

down alive into hell, you shall know that they have blasphemed the Lord.

**31** And immediately as he had made an end of speaking, the earth broke asunder under their feet:

**32** And opening her mouth, devoured them with their tents and all their substance.

**33** And they went down alive into hell, the ground closing upon them, and they perished from among the people.

**34** But all Israel, that was standing round about, fled at the cry of them that were perishing: saying: Lest perhaps the earth swallow us up also.

**35** And a fire coming out from the Lord, destroyed the two hundred and fifty men that offered the incense.

**36** And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying:

**37** Command Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest to take up the censers that lie in the burning, and to scatter the fire of one side and the other: because they are sanctified

**38** In the deaths of the sinners: and let him beat them into plates, and fasten them to the altar, because incense hath been offered in them to the Lord, and they are sanctified, that the children of Israel may see them for a sign and a memorial.

**39** Then Eleazar the priest took the brazen censers, wherein they had offered, whom the burning fire had devoured, and beat them into plates, fastening them to the altar:

**40** That the children of Israel might have for the time to come wherewith they should be admonished, that no stranger or any one that is not of the seed of Aaron should come near to offer incense to the Lord, lest he should suffer as Core suffered, and all his congregation, according as the Lord spoke to Moses.

**41** The following day all the multitude of the

children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron, saying: You have killed the people of the Lord.

**42** And when there arose a sedition, and the tumult increased,

**43** Moses and Aaron fled to the tabernacle of the covenant. And when they were gone into it, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the Lord appeared.

**44** And the Lord said to Moses:

**45** Get you out from the midst of this multitude, this moment will I destroy them. And as they were lying on the ground,

**46** Moses said to Aaron: Take the censer, and putting fire in it from the altar, put incense upon it, and go quickly to the people to pray for them: for already wrath is gone out from the Lord, and the plague rageth.

**47** When Aaron had done this, and had run to the midst of the multitude which the burning fire was now destroying, he offered the incense:

**48** And standing between the dead and the living, he prayed for the people, and the plague ceased.

**49** And the number of them that were slain was fourteen thousand and seven hundred men, besides them that had perished in the sedition of Core.

**50** And Aaron returned to Moses to the door of the tabernacle of the covenant after the destruction was over.

## Chapter 17

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying:

**2** Speak to the children of Israel, and take of every one of them a rod by their kindreds, of all the princes of the tribes, twelve rods, and write the name of every man upon his rod.

**3** And the name of Aaron shall be for the tribe of Levi, and one rod shall contain all their families:

**4** And thou shalt lay them up in the tabernacle of the covenant before the testimony, where I will speak to thee.

**5** Whomsoever of these I shall choose, his rod shall blossom: and I will make to cease from me the murmurings of the children of Israel, wherewith they murmur against you.

**6** And Moses spoke to the children of Israel: and all the princes gave him rods one for every tribe: and there were twelve rods besides the rod of Aaron.

**7** And when Moses had Laid them up before the Lord in the tabernacle of the testimony:

**8** He returned on the following day, and found that the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi, was budded: and that the buds swelling it hid bloomed blossoms, which spreading the leaves, were formed into almonds.

**9** Moses therefore brought out all the rods from before the Lord to all the children of Israel: and they saw, and every one received their rods.

**10** And the Lord said to Moses: Carry back the rod of Aaron into the tabernacle of the testimony, that it may be kept there for a token of the rebellious children of Israel, and that their complaints may cease from me lest they die.

**11** And Moses did as the Lord had commanded.

**12** And the children of Israel said to Moses: Behold we are consumed, we all perish.

**13** Whosoever approacheth to the tabernacle of the Lord, he dieth. Are we all to a man to be utterly destroyed?

## Chapter 18

And the Lord said to Aaron: Thou, and thy sons, and thy father's house with thee shall bear the iniquity of the sanctuary: and thou and thy sons with thee shall bear the sins of your priesthood.

**2** And take with thee thy brethren also of the tribe of Levi, and the sceptre of thy father, and let them be ready in hand, and minister to thee: but thou and thy sons shall minister in the tabernacle of the testimony.

