהָרִי סִינַי עָשָׁן כָּל־יְמֵי הַיּוֹם אֲשֶׁר יָרַד עָלָיו

קוֹל הַשֹּׁפָר הוֹלֵךְ וְחֲזֹק מְאֹד מֹשֶׁה יְדַבֵּר וְהָאֱלֹהִים יַעֲנֵנוּ בְּקוֹל: וַיְהִי

אֶל־רֹאשׁ הָהָר וַיִּקְרָא יְהוָה לְמֹשֶׁה אֶל־רֹאשׁ הָהָר וַיַּעַל מֹשֶׁה: וַיָּגֵד יְהוָה עַל־הָרִי סִינַי

דָּד הָעֵד בְּעָם פְּרִי־הָרָסוֹ אֶל־יְהוָה לְרֹאוֹת וְנִפְל מִמֶּנּוּ רָב: וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה

וְגַם הַכֹּהֲנִים הַנִּגְשִׁים אֶל־יְהוָה יִתְקַדְּשׁוּ פְּרִי־פָרֶךְ בָּהֶם יְהוָה: וְהָיוּ שְׂמֵרִים לֹא־יִצְאוּ נֶגְדָה מִן־הָהָר

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

21 הוּיָהּ said to Moses, “Go down, warn the people not to break through to הוּיָהּ to gaze, lest many of them perish.

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