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חֻקַּת Chukat

Numbers 19:1-22:1

19

- וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה וְאֶל־אַהֲרֹן לֵאמֹר:

זֹאת חֻקַּת הַתּוֹרָה אֲשֶׁר־צִוָּה יְהוָה לֵאמֹר הָבֵר אֶל־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּקְחוּ אֵלֵיהֶם פֶּלֶה אֶדְמָה תְּמִימָה אֲשֶׁר אֵין־בָּהּ מוּם אֲשֶׁר לֹא־עָלָה עָלֶיהָ עֹל:

וַתִּתֵּן אֹתָהּ אֶל־אַלְעָזָר הַכֹּהֵן וְהוֹצִיא אֹתָהּ אֶל־מַחֲוֹץ לְמַחֲנֶה וְשָׁחַט אֹתָהּ לִפְנָיו:

וְלָקַח אֶלְעָזָר הַכֹּהֵן מִדָּמָהּ בְּאֶצְבָּעוֹ וְהִזָּה אֶל־נֹכַח פְּנֵי אֹהֶל־מוֹעֵד מִדָּמָהּ שִׁבְעַת פְּעָמִים:

וְשָׂרַף אֶת־הַפֶּרָה לְעֵינָיו אֶת־עֹרָהּ וְאֶת־בָּשָׂרָהּ וְאֶת־דָּמָהּ עַל־פְּרָשָׁה יִשְׂרָאֵל:

וְלָקַח הַכֹּהֵן עֵץ אֲרִזָּה וְאֶזְבֵּחַ וְשֹׁנִי תוֹלַעַת וְהַשְּׁלִיךְ אֶל־תּוֹךְ שְׂרָפַת הַפֶּרָה:

וְכָל־כִּסְּ בְּגָדָיו הַכֹּהֵן וְרָחֵץ בְּשָׂרוֹ בַּמַּיִם וְאַחֵר יָבֹא אֶל־הַמַּחֲנֶה וְטָמֵא הַכֹּהֵן עַד־הָעֶרֶב:

וְהַשְּׂרָף אֹתָהּ יִכְבֵּס בְּגָדָיו בַּמַּיִם וְרָחֵץ בְּשָׂרוֹ בַּמַּיִם וְטָמֵא עַד־הָעֶרֶב:

וְאַסֵּף אִישׁ טָהוֹר אֶת אֲפֵר הַפֶּלֶה וְהִנִּית מַחֲוֹץ לְמַחֲנֶה בְּמָקוֹם טָהוֹר וְהִיתָה לְעֹדֶת בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל לְמִשְׁמַרְתָּ לְמִי נָדָה חֲטָאת הָוָא:

וְכָל־כִּסְּ הָאִסָּף אֶת־אֲפֵר הַפֶּרָה אֶת־בְּגָדָיו וְטָמֵא עַד־הָעֶרֶב וְהִיתָה לְבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וּלְגֵר הַגֵּר בְּתוֹכָם לְחֻקַּת עוֹלָם:

הַנֶּגַע בְּמַת לְכָל־נֶפֶשׁ אָדָם וְטָמֵא שִׁבְעַת יָמִים:

הוּא יְתַחַטֵּא־בּוֹ בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי וּבַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי יִטְהַר וְאִם־לֹא יְתַחַטֵּא בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי וּבַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי לֹא יִטְהַר:
- 1 spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying:

2 This is the ritual law that the Lord has commanded: Instruct the Israelite people to bring you a red cow without blemish, in which there is no defect and on which no yoke has been laid.

3 You shall give it to Eleazar the priest. It shall be taken outside the camp and slaughtered in his presence.

4 Eleazar the priest shall take some of its blood with his finger and sprinkle it seven times toward the front of the Tent of Meeting.

5 The cow shall be burned in his sight—its hide, flesh, and blood shall be burned, its dung included—

6 and the priest shall take cedar wood, hyssop, and crimson stuff, and throw them into the fire consuming the cow.

7 The priest shall wash his garments and bathe his body in water; after that the priest may reenter the camp, but he shall be impure until evening.

8 The one who performed the burning shall also wash those garments in water, bathe in water, and be impure until evening.

9 Another party who is pure shall gather up the ashes of the cow and deposit them outside the camp in a pure place, to be kept for water of lustration (water of lustration Lit. “water for impurity.”) for the Israelite community. It is for purgation.

10 The one who gathers up the ashes of the cow shall also wash those clothes and be impure until evening. This shall be a permanent law for the Israelites and for the strangers who reside among them.

11 Those (Those Heb. impersonal sing., taken as a collective and rendered in the plural.) who touch the corpse of any human being shall be impure for seven days.

