

THE
H O L Y B I B L E

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CONTAINING THE
Old Testament

Translated from the
Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia
with inspiration drawn from
Darby English, Louis Segond
and *Young's Literal Translation*

Colby Goettel
Provo, UT

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Provo, UT
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Set in L^AT_EX

*To Dad
For inspiring my love
of the Old Testament.*

Preface

The Bible

The Bible is the word of God so far as it is translated correctly. Personally, the belief that the Bible is infallible shows a clear lack of understanding and education since the Bible is rife with poor translations, mistranslations, and even typos. However, having the Bible in as good of condition as we have it today is a miracle — one for which I thank the Lord.

Translation philosophy

Growing up with the King James Version of the Holy Bible was a two-edged sword: on one hand, it's a beautifully written and well-accepted version; on the other hand, it's a poetic translation. Personally, non-idiomatic translations show a lack of understanding on the translator's part as to how language works. Poetic translations are difficult to render, but read beautifully; however, they are non-intuitive and therefore not properly suited for most audiences. Therefore, this translation is a rather idiomatic translation with few liberties taken.

The Tetragrammaton

The Tetragrammaton (lit., a word having four letters) is the holy name of God, written יהוה. In Orthodox Hebrew culture it is unlawful for this word to be uttered by man but once a year by the High Priest on the Day of Atonement in the Holy of Holies. Traditionally, the Tetragrammaton is rendered LORD (in small caps). This tradition has been adhered to in this edition except in the case of אֲדֹנָי יְהוֹה^a where it is usually rendered as “my master, the LORD.”^b See further in Appendix E.

^aKetiv. Qere “adonai elohim.”

^bTo avoid rendering it as “Lord LORD.”

Textual basis

This text was translated from the *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Inspiration for this translation was taken, initially, from the Darby English Bible and Young's Literal Translation. The lexicons used were *The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*, Holladay's *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*, and Koehler and Baumgartner's *Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*.

Footnotes and appendix

Footnotes are used to show alternate renderings and to provide historical, symbolical, and other notes. An appendix appears in the back of the book and contains explanatory notes too long for inclusion in footnotes.

Abbreviations

lit. = literally
pl. = plural
BH = Biblical Hebrew
Fr. = French
Aram. = Aramaic
Sp. = Spanish

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Genesis

Genesis 1

God creates the world — the various acts of the creation enumerated — men and women created in God's image — dominion of the earth given to man.

1 In the beginning, God^a created^b the Heavens and Earth.

2 The earth was formless and void — darkness moved upon the face of the deep, and the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

3 God said, "Let there be light!" And there was light.

4 And God saw the light that^c it was good, so God divided the light from the darkness.

^aIt is not "the Gods" because every verb is conjugated for the third masculine singular, not plural. אֱלֹהִים is the plural of majesty for God. Theologically, Christ created the Universe under the direction of the Father. Although He had help throughout the planning and construction phases, the honor and glory go to Him and the Father solely, not the rest of the Gods that assisted.

^bThis verb, בָּרָא, means *to create*. It does not carry with it the notion of *ex nihilo* creation, but rather to organize. This can only be done by Deity — mortals cannot בָּרָא.

^cfor

5 And God called the light, Day; and the darkness, Night. And there was an evening and a morning: the first day.

6 And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters: let it separate the waters."^d

7 So God made the expanse. And it separated between the waters which are under the expanse and the waters which are above the expanse — and thus it was.

8 And God called the expanse, Heaven. And there was an evening and a morning: the second day.

9 God said, "Collect the waters under Heaven unto one place, and let the dry land be appear^e — and thus it was.

10 And God called the dry land, Earth; and the collection of waters He called, Seas.

11 God said, "Let Earth yield tender grass, seed producing herbs, and fruit trees yielding fruit after their kind (the seed of which is in them) on Earth": and thus it was.

12 So Earth brought forth grass, seed producing herbs after its kind, and trees yielding fruit (the seed

^dLit., the waters from the waters.

^eseen

being^a in them) after their kind — 25
and God saw that it was good. 26

13 And there was an evening and 27
a morning: the third day. 28

14 God said, "Let there be lights 29
in the expanse of Heaven to separate^b the day from the night. Let 30
them be for signs and for seasons, 31
for days and for years,

15 for^c lights in the expanse of 32
Heaven to illuminate^d Earth": and 33
thus it was. 34

16 So God made the two great 35
lights: the greater^e light to rule the 36
day and the lesser^f light (and the 37
stars) to rule the night; 38

17 and God placed them in the 39
expanse of Heaven to illuminate 40
Earth, 41

18 to rule during the day and 42
night, and to separate the light from 43
the darkness — and God saw that it 44
was good. 45

19 And there was an evening and 46
a morning: the fourth day. 47

20 God said, "Let the waters teem 48
with life^g and let fowls fly on the 49
earth and before the Heavens. 50

21

22

23

24

^awhich

^bdivide

^clet them be for

^dgive light to

^egreat

^fsmall

^gteeming, living creatures

Genesis 17

The Lord commands Abram to be perfect — continuation of Abrahamic covenant — name changed to Abraham — Canaan given to Abraham — covenant of circumcision set forth — Sarai changed to Sarah — Isaac promised — covenant to continue through him — Abraham and his household are circumcised.

1 Abraham was 99 years old 51
when the LORD appeared to him.^h 52
He said, "I am God Almightyⁱ — 53
walk before me and be perfect. 54

2 I will give^j my covenant between 55
us and I will greatly multiply 56
thee." 57

3 Abraham fell on his face as God 58
spoke with him, saying, 59

4 "Pay attention. My covenant is 60
with you — you shall be like a father 61
of a multitude of nations. 62

5 You shall no longer be called 63
Abram, but rather Abraham for 64
I have made you a father of a 65
multitude of nations. 66

^h"Abram"

ⁱOmnipotent — pl. for violence CHECK
BDB

^jset up, establish

6 You shall be exceedingly fruitful. You shall become many nations. Kings will be among your posterity.^a

7 I will establish a covenant between us and also between your offspring.^b It shall be an everlasting covenant to be the God of you and your children.

8 I will give you and your descendants^c the land of your sojournings and the land of Canaan as an everlasting possession for I have become their God.”

9 God said to Abraham, “You and the generations that follow shall honor this covenant.

10 ”

11

12

13

14

15 God said to Abraham, “Your wife will no longer be known as Sarai, but rather Sarah.

16 I will bless her. Additionally, I will give you a son from her. I will bless her that she shall become a nation — people’s kings will be among her posterity.”

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Genesis 22

Abraham commanded to sacrifice his only son, Isaac — Abraham and Isaac both submit to God’s will — continuation of Abrahamic covenant — Rebekah born to Bethuel.

1 After these things, God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham” and Abraham replied, “Yes?”^d

2 He said, “Please take your son Isaac — your only son — whom you love,^e and get you yonder^f to the land of Moriah. You shall raise him up as a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I shall tell you.”

3 So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey. He took two of his young servants and his son Isaac with him. He chopped up some wood for the burnt offering, rose, and went to the place where God told him.

4 On the third day, Abraham looked up^g and saw the place afar

^dHe says “הִנֵּנִי” which means anything from “Behold!” to “I am here” to “Pay attention.” It’s a pretty all inclusive word with “Yes?” being an appropriate, idiomatic response.

^eThis is poignantly repetitive.

^flit., “go for thyself”

^glifted up his eyes

^alit., Kings will come from you.

^bprogeny

^clit., seed after thee

off.^a

5 Abraham said to his young servants, “Stay here with the donkey while the boy and I go off, worship, and return.”

6 Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and had his son Isaac carry it.^b He took some fire, a knife, and the both of them went off together.

7 Isaac said to Abraham, “Dad?” and he responded, “Yes, my son?” “I see the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”

8 Abraham replied, “My son, God Himself will provide a lamb for the burnt offering” and they went on together.

9 They came to the place which God had before told them and Abraham built an altar and arranged the wood. Then he bound Isaac and placed him on the wood on the altar.

10 And Abraham took the knife in his hand to slay his son.

11 The messenger of the LORD called to him from the heavens and said, “Abraham! Abraham!” and he said, “Yes?”

12 ^d“Don’t slay^e the boy, neither do anything to him because now I know that you fear God — you have

not withheld your son — your only son — from me.”

13

14

15

16 “

17 I will richly bless. As the stars of the heavens and as the sand of the seashore will I greatly multiply your posterity. Your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.

18 Because you have hearkened to my words, through your posterity shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.”

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Genesis 31

TEXT.

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^a“from afar,” but this is written from his perspective

^blit., placed it on his son Isaac

^c“And Isaac said” has been removed to help the flow.

^d“He said”

^elit., put forth your hand

15	52	
16	53	
17	54	
18	55	
19		
20		
21		Genesis 49
22	XXXX.	
23		
24	1 “	
25	2	
26	3	
27	4	
28	5	
29	6	
30	7	
31	8	To Judah — your brothers will
32		praise you. Your hand will be on
33		your enemies’ necks.
34		Your siblings
35	9	
36	10	
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38	12	
39	13	
40	14	
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42	16	
43	17	
44	18	
45	19	
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47	21	...Jegar-sahadutha ^a ...
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49	23	
50	24	
51	25	
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	27	
	28	

^aAramaic (יֵגַר שְׁהָדוּתָא): keep of storms of witnessing.

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Exodus

Exodus 19

Israel to be a peculiar treasure, a kingdom of priests, a holy nation — they are sanctified — the Lord appears in Sinai.

1 In the third month since the departure of the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,^a they came into the Sinai wilderness.

2 They left Rephidim, came into the Sinai wilderness, and camped there^b before the mountain.

3 And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called unto him from the mountain, saying, "Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Jacob, and tell unto the sons of Israel:

4 XXXX

5 And now, if thou shalt truly obey me and keep^c my commandments, thou shalt be^d a treasure. Refers to a temple treasure. This has covenantal implications. from among all people^e for all the earth is mine.

^ain that day

^bin the Sinai wilderness.

^cobserve

^dto me

^eabove all people

6 And thou^f shalt be^g a kingdom of priests and an holy nation. These words shalt thou say unto the children of Israel."

7 And Moses entered in^h and called unto the elders of the people and laid before them all these things that the LORD had commanded him.

8 Then all the people answered together, saying, "All that the LORD hath said we will do." So Moses returned what the people saidⁱ to the LORD.

9 The LORD said unto Moses, "I will come unto thee in a thick cloud so that the people may hear my words when I shall speak with thee. And they shall believe thee forever. Then Moses told the words of the people unto the LORD.

10 And the LORD said unto Moses, "Go to the people and sanctify them today and tomorrow. Let them wash their clothes,

11 for on the third day, the LORD will descend in the eyes of all the people before Mount Sinai.

12 And thou shalt set bounds

^fpl.

^gto me

^hi.e., to the camp

ⁱthe words of the people

around the people XXXX to say, "Hearken to them XXXX in the mountain and anyone touching its edge^a will surely be put to death.

13 A hand will not touch it^b or he^c will surely be stoned or shot:^d whether beast or man, it shall not live while the trumpet sounds^e as they approach the mountain.

14 So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and sanctified^f the people. And they washed their clothes.^g

15 And he said unto the people, "Prepare yourselves: for three days do not approach a woman."

16 On the third morning, when it was morning, there were noises and flashes of lightning, a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very powerful sound of a trumpet:^h and all the people in the camp were afraid.

17 Moses brought the people out from the camp to meet God and they stationed themselves at the front of the

18 And Mount Sinai, all of it, was smoking because the LORD descended on it in fire. And the smoke went up like the smoke of

a furnace, and the whole mount shook.

19 The sound of the trumpet grew continually strongerⁱ while Moses spoke and God answered him.^j

20 And the LORD descended upon the summit of Mount Sinai and^k called unto Moses.^l Moses went up.

21 The LORD said unto Moses, "Go down and solemnly charge the people lest they break through to see the LORD and many of them perish."^m

22 And also the priests... XXXX

23 Moses said to the LORD, "The people will not be able to come up to Mount Sinai because thou hast charged us, saying, 'Make a border around the mount and sanctify it.'"

24 The LORD saith unto him, "Go down — you and Aaron with you — and the priests will come up. Let not the people break through to go up to the LORD lest His glory break out against them."

25 So Moses went down to the people and he spoke unto them.

Exodus 20

The Decalogue — Israel commanded to bear witness that the Lord has spoken — altars of unhewn stone are

^ai.e., of the mountain

^bthe mountain

^cwhomever touches it

^dwith arrows

^econtinues

^fconsecrated, made holy

^gAs a way of preparing themselves to go up into the mountain.

^hOne used for ritualistic purposes.

ⁱmore and more powerful

^jwith a voice

^k...the LORD...

^lat the summit

^mNot because of some great iniquity, merely because of the glory of the LORD and His inherent power.

to be built — sacrifices performed thereon.

1 And God spake all these words unto them, saying,

2 PREFACE. "I am the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of captivity.^a

3 1.^b Never^c shalt thou have other gods besides me.^{d, e}

4 II. Never shalt thou make for thyself graven images,^f neither any image that is in the heavens above, nor in the earth, nor beneath the earth, nor in the waters beneath the earth.

