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Deuteronomy

Introduction

The Greek word ‘Deuteronomy’ means ‘Second law’, because some aspects of God’s instructions in the previous accounts are repeated again in this one, noticeably the Ten Commandments. Hebrew readers call this document ‘Devārim’ which is the second word in the Hebrew text and means ‘Words’ or ‘Things’. Some European and other translations call it ‘The fifth book of Mosheh/Moses’.
This document contains a series of addresses that Mosheh (commonly known in English as Moses) made to the descendants of Yisrael/Israel while they were in the Moav region on the eastern side of the Yarden/Jordan river. They had stopped there for quite a long time after their travelling through the wilderness, and it would soon be time for them to cross the river and enter the ‘promised land’ of Kena’an/Canaan.
Some of the more important points made in this document include: 1. Mosheh’s summary of the history of the Israelis over the previous forty year, and how he requested them to remain loyal and obedient to Yahweh. 2. Mosheh’s retelling of the ‘Ten commands’ and his explanation of the first commands, ensuring that Yisrael’s descendants knew that it was vital to continue serving Yahweh. This also includes the various rules to be obey in Kena’an. 3. Mosheh’s interpretation of the peoples agreement with Yahweh is retold here, and his encouragement to the people to continue to obey that agreement. 4. The selection of Yehoshua/Joshua as the new leader for God’s chosen people group, Mosheh’s song about the joy of serving Yahweh and the blessings for those who obey. Mosheh’s death in Moav is also retold here.
The best known segment of this document is Yahweh’s blessing and cursing of his chosen people depending on the path that they decide to take. If the Israelis would choose to follow Yahweh’s instructions, there was a large blessing to be received, but equally a terrifying curse should they fail to acknowledge what God had done for them.
The most important verses here are 6:4-6, quoted by Yeshua as being the greatest of all commands: You should love your god Yahweh with your whole mind, your entire being, and all your strength.

Main components of this account

Mosheh’s first address *1:1–4:49*
Mosheh’s second address *5:1–26:19*
a. The ten commands *5:1–10:22*
b. Instructions, rules, and warnings *11:1–26:19*
Instructions before entering Kena’an/Canaan *27:1–28:68*
The renewal of the agreement *29:1–30:20*
Mosheh’s final speech *31:1–33:29*
Mosheh’s death *34:1-12*

Lighter type marks additions. Underscores join parts of a single source word.
Struck words are untranslated. The ◘ sign marks a verse with no text.
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Readers' Version

Mosheh's first set of instructions

1:1 These are the messages that Mosheh (Moses) spoke to Yisrael (Israel) back when they were in the wilderness on the eastern side of the Yarden (Jordan) river, in the desert plain opposite Suf between Paran and Tofel, Lavan (Laban), Hatserot, and Di-Zahav. **2** (It takes eleven days to walk from Horev to Kadesh-Barnea via Mt. Se'ir.) **3** Forty years after the Israelis had left Mitsrayim (Egypt) Mosheh passed on to them everything that Yahweh had instructed him **4** after he'd defeated the Amori King Sihon who lived at Heshbon, and Bashan King Og who lived at Ashtarot in Edre'i.[1] **5** On the eastern side of the Yarden river in the Moav (Moab) region, Mosheh began explaining those instructions, saying,

The removal of Yisrael's descendants from Sinay

6 "Our God Yahweh spoke to us at Horev, saying: You've camped here long enough at this mountain. **7** Now, pack up and travel to the Amori hill country and the surrounding areas and the river plain, the lowlands and the southern wilderness, the coastal plain, all of Kena'an (Canaan), and Levanon as far north-east as the Perat (Euphrates) river. **8** Listen, that area of land ahead of you, I've given to you. Go ahead and take possession that land that Yahweh promised to your ancestors Avraham, Yitshak (Isaac), and Ya'akov (Jacob). He promised to give it to them and to their descendants."

Mosheh appoints leaders[2]

9 Then Mosheh (Moses) said, "I told you at that time that I wasn't able to govern all of you by myself **10** because your god Yahweh has multiplied you, and wow, now you're as numerous as the stars in the sky. **11** May your ancestors' god Yahweh increase you all a thousand times more and bless you all as he's promised **12** but how could I possibly bear all your loads and burdens and disputes by myself? **13** So nominate some men from your tribes who I can appoint as your leaders—men who are sensible and wise, and respected by the people, **14** and your parents agreed with that suggestion. **15** So I took those wise, respected men and appointed them to be your leaders—leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens. I also appointed some as your tribal officials. **16** Then I instructed your new leaders telling them to listen carefully to both sides of disputes and make fair and honest judgements in conflicts involving either Israelis or foreigners. **17** Don't show partiality when you're making a judgement—treat important people just the same as the others. Don't worry about what people will think because fair judgement is a godly activity. And if any matter is too difficult, bring it to me for a decision. **18** I also gave you all other instructions at that time.