12 They shall purify themselves with [the ashes] on the third day and on the seventh day, and then be pure; if they fail to purify themselves on the third and seventh days, they shall not be pure.

- 13 Those who touch a corpse, the body of a person who has died, and do not purify themselves, defile יהוה's Tabernacle; those persons shall be cut off from Israel. Since the water of lustration was not dashed on them, they remain impure; their impurity is still upon them.
- 14 This is the ritual: When a person dies in a tent, whoever enters the tent and whoever is in the tent shall be impure seven days;
- 15 and every open vessel, with no lid fastened down, shall be impure.
- 16 And in the open, anyone who touches a person who was killed (killed Lit. "slain by the sword.") or who died naturally, or human bone, or a grave, shall be impure seven days.
- 17 Some of the ashes (ashes Lit. "earth" or "dust.") from the fire of purgation shall be taken for the impure person, and fresh water shall be added to them in a vessel.
- 18 Another party who is pure shall take hyssop, dip it in the water, and sprinkle on the tent and on all the vessels and people who were there, or on the one who touched the bones or the person who was killed or died naturally or the grave.
- 19 The pure person shall sprinkle it upon the impure person on the third day and on the seventh day, thus purifying that person by the seventh day. [The one being purified] shall then wash those clothes and bathe in water—and at nightfall shall be pure.
- 20 If any party who has become impure fails to undergo purification, that person shall be cut off from the congregation for having defiled יהוה's sanctuary. The water of lustration was not dashed on that person, who is impure.
- 21 That shall be for them a law for all time. Further, the one who sprinkled the water of lustration shall wash those clothes; and whoever touches the water of lustration shall be impure until evening.
- 22 Whatever that impure person touches shall be impure; and the person who touches the impure one shall be impure until evening.
- 13 כִּלְהַנִּיץ בְּמַת בְּנֶפֶשׁ הָאָדָם אֲשֶׁר־יָמוּת וְלֹא יִתְחַטֵּא אֶת־מִשְׁכָּן יְהוָה טָמֵא וְנִכְרְתָה הַנֶּפֶשׁ הַהִוא מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל כִּי מִי נָדָה לֹא־זֹרֵק עָלָיו טָמֵא יִהְיֶה עוֹד טָמְאָתוֹ בּוֹ:
- 14 זֹאת הַתּוֹלָה אָדָם כִּי־יָמוּת בָּאֹהֶל כִּלְהִבָּא אֶל־הָאֹהֶל וְכָל־אֲשֶׁר בָּאֹהֶל יִטְמָא שִׁבְעַת יָמִים:
- 15 וְכָל כֵּל פְּתוּחַ אֲשֶׁר אֵין־צִמְד פְּתִיל עָלָיו טָמֵא הוּא:
- 16 וְכָל אֲשֶׁר־יִגֹּעַ עַל־פְּנֵי הַשֹּׂהֶה בְּחַלְל־חֶרֶב אוֹ בְּמַת אוֹ־בַעֲצָם אָדָם אוֹ בַּקֶּבֶר יִטְמָא שִׁבְעַת יָמִים:
- 17 וְלִקְחוּ לְטָמֵא מִעֵפֶר שֶׁרַפַּת הַחֲטָאֹת וְנָתַן עָלָיו מִיָּם חַיִּים אֶל־כֵּלִי:
- 18 וְלִקַּח אֲזוֹב וְטָבַל בַּמַּיִם אִישׁ טָהוֹר וְהִזָּה עַל־הָאֹהֶל וְעַל־כָּל־הַכֵּלִים וְעַל־הַנֶּפֶשׁוֹת אֲשֶׁר הָיוּ־שָׁם וְעַל־הַנֶּגֶעַ בַּעֲצָם אוֹ בְּחַלְל אוֹ בְּמַת אוֹ בַּקֶּבֶר:
- 19 וְהִזָּה הַטָּהוֹר עַל־הַטָּמֵא בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי וּבַיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי וְחִטְאוֹ בַּיּוֹם הַשְּׁבִיעִי וַכֶּסֶּ בְּגָדָיו וְרוּחָן בַּמַּיִם וְטָהַר בַּעֲרָב:
- 20 וְאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר־יִטְמָא וְלֹא יִתְחַטֵּא וְנִכְרְתָה הַנֶּפֶשׁ הַהִוא מִתּוֹךְ הַקֹּהֵל כִּי אֶת־מִקְדָּשׁ יְהוָה טָמֵא מִי נָדָה לֹא־זֹרֵק עָלָיו טָמֵא הוּא:
- 21 וְהִיְתָה לָהֶם לְחֻקַּת עוֹלָם וּמִזָּה מִי־הַנִּדָּה יַכֶּסֶּ בְּגָדָיו וְהַנֶּגֶעַ בְּמִי הַנָּדָה יִטְמָא עַד־הָעֶרֶב:
- 22 וְכָל אֲשֶׁר־יִגֹּעַ בּוֹ הַטָּמֵא יִטְמָא וְהַנֶּפֶשׁ הַנִּגָּעַת טָמְאָ עַד־הָעֶרֶב:

- וַיָּבֹאוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל כָּל־הָעֵדָה מִדְּבָר־צִן בַּחֹדֶשׁ הָרִאשׁוֹן וַיָּשֻׁב
הָעָם בְּקָדֵשׁ וַתָּמָת שָׁם מִרְיָם וַתִּקָּבֶר שָׁם:
- וְלֹא־הָיָה מַיִם לָעֵדָה וַיִּקְהָלוּ עַל־מֹשֶׁה וְעַל־אַהֲרֹן:
- וַיִּרְבּוּ הָעָם עִם־מֹשֶׁה וַיֹּאמְרוּ לֹא־מָר וְלֹא נִגְעָנוּ בְּגֹעַז אֲחֵינוּ לִפְנֵי
יְהוָה:
- וְלָמָּה הֵבֵאתָם אֶת־קֹהֶל יְהוָה אֶל־הַמִּדְבָּר הַזֶּה לָמוּת שָׁם אֲנָחְנוּ
וּבְעִירָנוּ:
- וְלָמָּה הֵעֵלִיתָנוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם לְהָבִיא אֹתָנוּ אֶל־הַמָּקוֹם הַרָע הַזֶּה לֹא
מָקוֹם זָרַע וְחֶאֱנָה וְגִפְזָן וְרִמּוֹן וַיְמִים אֵין לִשְׁתּוֹת:
- וַיָּבֹא מֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן מִפְּנֵי הַקֹּהֶל אֶל־פֶּתַח אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וַיִּפְּלוּ
עַל־פְּנֵיהֶם וַיֵּרָא כְבוֹד־יְהוָה אֲלֵיהֶם:
- וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה לֵאמֹר:
- קַח אֶת־הַמִּטָּה וְהַקֹּהֶל אֶת־הָעֵדָה אֹתָהּ וְאַהֲרֹן אֹתִיךָ וְדַבַּרְתֶּם אֶל־הַסֵּלַע
לְעֵינֵיהֶם וְנָתַן מִיָּמִיו וְהוֹצֵאתָ לָהֶם מַיִם מִן־הַסֵּלַע וְהִשְׁקִיתָ אֶת־הָעֵדָה
וְאֶת־בְּעִירָם:
- וַיִּקַּח מֹשֶׁה אֶת־הַמִּטָּה מִלִּפְנֵי יְהוָה כַּאֲשֶׁר צֻוְּהוּ:
- וַיִּקְהָלוּ מֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן אֶת־הַקֹּהֶל אֶל־פְּנֵי הַסֵּלַע וַיֹּאמְרוּ לָהֶם שְׁמַעוּ־נָא
הַמַּיִם הַמִּן־הַסֵּלַע הַזֶּה נּוֹצֵא לָכֶם מַיִם:
- וַיִּרְם מֹשֶׁה אֶת־יָדוֹ וַיַּךְ אֶת־הַסֵּלַע בְּמִטָּהּ וּפָעַמִּים וַיֵּצֵאוּ מַיִם
רַבִּים וַתִּשְׁתְּ הָעֵדָה וּבְעִירָם:
- וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה וְאַל־אַהֲרֹן יַעַן לֹא־הֶאֱמַנְתֶּם בִּי לְהַקְדִּישֵׁנִי
לְעֵינֵי בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לָכֵן לֹא תָבִיאוּ אֶת־הַקֹּהֶל הַזֶּה אֶל־הָאָרֶץ
אֲשֶׁר־נָתַתִּי לָהֶם:
- הֵמָּה מֵי מִרְיָבָה אֲשֶׁר־רָבוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת־יְהוָה וַיִּקְדַּשׁ בָּם:
- 1 The Israelites arrived in a body at the wilderness of Zin on the first new moon, (first new moon Of the fortieth year; cf. Num. 33.36–38.) and the people stayed at Kadesh. Miriam died there and was buried there.
- 2 The community was without water, and they joined against Moses and Aaron.
- 3 The people quarreled with Moses, saying, “If only we had perished when our brothers perished at the instance of הוהי !
- 4 Why have you brought הוהי’s congregation into this wilderness for us and our beasts to die there?
- 5 Why did you make us leave Egypt to bring us to this wretched place, a place with no grain or figs or vines or pomegranates? There is not even water to drink!”
- 6 Moses and Aaron came away from the congregation to the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, and fell on their faces. The Presence of הוהי appeared to them,
- 7 and הוהי spoke to Moses, saying,
- 8 “You and your brother Aaron take the rod and assemble the community, and before their very eyes order the rock to yield its water. Thus you shall produce water for them from the rock and provide drink for the congregation and their beasts.”
- 9 Moses took the rod from before הוהי, as he had been commanded.
- 10 Moses and Aaron assembled the congregation in front of the rock; and he said to them, “Listen, you rebels, shall we get water for you out of this rock?”
- 11 And Moses raised his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod. Out came copious water, and the community and their beasts drank.
- 12 But הוהי said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not trust Me enough to affirm My sanctity in the sight of the Israelite people, therefore you shall not lead this congregation into the land that I have given them.”
- 13 Those are the Waters of Meribah (Meribah I.e., “Quarrel”; cf. Exod. 17.7 and the second note there.) —meaning that the Israelites quarrelled with הוהי —whose sanctity was affirmed through them.