5 And thou shalt not bow down to them, neither shalt thou worship them: for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God and will seek retribution unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me,

6 but showing kindness^g with^h

those who love meⁱ and^j keep my commandments.

7 III. Never shalt thou use^k the name of the LORD thy God with vain intent^l for the LORD will not hold him innocent^m who uses His name with vain intent.ⁿ

8 IV. Remember the Sabbath day to sanctify it.^o

9 Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work,

10 but the seventh day, the Sabbath of the LORD thy God, never shalt thou do any work: neither thee, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy male or female servant,^p nor thy beast, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:

11 for it took six days for the LORD to make the heavens and the earth and all that is upon the face thereof, and on the seventh day he rested. Therefore, the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it.

12 V. Take thy father and thy

^aservitude, bondage, slavery

^bThere are varied approaches to numbering the commandments. The Philonic tradition is used here.

^cThe Hebrew אֵין is used here. This is a negator. It is used when someone in authority is speaking to an inferior. When Moses speaks, he uses אֵין — a word that is spoken between equals.

^dLit., my face. The Greek rendering is used herein.

^eIn the BHS there is no *sof pasuq* (:). This could possibly be used to argue the Philonic tradition.

^fidols

^gkeeping my covenant

^hunto

ⁱLit., my lovers

^jto those who

^ktake, lift up

^lin vain, with vanity, to/with no good purpose

^mguiltless

ⁿThe real meaning here is to not take an oath in the name of God and not intend to keep it.

^oconsecrate, make it holy. The notion of *making* the Sabbath day holy is more powerful than merely *keeping* it holy for the responsibility then rests upon us to be an holy nation.

^pLit., nor his/thy manservant, nor his/thy maidservant

mother seriously^a so that thy days may be lengthened upon the land the LORD thy God giveth^b thee.

13 VI. Never shalt thou murder.^c

14 VII. Never shalt thou commit adultery.

15 VIII. Never shalt thou steal.

16 IX. Never shalt thou answer falsely.^d

17 X. Never shalt thou desire^e thy neighbor's house, neither^f thy neighbor's wife, nor his male or female servant, nor his ox, nor his male donkey, nor anything that is thy neighbors.”

18 Then all the people were witnesses to the thunder,^g lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the smoke of the mount. And they were witnesses and removed themselves.^h

19 They then said to Moses, “Speak on our behalf that we hear, and let Him not speak with us lest we die.”

20 So Moses said unto the people,

“Do not be afraid,ⁱ because in order to test thee, God is coming; and in order that thy reverence for Him be before you, He XXXX.”

21 The people stood back as Moses approached the thick cloud where God was.

22 The LORD said to Moses, “Thus shalt thou say unto the sons of Israel: XXXX

23 Never shalt thou make of me gods of gold or silver for yourselves.

24 Thou shalt make for me an altar of earth and shalt offer unto me a burnt offering and a peace offering.

25 But if you make an altar of stones to me, thou shalt not build it of hewn stones^j nor^k fashion those stones with tools: if thou wilest thine tool^l and lay it upon it^m thou wilt defile it.

26 Thou shalt not ascend on the steps to my altar in order that thy nakedness be not revealed on this altar.”

^amake their words heavy, honor them

^bReferring to the Promised Land that they have yet to inherit. It is rendered in the participle form thereby showing an ongoing action.

^cIt is not “kill.” The root that appears in the BHS (רצח) has behind it the idea of malicious forethought.

^dbear false witness/testimony

^ecovet

^f...shalt thou desire...

^gLit., His voice

^hIn other words, they recognized the power and glory of God and stood back so as to not be consumed by His almighty power.

Exodus 21

The Lord's law of servants, marriage, and the death penalty — eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth — damage caused by oxen.

ⁱFear not

^jLest to be confused with an idol or graven image.

^kLit., Never shalt thou

^lA metal instrument or tool. Not really a sword, although that is the word used in the BHS.

^mi.e., the altar

1 These are the judgments^a that you shall set before them.^b

2 If you acquire a Hebrew slave^c six years, he shall serve thee; in the seventh year he shall go free without having to pay.^d

3 If he comes alone, alone shall he go out. If he is married,^e his wife shall go with him.

4 If his master giveth him a wife and she bears sons or daughters to him, their^f offspring^g shall belong to the master and the man shall go forth by himself.

5

6 And his master will bring him^h to the presence of God. He will bring him to the door and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl and he shall be hisⁱ slave forever.

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14 If a man schemes^j against his

neighbor, to kill him by deceit,^k XXXX you shall take him from my altar to kill him.

15 He who strikes his father or his mother^l shall surely be put to death.

16 Anyone who kidnaps^m someoneⁿ and he is caught with the man still in his possession:^o he shall surely be put to death.^p

17 He who curses^q his father or his mother shall sure be put to death.

18 And if men quarrel^r and one man hits another (whether with a stone or his fists), but not to kill him — merely to put him to bed —

19 if the person doesn't die, but is confined to bed XXXX he will pay for his lost time and see that he is healed.

20 If a man strikes^s his male or female servant with a staff^t and that person dies under his hand then he will surely be punished in proxy for him.^u

21 But if a day or two goes by and he^v gets up, he^w will not be

^kdesign, scheme

^l...he...

^msteals

ⁿto sell them

^opower

^pIn other words, kidnapping is a capital offense.

^qreviles, insults — but harsher than we tend to think

^rfight

^shits

^trod

^uor her.

^vi.e., the slave

^wthe master

^alaws

^bLit., "their face"

^cmale slave, servant. This person is subject to Jewish jurisprudence as evidenced by the use of the word עבד

^dLike indentured servanthood.

^eThe husband/lord of a woman.

^fher

^gchildren

^hcause him to approach

ⁱthe master's

^jacts presumptuously

punished for it is his^a property.

22 If men fight and strike a pregnant woman so that she has a miscarriage,^b but there is no further harm, he will surely be fined according to what the husband deems right, and he^c will give according to what is assessed.

23 If there is a serious injury or death, you shall take life in place of^d life:

24 an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, a hand for a hand, a foot for a foot,^e

25 burning for burning, wound for wound, strike for strike.

26 If a man strikes the eye of his male or female servant and knocks it out,^f he will let him go free in penance for his eye.

27 If the tooth of a male or female servant is knocked out, he must let them go free for^g their tooth.

28 If an ox^h gores a man or a woman and that person dies, the ox will surely be stoned to death, his flesh shall not be eaten, and the owner shall not be liable.

29 If the ox has been known to gore in the past and this was knownⁱ to its master(s), and his master didn't keep him under guard, and it kills a man or a woman, the ox will be stoned and his master will be put to death as well.

30 If a payment is laid upon him, he shall pay^j a redemption^k for his life according to everything that is laid upon him.

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33 If a man uncovers^l a pit, or digs a pit, and he doesn't properly cover it^m and if a donkey or an ox falls in,

34

35 If a man's bull strikes the bull of his neighborⁿ and he dies, XXXX

36 If it is known that the bull is a gorer^o and the owner has not XXXX will have to compensate the owner of the dead ox and the dead ox will belong to him.^p

37 If a man should steal an ox or a sheep^q and slaughters^r or sells it, he shall recompense^s with five oxen for the ox, or four sheep for the lamb.

^aUnderstood: own.

^bLit., "her children go forth."

^cthe other man

^dfor

^eThis is significantly more merciful than people let on. In other ancient civilizations (e.g., Hammurabi's code) there were different punishments depending on the person's social status.

^fLit., destroys it

^gà cause de

^h"Bull" can be supplied for every following instance of "ox" in this chapter.

ⁱmade known

^jgive

^kransom

^lopens

^mProbably meant "at night."

ⁿassociate

^oi.e., in the past.

^pi.e., the one who paid.

^qlamb

^ruse it for food

^smake peace

Exodus 23

Laws relating to honesty and conduct given — sabbatical year expounded — three feasts set forth — an angel will guide Israel — Canaanite nations will slowly be driven out.

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20 "I will send a messenger^a before you to guard you in the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared.

21 Keep his face before you and hear his words. Do not anger him because he will not forgive your sins because my name is in his midst.

22 For if ye shall surely hearken unto his voice and do all that I have said: I will be an enemy to thy enemy and a foe to thy foe.

23 For my messenger shall go before you and bring you to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perezites and the Canaanites and the Jebusites; and I will annihilate^b them.

24 You shall not bow down to their gods, nor shall you worship^c them. You shall not do as they do, but you shall overthrow them and shall smash their stone images to pieces.

25 You shall serve the LORD thy God and He will bless your food^d and water. I will remove sickness from among you.

26 There shall not be a woman who miscarries, neither is sterile^e in your land. And you shall live a full life.^f

27 I will send forth reverence^g of me before thee and confuse all the people that come out against thee. I will make all thy enemies flee^h.

28 I shall send hornets before thee and it shall drive out the Hivites, the Canaanites, and the Hittites from before thee.

29 I will not drive them out before you in one year lest the land become desolate and the beasts of the field multiply and they will not be able to be controlled.

^bcut them off, efface

^cserve

^dbread

^einfertile, barren

^fLit., I will complete the number of thy days.

^gfear

^hLit., give to you all your enemies' backs

^ai.e., a heavenly messenger

30 Little by little will I drive them out from before you until you become^a fruitful enough to take possession of the land.

31 I will set your boundaries from the Reed Sea^b to the sea of the Philistines, and from the desert to the river;^c for I will place the inhabitants of the land in your hand and you will drive them out from before yourselves.

32 You shall not make^d a covenant with them, neither with their gods.

33 They shall not dwell^e in your land lest they cause you to deviate^f from^g me in that you serve their gods: that you become a snare to yourselves.”

Exodus 24

Israel, by covenant, accept the Lord — Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and the Seventy see God — the Lord calls Moses to the mountain to receive the stone tablets.

1 And He saith unto Moses: “Go up unto the LORD — you, Aaron, and seventy of the elders of Israel — and you shall bow down^h from afar.

2 And Moses will approach the LORD alone. The peopleⁱ will not go up with him.”

3 And Moses came and told the people all the words and judgments of the LORD; and all of the people answered with one voice, saying, “All the words that the LORD hath spoken we will do.”

4 Moses wrote all the words of the LORD. Then, he rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain. He also made^j twelve memorial stones^k for the twelve tribes of Israel.

5 And he sent lads^l of the children of Israel and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed sacrifices, peace offerings, and bulls.^m

6 Then Moses took half of the blood and placed it in bowls;ⁿ and half^o of the blood he sprinkled^p on^q the altar.

7 He took the scroll of the covenant and he read^r out in the ears^s of the people and they said, “Everything that the LORD hath said we will do.”^t

ⁱi.e., Aaron and the Seventy

^jbuilt

^kpillars

^lyoung men, servants

^moxen

ⁿbasins

^oi.e., the other half

^pcast

^qat

^rit

^shearing

^thear, obey

^aare

^bRed Sea

^cIt's difficult to tell if it's the Jordan or the Tigris.

^dcut

^elive

^fmiss the mark, sin, transgress

^gagainst

^hi.e., to worship

8 And Moses took the blood and he sprinkled^a it upon the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD hath made with you concerning all these things."

9

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18

^acast

Numbers

Numbers 5

How to deal with lepers — repentance necessary for forgiveness — dealing with women accused of immorality.

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11 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

12 “Speak unto the children of Israel and say unto them: ‘If any man’s wife go astray and trespasses against him

13 in that a man lies sensually with her and it is hidden from the eyes^a of her husband — kept secret — and she is defiled, but there is no witness against her, neither is she caught in the act:

14 if the spirit of jealousy is passed over him and he suspects her of infidelity and she is defiled, or if the spirit of jealousy passes over him

^akept from the knowledge

and he suspects her of infidelity and she is not defiled:^b

15 the man shall bring his wife before the priest. He^c shall bring an offering for her (a tenth of an ephah of barley wheat), but he shall not pour upon it any oil neither will he place incense upon it since it is a memorial offering to bring to mind^d wrong-doing.

16

17 The priest shall take holy water in a jar of clay and from the dust that is on the floor of the Tabernacle. And the priest shall take it and put it^e in the water.

18 And the priest shall make the woman stand before the LORD.^f And he will uncover the woman and he shall place in her hands the memorial offering as an offering of jealousy. XXXX

19 And the priest shall place her under oath and say to the woman, “If no man has laid with thee, and

^bE.g., if he’s jealous, whether or not she’s defiled, the following needs to happen.

^cthe husband

^dremembrance

^ei.e., the dust

^fIn front of the Holy Place. It is unknown whether or not she is allowed into the grounds of the Tabernacle complex.

if thou hast not gone astray to be unclean, you will be free from these waters of bitterness that caused the curse.^a

20 But if you have gone astray XXXX (under?) your husband, or if you have defiled yourself in that a man other than your husband has lain with you,^b

21 the priest shall charge the woman^c with an oath of cursing and the priest shall say to the woman, 'May the LORD make you a curse and an oath amongst your people.' And XXXX your thigh to waste^d away and your belly to swell.

22

23 And the priest shall write these words on a scroll and he shall wash them out into the bitter waters.

24 He will have the woman drink the bitter waters that cause the curse and the waters will enter into her.

25 And the priest shall take the offering of jealousy from the hand of the woman and he shall wave the offering before the LORD and he shall bring it^e to the altar.