The spies[3]

19 "Then we left Horev and went through that wide and dangerous wilderness that you saw on the way to the Amori hill country as our god Yahweh had instructed us, eventually arriving at Kadesh-Barnea. **20** Then I told you all, 'You've all come to the Amori hill country, which our god Yahweh is giving us. **21** Look, your god Yahweh has given you[4] the land that's in front of you, so go ahead and take possession of it as Yahweh, your ancestors' god has told you. Don't be afraid and don't be discouraged.' **22** Then you all approached me and suggested, 'We should send some men ahead of us to scout out the place, and they can return and tell us the best way to get inside those cities.' **23** That sounded good to me, so I took one man from each of the twelve tribes **24** and they went up into the hill country as far as the Eshkol valley, and the scouted it out. **25** They picked some fruit from there and brought it back to us, and reported that the land that our god Yahweh is giving us was very good.

26 "But your parents were unwilling to proceed and rebelled against your god Yahweh's command.[5] **27** So you all grumbled in your tents, saying that it was because Yahweh hated us that he brought us out of Mitsrayim (Egypt) to hand us over to the Amorim to be destroyed. **28** You said that you all didn't want to enter because the people were so tall and strong and their cities were fortified and powerful with very high walls around them.

29 "Then I told your parents, 'Don't be terrified or afraid of them. **30** Your god Yahweh who goes ahead of you, he'll fight for you just like everything you saw him do in Mitsrayim **31** and in the wilderness, where you saw how your god Yahweh carried you like a father carries his son—getting you through that difficult region until you all eventually arrived here.'[6] **32** However, you all didn't believe your god Yahweh[7] **33** who had gone ahead of you to find a good place for you all to make your camp—using fire at night to show you all the way, and cloud in the daytime.

Yisrael's punishment[8]

34 "Yahweh heard those complaints and got angry and made this promise,[9]

1 **RV 1:4 · Cross-ref.** Num 21:21-35.

2 **RV 1:9 · Parallel** Exo. 18:13-27

3 **RV 1:19 · Parallel** Num. 13:1-33

4 **RV 1:21 · Note** The you**(pl)** in the previous verse has switched to you**(sg)** here.

5 **RV 1:26 · Cross-ref.** Deu 9:23; Heb 3:16.

6 **RV 1:31 · Cross-ref.** Acts 13:18.

7 **RV 1:32 · Cross-ref.** Heb 3:19.

8 **RV 1:34 · Parallel** Num. 14:20-45

9 **RV 1:34-35 · Cross-ref.** Heb 3:18.

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35 'None of the men of this evil generation will get to enter
the good land that I promised to give to your ancestors
36 apart from Yefuneh's son Kalev (Caleb)—he can enter it
and I'll give him and his sons the land that he scouted out
because he followed Yahweh whole-heartedly.' 37 Yahweh
was also angry at me because of you all, and told me that I
also wouldn't be able to enter, 38 but that Nun's son
Yehoshua (Joshua) who was standing there in front of me,
would be the one to lead Yisrael (Israel) to possess the land.
39 "Your children that you thought would be taken captive,
and your young sons who don't yet know right from wrong,
they'll be the ones to enter the land, and I'll give it to them,
and it'll become theirs. 40 But you yourselves need to turn
around and go back into the wilderness in the direction of
the Red Sea.
41 "but they all answered and admitted, 'Yes, we've sinned
against Yahweh, but now we'll fix that by going in to fight
and do everything that our god Yahweh has commanded us.'
So every man strapped on his weapons—now thinking it
would be easy to take over the hill country.
42 "But Yahweh told me to warn them not to go ahead and
fight because he wouldn't help them, and so they'd end up
being defeated by their enemies if they proceeded. 43 So I
told your parents that, but they wouldn't listen—they re-
belled against Yahweh and arrogantly marched up into the
hill country 44 where the Amorim who lived there came out
against them, and chased them like bees and made the war-
riors scatter in Se'ir as far as Hormah. 45 So your parents re-
turned and wept in front of Yahweh, but he didn't pay any
attention to them. 46 So that's why we stayed at
Kadesh-Barnea for as long as we all did.

Yisrael's wanderings in the wilderness

2:1 "Then we turned and went back
into the wilderness towards the Red
Sea as Yahweh had told us to do,[10] and we spent a long time
wandering around Mt. Se'ir.
2 "Then Yahweh told me, 3 'You've all been wandering
around this hilly area for long enough—now turn and go to-
wards the north 4 and tell the people, "You'll all be crossing
the border into Se'ir where your relatives, Esav's (Esau's) de-
scendants, live.[11] They'll be afraid of you but you'll all need
to stay very alert. 5 Don't attack them because I won't give
you any of their land—not even a footprint size piece be-
cause I've given Mt. Se'ir to Esav as their inheritance. 6 Any
food or drink you get from them must be paid for with cash
7 because your god Yahweh has blessed all of your
labour—he's always been aware of your travel through that
vast wilderness. Your god Yahweh has helped you for those
forty years so you've all had everything you need." '
8 "So we passed by our relatives, Esav's descendants who
live in Se'ir. We travelled along the Yarden (Jordan) valley
plain from Eylot and Etsyon-Gever, then north through the
Moav (Moab) wilderness. 9 Then Yahweh told me, 'Don't ag-
gravate Moav, and don't attack them, because I won't give
you any of their land because I've given Ar to the sons of Lot,
as a possession.' "[12]