- 14 From Kadesh, Moses sent messengers to the king of Edom: "Thus says your brother Israel: You know all the hardships that have befallen us;
- 15 that our ancestors went down to Egypt, that we dwelt in Egypt a long time, and that the Egyptians dealt harshly with us and our ancestors.
- 16 We cried to הוה who heard our plea, sending a messenger (messenger Or angel, that is, "[divine] messenger.") who freed us from Egypt. Now we are in Kadesh, the town on the border of your territory.
- 17 Allow us, then, to cross your country. We will not pass through fields or vineyards, and we will not drink water from wells. We will follow the king's highway, turning off neither to the right nor to the left until we have crossed your territory."
- 18 But Edom answered him, "You shall not pass through us, else we will go out against you with the sword."
- 19 "We will keep to the beaten track," the Israelites said to them, "and if we or our cattle drink your water, we will pay for it. We ask only for passage on foot—it is but a small matter."
- 20 But they replied, "You shall not pass through!" And Edom went out against them in heavy force, strongly armed.
- 21 So Edom would not let Israel cross their territory, and Israel turned away from them.
- 22 Setting out from Kadesh, the Israelites arrived in a body at Mount Hor.
- 23 At Mount Hor, on the boundary of the land of Edom, הוה said to Moses and Aaron,
- 24 "Let Aaron be gathered to his kin: he is not to enter the land that I have assigned to the Israelite people, because you disobeyed My command about the Waters of Meribah.
- 25 Take Aaron and his son Eleazar and bring them up on Mount Hor.
- 26 Strip Aaron of his vestments and put them on his son Eleazar. There Aaron shall be gathered unto the dead." (unto the dead Lit. "and die.")
- 27 Moses did as הוה had commanded. They ascended Mount Hor in the sight of the whole community.
- וַיִּשְׁלַח מֹשֶׁה מַלְאָכִים מִקַּדֵּשׁ אֶל־מֶלֶךְ אֲדוֹם כֹּה אָמַר אֲחִיךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל
אֵתָּה יָדָעְתָּ אֶת כָּל־הַתְּלָאָה אֲשֶׁר מָצָאתָנוּ:
- וַיֵּרְדּוּ אֲבוֹתֵינוּ מִצְרָיִמָּה וַנָּשָׁב בְּמִצְרַיִם יָמִים רַבִּים וַיַּרְעוּ לָנוּ
מִצְרַיִם וּלְאֲבוֹתֵינוּ:
- וַנִּצְעַק אֶל־יְהוָה וַיִּשְׁמָע קוֹלָנוּ וַיִּשְׁלַח מַלְאָךְ וַיִּצְאָנוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם
וְהִנֵּה אֲנִיכֶם בְּקֶדֶשׁ עִיר קְצֵה גְבוּלְךָ:
- נִעְבְּרָה־נָּא בְּאַרְצְךָ לֹא נַעֲבֹר בְּשָׂדֶה וּבְכָרֶם וְלֹא נִשְׁתָּה מִי בְּאֶרֶץ
דֶּרֶךְ הַמֶּלֶךְ נִלְךָ לֹא נִטֶּה יָמִין וּשְׂמָאוֹל עַד אֲשֶׁר־נַעֲבֹר גְּבוּלְךָ:
- וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אֲדוֹם לֹא תַעֲבֹר בִּי פֶן־בַּחֲרֹב אֵצֶא לִקְרָאתְךָ:
- וַיֹּאמְרוּ אֵלָיו בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּמַסְלָה נַעֲלָה וְאִם־מִימֶיךָ נִשְׁתָּה אֲנִי
וּמִקְנִי וּנְתַתִּי מִכְרָם רֶק אִי־דֹבֵר בְּרַגְלִי אֶעֱבְרָה:
- וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא תַעֲבֹר וַיִּצָּא אֲדוֹם לִקְרָאתוֹ בְּעָם כָּבֵד וּבַיָּד חֲזָקָה:
- וַיִּמָּאֵן | אֲדוֹם נֹתֵן אֶת־יִשְׂרָאֵל עֹבֵר בְּגִבְלוֹ וַיֵּט יִשְׂרָאֵל מֵעֲלָיו:
- וַיִּסְעוּ מִקַּדֵּשׁ וַיָּבֹאוּ בְנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל כָּל־הָעֵדָה הָר הָהָר:
- וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה וְאַל־יֵאָהֲרֹן בְּהָר הָהָר עַל־גְּבוּל אֶרֶץ־אֲדוֹם לֵאמֹר:
- יֵאָסֶף אֶהְרֹן אֶל־עַמּוּי כִּי לֹא יָבֹא אֶל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר נָתַתִּי לִבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
עַל אֲשֶׁר־מָרִיתֶם אֶת־פִּי לְמִי מָרִיבָה:
- קַח אֶת־אֶהְרֹן וְאֶת־אֶלְעָזָר בְּנוֹ וְהָעֵל אֹתָם הָר הָהָר:
- וְהַפְּשֹׁט אֶת־אֶהְרֹן אֶת־בְּגָדָיו וְהַלְבִּשְׁתָּם אֶת־אֶלְעָזָר בְּנוֹ וְאֶהְרֹן
יֵאָסֶף וּמָת שָׁם:
- וַיַּעַשׂ מֹשֶׁה כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוָה וַיַּעֲלוּ אֶל־הָר הָהָר לְעֵינֵי כָל־הָעֵדָה:

- 28 וַיִּפְשֹׁט מֹשֶׁה אֶת־אַהֲרֹן אֶת־בְּגָדָיו וַיִּלְבָּשׁ אֹתָם אֶת־אֶלְעָזָר בֶּן־וִיֶּזֶם אֶהֱרֹן שָׁם בְּרָאשׁ הָהָר וַיָּרֶד מֹשֶׁה וְאֶלְעָזָר מִן־הָהָר:
- 29 וַיֵּרָא כָּל־הָעֵדָה כִּי גָזַע אֶהֱרֹן וַיִּבְכּוּ אֶת־אַהֲרֹן שְׁלֹשִׁים יוֹם כָּל־בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל:
- 28 Moses stripped Aaron of his vestments and put them on his son Eleazar, and Aaron died there on the summit of the mountain. When Moses and Eleazar came down from the mountain,
- 29 the whole community knew that Aaron had breathed his last. All the house of Israel bewailed Aaron thirty days.

21

- 1 וַיִּשְׁמָע הַכְּנַעֲנִי מֶלֶךְ־עָרֹד יֹשֵׁב הַנֶּגֶב כִּי בָא יִשְׂרָאֵל דֶּרֶךְ־הָאֲתָרִים וַיִּלָּחֶם בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּשָּׁב | מִמֶּנּוּ שָׁבִי:
- 2 וַיֵּלֶךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל נֹדֵד לַיהוָה וַיֹּאמֶר אִם־נָתַן תִּתֵּן אֶת־הָעָם הַזֶּה בְּיָדִי וְהִחַרְמֹתִי אֶת־עָרֵיהֶם:
- 3 וַיִּשְׁמָע יְהוָה בְּקוֹל יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּתֵּן אֶת־הַכְּנַעֲנִי וַיַּחֲרֶם אֹתָם וְאֶת־עָרֵיהֶם וַיִּקְרָא שֵׁם־הַמָּקוֹם חֹרְמָה:
- 4 וַיִּסְעוּ מִהָר הָהָר דֶּרֶךְ יַם־סוּף לִסְבָּב אֶת־אֶרֶץ אֱדוֹם וַתִּקְצַר נַפְשֵׁיהֶם בַּדֶּרֶךְ:
- 5 וַיִּדְבֹּר הָעָם בִּאלֹהֵיָם וּבַמֶּשֶׁה לֵּמָּה הֶעֱלִיתָנוּ מִמִּצְרַיִם לָמוֹת בַּמִּדְבָּר כִּי אֵין לָחֶם וְאֵין מַיִם וְנַפְשֵׁנוּ לֹצָה בְּלֶחֶם הַקֶּלֶקֶל:
- 6 וַיִּשְׁלַח יְהוָה בָּעָם אֶת הַנְּחָשִׁים הַשֶּׁרָפִים וַיִּנְשָׁכוּ אֶת־הָעָם וַיָּמָת עַם־רַב מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל:
- 7 וַיָּבֹא הָעָם אֶל־מֹשֶׁה וַיֹּאמְרוּ חֲטֵאנוּ כִּי־דִבַּרְנוּ בַּיהוָה וּבָךְ הַתְּפִלָּל אֶל־יְהוָה וְיִסֹּר מֵעֲלֵינוּ אֶת־הַנְּחָשׁ וַיִּתְּפֹלֵל מֹשֶׁה בָּעַד הָעָם:
- 8 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה עֲשֵׂה לָךְ שֶׁרָף וְשָׂם אֹתוֹ עַל־נֶס וְהָיָה כָּל־הַנִּשְׁכוּךְ וְרָאָה אֹתוֹ נָחַי:
- 1 When the Canaanite, king of Arad, who dwelt in the Negeb, learned that Israel was coming by the way of Atharim, (Atharim Meaning of Heb. ha’atharim uncertain. Targum and other ancient versions render “the way [taken by] the scouts.”) he engaged Israel in battle and took some of them captive.
- 2 Then Israel made a vow to יהוה and said, “If You deliver this people into our hand, we will proscribe (proscribe I.e., utterly destroy, reserving no booty except what is deposited in the Sanctuary; see Josh. 6.24.) their towns.”
- 3 יהוה heeded Israel’s plea and delivered up the Canaanites; and they and their cities were proscribed. So that place was named Hormah. (Hormah Connected with heerim “to proscribe.”)
- 4 They set out from Mount Hor by way of the Sea of Reeds (Sea of Reeds Traditionally, but incorrectly, “Red Sea.”) to skirt the land of Edom. But the people grew restive on the journey,
- 5 and the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why did you make us leave Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread and no water, and we have come to loathe this miserable food.”
- 6 יהוה sent seraph (seraph Cf. Isa. 14.29; 30.6. Others “fiery”; exact meaning of Heb. saraph uncertain. Cf. Deut. 8.15.) serpents against the people. They bit the people and many of the Israelites died.
- 7 The people came to Moses and said, “We sinned by speaking against יהוה and against you. Intercede with יהוה to take away the serpents from us!” And Moses interceded for the people.
- 8 Then יהוה said to Moses, “Make a seraph (seraph See note at v. 6.) figure and mount it on a standard. And anyone who was bitten who then looks at it shall recover.”