26 And the priest shall take the handful XXXX from the altar as her memorial offering and he will burn it on the altar, and afterwards he will

have the woman drink the waters.^f

27 And he shall cause her to drink the waters of bitterness if she has transgressed in that she is defiled. And the waters of bitterness that caused the curse shall enter into her and her stomach shall swell and her uterus shall waste away and she shall be a curse in the midst of her people.

28 And if the woman is not defiled in that she acted unfaithfully, but she is clean, she shall be guiltless,^g and she, conceiving, will give birth to a child.^h

29 This is the law concerning those suspected of infidelity (when the wife goes astray while married to her husband and is defiled).

30

31 Then the man is free from wrong-doing, but the woman will pay for her iniquity.

Numbers 6

Law of the Nazarite — Aaronic blessing.

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- 7
- 8

^ai.e., to take effect

^bLit., if a man other than your husband has given you his line

^cplace the woman under oath

^dfall

^ei.e., the offering

^fUnderstood: the waters of bitterness.

^gclean

^hi.e., eventually

9	4
10	5
11	6
12	7
13	8
14	9
15	10
16	11
17	12 The children of Israel set forth
18	on their journey from the wilderness
19	of Sinai and the cloud rested in the
20	wilderness of Paran.
21	13 And the first went not before
22 God spake unto Moses, saying,	the face of the LORD by the hand of
23 "Speak unto Aaron and his	Moses.
sons, saying, 'Thus shall you bless	14 The banner of the camp of
the children of Israel, saying unto	Judah set forth first off, according
them,	to their ranks; and over its host was
24 "May the LORD bless and pre-	Nahshon the son of Amminadab.
serve you.	15 Over the host of the tribe of the
25 May the LORD cause His face to	children of Issachar: Nethaneel the
shine upon you and show you favor.	son of Zuar.
26 May the LORD lift His face	16 Over the host of the tribe of the
toward you and may He give peace	children of Zebulun: Eliab the son of
unto you."'	Helon.
27 They shall put my name upon	17 The utensils of the tabernacle
the children of Israel and I will bless	were taken down, and the sons of
them."	Gershon and the sons of Merari —
	who carried the tabernacle and its
	accouterments — set forth.

Numbers 10

Trumpets to be used in calling and assembling Israel — cloud removes from camp — Israel sets forth in their orders — the Ark of the Covenant goes before the people.

1
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3

18 The banner of the camp of Reuben traveled according to their ranks; and over its host was Elizur the son of Shedeur.
19 Over the host of the tribe of the children of Simeon: Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai.
20 Over the host of the tribe of the children of Gad: Eliasaph the son of

Deuel.

21 The carriers of the Holy Place^a — the Kohathites — went forth; and they would be the ones to set up the tabernacle at their^b coming to a particular spot.

22 The banner of the camp of the children of Ephraim traveled according to their ranks; and over its host was Elishama the son of Ammihud.

23 Over the host of the tribe of the children of Manasseh: Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur.

24 Over the host of the tribe of the children of Benjamin: Abidan the son of Gideon.

25 The banner of the camp of the children of Dan set forth, which was the rear of all the camps throughout their armies: and over its rank was Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai.

26 Over the host of the tribe of the children of Asher: Pagiel the son of Ocran.

27 Over the host of the tribe of the children of Naphtali: Ahira the son of Enan.

28 Such were the journeys of the children of Israel according to their ranks when they set forth.

29 And Moses said to Hobab.^c the son of Reuel the Midianite, the father-in-law of Moses, “We are setting off to the same place that the LORD said, ‘I will give to you.’ Come

with us and we will treat you kindly because the LORD hath dealt kindly with Israel.”

30 But he said, “I will not go; rather, I will go unto mine own land and to mine own home country.”

31 And he^d said, “Please don’t leave me because you know how we should encamp in the desert — you shall be our eyes.

32 “If you will go with us, it will be good to you in the same measure as the LORD will be^e with us.”

33 So they set out from the mountain of the LORD a journey of three days, and the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD went before them three days to seek out a place of rest for them.

34 And the LORD, as a cloud, went over them by day when they journeyed from the camp.

35 And when the Ark went forth, Moses said, “Rise up, O LORD, and let thine enemies be scattered; yea, let thine haters flee from before thy face.”

36 And when it rested he said, “Return, O LORD, to the tens of thousands of Israelites.”^f

^dMoses

^ewas. Some slight eisegesis here, but I feel the rendering is more accurate with an eternal perspective. However, it works perfectly well with “was” because the Israelites have already been delivered from Egypt.

^f10,000 is the largest root describing numbers in Biblical Hebrew.

^aInferred: the Holy of Holies as well.

^bi.e., the Israelites

^cJethro

Numbers 11

Lord destroys rebels with fire — Israel complains about manna — Moses cannot take the burden alone — the Lord commands Moses to call the Seventy — meat will be given until it is loathsome — Seventy are called and chosen — Eldad and Medad prophesy — the people lust — many are destroyed by a plague.

1 And the people complained that which is evil^a in the ears of the LORD, and the LORD heard it and was angry;^b and the LORD's fire burned against them and consumed the outer part of the camp.

2 Then the people complained to Moses, so Moses prayed unto the LORD and the fire was quenched.

3 He called the name of the place Taberah for the fire of the LORD burned there among them.

4 And the crowd that was in its midst^c as well as the children of Israel lusted and cried again, saying, "Who shall give us flesh to eat?"

5 We remember the fish that we would eat in Egypt for no cost;^d and the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic —

6 now our souls are dried up for there is nothing that we can see besides manna!"

7 The manna was like coriander^e and was the color of bdellium.^f

8 The people roamed and they gathered the manna and they ground with millstones, beat in a mortar, and cooked,^g or made round loafs. Its taste was like the taste of a cake with olive oil.

9 When the dew descended on the camp at night the manna would likewise descend upon it.

10 Moses heard the people crying according to their tribes^h — every man at the opening of his tent — and the anger of the LORD was great. And Moses was displeased.

11 Moses said to the LORD, "Why have you afflicted your servant? How have I not found favor in your sight in that you lay the burden of all this people on me?"

12 Have I conceived all this people? Have I given birth to them? You say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom as a nursing father the infant,' to the land which you swore by oath to their fathers.

13

14 I am not able to bear all this people alone because they are too heavy for me.

15 If you deal thusly with me, just kill me — please — if I have found

^acomplained bitterly, complained and it was evil

^bHis anger was kindled

^camong them

^dfree fish, but not freely eat. That connotes something different.

^eSp. *cilantro*. However, this probably refers to the fruit (seed), not the leaves, and is referring to the taste, not its color.

^fA tree resin varying from yellow to green, but usually a brown color.

^gboiled in a pot

^heach with about five generations

favor in your eyes, that I may not dwell upon my displeasure.”

16 The LORD said unto Moses, “Gather seventy men for me among the elders of Israel whom you know to be elders and overseers of the people. Take them unto the meeting tent^a and cause them to stand there with you.

17 I will come down and converse with you there. I will take from the spirit that is upon you^b and shall put it upon them. They shall bear the load with you — you shall not bear it alone.

18

19

20 ”

21 “

22 Shall we slay all the flock and cattle for them? That would suffice. Or should we gather all the fish in the sea for them? That would be enough to satisfy them.”

23 The LORD said unto Moses, “Is the hand of the LORD shortened? You shall see whether or not My word shall come to pass.”

24 Moses went forth and he spoke the LORD’s words unto the people. He gathered up seventy of the elders of the people and caused them to stand surrounding the tent.^c

25 The LORD went down in the cloud and spoke unto them. He

took of the spirit that was on Moses and he conferred it on the seventy elders and they prophesied without ceasing.

26 Two men remained in the camp. One was named Eldad and the other Medad. They were in the register, but did not go to the tent. When the spirit rested upon them they went into the camp and prophesied.

27 And a youth ran and told Moses, saying, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.”

28 Joshua, the son of Nun and the servant of Moses, answered saying, “My lord, Moses, restrain them!”

29 But Moses said unto him, “Are you jealous on my behalf? I wish that all the LORD’s people were prophets and that the LORD would so place His spirit upon them all.”

30 So Moses gathered himself and the elders of Israel

31 and the spirit of the LORD went forth and drove quails from the sea who passed over and fell on the camp: a day’s journey this way and about a day’s journey that way round about the camp: ten cubits above the face of the earth.

32 The people arose all that day, that night, and the morrow to gather quail. The least gathered ten homers^d and they spread out for themselves a place surrounding the

^apart of the tabernacle complex

^bthe burden of the people; delegation of priesthood responsibility

^cprobably the tabernacle

^dAn ancient Hebrew measure of capacity, equal to ten ephahs or ten baths, and approximately equal to ten or eleven bushels. About eight gallons

camp.

33 While the flesh was still in between their teeth, before it was consumed, the anger of the LORD was kindled against the people and the LORD smote the people with a great plague.

34 He called the name of that place Kibroth-hattaavah^a because there they buried the people who had lusted.

35 The people traveled from this place to Hazeroth and they stayed there.

Numbers 12

Miriam and Aaron complain against Moses — Miriam is cursed with leprosy — Moses prays and Miriam is healed.

1 Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Kushite^b woman whom he married; for he had taken a Kushite woman in marriage.

2 They said, “Has the LORD only spoken through Moses? Hasn’t He also spoken through us?” And the LORD heard it.

3 Now, the man (Moses) was incredibly unassuming^c — more than any other man on the face of the earth.^d

4 The LORD spoke suddenly unto Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, “The three of you shall go forth unto the tent of meeting.” So the three of them went forth.

5 Then the LORD went down in the pillar of a cloud and stood in the door of the tent. He called for Aaron and Miriam and they both came out.

6 He said, “Heed my words: if you have a prophet the LORD will reveal Himself unto him in a vision. I will speak unto him in a dream.

7 Is it not true that Moses is My servant? That of all My house he is faithful?

8 I speak to him face to face: visibly. Not in riddles. He has seen the form of the LORD. Why weren’t you hesitant to speak against my servant Moses?

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^aLit., burial place of the lusters

^bPossibly Midianite

^cmeek, humble

^dIn other words, he is too humble to fight his own battles. Instead, he lets the Lord fight for him.

Deuteronomy

Deuteronomy 5

Moses restates the Decalogue — he recounts its giving.

1
2
3
4
5

6 PREFACE. I am the LORD your God. I brought you out from the land of Egypt — from the house of captivity.

7 1. There will be no other gods in preference to me.

8 11. Never make for yourselves graven images, or any image,^a in the heavens above, neither that is in the earth nor the waters underneath the earth.

9 Never bow down to them or worship^b them because I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God: I visit the punishment^c unto the third and fourth generation of my haters

10 Showing mercy unto thousands who love me and obey my commandments.

11 111. Never take the name of the

LORD thy God with vain purpose for the LORD shall not hold him guiltless who uses His name to vain purpose.

12 11. Keep the Sabbath day holy, just as the LORD your God has commanded you.

13 You shall work and perform all your responsibilities^d in six days,

14 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God: you shouldn't work, neither your son, daughter, handmaid, ox, donkey, any of your cattle, nor an outsider who's living in Israel. This so that your manservant and maidservant may rest just like you.

15 Remember when you were slaves in the land of Egypt and the LORD your God brought you from there with a strong hand and an outstretched arm.^e Therefore the LORD your God has commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

16 11. Take your mom and dad seriously just as the LORD your God has commanded you. This that your days may be lengthened and in order that it may be well for you upon the

^aan idol, picture, image, or any likeness

^bserve

^ciniquity

^dtasks, errands

^eSo that He can show the way; fight our battles

land which the LORD your God is going to give you.

17 VI. Don't murder.

18 VII. Don't commit adultery.

19 VIII. And don't steal.

20 IX. Never give a vain witness against your neighbor.

21 X. Don't desire your neighbor's wife or his house, field, bondman, handmaid, ox, donkey, or anything that's his.

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Deuteronomy 6

TEXT.

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4 Hear, O Israel! I, the LORD am God: there is only one LORD^a.

5 Thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy being^b.

6 These are the words^c that I

am going to command you in your heart.

7 You shall repeat them to your children. You shall talk about them when you sit in your home, when you go in the road, or when you rise^d up.

8 You shall bind them as a sign upon your hand. They shall be as frontlets.

9 Ye shall write them upon the lintel posts of your house and gate^e.

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Deuteronomy 25

TEXT.

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^dstand

^ei.e., any official entrance to your house, even doors to separate rooms: these words shall be upon them.

^aLit., the LORD is one

^bstrength

^ccommands

4

5 When brothers dwell together^a and one of them dies and he has no son^b, his wife shall not go unto foreigners^c to find a husband, but her brother-in-law will come to her and he shall take her unto himself as a wife. And thus^d shall he perform the duty of a brother-in-law.

6 He shall raise up for the deceased^e the oldest child that she shall bear that his^f name be not erased from Israel.^g

7 And if the man is not inclined^h to take his sister-in-law then let herⁱ go up to the gate to the elders and say, "My brother-in-law hath refused to raise up into his brother a name in Israel."