The tribes near Kena'an

10 (The Emim had lived their previ-
ously—there were many of them, and
they were tall and strong like the Anakim. 11 People also call
both the Emim and the Anakim, Refaim but the people of
Moav (Moab) call them Emim. 12 The Horim had previously
lived in Se'ir, but Esav's (Esau's) descendants had killed them
and taken over their land, just like the Israelis did later in
the land that Yahweh had given them to possess.)
13 "Then we crossed the Zered brook as Yahweh had told us
to do. 14 It had been thirty-eight years since we first left
Kadesh-Barnea until we cross the Zered brook, once that
generation of warriors had died off, just as Yahweh had told
them.[13] 15 What's more, Yahweh had opposed them, so he'd
caused them to die.
16 "After all the enlistment-aged men had died, 17 Yahweh
told me, 18 'Today you must travel through the Moav region,
near Ar, 19 and when you approach the Amoni region, don't
irritate or fight them because I won't give you any of their
land because I've given it to Lot's descendants as a posses-
sion.' "[14]
20 (Also, it's regarded as the land of the Refaim, who the
Amonim call the Zamzumim, who lived there in the past.
21 They were as numerous, and as tall and strong as the
Anakim, but Yahweh destroyed them in advance of the
Anakim who then dispossessed them and lived in their place.
22 He had done the same thing for Esav's (Esau's) descen-
dants who live in Se'ir, when he destroyed the Horim ahead
of them, and they took over their land and still live there to
this day. 23 Also the Avim who lived in villages as far south as
Azah (Gaza) were destroyed by the Kaftorim who came from
Kraitai (Crete), and then lived in their place.)
24 "Yahweh had told us, 'Get ready now and go through the
Arnon river valley. I'll help you defeat the Amori King Sihon
from Heshbon. Attack him and begin to take over his land.
25 Beginning today, I'll make everyone, everywhere afraid of
you. Everyone who hears about you will be terrified and keep
their distance from you.'

10 **RV 2:1 · Cross-ref.** Num 21:4.
11 **RV 2:4 · Cross-ref.** Gen 36:8.
12 **RV 2:9 · Cross-ref.** Gen 19:37.
13 **RV 2:14 · Cross-ref.** Num 14:28-35.
14 **RV 2:19 · Cross-ref.** Gen 19:38.

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Defeat of King Sihon[15]

26 "Then from the Kedemot wilderness, I sent messengers to King Sihon
at Heshbon with an offer of peace, 27 'Please let us travel
through your country. We'll stay on the road 28 if you'd be
able to just sell us some food and water, then we could just
walk right through 29 until we cross the Yarden (Jordan)
river into the land that our god Yahweh is giving us. Esav's
(Esau's) descendants at Se'ir allowed us through, as did the
Moavim at Ar.'
30 "However, Heshbon's King Sihon wouldn't let us go
through his country because your god Yahweh had hardened
his spirit and made him stubborn so that you could take his
land, which we still have to this day.
31 "Yahweh told me, 'Listen, I've begun to give Sihon and
his land to you, so enter it and take it. 32 Then King Sihon
and all his warriors came out against us at Yahats, 33 but our
god Yahweh helped us to defeat him, and we killed Sihon and
his son, and all his people. 34 We captured all his cities at
that time, and completely destroyed men, women and chil-
dren in every city, leaving no survivors. 35 Only the cattle
were taken as plunder for ourselves, along with the goods in
the cities we captured. 36 Our god Yahweh helped us to cap-
ture all their towns from Aroer in the south at the edge of
the Arnon River valley, to the Gilead region in the
north—none of their city walls were too high for us. 37 How-
ever, you didn't go near the Amoni region, the Yabok river
area, the hill country towns, or any other place where our
god Yahweh told us not to go.

The defeat of Bashan's King Og[16]

3:1 "Then we turned and went to-
wards the Bashan region but King Og
came out with all his warriors to battle against us at Edre'i,
2 but Yahweh told me, 'Don't be afraid of him, because I've
given him and all his people and his land over to you, and
you'll do the same to him that you did to the Amori King Si-
hon who lived at Heshbon.'
3 "So our god Yahweh also helped us defeat Bashan's King
Og and all his people, and we killed them all leaving no sur-
vivors. 4 We captured all sixty of King Og's cities in the Argov
region of Bashan, 5 even though they were all fortified with
high walls and gates with bars. In addition, there were many
rural villages. 6 We completely destroyed them like we'd
done to Heshbon's King Sihon—men, women, and children,
7 but we plundered all the cattle and the spoil from the cities
for ourselves.
8 So at that time, we took the land from two of the Amori
kings across on the eastern side of the Yarden (Jordan), from
the Arnon River in the south, up to Mt. Hermon in the north
9 (called Mt. Siryon by the Tsidonim (Sidonians), and Mt.
Senir by the Amorim). 10 We captured all the cities on the
plain and all of the Gilead region, as well as Bashan as far
east as Salkah and Edre'i cities, which also belonged to Og's
kingdom." 11 (Bashan's King Og was the last king who was a
descendant of the Refaim. His bed (in Rabah in the Amoni re-
gion) was made out of iron and was four metres long and two
metres wide.)