- 9 וַיַּעַשׂ מֹשֶׁה נָחָשׁ נְחֹשֶׁת וַיִּשְׁמְהוּ עַל־הַנָּס וְהָיָה אִם־נִשְׁךְ הַנָּחָשׁ אֶת־אִישׁ וְהִבִּיט אֶל־נָחָשׁ הַנְּחֹשֶׁת וְחָיָה׃
Moses made a copper serpent and mounted it on a standard; and when bitten by a serpent, anyone who looked at the copper serpent would recover.
- 10 וַיִּסְעוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּאֹבוֹת׃
The Israelites marched on and encamped at Oboth.
- 11 וַיִּסְעוּ מֵאֹבוֹת וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּעֵי הָעֲבָרִים בְּמִדְבַּר אֲשֶׁר עַל־פְּנֵי מוֹאָב מִמְּזֻרַח הַשָּׁמֶשׁ׃
They set out from Oboth and encamped at Iye-abarim, in the wilderness bordering on Moab to the east.
- 12 מִשָּׁם נָסְעוּ וַיַּחֲנוּ בְּנַחַל זֶרֶד׃
From there they set out and encamped at the wadi Zered.
- 13 מִשָּׁם נָסְעוּ וַיַּחֲנוּ מֵעֵבֶר אַרְנוֹן אֲשֶׁר בְּמִדְבַּר הַיַּצָּא מִגִּבֹּל הָאֱמֹרִי כִּי אַרְנוֹן גְּבוּל מוֹאָב בֵּין מוֹאָב וּבֵין הָאֱמֹרִי׃
From there they set out and encamped beyond the Arnon, that is, in the wilderness that extends from the territory of the Amorites. For the Arnon is the boundary of Moab, between Moab and the Amorites.
- 14 עַל־כֵּן יֵאמָר בְּסֵפֶר מִלְחָמַת יְהוָה אֶת־וְהָב בְּסוּפָהּ וְאֶת־הַנְּחָלִים אַרְנוֹן׃
Therefore the Book of the Wars of הוהי speaks of (The quotation that follows is a fragment; its text and meaning are uncertain.) "...Waheb in Suphah, and the wadis: the Arnon
- 15 וְאֲשֶׁל הַנְּחָלִים אֲשֶׁר נָטָה לְשִׁבְתָּ עַר וְנִשְׁעָן לְגְבוּל מוֹאָב׃
with its tributary wadis, stretched along the settled country of Ar, hugging the territory of Moab..."
- 16 וּמִשָּׁם בְּאֶרֶה הוּא הַבְּאֵר אֲשֶׁר אָמַר יְהוָה לְמֹשֶׁה אֲסֹף אֶת־הָעָם וְאֶתְנָה לָהֶם מַיִם׃
And from there to Beer, (Beer Lit. "well.") which is the well where הוהי said to Moses, "Assemble the people that I may give them water."
- 17 אָז יָשִׁיר יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת־הַשִּׁירָה הַזֹּאת עָלֶי בְּאֵר עֲנוּ־לָהּ׃
Then Israel sang this song: Spring up, O well—sing to it—
- 18 בְּאֵר תְּפָרוּהָ שָׁלִים כְּרוּהָ נְדִיבֵי הָעָם בְּמַחֲקָק בְּמִשְׁעָנֵתָם וּמִמִּדְבָּר מִתְּנָה׃
The well which the chieftains dug, Which the nobles of the people started With maces, with their own staffs. And from Midbar (Midbar Septuagint "the well" (= Beer); cf. v. 16.) to Mattanah,
- 19 וּמִמִּתְנָה נַחֲלִיאֵל וּמִנַּחֲלִיאֵל בְּמוֹת׃
and from Mattanah to Nahaliel, and from Nahaliel to Bamoth,
- 20 וּמִבְּמוֹת הַגִּיאָ אֲשֶׁר בְּשָׂדֵה מוֹאָב רֹאשׁ הַפִּסְגָּה וְנִשְׁקָפָה עַל־פְּנֵי הַיַּשִּׁימוֹן׃
and from Bamoth to the valley that is in the country of Moab, at the peak of Pisgah, overlooking the wasteland. (wasteland Or "Jeshimon.")
- 21 וַיִּשְׁלַח יִשְׂרָאֵל מַלְאָכִים אֶל־סִיחוֹן מֶלֶךְ־הָאֱמֹרִי לֵאמֹר׃
Israel now sent messengers to Sihon king of the Amorites, saying,
- 22 "לֹא עֹבְרָה בְּאַרְצְךָ לֹא נִטָּה בְּשָׂדֵה וּבְכַרְם לֹא נִשְׁתָּה מִי בְּאֵר בְּדַרְךְ הַמְּלָךְ נִלְךְ עַד אֲשֶׁר־נַעֲבֹר גְּבוּלְךָ׃
"Let me pass through your country. We will not turn off into fields or vineyards, and we will not drink water from wells. We will follow the king's highway until we have crossed your territory."