8 The elders of the city will call for him and he will stand and he shall say, "I do not desire to take her."

9 Then his sister-in-law will approach him in the eyes^j of the elders

^aThis does not necessarily denote two men with the same parents. It is merely male relatives. Same goes for whenever sister-in-law is said: it is a female relative.

^bthere is not a son to him

^coutside

^d"Thus" is not in the verse, but helps the flow.

^eover the name of the deceased

^fi.e., the deceased

^gLit., The oldest child that she shall bear, he shall raise up for the deceased that his name be not erased from Israel.

^hpleased

ⁱLit., his sister-in-law

^jpresence

and she will remove his sandal from off his foot. And she shall spit in his face and say^k, "So shall it be done^l to the man who will not build up the house of his brother."

10 And his name will be called *The house of the man whose sandal was removed.*

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^kand she will answer and say

^lit is done

Joshua

Joshua 3

XXX.

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14 During the people's journey from their tents to pass over the Jordan, the priests bore the ark of the covenant before the people.

15 And when those bearing the ark came to the Jordan, the feet of the priests bearing the ark dipped into the extremity of the waters (the Jordan being full over all its banks all the days of harvest)

16 and the flowing waters stood and rose up in a heap, far above the city Adam (which is beside Zaretan); and those going down by the sea of the plain — the Salt Sea — were completely cut off.

And the people passed through to Jericho.

17 And the priests bearing the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood established on the dry ground in the midst of the Jordan. And all Israel passed over on dry ground, even until the whole nation had completely passed over the Jordan.

Judges

Judges 7

TEXT.

1

2 And the LORD said unto Gideon, "The people with thee are too great^a for me to just give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, 'My own hand hath saved me!'

3 Now, please proclaim within earshot of the people, saying, 'Whosoever is fearful and trembling, let him turn back and leave^b early from Mount Gilead.'" And 22,000 of the people turned back, and there remained 10,000.

4 And the LORD saith unto Gideon, "Still, the people are too many. Bring them down to the water and I shall refine^c them for you there. It shall be that he to whom I say to thee, 'This man shall go with you,' shall go with you; and any that I say unto you, 'This man shall not go,' shall not go."

5 So he brought the people down to the water. And the LORD said

unto Gideon, "Any who laps water with his tongue (like a dog), you shall set by himself. Likewise with those that kneel down to drink."

6 The number of those who lapped — putting their hands to their mouth — was 300 men; but all the rest of the people knelt down to drink water.

7 And the LORD saith unto Gideon, "I will deliver you with the 300 men who lapped; and I will give the Midianites into your hand. Let all the rest go unto their homes."

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^amany

^bgo

^ctest

Ruth

Ruth 1

TEXT.

1 In the days when the judges judged there was a famine in the land. A man of Bethlehem-Judah went to sojourn in the field of Moab^a — he, and his wife, and his two sons.

2 And the name of the man — Elimelech; and the name of his wife — Naomi; and the names of his two sons — Mahlon and Chilion: Ephrathites from Bethlehem-Judah. And they entered the field of Moab and they stayed^b there.

3 And Naomi's husband, Elimelech, died, and she was left with^c her two sons.

4 And they took to^d themselves Moabite wives, the name of the one, Orpah; and the name of the other, Ruth. And they stayed there about ten years.

5 And the two of them, viz., Mahlon and Chilion, died.^e And the woman was bereft of her two boys

and her husband.

6 And^f she rose up with her daughters-in-law to return to the land of Moab, for she had heard that in the land of Moab the LORD had visited His people by giving them bread.

7 She went out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law and they went on the road to return to the land of Judah.

8 And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law to go return to their mothers' houses. "The LORD will do kindly with you according as ye have done with the dead and myself.

9 The LORD will give you rest in your husbands' houses." Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.

10 But they said to her, "Surely we will return to thy people."

11 But Naomi said, "Return, my daughters. Why would you go with me? Do I yet have sons in my womb that they may be husbands to you?

12 Return, my daughters, for I have grown too old to have a

^aMoabite territory or country

^bcontinued, sojourned

^cand

^draised up unto

^eAnd also, Mahlon and Chilion both died.

^fThen

husband ^a. If I were to say I have hope, and if I were to have a man tonight, and have sons,

13 would you wait for them until they were grown and keep yourselves from a husband? Not so, my daughters, for it grieveth me greatly for your sakes that the hand of the LORD is against me.”

14 They lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

15 And she^b said, “Your sister-in-law^c is returning to her people and to her gods. Return after your sister-in-law.”

16 And Ruth said, “Do not ask me to abandon you nor to turn from following thee: for wherever you go, will I go; and where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people; and your God shall be my God;

17 and where thou diest, will I die and be buried there: the LORD do to me, and more also, if anything but death parts me and thee.”

18 When she saw how bold^d she^e was to go with her, she ceased speaking with her.

19 And the two of them went to Bethlehem. And when they got to

Bethlehem the city was abuzz about them, saying, “Is this Naomi?”

20 And she said unto them, “Don’t call me Naomi. Call me Mara, for the Almighty hath treated me harshly.

21 I left full, and empty the LORD returned me. Why would you call me Naomi since the LORD hath afflicted me and the Almighty hath broken me in pieces?”

22 And Naomi returned with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, with her to the land of Moab and they entered into Bethlehem in the beginning of barley harvest.

Ruth 2

XXXX.

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11 And Boaz, answering, said unto her, “I’ve been told about everything^f you’ve done to your mother-in-law: how you left^g your father and your mother and the land of your birth XXXX.

^aI have grown old from having a man.

^bNaomi

^cThe Hebrew, בְּמֵת, denotes a relationship by marriage, not necessarily that they are sisters.

^dsteadfastly minded

^eRuth

^femphasis on everything

^gabandoned

12 May the LORD recompense your efforts and may your reward be full^a from the LORD God of Israel under whose wings you have come to seek refuge.”

13 And she said, “May I find grace^b in your eyes for you have been kind to us, and because you have been kind to your maidservant even though I am not like^c your maidservants.”

14 And Boaz said to her at meal-time, “Come hither and eat bread and dip the morsel^d in vinegar.” And she stayed by the reapers and he^e offered^f her parched^g grain and she ate, was satiated, and had some left over.

15 And she stood up to go glean, and Boaz commanded his servants saying, “Let her glean between the sheaves and do not bother^h her.

16 And also draw out for her some bundlesⁱ and leave and she shall gather. And rebuke her not.”

17 And she gathered in the land^j until eventide y she threshed that which she had gathered^k: about an

ephah of barley.

18 And she took it up and went into the city. And her mother-in-law saw her and she^l took that which she^m had gathered and she brought it out to her and she was satiated.

19 And her mother-in-law said unto her, “Where did you glean today? And where did you work? May her who helped thee be blessed.” And she told her mother-in-law, “The person with whom I worked today was Boaz.”

20 And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, “May he be blessed of the LORD who did not abandon his loving-kindness toward the living nor toward the dead.” And Naomi said to her, “The man that is near to us, he is our levir^{n,o}.”

21 And Ruth the Moabitess said, “He also said to me, ‘You shall stay with my workers until they have ended my harvests.’”

22 And Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, “My daughter, it is well that you go out with the maidservants and that they don’t find you in any other field.”

23 And she stayed fast by the maidservants of Boaz to glean until the end of the barley and wheat harvests. And she stayed with her mother-in-law.

^acomplete

^bfavor

^camong one of

^dbroken pieces

^erefers to either Boaz or the reapers. It is ambiguous.

^freached out, extended

^groasted

^hrebuke

ⁱsheaves

^jfield

^kgleaned

^lNaomi

^mRuth

ⁿis among our levirs

^oA levir was a tribal leader, avenger of blood, or a redeemer.

Ruth 3

TEXT.

1 So Naomi, her mother-in-law, said to her, "My daughter, rest that it may be well for you.

2 Is not Boaz our kinsman among whose maidservants you were with? He is threshing barley at the threshing floor tonight.

3 Wash and anoint thyself, put your clothes on, and get down to the threshing floor, but don't make thyself known to the man until he's done eating and drinking.

4 And when he lies down you shall know the place where he lieth. And you shall enter^a and uncover his feet and lie down. And he shall tell you that which you shall do."

5 And she^b said unto her, "All that thou hast said unto me I will do."

6 And she went down to the threshing floor and she did just about everything that her mother-in-law told her.

7 And Boaz ate and drank and was happy. So he entered to lie down at the edge of the heap of grain. And she entered in quietly^c and uncovered his feet and lied down.

8 And night came, and the man was shocked and turned and there was a woman lying at his feet.

9 And he said, "Who is there?" And she said, "I am Ruth, thy handmaiden. Spread the hem of thy garment over thy maidservant for you have the right of a levirate."

10 And he said, "Blessed be thou of the LORD, my daughter. XXXX

11 Now, my daughter, fear not^d for all I have said unto you, that will I do. All of my people think that thou art a virtuous woman.

12

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14

15 Give me the scarf from off your head." And he measured out for her six measures of barley. Then he^e went into the city.

16 And she came to her mother-in-law and she^f said, "How did it go, my daughter?" And then she told her everything that the man had done for her,

17 saying^g, "He gave me six measures because he said to me, 'Don't go to your mother-in-law empty-handed.'"

18 Then she said, "Sit, my daughter, until you know how the thing will play out, for the man will not be quiet until he has finished the matter today."

^ddo not be afraid

^eThe Septuagint version can be translated as either "he" or "she." The BHS leaves no such ambiguity and can only be rendered as "he."

^fNaomi

^gLiterally, "and she said"

^ago in

^bRuth

^csecretly

Ruth 4

TEXT.

1 And Boaz went up the the gate and he sat down there. And the levirite^a was passing by, and he^b said, “Turn away, sit here.” And he turned aside and sat down.

2 And he took ten men from among the elders of the city and told them, “Sit down here.” And they sat down.

3 And the levir said to his kinsman^c, “Naomi — who is returned from the plains of Moab — is selling the land of our kinsman Elimelech.

4 Now, let me speak to you^d to acquire it before^e of those who are sitting here^f and before the elders of my people. If you are going to redeem it, then redeem it. If he will not^g redeem it, tell me so that I can know since there is no one besides you to redeem it^h.” And he said, “I will redeem it.”

5 And Boaz said, “When youⁱ

acquire the property^j from the hand of Naomi, you will acquire Ruth the Moabite^k — the wife of the^k deceased kinsman — to raise up the name of the deceased over^l his inheritance.”

6 Then the levir^m said to him, “I will not be able to redeem it for myself lest I diluteⁿ my inheritance. Redeem my right^o to thyself for I cannot redeem it.”

7 (Now this was the manner of redemption in Israel in order to effect^p redemption or exchange^q in order to establish anything. The man took off his sandal and gave it to his neighbor as a testimony to his neighbor.)

8 The levir said to Boaz, “Acquire it for thyself.” And he took off his sandal^r.

9 So Boaz said to the elders and to all of the people, “Today you are all witnesses that I have acquired all that which belonged to Elimelech, Chilion, and Mahlon, from the hand of Naomi.

10 And also Ruth the Moabite^s — the wife of Mahlon —

^aThe text renders this in such a fashion as to not give away the man's identity out of respect to his posterity. It can be determined, though, that this man was the levirite.

^bBoaz

^cThe levir

^dLit., I will uncover thy ear

^ein the presence

^fby

^gIt seems that at this point Boaz has turned and is addressing the people standing by.

^hI am next after you

ⁱIn the day that you

^jland, field

^k aforementioned

^l upon

^mredeemer

ⁿmar

^oi.e., the property that I would redeem

^pconcerning

^qof Levirate marriage or property

^rIn Deuteronomy 25:5-10 we learn that the spurned woman — Ruth in this case — would have removed the man's sandal and then spit in his face.

have I obtained^a to be my wife, to raise up the name of the deceased over his inheritance that the name of the deceased be not cut off from among his brethren and from the gate of his place^b: of this ye are witnesses this day.”

11 Then all the people that were within the gates^c and the elders said, “We are witnesses^d. May the LORD make the wife come into thine house like Rachel and Leah who built^e the house of Israel^f. Now, do thou worthily^g in Ephratah and make a name for thyself in Bethlehem.

12 And now let thy house be as the house of Pharez, whom Tamar bare for Judah, of the seed which the LORD will give thee of this young woman.”

13 So Boaz took Ruth unto himself to be his wife. And he went in unto her and the LORD gave unto her conception^h and she bare a son.

14 And the womenⁱ said unto Naomi, “Blessed be the LORD who hath not abandoned thee this day without a redeemer: that His name

may be glorified in Israel.

15 And He shall restore your soul^j and sustain^k your old age because your daughter-in-law, who loves you, hath given birth to him, and she is better to you than seven sons.”

16 And Naomi took the child^l and laid him^m on her bosom and became his nurse.

17 And the women gave him a name, saying, “A son is born to Naomi.” And they called his nameⁿ Obed. He is the father of Jesse the father of David.

18

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22

Epilogue

The sum total of the verses of this manuscript: 75

And the end of it is Ruth the Moabitess said XXXXXXXX

There are two sections

^aLit., ...for myself

^bdwelling

^ccity limits

^dWitness!

^ethe two of whom built

^f§- Quite the thing to say especially considering there is no mention of the Patriarchs.