Land division on the eastern side[17]

12 "So we captured that land at that
time—from Aroer by the Arnon river,
and half of the hill country of Gilead including its cities. I al-
located those areas to the tribes of Re'uven and Gad. 13 Then
the rest of Gilead and all of Bashan which had been Og's
kingdom, I allocated to half of the tribe of Menasheh (Man-
asseh)."
(That whole area is called the land of the Refaim.
14 Menasheh's son Yair had captured the Argov region as far
as the borders with the Geshurim and Ma'akatim, renaming
Bashan to Havot-Ya'ir as it's still called to this day.)
15 "Then I allocated Gilead to Makir (a clan descended from
Menasheh), 16 and I gave the southern part of Gilead to the
tribes of Re'uven and Gad, extending from the Arnon river
(with the middle of it being the boundary) to the Yabok river
which borders against the Amonim. 17 The border extends
from the plain along the east side of the Yarden (Jordan) val-
ley, from Lake Kineret in the north to the Aravah lake (the
Salt Sea or Dead Sea) in the south and to the slopes of Mt.
Pisgah on the east.
18 "Then at that time, I commanded you saying, 'Your god
Yahweh has given this land to you to possess it, however
your brave warriors must cross over with the other Israeli
tribes to help them conquer the western lands.[18] 19 Leave
your wives and children and cattle (yes, I know you have
many cattle) back here in the cities that I've given you 20 un-
til Yahweh gives peace to your brother tribes like you have
here. Once they've taken possession of the land that your
god Yahweh is given them across the river, then you'll all be
able to return her to your own inheritance that I've allocated
to you.'
21 "I also instructed Yehoshua (Joshua) at that time, saying,
'You've seen everything that your god Yahweh has done to
those two kings. Yahweh will do similar things to all the
kingdoms that you'll be passing through over there. 22 Don't
be afraid of them, because your god Yahweh will be the one
fighting for you all.

Mosheh is not permitted to enter Kena'an

23 "At that time, I pleaded with Yah-
weh, 24 'My master Yahweh, you've be-
gun to show your servant your great-
ness and your power. What other god in heaven or on earth

15 **RV 2:26 · Parallel** Num. 21:21-30
16 **RV 3:1 · Parallel** Num. 21:31-35
17 **RV 3:12 · Parallel** Num. 32:1-42
18 **RV 3:18-20 · Cross-ref.** Josh 1:12-15.

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is there that does works as great and powerful as what you've done? 25 Please let me cross the Yarden (Jordan) river and see the good land that's on the other side—that good hill country, and the Levanon region.'

26 "But Yahweh was angry at me because of what your parents had done, and he wouldn't listen to me. Instead, Yahweh told me, 'Enough from you—don't talk to me about that again! 27 Go up to the top of Mt. Pisgah and look out towards the west and the north and the south and the east. Yes, look with your eyes, because you won't be crossing this river. 28 Instruct Yehoshua (Joshua) and encourage him and strengthen him, because he's the one who'll lead the people across, and he'll lead them to inherit the land that you'll see.' 29 So we remained in the Yarden river valley opposite Beyt-Pe'or.

Mosheh encourages Yisrael to obey

4:1 "Now Yisrael (Israel), listen to the instructions and regulations that I'll teach you so that you'll all go and possess the land that Yahweh, the god of your ancestors, is giving you, and live there. 2 Don't add or subtract from what I tell you,[19] because you all need to follow the instructions from your god Yahweh that I'm telling you. 3 You've all seen for yourselves what your god Yahweh did at Beyt-Pe'or, when he destroyed all the men who worshipped Ba'al there.[20] 4 However, all of you who faithfully continued to follow your god Yahweh are alive here today.

5 "Listen, I've taught you all the instructions and regulations that my god Yahweh commanded me to, for you all to follow in the land that you're about to enter and occupy. 6 Follow them faithfully because that will lead to wisdom such that people in other countries will notice that this great nation has wisdom and understanding. 7 What other great nation is there that has a god near to it like our god Yahweh is whenever we call out to him for help? 8 Also, what other nation has rules and regulations that are as sensible and fair as these instructions that I'm giving to you all today?

9 "But each of you must take care to guard yourself and your values in case you forget that you've seen and those past miracles slip from your minds over the years to come. Yes, make sure that you teach them to your children and your grand-children, 10 including the day when you stood in our god Yahweh's presence at Mt. Sinay (Horev) when he told me, 'Assemble the people for me, and I'll make it so they can hear my words, so they'll learn to honour and respect for their entire lifetimes, and then teach it to their children.'

11 "So you all approached the mountain and stood at its base while it blazed with fire that went up into the atmosphere even though the mountain was covered with dark, gloomy clouds.[21] 12 Then Yahweh spoke to you from the middle of the flames—you heard the voice even though you couldn't see anyone, 13 and he revealed to you the agreement that he demands you keep: the ten commands that he wrote onto two stone tablets.[22] 14 At that time, Yahweh told me to teach you all the instructions and regulations[23] so you'd be able to put them into practice in the land that you're about to enter and occupy.

Warnings about false gods

15 Now remembering that you didn't see any form at Mt. Sinay (Horev) when Yahweh spoke to you all from the middle of the fire, 16 so don't corrupt yourselves by making an idol to be your god—don't make anything in the likeness of a man or a woman,[24] 17 or of any animal that's on the earth or bird that flies in the sky,[25] 18 or any reptile that creeps along the ground or any fish from the deep oceans. 19 Don't look up to the sky and be tempted to bow down to the sun or the moon or the stars and serve them—your god Yahweh made them to serve every people group in the world. 20 Yahweh has brought you all out of the iron-smelting furnace of Mitsrayim (Egypt) to be a people that would belong to him (as you are today),[26] 21 but then Yahweh got angry at me because of your parents and determined that I would never enter the land that he's giving to all of you.[27] 22 Instead, I'll die here in this place. I won't cross the Yarden (Jordan) river, but you will, and then you'll all take possession of that good land. 23 Take great care that you all don't forget the agreement with your god Yahweh. Don't make any idols for yourselves in the form of anything that your god Yahweh has ordered you all not to, 24 because your god Yahweh is a consuming fire[28]—he's a god who gets jealous.