**3** And the Levites shall watch to do thy commands, and about all the works of the tabernacle: only they shall not come nigh the vessels of the sanctuary nor the altar, lest both they die, and you also perish with them.

**4** But let them be with thee, and watch in the charge of the tabernacle, and in all the ceremonies thereof. A stranger shall not join himself with you.

**5** Watch ye in the charge of the sanctuary, and in the ministry of the altar: lest indignation rise upon the children of Israel.

**6** I have given you your brethren the Levites from among the children of Israel, and have delivered them for a gift to the Lord, to serve in the ministries of the tabernacle.

**7** But thou and thy sons look ye to the priesthood: and all things that pertain to the service of the altar, and that are within the veil, shall be executed by the priests. If any stranger shall approach, he shall be slain.

**8** And the Lord said to Aaron: Behold I have given thee the charge of my firstfruits. All things that are sanctified by the children of Israel, I have delivered to thee and to thy sons for the priestly office, by everlasting ordinances.

**9** These therefore shalt thou take of the things that are sanctified, and are offered to the Lord. Every offering, and sacrifice, and whatsoever is

rendered to me for sin and for trespass, and becometh holy of holies, shall be for thee and thy sons.

**10** Thou shalt eat it in the sanctuary: the males only shall eat thereof, because it is a consecrated thing to thee.

**11** But the firstfruits, which the children of Israel shall vow and offer, I have given to thee, and to thy sons, and to thy daughters, by a perpetual law. He that is clean in thy house, shall eat them.

**12** All the best of the oil, and of the wine, and of the corn, whatsoever firstfruits they offer to the Lord, I have given them to thee.

**13** All the firstripe of the fruits, that the ground bringeth forth, and which are brought to the Lord, shall be for thy use: he that is clean in thy house, shall eat them.

**14** Every thing that the children of Israel shall give by vow, shall be thine.

**15** Whatsoever is firstborn of all flesh, which they offer to the Lord, whether it be of men, or of beasts, shall belong to thee: only for the firstborn of man thou shalt take a price, and every beast that is unclean thou shalt cause to be redeemed,

**16** And the redemption of it shall be after one month, for five sicles of silver, by the weight of the sanctuary. A sicle hath twenty obols.

**17** But the firstling of a cow, and of a sheep and of a goat thou shalt not cause to be redeemed, because they are sanctified to the Lord. Their blood only thou shalt pour upon the altar, and their fat thou shalt burn for a most sweet odour to the Lord.

**18** But the flesh shall fall to thy use, as the consecrated breast, and the right shoulder shall be thine.

**19** All the firstfruits of the sanctuary which the children of Israel offer to the Lord, I have

given to thee and to thy sons and daughters, by a perpetual ordinance. It is a covenant of salt for ever before the Lord, to thee and to thy sons.

**20** And the Lord said to Aaron: You shall possess nothing in their land, neither shall you have a portion among them: I am thy portion and inheritance in the midst of the children of Israel.

**21** And I have given to the sons of Levi all the tithes of Israel for a possession, for the ministry wherewith they serve me in the tabernacle of the covenant:

**22** That the children of Israel may not approach any more to the tabernacle, nor commit deadly sin,

**23** But only the sons of Levi may serve me in the tabernacle, and bear the sins of the people. It shall be an everlasting ordinance in your generations. They shall not possess any other thing,

**24** But be content with the oblation or tithes, which I have separated for their uses and necessities.

**25** And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying:

**26** Command the Levites, and declare unto them: When you shall receive of the children of Israel the tithes, which I have given you, offer the firstfruits of them to the Lord, that is to say, the tenth part of the tenth:

**27** That it may be reckoned to you as an oblation of firstfruits, as well of the barnfloors as of the winepresses:

**28** And of all the things of which you receive tithes, offer the firstfruits to the Lord, and give them to Aaron the priest.

**29** All the things that you shall offer of the tithes, and shall separate for the gifts of the Lord, shall be the best and choicest things.

**30** And thou shalt say to them: If you offer all the goodly and the better things of the tithes, it