^gact virtuously

^hpregnancy

ⁱfemale neighbors

^jshall be a restorer of life unto thee

^ksupport you in

^lboy

^mLit., it

ⁿnamed him

1 Samuel

1 Samuel 15

TEXT.

1 And Samuel spake unto Saul, “The LORD didst send me to anoint thee king over His people — over Israel — therefore, now, hearken unto the voice^a of the words of the LORD:

2 Thus saith the LORD of Hosts, ‘I have reviewed^b that which Amalek did to Israel, that which he placed for himself in the way going up out of Egypt.

3 Go now, and smite Amalek and all that he hath; show no mercy^c. Put to death every man, woman, infant, suckling, ox, sheep, camel, and ass.”

4 So Saul summoned the people and inspected them in Telaim: 200,000 footmen and 10,000 men of Judah.

5 Then Saul came unto the city of Amalek and waited in a valley.

6 And Saul saith to the Kenite, “Go, turn aside. Leave from the midst of Amalek lest I consume thee as well, for thou didst show kindness

unto the children of Israel when they came up out of Egypt.” So the Kenite turned aside from the midst of Amalek.

7 Then Saul smote Amalek from Havilah to Shur (on the borders of Egypt).

8 He caught Agag, king of Amalek, alive; but all the people were destroyed by the sword.

9 But Saul — and the people as well — had pity on Agag, the best of the flocks, herds, garments, rams, and all that was beautiful and they would not destroy them.

10 Then the word of the LORD came unto Samuel, saying,

11 “I’m sorry that I made Saul king: he hath forsaken Me in that he did not keep My commandments.” And Samuel was grieved and cried unto the LORD all night.

12 So Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul. And it was declared to Samuel, saying, “Saul hath come in to Carmel and is setting up to himself a monument. Then he shall go round, pass over, and go down into Gilgal.”

13 Samuel came to Saul, and Saul saith to him, “Blessed be thou of the LORD; I have done what the LORD

^asound

^blooked after

^chave no pity on them

hath said.”

14 So Samuel said, “Why then do I hear bleating of sheep and the noise of a herd?”

15 And Saul said, “We brought them from Amalek because the people had pity on the best of the flocks and herds so that we could sacrifice them to the LORD thy God; the rest we destroyed.”

16 Samuel said to Saul, “Hold on,^a let me tell you what the LORD told me tonight.” And Saul said, “Go on.”

17 Samuel said, “When you were little^b, were you not made head of the tribes of Israel and anointed by the LORD to be king over Israel?”

18 And the LORD sent you on a journey and said, ‘Go and utterly destroy the Amalekites and all that they hath.’

19 Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD, but instead did fly on their spoil and do evil in the eyes of the LORD?”

20 And Saul said to Samuel, “I *have* hearkened to the voice of the LORD. I went the way the LORD sent me, and I have brought Agag, king of Amalek, and destroyed the Amalekites.

21 And the people took the spoil of the flocks and herds^c — the choic-

est^d part of the devoted things^e — to sacrifice unto the LORD their God in Gilgal.”

22 And Samuel saith:

“Doth the LORD delight in sacrifices and burnt offerings So much as He delighteth^f in hearkening to the voice^g of the LORD?

Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice^h. Paying attention is more important than ram’s fat.

23 :Since rebellion is like the sin of witchcraft And stubbornness is like idolatry:

Because you’ve rejected the word of the LORD He hath you from being king.

24 Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned, for I transgressed the commandment of the LORDⁱ and thy words^j in that I showed reverence to^l the people by hearkening^m to their voice.ⁿ”

^dchief, first, best

^ei.e., that which should have been destroyed

^fPoetic: therefore the verb’s repetition is implied.

^gImplied: commandments

^hInteresting Hebrew grammatical construct here. It is literally “Obedience sacrifice good.” That is how comparatives are done.

ⁱLiterally, I have passed over (or by) the command (or mouth) of the LORD

^jRepetitious because they’re the same in this instance.^k Shows a serious lack of understanding on Saul’s part.

^lfeared

^mlistening

ⁿi.e., instead of the LORD

^aRelax, wait

^bin your own eyes

^cIdiomatically rendered in definite plural

25 Please forgive me^a and come with me as I bow down before the LORD.”

26 Samuel said to Saul, “No, I’m not going with you^b because you’ve rejected the word of the LORD and because the LORD hath rejected you from being king over Israel.”

27 Then Samuel turned around to go, but he^c caught hold of his^d robe’s mantle^e and it rent.

28 And Samuel said to him, “The LORD hath rent the Kingdom of Israel from thee today and given it to thy neighbor (who is better than thee).

29 Additionally, the eminence^f of Israel^g neither lies nor repents for He is not a man, that He is penitent.”^h

30 And he said, “I have sinned. Come, now, and honor me before the elders of the peopleⁱ and before Israel. Come with me as I bow down before the LORD.”

31 So Samuel turned back after Saul as Saul bowed before the

LORD.^j

32 And Samuel said, “Bring Agag, king of Amalek, unto me.” And Agag came in unto him delicately and said, “Certainly the bitterness of death has past.”

33 Samuel said, “As thy sword hath bereaved women, even so shall thy mother be bereaved among women,” and Samuel hewed Agag into pieces before the LORD in Gilgal.

34 Samuel went to Ramath and Saul went to his house in Gibeah of Saul.

35 Samuel never again came to see Saul, even until his death; nevertheless, Samuel mourned for Saul. And the LORD was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel.

^aLiterally, Now, please bear my sin

^bLiterally, I will not turn back with thee

^cSaul

^dSamuel’s

^eupper skirt

^fpreeminence, perpetuity, everlastingness

^gIs this a name-title of the LORD?

^hrepents, is repentant

ⁱThis is horribly pretentious on Saul’s part: if Samuel wouldn’t bow down to the LORD with Saul, why in the world would he honor him before the elders of the people and all of Israel? It’s like Saul doesn’t think before he speaks.

^jI know, I’m as shocked as you.

2 Samuel

2 Samuel 6	15
	16
<i>TEXT.</i>	17
1	18
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6 They came unto Nachon's threshing floor and Uzzah put forth his hand ^a to the ark of God and took hold of it because the oxen stumbled.	23
7 And the LORD was exceedingly wroth with Uzzah, ^b so God smote him there for his error that he died there before the ark of God. ^c	
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12	
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14	

^aUnderstood

^bAnd the anger of the LORD burned
against Uzzah

^cReferring to this passage (v. 6-7),
John Taylor said, "The ark of God
does not need steadying, especially by
incompetent men without revelation and
without knowledge of the kingdom of
God and its laws." (*The Gospel Kingdom*,
166)

1 Kings

1 Kings 17

Elijah prophesied no rain — Elijah stays with the widow of Zarephath — the widow's son dies — the Lord heals the lad.

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8 And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying,

9 “Arise. Go unto Zarephath — that is, unto Zidon — and dwell there. Behold! I have there commanded a widow woman to sustain thee.”

10 So he arose and went unto Zarephath, came unto the city's entrance, and lo! there was a widow woman gathering sticks. So he called unto her and said, “Please bring me a little water in a vessel so I can drink.”

11 So she went to bring it and he calleth after her, and said, “Please bring me some bread in thy hand.”

12 Then she said, “As the LORD thy God liveth, I don't even have a

cake, but only a handful of meal in a pitcher and a little oil in a dish. Behold, I am gathering two sticks so that I can go in, prepare it for myself and my son, so that we can eat it and then die.”

13 Elijah said unto her, “Fear not: go and do as I've said, only make for me from thence a little cake first and bring it out to me. Then make for thee and thy son last.

14 “For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, ‘The pitcher of meal shall not be consumed and the oil dish shall not be lacking until the day the LORD makes it rain on the face of the land.’ ”

15 So she went and did as Elijah had said. And she ate — she, he, and her household — for days.

16 And the pitcher of meal was not consumed, neither did the oil dish lack, even according to the word of the LORD that He had spoken by the hand of Elijah.

17 After these things, the son of the woman (the mistress of the house) became sick. And his sickness was so severe that there was no breath left in him.

18 And she said unto Elijah, “What's this to me and thee, O man

of God? You came to me to make
me remember my iniquity and to kill
my son!"

19 So he said to her, "Give me
your son." And he took him
from her bosom, and took him to
the upper chamber where he was
abiding, and laid him on the bed.

20 Then he cried unto the LORD
and said, "O LORD my God, have
you really brought evil upon the
widow with whom I sojourn by
killing her son?"

21 He stretched himself upon the
child thrice and cried to the LORD
and said, "O LORD my God, please
let this child's soul return to him!"

22 And the LORD heard the voice
of Elijah and the child's soul re-
turned and he lived.

23 And Elijah took the child and
brought him down from the upper
room into the house and gave him to
his mother. And Elijah said, "Look,
your son lives."

24 And the woman said to Elijah,
"By this I now know that thou art
a man of God and that the word of
the LORD in thy mouth is true."

1 Kings 18

TEXT.

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17 It was so that when Ahaz saw
Elijah, Ahaz said unto him, "Are
you the troubler^a of^b Israel?"

18 So he^c said, "I have not trou-
bled Israel, rather you and your
father's house have in forsaking the
commandments of the LORD and
going after Baalim.^d

19 Send now and gather all of
Israel unto me at Mount Carmel as
well as the 450 prophets of Baal and
the 400 prophets of Asherah who eat
at Jezebel's table."

20 So Ahaz sent unto all the
children of Israel and gathered all
the prophets unto Mount Carmel.

21 Elijah drew near to all of the
people and said, "How long will you
stall between two opinions?^e If the
LORD is God, follow him; but if
Baal, then follow him." And the
people didn't say a thing.

^athe one who causes trouble

^bin

^cElijah

^dfalse gods. The definite article precedes
the noun so "Baalim" is probably more
accurate than "false prophets."

^eLit., How long will you hop between two
branches?

22 Then Elijah said unto the people, "I alone remain a prophet of the LORD, yet the prophets of Baal are 450 men.

23 Alright, have them^a bring^b two bullocks: they shall choose one bullock for themselves, cut it in pieces, and place it on wood, but they shall not put any fire on it;^c and I shall prepare the other bullock, place it on wood, and not light it.

24 You shall call on the name of your god and I will call on the name of the LORD^d. And thus it shall be that the god who answers by fire, He is God." And all the people answered and said, "Sounds good."^{e,f}

25 And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, "Choose a bullock and prepare it first because there are more of you.^g But don't put any fire on it, merely call on the name of your god."^h

^athe false prophets

^bLit., let them give us

^cLit., place no fire

^dThat's pretty powerful language (i.e., the Tetragrammaton) to be using around heathens.

^eLit., Good is the word.

^fThis brings up an interesting thought: either the prophets of Baal had before been able to call down fire from heaven or they knew that since they couldn't do it that Elijah couldn't either, and they would use that in the soon to come (or so they thought) argument.

^gyou are the multitude, you are many

^hLit., Call on the name of your god and (but) place no fire.

26 So they took the bullock given to them, prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from the morning until noon, saying, "Baal, answer us!" Yet there was no voiceⁱ and no one answered. And they leapt on the altar they had made.

27 And when it was midday, Elijah toyed with them and said, "Call with a loud voice for he is a god and maybe he is meditating or busy or gone on an adventure.^j Perhaps he is asleep and just waking up!"

28 So they cried with a loud voice and cut themselves (according to their ordinances) with swords and spears until their blood flowed.

29 And when midday had passed, they prophesied until the time of the evening sacrifice, and yet there was neither a voice nor an answer nor any that regarded them.

30 Then Elijah said unto all the people, "Come here." So all the people drew near as he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down.

31 And he took twelve stones (according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob — unto whom the word of the LORD was, saying, "Thy name shall be Israel.")

32 and built an altar from the stones in the name of the LORD. And he made a trench about the space of two measures of seed encircling the altar.

ⁱsound

^jjourney

33 And he arranged the wood, cut the bullock in pieces, and placed it on the wood.

34 ^a And he said, “Fill four pitchers of water and pour them on the burnt offering and on the wood.” And he told them to do it a second time, and they did it a second time; and he told them to do it a third time, so they did it a third time.

35 ^b And the water encircled the altar insomuch that the trench was filled with water.

36 And at eventide, Elijah the prophet drew near and said, “LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel: let it be known today that Thou art God in Israel, that I am Thy servant, and that by Thy word I have done all of these things.

37 Answer me, LORD. Answer me and this people shall know that Thou art the LORD God: that Thou hast turned back their heart.”^c

38 Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering, wood, stones, and dust; it licked up the water that was in the trench.

39 And all the people saw it, fell on their faces, and said, “The LORD is God! The LORD is God!”

40 Elijah said unto them, “Seize the prophets of Baal — don’t let

one of them escape!” So they seized them. Then Elijah brought them down to the brook^d Kishon and slew them there.^e

41 Elijah said unto Ahab, “Get up. Eat. Drink. You can hear a bunch of rain coming.”^f

42 So Ahab went up to eat and drink. Elijah went up to the summit of Carmel, bowed down on the earth, and put his face between his knees.

43 Then he said unto his servant, “Go up^g and look at the sea.” So he went up, looked, and said, “There’s nothing.”^h So Elijah said, “Go again seven times.”