25 Even after you've had children and grandchildren and then grown old in the land, don't make an idol in the form of anything, and don't be corrupt or do evil things that your god Yahweh dislikes and so which will make him angry. 26 If you do, I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against

19 **RV 4:2 · Cross-ref.** Rev 22:18-19.

20 **RV 4:3 · Cross-ref.** Num 25:1-9.

21 **RV 4:11-12 · Cross-ref.** Exo 19:16-18; Heb 12:18-19.

22 **RV 4:13 · Cross-ref.** Exo 31:18; 34:28; Deu 9:10.

23 **RV 4:14 · Cross-ref.** Exo 21:1.

24 **RV 4:16 · Cross-ref.** Exo 20:4; Lev 26:1; Deu 5:8; 27:15.

25 **RV 4:17-18a · Cross-ref.** Rom 1:23.

26 **RV 4:20 · Cross-ref.** Exo 19:5; Deu 7:6; 14:2; 26:18; Tit 2:14; 1Pe 2:9.

27 **RV 4:21 · Cross-ref.** Num 20:12.

28 **RV 4:24 · Cross-ref.** Heb 12:29.

you all today, that you'd die over there in the land that you're crossing the river to possess. You wouldn't live there very long, but instead would end up getting destroyed.
27 Then Yahweh would scatter the remainder among the nations where you'd remain as a small minority.[29] 28 There you would be forced to worship gods that humans have made out of wood or stone and which can't see, hear, smell, or eat.
29 From there you'll search for your god Yahweh, and you'll find him when you search for him with determination and total sincerity.[30] 30 It's in the future when you end up in distress there that you'll return to your god Yahweh and listen to what he tells you, 31 because your god Yahweh is a merciful god. He won't abandon you or destroy you, and he won't forget what he promised to your ancestors.

32 Now, please, consider past times before you were alive, i.e., from when God first created people here on the earth. You could search all through human history and you wouldn't find anything else as incredible as what Yahweh has done for your ancestors. 33 Has any other people group heard God talking from the middle of a fire like you have, and then lived to tell about it? 34 Or is their any other nation that God has attempted to take out from the middle of another nation, using miracles and war, and power and terrifying actions, like your god Yahweh did for you all when you were in Mitsrayim (Egypt)? 35 You were shown all that so you'd know that Yahweh is the one and only god.[31] 36 He allowed you to hear his voice from the skies to instruct you, and on earth you heard his words from the incredible fire that he showed you. 37 Because he loved your ancestors, he chose their descendants as his people and used his power and strength to lead you out of Mitsrayim 38 and then to drive out nations ahead of you that were greater and more powerful than you—bringing you here today so that you could occupy their land as your inheritance. 39 So today you should acknowledge that Yahweh is god of the heavens above and the earth below, and there's no other god. 40 Follow his instructions and obey his regulations that I'm giving you today so that everything will go well for you and your descendants, and so that you'll live a long time in the land that your god Yahweh is giving you as a permanent possession."

The refuge cities

41 Then Mosheh (Moses) selected three cities on that eastern side of the Yarden (Jordan)[32] 42 so that anyone who accidentally killed another person could flee to one of those cities and be safe: 43 Betser in the wilderness for the tribe of Re'uven, Ramot in Gilead for the tribe of Gad, and Golan in the Bashan region for the tribe of Menasheh (Manasseh).

Giving the instructions

44 These are the instructions that Mosheh (Moses) gave to the Israelis, 45 including all the instructions, rules, and regulations that Mosheh had told them when they left Mitsrayim (Egypt), 46 when they were in the valley east of the Yarden (Jordan) River. They were across from the town of Beyt-Pe'or, in the land that the Amori King Sihon (who lived in Heshbon city) had ruled. (Mosheh and the other Israelis had defeated them when they came out of Mitsrayim.) 47 They had taken possession of his land, as well as the land of Bashan's King Og—the two Amori kings from the eastern side of the Yarden— 48 from Aroer city in the south along the edge of the Arnon valley, and as far north as Mt. Tsiyon (Zion) (normally called Mt. Hermon) 49 and the entire plain east of the Yarden River, extending to the Sea of the Aravah (the Dead/Salt sea) and east to the slopes of Mt. Pisgah.

The ten rules[33]

5:1 Then Mosheh (Moses) summoned all Yisrael (Israel) and told them, "Yisrael, listen to the instructions and the regulations that I will speak in your ears today, and then you must learn them and be careful to follow them. 2 Our god Yahweh made an agreement with us at Horev. 3 He didn't make that agreement with our ancestors, but with us ourselves—those of us here today, i.e., with *living* people. 4 Yahweh spoke to you from the middle of the fire—face to face with you all on that mountain. 5 Well, it was me who stood between all of you and Yahweh at that time, to reveal Yahweh's message to you, because you were afraid to approach the fire, and you all didn't go up the mountain. Yahweh said:

6 'I am your god Yahweh who brought you all out of Mitsrayim (Egypt)—from the slave-house there.