- 23 ולא־נָתַן סִיחֹן אֶת־יִשְׂרָאֵל עָבַר בְּגִבְלוֹ וַיֹּאסֹף סִיחֹן אֶת־כָּל־עַמּוֹ וַיֵּצֵא לִקְרֹאת יִשְׂרָאֵל הַמִּדְבָּרָה וַיָּבֹא יִהְצֶה וַיִּלָּחֶם בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל:
- 24 But Sihon would not let Israel pass through his territory. Sihon gathered all his troops and went out against Israel in the wilderness. He came to Jahaz and engaged Israel in battle.
- 24 וַיָּקֵהוּ יִשְׂרָאֵל לַפִּי־חֶרֶב וַיִּירָשׁ אֶת־אֶרֶצוֹ מֵאֲרֹנֵן עַד־יַבֹּק עַד־בְּנֵי עַמּוֹן כִּי עַז גְּבוּל בְּנֵי עַמּוֹן:
- 24 But Israel put them to the sword, and took possession of their land, from the Arnon to the Jabbok, as far as [Az] of the Ammonites, for Az (Az Septuagint “Jazer,” cf. v. 32. Others “for the boundary of the Ammonites was strong.”) marked the boundary of the Ammonites.
- 25 וַיִּקַּח יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת כָּל־הָעָרִים הָאֵלֶּה וַיֵּשֶׁב יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּכָל־עָרֵי הָאֱמֹרִי בְּחֶשְׁבּוֹן וּבְכָל־בְּנֵי־הָ:
- 25 Israel took all those towns. And Israel settled in all the towns of the Amorites, in Heshbon and all its dependencies.
- 26 כִּי חֶשְׁבּוֹן עִיר סִיחֹן מֶלֶךְ הָאֱמֹרִי הוּא וְהוּא נָלַחַם בְּמֶלֶךְ מוֹאָב הָרָאשׁוֹן וַיִּקַּח אֶת־כָּל־אֶרֶצוֹ מִיַּדוֹ עַד־אֲרֹנִן:
- 26 Now Heshbon was the city of Sihon king of the Amorites, who had fought against a former king of Moab and taken all his land from him as far as the Arnon.
- 27 עַל־כֵּן יֹאמְרוּ הַמְשֻׁלִּים בָּאוּ חֶשְׁבּוֹן תִּבְנָה וְתִכּוֹנֵן עִיר סִיחֹן:
- 27 Therefore the bards would recite: (The meaning of several parts of this ancient poem is no longer certain.) “Come to Heshbon; firmly built And well founded is Sihon’s city.
- 28 כִּי־אֵשׁ יֵצְאָה מִחֶשְׁבּוֹן לְהִבָּה מִקְרִית סִיחֹן אֲכָלָה עַר מוֹאָב בַּעֲלֵי בָמוֹת אֲרֹנִן:
- 28 For fire went forth from Heshbon, Flame from Sihon’s city, Consuming Ar of Moab, The lords of Bamoth (Bamoth Cf. vv. 19 and 20 and Num. 22.21.) by the Arnon.
- 29 אוֹיֵלֶךְ מוֹאָב אֲבֹדָתָ עַם־כְּמוֹשׁ נָתַן בָּנָיו פְּלִיטָם וּבָנֵתָיו בַּשְּׁבִית לְמֶלֶךְ אֱמֹרִי סִיחֹן:
- 29 Woe to you, O Moab! You are undone, O people of Chemosh! His sons are rendered fugitive And his daughters captive By an Amorite king, Sihon.”
- 30 וַיָּרִים אֲבָד חֶשְׁבּוֹן עַד־דִּיבּוֹן וְנָשִׁים עַד־נָפַח אֲשֶׁר עַד־מִדְבָּא:
- 30 (Meaning of verse uncertain. Alternatively: “Their dominion is at an end / From Heshbon to Dibon / And from Nashim to Nophah, / Which is hard by Medeba.”) Yet we have cast them down utterly, Heshbon along with Dibon; We have wrought desolation at Nophah, Which is hard by Medeba.
- 31 וַיֵּשֶׁב יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּאֶרֶץ הָאֱמֹרִי:
- 31 So Israel occupied the land of the Amorites.
- 32 וַיִּשְׁלַח מֹשֶׁה לְרַגֵּל אֶת־יֵהְצֹר וַיִּלְכְּדוּ בְּנֵי־יֵהְצֹר (וַיִּירָשׁוּ) [וַיִּוֹרְשׁוּ] אֶת־הָאֱמֹרִי אֲשֶׁר־שָׁם:
- 32 Then Moses sent to spy out Jazer, and they captured its dependencies and dispossessed the Amorites who were there.
- 33 וַיָּפְנוּ וַיַּעֲלוּ דֶרֶךְ הַבָּשָׁן וַיֵּצֵא עוֹג מֶלֶךְ־הַבָּשָׁן לִקְרֹאתָם הוּא וְכָל־עַמּוֹ לְמִלְחָמָה אֶדְרֵי:
- 33 They marched on and went up the road to Bashan, and King Og of Bashan, with all his troops, came out to Edrei to engage them in battle.
- 34 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה אַל־תִּירָא אוֹתוֹ כִּי בְיָדִי נִתְּנִי אוֹתוֹ וְאֶת־כָּל־עַמּוֹ וְאֶת־אֶרֶצוֹ וְעַשִׂיתָ לוֹ כְּאֲשֶׁר עַשִׂיתָ לְסִיחֹן מֶלֶךְ הָאֱמֹרִי אֲשֶׁר יוֹשֵׁב בְּחֶשְׁבּוֹן:
- 34 But יהוה said to Moses, “Do not fear him, for I give him and all his troops and his land into your hand. You shall do to him as you did to Sihon king of the Amorites who dwelt in Heshbon.”

וַיִּכְּלוּ אוֹתוֹ וְאֶת־בָּנָיו וְאֶת־כָּל־עַמּוֹ עַד־בִּלְתִּי הִשְׁאִיר־לּוֹ שְׂרָיד
וַיִּירְשׁוּ אֶת־אֶרֶצּוֹ: 35 They defeated him and his sons and all his troops,
until no remnant was left him; and they took
possession of his country.

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וַיִּסְעוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל נִיחָנִי בְּעֶרְבֹת מוֹאָב מֵעֵבֶר לְיַרְדֵּן יְרִיחוֹ: 1 The Israelites then marched on and encamped in the
steppes of Moab, across the Jordan from Jericho.