44 And on the seventh time he said, “Behold! There is a cloud — small as a man’s hand — rising up out of the sea!” And heⁱ said, “Go up and say to Ahab, ‘Prepare^j and go down that the rains do not restrain thee.’”

45 In the meantime the heavens blackened with clouds and wind, and there was a great pouring of rain. And Ahab got on his chariot and went to Jezreel.

46 Thus the hand of the LORD was upon Elijah, and he girded up his

^dtorrent

^eThat’s 450 men. This doesn’t even talk about the other 400 false prophets of Asherah who were probably slain as well.

^fThere is a sound of an abundance of rain.

^gGo up where? They’re at the summit.

^hI don’t see anything.

ⁱElijah

^ji.e., thy chariot

^aV. 33 still in English translations.

^bBack to normal versing.

^ci.e., That they shall know that Thou, Lord, hast turned back their hearts. Not me. Not this miracle that Thou shalt perform. But that Thou has done this thing.

loins and ran before Ahab to the
border of Jezreel.

2 Kings

2 Kings 2

TEXT.

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23 And he went from there up to Bethel, and as he was going up on the highway, little boys came out of the city and mocked him, saying unto him, "Go up, bald head! Go up, bald head!"

24 And he turned back, faced

them, and cursed them in the name of the LORD. And two mama bears came forth and out of the woods and tore 42 children among them.

25 He then went from there up to Mount Carmel, and from there he returned to Samaria.

2 Kings 5

TEXT.

1 And Naaman the head of the king of Aram's^a army was a great and honorable man before the his superior officer^b because through him the LORD delivered Aram. Yea, he was a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper.

2 And the Aramæans had gone forth in bands and captured a little maid from out of the land of Israel; and she waited upon Naaman's wife.

3 And she said unto her maid-servant, "I wish that my lord was in the presence of the prophet in Samaria! Then he might be healed of his leprosy."

4 So he went and told his lord, saying, "Thus and thus said the maid that is from the land of Israel."

^aSyria

^blord, master

5 The king of Aram said, “

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2 Kings 6

TEXT.

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8 The king of Aram hath been fighting against Israel and took counsel with his servants, saying,

“My encamping is wherever.”^a

9 The man of God sent unto the king of Israel, saying, “Beware of passing through this place for the Aramæans are coming down thence.”

10 So the king of Israel sent to the place of which the man of God had told and warned him. And he^b stayed on guard. This happened not once, but twice.

11 And the heart of the King of Aram was troubled because of this thing^c, so he called his servants and saith unto them, “Will you not tell me which of us is for the king of Israel?”^d

12 One of the servants said, “None, my lord the king. However, Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the things you have spoken in private.”^e

13 Then he said, “Go and see where he is. Then I will send for and fetch him.” It was then told him, saying, “He is in Dothan.”

14 So he sent forth horses, chariots, and a great host, and they came by night and surrounded the city.

15 And the man of God’s servant arose early and went out, and

^aSeriously “wherever.” They use אֲלֵמֶנִי פֹלֵנִי which means “whoever” or “whatever.” It’s the same usage as found in Ruth 4:1 to obfuscate who or what is being referred to.

^bthe king of Israel

^ci.e., these words

^di.e., Is there a double agent among us?

^ein thy bedchamber.

lo! an army, horses and chariots, surrounded the city. Then his servant said unto him, "My lord, what shall we do?"^a

16 And he said, "Don't be afraid — there are more with us than with them."^b

17 And Elisha prayed and said, "LORD, I pray that thou wilt open his eyes and let him see." So the LORD opened the servant's eyes and he saw, and lo! the mountain was full of fiery horses and chariots surrounding Elisha.

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^aLit., how do we do? Or, how will we do?

^bgreater are they who are with us than they who are with them.

2 Chronicles

2 Chronicles 26

TEXT.

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16 However, when he become strong, his heart was lifted up unto destruction. And he transgressed against the LORD his God by going unto the temple of the LORD and offering incense upon the altar of incense.

17 And Azariah the priest went in after him with the priests of the LORD: eighty valiant men.

18 And they withstood Uzziah the king and said unto him, "This is not for thee, Uzziah, to burn incense unto the LORD; rather for

the priests — the sons of Aaron — that are set apart^a to burn incense. Leave this holy place^b for you have transgressed. And neither shall this be for thine honor from the LORD God."

19 Uzziah was wroth (and in his hand he had a censer of incense). And while he was angry at the priests, leprosy appeared^c in his forehead in the presence of the priests in the House of the LORD next to the altar of incense.

20 Azariah, the chief priest, and all the priests looked upon him, and lo! he was leprous in his forehead. So they thrust him out from thence, yea, even he^d hurried out because the LORD has smitten him.

21 Uzziah the king was leper unto his dying day — he dwelt in a separate house (being a leper) because he was cut off from the House of the LORD. And Jotham, his son, took over^e the king's affairs,^f judging the people of the land.

^aconsecrated, sanctified

^bGo out from this sanctuary

^crose up

^dUzziah

^ewas over

^fhouse

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2 Chronicles 31

TEXT.

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5 As the matter spread forth, the children of Israel multiplied the first-fruits of corn, new wine, oil, honey, and all the increase of the field: they brought in the tithe of the whole in abundance.

6 The children of Israel and Judah (those dwelling in the cities of Judah) also brought forth a tithe of their herds and flocks,^a as well as a tithe of the holy things that are consecrated unto the LORD their God: heaps and heaps brought in.

7 In the third month they began to lay the foundation of the heaps and finished in the seventh month.

8 Hezekiah and the heads of the people^b came in to see the heaps and to bless the LORD and His people Israel.

9 Hezekiah asked^c the priests and

the Levites about the heaps

10 and Azariah, the chief priest (of the house of Zadok), spoke unto him and said, "Since we began taking in the heave offerings to the House of the LORD, there's plenty to eat, be satisfied, and leave abundantly for the LORD hath blessed his people, and this is the surplus."

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^a"[T]heir" is taken from context (unless they're presenting a tithe of things they do not own in which case they're following the poor example of Saul (cf. 1 Sam. 15:15)) and the plurality is given for idiomatic purposes.

^bLit., heads. "[O]f the people" is understood, unless we're to assume that Hezekiah came in with a bunch of heads.

^cinquired at

Ezra

Ezra 4

Rehum, Shimshai, and others conspire against Israel to halt the building of the temple — they write a letter to Artaxerxes who commands that the construction cease.

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8 Rehum the commander and Shimshai the scribe wrote a letter to the king, Artaxerxes.

9 Then Rehum the commander and Shimshai the scribe and all their companions — the judges, envoys, officials, secretaries, Urukites, Babylonians, Susaites (who are Elamites),

10 and the rest of the people whom the great and noble Osnappar brought over and settled^a in the cities of Samaria; the rest on this side of the river, and so forth.

11 Here is a copy of the letter which they sent to him — to Artaxerxes the king — the servants,

the men on this side of the river, and so forth

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16 We make it known to the king that if this city is built and its walls finished, because of this you will have no portion on this side of the river.”

17 The king sent a decree to Rehum the chief of report^b and to Shimshai the scribe and the rest of their companions who live in Samaria and the rest^c on the other side of the river: “Peace and so on.

18 The document which you sent to us has been interpreted and read to me.

19 I have established a decree and they have investigated and found that this city, from the days of old, raises itself against the kings — rebellion and sedition are made therein.

20 And xxxx xxxx kings over Jerusalem, mighty officers on all the other side of the river, to them is given toll, tribute, and customs.

^bcommander

^cUnderstood: *of the people*

^aUnderstood: *them*

21 Now, make a decree to stop these men. This city will not be built until I make a decree.

22 And be warned of doing this negligence: why should hurt come to the detriment of the kings?"

23 Then, from the time that a copy of king Artaxerxes' letter was read before Rehum and Shimshai the scribe and their companions, they went in haste to Jerusalem against the Jews and stopped them by force.^a

24 The work of the house of God in Jerusalem ceased and remained stopped until the second year of king Darius of Persia's reign.

Ezra 5

Haggai and Zechariah prophesy — Zerubbabel and others begin construction of the temple — Tatnai, Shethar-boznai, and others write a letter to King Darius asking for an order to stop the Jews.

1 Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo prophesied in the name of the God of Israel concerning the Jews in Judah and in Jerusalem.

2 Then Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua, son of Jozadak, rose and began to rebuild the house of God in Jerusalem. And the prophets supported them.

3 At that time, Tatnai, the governor on the other side of the

river, came to them with Shethar-boznai and their companions; and they said to them, "Who gave you orders to build this house^b and to finish this wall?"

4 They then said thus unto them, "What are the names of the men who are building this house?"

5 The eye of their God had been upon the elders^c of the Jews and they had not caused them to stop until the matter went to Darius. They then sent back a letter concerning this.

6 A copy of the letter that Tatnai the governor on the other side of the river, Shethar-boznai, and his companions the Apharsachites^d who are on the other side of the river sent unto Darius the king.

7 In the letter they sent to him was written: "Peace be unto Darius the king.

8 Be it known to the king that we have gone to the province of Judah, to the great temple of God, and it is build with square stones, wood is placed in the walls, and this work is done speedily. This work prospers in their hand.

9 Then we asked these elders — thus did we ask them: 'Who hath made a decree for you for this house to be built and this wall to be completed?'

10 Additionally, we asked them for

^btemple

^choar-headed

^dtitle for an official

^aWith a strong arm.

their names, to make it known unto you, so we can write the names of their leaders.^a

11 Thus have they returned the word, saying, 'We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth. We have been building the house for many years'^b and that a great king of Israel had built and finished it.

12 But after that, they made the God of heaven angry and He delivered them into the hands of the Chaldean Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, who demolished this house and removed the other people to Babylon.

13 But in the first year of Cyrus, king of Babylon, Cyrus, the king, gave an order to build this house of God.

14 Furthermore, the gold and silver vessels from the house of God that Nebuchadnezzar removed from the temple in Jerusalem and brought to the temple in Babylon, Cyrus, the king, removed them from the temple in Babylon and brought them to Sheshbazzar whom he had appointed as governor.

15 He^c said to him, "Lift up these vessels and go and put them in the temple in Jerusalem. Let the house of God be build on its place."

16 Then did Sheshbazzar come and lay the foundations of the house of God in Jerusalem. From then

until now it has been being built and is not finished.

17 And now, if it be good to the king, let an investigation^d be made into the treasury of the house of the king in Babylon whether it be that Cyrus the king made a decree to build this house of God in Jerusalem. Let the king's will concerning this be sent to us."

Ezra 6

Darius starts an investigation to find if sanctions were ever given to the Jews to build a temple — evidence is found that Cyrus gave sanctions through a decree — Darius states that this decree is still in effect — he commands that the Jews be provided with whatever they need to build the temple — the temple is completed and dedicated.

1 King Darius then made a decree and they investigated in the records house where the treasures of Babylon were laid up.

2 A scroll was found in Achmetha, a fortress in the province of Media, in the midst of which was written a record:

3 "In the first year of Cyrus, the king, King Cyrus made an order regarding the house of God in Jerusalem: let the house be built in the place where they are sacrificing sacrifices. Let its foundations be

^athe men who are at the head

^bfrom before this year

^cCyrus

^dsearch, inquiry

strongly laid: its height sixty cubits and its breadth sixty cubits.

4 ^aThree layers of square stones and a layer of new wood. Let the expense be charged^b to the king's house.

5 Additionally, the gold and silver of the house of God which Nebuchadnezzar removed from the Jerusalem temple and brought to Babylon, let it be returned to the Jerusalem temple: you shall put it in the house of God.

6 And now, Tatnai, governor of the trans-Euphrates,^c Shethar-boznai, and your companions the Apharsachites^d of the trans-Euphrates, stay away from this.^e

7 Leave behind the work of the house of God; let the governor of the Jews and the elders of Judah build this house of God in its place.

8 From me I give an order regarding what you should do to the work of those elders of Judah and the building of this house of God: the riches of the king which are on the other side of the river, the expenses be speedily given to these men that their work cease not.

9 What they need, both young bullocks, rams, and lambs, for burnt offerings to the God of heaven; wheat, salt, wine, and oil, according

to the saying of the Levite priest who is in Jerusalem, let it be given to them daily without negligence

10 so that they can offer sweet odors to the God of heaven and pray for the life of the king and his sons.

11 From me I give a command to anyone^f who changes this decree: let wood be pulled out from their house and let them be impaled^g and their house shall be made a dunghill for this.

12 God caused His name to dwell there. He overthrew all the kings and people who try and cause His hand to change and hurt this house of God in Jerusalem. I, Darius, have made a decree — let it be done with all diligence.^h

13 Then Tatnai, the governor of the trans-Euphrates, Shethar-boznai, and their companions speedily did as King Darius had sent.