7 Don't have any other god, other than me.

8 Don't carve any figure for yourself that looks like anything in the sky or on the ground, or in the water below the ground.[34] 9 Don't bow down to them or serve them, because I, your god Yahweh, am a jealous god. I'll punish the descendants of those who hate me, even for three or four generations,[35] 10 but showing loyal commitment to thousands of generations of those who love me and obey my instructions.

11 Don't use the name of your god Yahweh idly, because I won't fail to punish people who do that.

12 Observe the Rest Day on Saturday to sanctify it, as your

29 **RV 4:27-28 · Cross-ref.** Deu 28:36.

30 **RV 4:29 · Cross-ref.** Jer 29:13.

31 **RV 4:35 · Cross-ref.** Mrk 12:32.

32 **RV 4:41-43 · Cross-ref.** Josh 20:8-9.

33 **RV 5:1 · Parallel** Exo. 20:1-17

34 **RV 5:8-9 · Cross-ref.** Lev 26:1; Deu 4:15-18; 27:15.

35 **RV 5:9-10 · Cross-ref.** Exo 34:6-7; Num 14:18; Deu 7:9-10.

Readers' Version

god Yahweh commanded you.[36] 13 There's six days for
labouring and doing all your work, 14 but the seventh day is
a rest day dedicated to your god Yahweh. Don't do any work
on that day: not you or your children or your slaves, or using
any of your cattle, nor any foreigner living with you—your
slaves can rest like you. 15 Remember that you were a slave
in Mitsrayim (Egypt), and that your god Yahweh took action
and used my power to take you out of there. Therefore your
god Yahweh commands you to keep the Rest Day.

16 Honour your father and mother as your god Yahweh has
commanded you,[37] so that you'll have a long life and so that
everything will go well in the country that your god Yahweh
is giving you.[38]

17 Don't murder anyone.

18 Don't commit adultery.

19 Don't steal anything.

20 Don't tell lies in court about anyone.

21 Don't covet your neighbour's spouse, or their house or
land, or their slaves or livestock, or anything else that they
own.'[39]

22 Yahweh spoke those words in a booming voice from the
middle of the fire, the cloud, and the gloom, to all your as-
sembly on the mountain.[40] That was all he said, and he wrote
those instructions on two stone tablets and gave them to me.

The people's fear[41]

23 Then when you heard the voice
coming out from the darkness and the mountain was blazing
with fire, then all the heads of your tribes and the elders ap-
proached me 24 and said, "Listen, our god Yahweh demon-
strated his greatness and power when we heard him speak
from the fire. Today, we've realised that God talks to people,
and that they can stay alive. 25 However, we're still afraid
that we'll die—getting burnt up in that intense fire if we con-
tinue hearing our god Yahweh's voice, 26 because when has
anybody else ever heard the voice of the living god speak to
them from the middle of a blazing fire and they still lived?
27 You Mosheh (Moses), go and listen to everything that our
god Yahweh says, and tell us everything that he tells you,
and we'll listen to that and obey it."

28 Yahweh heard you all say that to me, and told me, 'I've
heard what they said to you and it's a good idea. 29 If only
they were sincere in saying that they'd honour me and al-
ways follow all my instructions so that everything would go
well for them and their descendants forever. 30 Go and tell
them to return to their tents, 31 but then come back up here
and I'll give you all the instructions and rules and regula-
tions for you to teach them, so they can follow them in the
land that I'm giving them to take possession of.'

32 Make sure that you do everything that your god Yahweh
has commanded—don't deviate from any of them. 33 Follow
all the instructions from your god Yahweh, and then you'll
all live and things will go well and you'll all be able to occupy
that land for a long time.

Always honour Yahweh

6:1 These are the instructions and
rules and regulations that your god
Yahweh ordered me to teach you all, to do in the land that
you're about to enter and occupy. 2 He wants you all to hon-
our him, to follow all his instructions, and to keep his rules
that I'm teaching you and your descendants so that your
time on the land will be prolonged. 3 So, listen Yisrael (Is-
rael) and follow carefully so that it will go well for you and
that you'll increase in population in that very fertile land as
your ancestors' god, Yahweh, promised.

4 Listen Yisrael: Yahweh alone is our god[42] 5 and you should
love your god Yahweh with your whole mind, your entire be-
ing, and all your strength.[43] 6 Always be considering these
instructions that I'm giving you today,[44] 7 and diligently
teach them to your children, and talk about them when
you're sitting at home and when you're out walking, when
you lie down and when you get up. 8 Your hands should al-
ways be applying them and your minds should always be
evaluating them. 9 Carve them onto your doorposts at home,
and on your city gates.