14 The elders of the Jews were continuing to build and prosper because of the prophecies of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. Since the decree of the God of Israel, Cyrus, Darius, and Xerxesⁱ king of Persia, they built and finished.^j

15 This house was completed on the third day of the month Adar

^fall mankind

^gin impaling let them be impaled

^hLit., let it be speedily done

ⁱIt says Artaxerxes (אַרְתַּחְשַׁתָּרְסָה), but historically this is more probably Xerxes

^jPresumably understood: *the house of God in Jerusalem*

^aUnderstood: *with*

^bLit., given

^con the opposite side of the river

^dofficials

^eLit., be ye far from thence

which was in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius,

16 and the sons of Israel, the priests, Levites, and the rest of the sons of the captivity made a joyous dedication to this house of God.

17 They brought one hundred bullocks, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs, and twelve young goats (for a sin offering for all Israel according to the number of tribes of Israel) near to this temple of God for its dedication.

18 They put their priests in their divisions, the Levites in their courses over the work of God that is in Jerusalem according to the writing in the scroll of Moses.

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Ezra 7

TEXT.

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12 Artaxerxes, king of kings, to Ezra the priest, a scribe of the law

of the perfect God of heaven,^a and so forth:

13 "From me has a declaration been made to all of the people of Israel in my kingdom: any priest or Levite who is willing to go to Jerusalem with them shall go.

14 Because that from before the king and his seven counselors you are sent to investigate concerning the Jews and Jerusalem with the law of God which is in your hand.

15 To bring the silver and gold which the king and his counselors willingly offered to the God of Israel whose tabernacle^b which is in Jerusalem.

16 All the silver and gold you find in all the provinces of Babylon with the donations^c of the people and of the priests shall be freely offered^d to the house of their God which is in Jerusalem.

17 Therefore, you shall speedily buy with this money^e bullocks, rams, lambs, and their presents and libations, and bring them to the altar which is in the house of their God in Jerusalem.

18 That which is good to you and your brethren with the rest of the silver and gold to do according to

^aHorribly ambiguous: *perfect* could modify *law*, *God*, or *heaven*. Most probably God.

^bThe root of this word means "a dwelling place"

^cFree-will offerings

^ddonated

^esilver and gold. Think *argent*

the will of your God, that shall you do.

19 The vessels which are given to you for the service of your God's house — completely finish it before the God of Jerusalem.

20 The remainder of the needful things of your God's house which have fallen to you to give, give them^a from the treasure house of the king.

21 From me, I, Artaxerxes the king, an order is made to all treasures of the trans-Euphrates that all the requirements of Ezra the priest, scribe of the law of the God of heaven, let them be diligently done

22 unto one hundred talents of silver, one hundred cords of wheat, one hundred baths of wine, and one hundred baths of oil. And salt without writing.^b

23 All that is from the decree of the God of heaven, let it be done with zeal^c to the house of the God of heaven: for why should there be wrath upon the kingdom of the king and his sons?

24 We are informing you that there is no officer to lift a tribute or tax upon all the priests, Levites, singers, gate keepers, sanctuary servants, and servants of this house of God.

25 You, Ezra, according to the wisdom of your God which is in your

hand, place judges and magistrates who will judge all the people of the trans-Euphrates and all who know the laws of your God; and unto those who don't know, teach them.

26 All who will not do the law of your God and the law of the king with exactness, let judgment come upon the, whether to death, banishment, or a fine of riches and a bond.”

27 Blessed be the LORD God of our fathers

28

^aunderstood

^bI.e., permission

^cwith eagerness

Nehemiah

Nehemiah 6

TEXT.

1 And when Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arabian, and the rest of our enemies had heard^a that I had built the wall and that there was no breach in it (also, up until that time^b I had not set up the gates)

2 that Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, “Come, and we shall meet together in the villages of^c the valley of Ono,” but they were thinking of doing me wrong.^d

3 So I sent messengers unto them, saying, “I am doing a great work so I cannot come down. Why should the work cease^e while I leave it and come down to you?”

4 So they sent unto me — as I’ve said^f — four times, and I told them likewise.

5 So Sanballat sent his servant unto me — as I’ve said — the fifth time with an open letter in his hand,

6 and it was written therein: “It

hath been heard among the nations, and Gashmu hath said, ‘You and the Jews are thinking of rebelling. Therefore, you are building the wall and hast been a king unto them. Even according to these words!’

7 Moreover, thou hast appointed prophets who^g call for thee in Jerusalem, saying, “A king is in Judah!” Now, it hath been heard by the king, even according to these words. Come now and let us reason together.”

8 So I sent unto him, saying, “No, it hath not been as thou hast said^h because you’ve made this upⁱ from thine own heart.

9 For all of them are making us afraid, saying, ‘Their hands are too weak^j for the work — that’s why it’s not done.’ O God, strengthen my hands!”^k

10 Then I entered the house of

^aWhen it was heard by

^buntil then

^cin

^dthinking to do evil unto me.

^e*sabbath* is used here. That is the concept being conveyed.

^faccording to this word

^gto

^haccording to these words that thou hast said

ⁱdevised

^jfeeble

^kSome slight eisegesis to get “O God” into this clause, but other translations seem to agree with me. Logic: why would he be asking his enemies to strengthen his hands?

Shemaiah, son of Delaiah (son of Mehetabeel), who was shut up,^a and he said,

:"Let us meet at the House of God, Inside the temple.

:So we shall shut the doors of the temple Because they are coming to slay thee.

:Even by night are they coming to slay thee."

11 And I said, "Would a man like me flee?^b And who, like me, would go in unto the temple to^c live? I will not go."^d

12 And I perceived that lo! God had not sent him because he had prophesied this word against me: Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.^e

13 He was hired to frighten me.^f That I might do so: sin — that I might have something to go off of to spread an evil report so that they could reproach me.

14 My God, remember Tobiah and Sanballat according to these, their works. And also the prophetess Noadiah and the rest of the prophets who would have made me afraid.

15 So the wall was finished in fifty-

two days: on the twenty-fifth of Elul.

16 And when all of our enemies had heard it, and when all the nations round about us were afraid (and much cast down in their own perception) for they knew that this work was brought to pass by our God.

17 Additionally, in those days, the noblemen of Judah sent a lot of letters to Tobiah, so those who are with Tobiah came to them.

18 For there are many in Judah sworn to him: ^ghe hath a son-in-law of Shechaniah, son of Arah; his son Johanan hath married the daughter of Meshullam, son of Berechiah.

19 They also spoke before me of his goodness and then reported my words to him. So Tobiah sent letters to make me afraid.

^alocked in, under house arrest, not going outside

^bA man such as I (or, like me) — would he flee?

^cand

^dgo in

^eThat's some serious transgression of taking the name of the Lord in vain.

^fTherefore was he hired, that I might be afraid

^gfor

Isaiah

See Appendix B for more information on the book of Isaiah.

Isaiah 1

Few in Israel remain faithful to the Lord — the Lord rejects their sacrifices and feasts — repentance proclaimed — Zion to be redeemed in the latter days.

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17 :Judge the fatherless;^a Learn to do good.
18 I pray thee, come and let us reason together,” Saith the LORD.

^aorphans

:“If your sins are as scarlet, As snow they shall be white.

:If they are blood^b red, They shall be as wool.^c

19 If you’re willing and hearken You shall consume^d the good of the land.

20 And if you refuse and rebel The sword shall consume you:
:For the mouth of the LORD hath proclaimed it.^e

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24 Therefore, thus saith the LORD of Hosts, The Mighty One of Israel:^f
:“Ah, now I will be relieved^g of mine adversaries: I am avenged of mine enemies.

25 Lest I turn my hand on thee^h
:I will purify thine dress — I will turn

^bearth

^cThe dye that was used back then was permanent. The cloth could fade, but would never again be truly white.

^deat of

^eso spoken.

^fThe one in Israel who is mighty

^geased

^hI will turn my hand back on thee

aside all thine tin.^a

26 I will restore^b thine judges as at first And thy counselors as in the beginning.

:After this though shalt be called A *City of Righteousness: A Faithful City.*

27 Zion is redeemed through judgment — Also those who are returned^{c, d} in righteousness.

28 The sinners and transgressors are destroyed together; Those forsaking the LORD are consumed.

29 You are ashamed of the oaks^e :That you've desired.
:And you're confused because of the groves^f That you've chosen.

30 For you are as an oak Whose leaf is fading
:And as a grove That hath no water.

31 The strong shall be as tow^g
And its maker as spark.
:They shall burn together: None shall quench them."

Isaiah 2

Isaiah sees in vision the latter day temple, the gathering of Israel, the Millennium — the proud to be humbled at the Savior's Second Coming.

1 The thing that Isaiah the son of Amoz foresaw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

2 ::And in the last days:the mountain of the LORD's house will be established

::in the tops of the mountains.:It shall be lifted up above the hills.

::All nations shall flow^h unto it.

3 Tons of people will walk to it and say,

::"Come, and let us ascend unto the LORD's mountain — :to the house of the God of Jacob.

::He will teach us of His ways.:We will walk in His pathsⁱ

::For the law^j goes forth from Zion:and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem."

4 He shall judge among the nations;; He's arbitrates between many people.

::They'll forge ploughshares from their swords:and pruning hooks from their spears.

::One nation shall not lift its sword against another,;neither shall they learn warfare anymore.

^aTin is useful. It is used to make brass (a copper and tin alloy). One of the symbolism here is that although tin is useful, the Lord has a greater plan in mind for each of us. Therefore, we need to listen to Him and do as He commands although we may think that what we are doing in lieu of obeying is important and useful.

^breturn

^crescued ones, captives

^di.e., they are also redeemed

^eIdols used for fertility worship.

^fgardens

^gSynonymous to oakum (n): Loose fiber from untwisted rope, used esp. to caulk wooden ships.

^hLike a river

ⁱTheologically it should be "path"

^jteaching, instruction. Traditionally rendered "law"

5 ::Come, O house of Jacob, that we may walk in the LORD's light.	16 ^e Upon the ships of Tarshish ^f and upon the ships all the beautiful vessels. ^g
6 :For you have left your people — the house of Jacob — to themselves	17
:because they've been filled ^a from the east — :they're sorcerers like the Philistines.	18
:They please themselves ^b with foreigner's ^c children. ^d	19
7 :Their land is full of silver and gold — :there is no end to their treasures.	20
:Their land is full of horses — :there is no end to their chariots.	21
8 :Their land is full of idols	22
:They bow down before the work of their own hands — :that which their fingers have made.	
9 The low shall be bowed down; the haughty humbled. :Don't forgive them.	
10 Enter into a boulder, :hide in the dust,	
:from before the LORD's face and the glory of His majesty.	
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^aPossibly missing "with superstition." i.e., "filled with superstition from the east." There is no expressly-stated object

^bOr "clasp hands" or "make sufficient"

^cOutsiders of Israel — foreigners, infidels, pagans, etc.

^dThis is to be understood in a sexual context

^eSee Appendix B.1

^fGoing to Tarshish. Either in Asia Minor (where Paul was from) or in present-day Spain

^gexcellent ships

Jeremiah

Jeremiah 3

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TEXT.

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16 And it shall be that when you have multiplied and become fruitful in the land: in those days (*this is* the declaration^a of the LORD) they shall no more say, “The Ark of the Covenant of the LORD,” neither shall it come to mind, nor shall they remember it, nor give heed unto it — it shall not be done anymore.

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^autterance, revelation

Daniel

Daniel 2

xxxx — *Daniel interprets the king's dream* — *Nebuchadnezzar praises the God of Heaven* — *Daniel is promoted and made great in the land.*

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35 xxxx such that no trace of them could be found. However, the stone that struck the image because a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

36 This was the dream. We will now tell its interpretation before the king.

37 You, O king, king of kings to whom the God of Heaven has given the kingdom, might, power, and glory.

38 Wherever the sons of men dwell, He has given the beasts of the field and the birds in the air into your hand, and caused you to rule over all of them: you are the head of gold.

39 Another, lower kingdom shall arise after you. And yet another (third) kingdom of bronze shall rule over all the earth.

40 Then there shall be a fourth kingdom — strong as iron — which

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shall arise. It shall break to pieces and shatter all things because it's iron. And like iron, which crushes all these, it shall break and crush.

41 The part made of potter's clay with part iron feet and toes which you saw, it shall be a divided kingdom. But some of the firmness of iron shall be in it — as you saw — iron mixed with miry clay.

42 The partially iron and partially clay toes of the feet mean that the kingdom shall be part strong and part brittle.

43 The iron mixed with miry clay which you saw, they shall mix offspring, but they will not hold together: just as iron does not mix with clay.

44 In those kings' days, the God of Heaven will set up a kingdom and a sovereignty which shall never be destroyed. It shall not be left to another people. It shall break in pieces and bring to an end all of those kingdoms. Yea, it shall live forever.

45 Just as you saw a stone that was cut from the mountain, but not by hands, and it broke the iron, bronze, clay, silver, and gold in pieces, a great God has made known to the king what shall be hereafter: the dream is certain and its interpretation is sure."

46 Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face and payed homage to Daniel and commanded that an offering of incense be offered to him.

47 The king answered and said to Daniel, "Truly your God is a God of gods, a lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery!"

48 The king then made Daniel great, gave him many great gifts, and made him a ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon.

49 Daniel requested the king that he appoint Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego over the affairs of the province. And Daniel was in the court of the king.

Daniel 3

TEXT.

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13 Nebuchadnezzar, in a furious rage, commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego should be brought in, and those men were brought in before the king.

14 And answering,^a Nebuchadnezzar

^a Answering what?

zar said to them, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: is it true that you do not serve my gods nor worship the golden image which I have set up?

15 Now, if you’re ready, when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and ever sound of music, fall down and worship the image which I have set up. However, if you do not immediately worship, you shall be cast in the the midst of the burning, fiery furnace. And who is ‘God’ that he shall deliver you out of my hands?”

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “We have no need to answer you in this matter.

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Obadiah

TEXT.

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21 And saviors shall go up on
Mount Zion To judge Mount Esau.
And the kingdom shall be the LORD's.

Zephaniah

Zephaniah 1

TEXT.

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2 ::I will totally destroy every-
thing :from off the face of the land
:dictates the LORD.

3 ::I will destroy man and beast,
:the birds in the sky, :and the fish in
the sea.

::The stumbling blocks (the wicked)
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Malachi

Malachi 3

TEXT.

1 "Behold, I will send My messenger And He shall prepare a way before me.

:He shall enter His temple suddenly:
The Lord whom you seek.

::The angel of the covenant in whom
ye delight — Behold! He cometh,"
saith the LORD of Hosts.

2 "But who shall endure^a the
day of His coming? Who shall be
standing when He appears?

:For He is like refiner's fire And fuller's
lye.

3 For He shall sit as a refiner and
purifier of silver and He shall purify
the children of Levi and purge them
as gold and silver. And they shall
be an offering unto the LORD in
righteousness.

4 Judah and Jerusalem shall be
a sweet savor unto the LORD even
as in days of old — as in previous
years.

5 I have drawn near unto you
for judgment, And I have been a
hasteful witness

:Against the sorcerers and adulterers,
Against those who swear falsely,

^aabide, live through

:And against those who monetarily
extort their employees,^b Widows,
orphans, those who turn away the
resident aliens,
And they who do not fear me," saith
the LORD of Hosts.

6 "For I, the LORD, have not
changed. And ye, children of Jacob,
have not been consumed.

7 Even from your fathers' days
have ye shied^c from my statutes And
not taken heed.

:Turn you back on me and I will turn
my back on you," Saith the LORD of
Hosts.

:“Yet ye say, ‘In what way do we turn
away?’

8 “Does man deceive God? Be-
cause you have been deceiving me.
But you say, ‘How have we been
deceiving you?’ By tithes and
offerings.

9 Ye are cursed with a curse
for deceiving me, even this whole
nation.

10 Bring in all of the tithes Into
the storehouse. There is food in My
house.

:Please, try me on this," Saith the
LORD of Hosts,

^bOppressors of their hireling's wages

^cturned away/aside

:“If I will not open the windows of heaven for you And empty out upon you a blessing *ad infinitum*.

11 I will rebuke the devourer for your sake: He shall not destroy the fruit of thy land,

:Neither shall your vine cast its fruit before its time in the field,” Saith the LORD of Hosts.

12 “All of the gentile nations shall call you blessed For you shall be a delightful land,”

:Saith the LORD of Hosts.

13 “Your words have been harsh against me,” Saith the LORD.

:“Yet ye say, ‘How have we spoken against thee?’

14 “Ye say, ‘It is vain to serve God. And what profit is there in keeping His charges

:And walking walking mournfully Before the LORD of Hosts?

15 And now do we declare The proud happy.

:Moreover, we build up those who work iniquity^a And tempt God and escape.”

16 Then those that feared the LORD spoke One to another And the LORD observed and heart it.

:And a book of remembrance was written before Him For they who revered the LORD and that pondered His name.

17 “They shall be to me,” Saith the LORD of Hosts, “In the day I shall appoint, a peculiar treasure.

:And I shall have pity on them, even as

one has pity On his son who serves him.

18 And ye have repented and considered between righteousness and wickedness — Between the servant of God and the he who is not His servant.”

Malachi 4

TEXT.

1 For behold! the day comes — Burning as a furnace: All the proud And all that work wickedness shall be stubble.

:“The day that is coming shall burn them up,” saith the LORD of Hosts. “It shall leave them neither Root nor branch.

2 “The Sun of Righteousness hath risen Unto those^b who fear My name with healing in His wings.

:And ye shall go forth. You shall grow up As calves of the stall.

3 Ye shall tread down the wicked for they shall be ashes Under the soles of thine feet

:In the day that I shall do this,” Saith the LORD of Hosts.

4 “Remember the Law of Moses, my servant, That I commanded him ::In Horeb for all Israel: The judgments and statutes.

5 Behold! I will send unto you Elijah the prophet :Before the advent of the Great and dreadful day of the LORD.

^ado wickedness

^byou

6 He shall turn the fathers' hearts
unto the children And the children's
hearts unto their fathers
:Otherwise I will come and smite The
earth with a curse."

Appendix A: Notes on Psalm 110

Psalm 110 deals with the endowment of a king in ancient Israel. Kings and prophets were in different orders of Priesthood, kings having a higher order. What is interesting about this is that the difference between becoming a king or a priest (the rites, at least) are not very different.

It is assumed that David wrote this psalm before he was crowned (i.e., when Saul was king). As a side note, one remarkable thing about David is that he was consistently obedient to the crown: he served the position, not the person.

The Aaronic, or Levitical, Priesthood was known anciently as כֹּהֵנָה.^a This priesthood was for Aaron and his descendants: “And Aaron and his sons shalt thou appoint that they may attend to their priest’s office” (Numbers 3:10, DARBY). However, the higher priesthood, דְּבָרָה,^b was given to prophets and kings. The assumption is that all who reigned in Israel had this latter order of priesthood.

This higher authority allowed those in its possession to enter the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies without particular regard to worthiness (as compared to those of the Aaronic order who had to be ritualistically and ethically clean among other prerequisites). However, an interesting story is found in 2 Chronicles chapter 26 where king Uzziah (the ruler at the time of Isaiah) assumed that he had this authority and walked into the Holy of Holies^c and got leprosy.^d One possible explanation for this is that Uzziah was king of Judah, not Israel, and this may not have been sufficient for him to be of the higher order of priesthood.

^afrom the root כָּהַן, meaning *priest*

^bAs found in Psalm 110:4 as עַל־דְּבָרָי מְלִי־צֶדֶק

^cWhile it is not explicitly stated in 2 Chronicles 26 that he entered the Holy of Holies, it is stated that he went to burn incense before the Lord — something that was done in the Holy of Holies.

^dMost likely some skin disease (צָרוּעַ) and not necessarily leprosy

Appendix B: Notes on Isaiah

Most prophetic writings are in judgment or hope for the people. They usually are not neutral. One theory postulates that there are two Isaiahs: one comprising Isaiah 1–39 and dealing with judgment, the other Isaiah 40–66 and dealing with hope (and possibly a third comprising just 56–66). However, there is plenty of hope in the first section and plenty of judgment in the second section which may controvert this theory.

Isaiah 2:16


Sailing in antiquity was a dangerous activity — it was taking your life in your hands. Sailors would go as close to the coast as possible so that if the ship breaks up (cf. ??) they could still live through the incident by swimming to shore.

The *Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament* by Koehler and Baumgartner defines שָׂכִיָּה as follows:

Ug. *tkt* (Gordon *Textbook* §19:2680; Aistleitner 2862; Driver *Myths*² 160a; cf. Fisher *Parallels* 2: p. 8 entry 5) < Eg. *skty* ship (Erman-G. 4:315), see Lambdin *Loan Words* 154f; Ellenbogen *Foreign Words* 154; cf. also Wildberger BK 10:94: **ship** Is 2:16. †

The following is from Ellenbogen's *Foreign Words in the Old Testament*:

שָׂכִיָּה – Ships

Egyptian – *sk.tj*  (ship)

Isa. 2:16 -

The LXX translation of the phrase וְעַל כָּל-שָׂכִיָּה חֲמָדָה, which runs: ἐπὶ πᾶσαν θέαν πλοίων κάλλους, is very remarkable; it incorporates both what seems to be the real meaning of the term שָׂכִיָּה, namely, πλοῖον “ship,” and also what is required by the traditional understanding of the word, namely θέα “sight, view.” The Vulgate renders שָׂכִיָּה by *visus*,^a and the Peshitta by “view.” Rashi has a note saying that שָׂכִיָּה refers to palaces whose floors are paved with marble mosaics. This seems to be purely conjectural, and possibly based on the Targum’s rendering of the term (בִּרְנָתָא “castle”).

^aProb. “views”

The Verses Isa. 2:13, 14, 15, and 17 contain parallelisms, so it would appear reasonable to assume that Verse 2:16 also contains a parallelism that would match the word **אניות** “ships,” so Budde-Begrich (ZATW 49, p.198) are apparently right in seeing in Hebrew **שכיות** the borrowed Egyptian term *śk.tj*, a word which is attested from the days of the New Kingdom. [See Erman-Grapow, WB IV, p.315.] The Egyptian derivation of **שכיות** was also accepted by Albright (Bertholet Festschrift, p.5) who mentions that H.L. Ginsberg identifies Ugaritic tkt with Hebrew **שכיות**.

Appendix C: Aramaic in the Old Testament

Appendix D: Covenants in Antiquity

יָדַע — to know

The verb יָדַע has three senses in BH. First, it means “to know (a fact).”; for instance, “To know the time.” Second, it is used with a sexual connotation (to have sexual relations). Lastly, it is used in a covenantal sense — to enter a covenant (or treaty) with someone. Examples of this usage include:

- “And there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not *know* Joseph” (Exodus 1:8, DARBY, emphasis added). In other words, a king came to succession who had not covenanted with Joseph: “I didn’t know him, so all bets are off.”
- “Before I formed thee in the belly I *knew* thee” (Jeremiah 1:4, DARBY, emphasis added).
- “[A]nd then will I avow unto them, I never *knew* you” (Matthew 7:23, DARBY, emphasis added).
- “...if thou art God, wilt thou make thyself known unto me, and I will give away all my sins to *know* thee” (Alma 22:18, emphasis added).

BH does not have a sense of *connaître*.^a The closest to that sense is נָכַר which means, in the hiphil, *to be acquainted*.

In ancient Israelite marriages, covenants were made to God, *not* to the other person. Therefore, the breaker of the covenant must answer to God.

Oath taking syntax

The syntax of oath taking:

“I will not give your grain any longer as food for your enemies” is literally “*If* I give your food to your enemies *and* [understood: you will kill me].”

“If I don’t do this, may my throat be slit just as the throat of this animal.”

cf. Alma 46:22–24. “Preserved” is a Muslim, not an Israelite, tradition.

^aFr. “to know (a person)”

Appendix E: Names of the Lord

The Tetragrammaton

Etymology

To help prevent people from speaking the ineffable name of God, the Tetragrammaton was sometimes voweled with the same vowel points as אֲדֹנָי (Adonai). More commonly it is written יהוה.

The English transliteration is Jehovah. The ך was substituted for a *j* because *y* is a weak phoneme. The ך, anciently pronounced as *w* was changed to the stronger *v*. These changes making Jehovah out of Yahweh.

Sanctity

Ezra is one of the founders of modern Judaism — an ethnic religion practiced by a monotheistic people, the Judahites. It is the only surviving ethnic religion in the world besides Hinduism. This religion observed the sanctity of the Tetragrammaton by not pronouncing it. This practice became so strong that individuals who pronounced it would be put to death. The Romans allowed the Jews to stone those who uttered the ineffable name. Christ may very well have pronounced this when He declared, “Before Abraham was I AM” (John 8:58).

This practice continued through the 5th and 6th centuries AD. It is still considered sacrilegious by very observant Jews, so much so that even אֱלֹהִים is pronounced by Hasidic Jews as אֱלֹקִים. In writing, “G-d” or “G_d” is substituted for “God.” However, this practice is not peculiar to Judaism as Parley P. Pratt would write “G-d” when quoting blasphemers.

When reading, observant Jews will say “Adonai” (master, master of the universe, master of an individual) or “Hashem” (lit., the name) in place of Yahweh.

Some Orthodox Jews will not write יהוה because things containing this cannot be burned, erased, or destroyed. For this reason there is a place in the synagogue known as the גִּנְזָה (genizah, pl. genizot) which is used for the disposal of sacred writings. Unfortunately, many גִּנְזוֹת were destroyed in the Middle Ages by fire (either arson or accidental). Fortunately, the גִּנְזָה in the ben-Asher synagogue in Cairo, Egypt (built in the 10th century AD) has never burned. The Damascus scroll, likely part of the Dead Sea

Scrolls, was found there because some of the documents belonging to the Qumran community were left there.

Sometimes, especially in the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Tetragrammaton is rendered in the Paleo-Hebrew: 𐤄𐤔𐤕𐤁 .

Ahman

Not much is known on this name. What follows is only preliminary work^a and is in no way meant to be authoritative.

Ahman, possibly related to אֱמֵן , meaning *to be true, to be faithful, or to be realized*. May also refer to *faith* or *veracity*.

Could possibly be related to the Book of Mormon name אֱמֵנִי (Omni) which means either *faith in me* or *my faith*, אֱמֵנִי being either a subjective or objective genitive.

^aFrom Professor Stephen D. Ricks in Heb 432R (Biblical Hebrew Syntax), Summer term 2013.