Warnings against disobeying

10 Your god Yahweh promised your
ancestors Avraham,[45] Yitshak (Isaac),[46]
and Ya'akov (Jacob),[47] that he'd give you large, prosperous
cities that you didn't have to build, 11 houses full of every
good thing that you didn't have to collect, wells that you
didn't have to dig, and vineyards and olive groves that you
didn't have to plant. You'll be able to eat and be satisfied,
12 but be sure to never forget that it was Yahweh who res-

36 RV 5:12 · Cross-ref. Exo 16:23-30; 31:12-14.

37 RV 5:16 · Cross-ref. Deu 27:16; Mat 15:4; 19:19; Mrk 7:10; 10:19; Luk 18:20; Eph 6:2.

38 RV 5:16 · Cross-ref. Eph 6:3.

39 RV 5:21 · Cross-ref. Rom 7:7; 13:9.

40 RV 5:22-27 · Cross-ref. Heb 12:18-19.

41 RV 5:23 · Parallel Exo. 20:18-21

42 RV 6:4 · Cross-ref. Mrk 12:29.

43 RV 6:5 · Cross-ref. Mat 22:37; Mrk 12:30; Luk 10:27.

44 RV 6:6-9 · Cross-ref. Deu 11:18-20.

45 RV 6:10 · Cross-ref. Gen 12:7.

46 RV 6:10 · Cross-ref. Gen 26:3.

47 RV 6:10 · Cross-ref. Gen 28:13.

cued you from slavery in Mitsrayim (Egypt). 13 You must
honour your god Yahweh and only serve him[48] and only
make promises using his name. 14 Don't go trying to follow
other gods—the gods of the surrounding countries— 15 be-
cause your god Yahweh who lives among you is a jealous
god. You wouldn't want him to get angry with you and to-
tally destroy you.

16 Don't test the patience of your god Yahweh[49] again like
you all did over water at Masah.[50] 17 Be sure to follow all his
instructions and rules and regulations that he's given you.
18 Do what Yahweh says is right and good so that things will
go well for you and you'll be able to enter the good land that
he promised to your ancestors and take possession of it—
19 driving out all your enemies from that land just as Yahweh
has said.

20 In the future when your children ask you, 'Why did our
god Yahweh our god command us to obey all these rules and
decrees?' 21 then you can tell them, 'We were Par'oh's
(Pharaoh's) slaves in Mitsrayim (Egypt), but Yahweh used his
incredible power to get us out of there. 22 He did many kinds
of miracles that devastated that Mitsri (Egyptian) king and
his whole household, 23 then he took us out of there, so he
could bring us here to give us the land that he'd promised to
our ancestors. 24 Yahweh ordered us to follow all these in-
structions to demonstrate that we honour him so that things
will go well for us and he'll protect our nation as he's doing
now. 25 Our god Yahweh will declare us to be innocent of
wrong if we obey everything that he's instructed us.'

Warning Yisrael's descendants[51]

7:1 When your god Yahweh brings
you into the land which you're going
to possess, he'll drive out many people groups ahead of you:
the Hitim, Girgashim, Amorim, Kena'anim (Canaanites), Per-
izim, Hivim, and the Yevusim—seven societies that are more
powerful than yourselves.[52] 2 When your god Yahweh en-
ables you to defeat them, you must kill them all. You must
make no agreement with them, and you must not act merci-
fully toward them. 3 Don't intermarry with them: don't allow
your daughters to marry their sons, or your sons to marry
any of their daughters 4 because they'd turn your sons away
from me, and they'd end up serving other gods. Then Yah-
weh would become very angry with you all and would
quickly destroy you. 5 What you all should do to those people
is to break down their altars and smash their stone pillars,
cut their Asherah poles to pieces, and burn up their idols.[53]
6 You must do that because you're a group of people who be-
long only to your god Yahweh. He's chosen you from all the
people groups in the world to be his own special people.[54]

7 Yahweh loved you and chose you all, not because you
were the most populous nation (in fact, you were the small-
est of all the nations), 8 but because Yahweh loves you all and
because he kept the promise that he'd made to your ances-
tors. Yahweh used his power to rescue you all from the slav-
ery imposed by Mitsrayim's (Egypt's) King Par'oh (Pharaoh).
9 So remember that your god Yahweh is God—the faithful
god who keeps agreements and displays loyal commitment
toward a thousand generations of those who love him and
obey what he's commanded.[55] 10 However, to those who hate
him, he won't hesitate to pay them back with punishment
and destruction. 11 So be sure to obey all the instructions,
rules, and regulations that I'm giving you today.

Blessings for obedience[56]

12 If you pay attention to these in-
structions and always obey them, then
your god Yahweh will keep the agreement that he promised
to your ancestors and continue to display his loyal commit-
ment to you,[57] 13 and he will love you and bless you. He'll
grant you many children and make your farming productive,
producing grain and grapes for wine, and olive oil. Your cat-
tle and sheep and goats will multiply on the land that he
promised your ancestors that he'd give you. 14 You'll be
blessed more than any other people group. All of you will be
able to have children, and all of your livestock will produce
offspring. 15 Yahweh will keep sickness away from you. All
those horrible diseases that your ancestors saw in Mitsrayim
(Egypt) won't affect you, but instead he'll give them to those
who hate you. 16 You must destroy all the peoples that your
god Yahweh gives you victory over—don't allow yourselves
to pity them, and don't serve their gods because that would
end up trapping you.

17 Don't tell yourselves that because those groups have
many more people than you, that you won't be able to drive
them out. 18 You mustn't be afraid of them, but rather you
should think back to what your god Yahweh did to Par'oh
(Pharaoh) and to all Mitsrayim. 19 Remember the terrible
deadly diseases that you saw, and the powerful miracles that

48 **RV 6:13 · Cross-ref.** Mat 4:10; Luk 4:8.
49 **RV 6:16 · Cross-ref.** Mat 4:7; Luk 4:12.
50 **RV 6:16 · Cross-ref.** Exo 17:1-7.
51 **RV 7:1 · Parallel** Exo. 34:11-16
52 **RV 7:1 · Cross-ref.** Acts 13:19.
53 **RV 7:5 · Cross-ref.** Deu 12:3.
54 **RV 7:6 · Cross-ref.** Exo 19:5; Deu 4:20; 14:2; 26:18; Tit 2:14; 1Pe 2:9.
55 **RV 7:9-10 · Cross-ref.** Exo 20:5-6; 34:6-7; Num 14:18; Deu 5:9-10.
56 **RV 7:12 · Parallel** Deu. 28:1-14
57 **RV 7:12-16 · Cross-ref.** Deu 11:13-17.

your god Yahweh used to bring you out. That's what he'll do to the people groups that you're still afraid of now. **20** What's more, after that your god Yahweh will send hornets against any who are left or in hiding, until they're all destroyed. **21** Don't be afraid of those people, because your god Yahweh will be with you. He's a powerful god that people are in awe of. **22** He'll drive those people groups out bit by bit—don't try to destroy them all at once or else the wild animals would multiply up and cause problems. **23** Your god Yahweh will enable you to defeat those people groups and cause them to panic until they are destroyed. **24** He'll enable you to defeat their kings and their names will be forgotten from history. No one will be able to stand against you until you finally destroy them. **25** You must burn their idols in a fire—don't be tempted to take any gold or silver decorations off them in case you get trapped by it, because your god Yahweh hates every part of those idols. **26** Don't take any of those disgusting idols into your homes or you too might become a target for destruction. You should hate and detest them because they're destined for destruction.

The productive land to be possessed

8:1 You must consistently follow the instructions that I'm giving you today, so that you all can enter and occupy the land that Yahweh promised to your ancestors, and live there and multiply. **2** Remember the way that your god Yahweh led you these forty years in the wilderness in order to humble you—to test you to know whether or not you were sincere about obeying his instructions. **3** He humbled you by making you hungry and feeding you some stuff that neither you nor your ancestors had heard of, in order to teach you that people don't just need food, but can only properly live by following what Yahweh says.[58] **4** For the entire forty years, your clothes didn't wear out and your feet didn't swell up from walking in the desert. **5** Don't forget that your god Yahweh disciplines you, just like a human father disciplines his children. **6** So follow your god Yahweh's instructions. Live how he's told you, and always honour him **7** because he's bringing you into a good land—a land with streams and fountains, and springs both in the valleys and in the hills. **8** It's a land with wheat and barley, grapevines and fig trees, pomegranates and olive trees, and honey— **9** a land with plenty of food where you won't lack anything. There's iron in the rocks, and copper in the hills. **10** You'll eat and be full, and you'll thank your god Yahweh for the good land that he's given you.

Warnings against forgetting Yahweh

11 Be careful not to forget your god Yahweh[59] by failing to follow his instructions and rules and regulations that I'm telling you today. **12** Watch out when you eat and feel satisfied, and you've built good houses and are living in them, **13** and your herds and flocks have increased, and you've accumulated gold and silver, and everything you have has multiplied. **14** That's when it would be easy to become proud and forget your god Yahweh who brought you out of slavery in Mitsrayim (Egypt). **15** He led you through that vast, treacherous wilderness—the home of poisonous snakes and scorpions, and desert land without water, then he made water flow out of solid rock. **16** He fed you stuff in the wilderness that your ancestors had never heard of, so that he could humble you yet eventually cause you to prosper **17** without thinking to yourselves that your wealth came from your own strength and ability. **18** Remember that it's your god Yahweh who gives you the strength to prosper, so that he can fulfill his agreement that he promised to your ancestors, as he has until now. **19** However, if you end up forgetting about your god Yahweh and start following other gods and serving them and bowing down to them, I can assure you that you'll most definitely be destroyed. **20** If you don't listen to what your god Yahweh says, then you'll be destroyed just like the other people groups that he's destroyed ahead of you all.

The reason for destruction of the land's inhabitants

9:1 Listen Yisrael (Israel): Today you'll cross the Yarden (Jordan) river to drive out peoples that are larger and more powerful than yourselves and who are protected in large, fortified cities with high walls. **2** The people themselves are tall and strong. (Some of these are descendants of the Anakim, and you've heard people say that no one can defeat the Anakim.) **3** You need to be confident that your god Yahweh will go ahead of you like a raging fire—he'll destroy them and subdue them ahead of you, then you can drive them out and quickly eliminate them as Yahweh has told you to do.

4 After your god Yahweh has driven them out ahead of you, don't go saying that it was thanks to your own goodness and innocence, because it's because of the wickedness of those peoples that Yahweh is doing that. **5** Again, it's not because of your obedience or goodness that you're going in to occupy their land, but it's because of the wickedness of those peoples that your god Yahweh will drive them out in front of you, and so that he can fulfill what he promised to your ancestors Avraham, Yitshak (Isaac), and Ya'akov (Jacob). **6** Actually, you're a very stubborn people, so be very clear: it's not because of your goodness and obedience that your god Yahweh is giving you this good land.

The gold calf idol

7 Never forget how you provoked your god Yahweh to get angry in the wilderness—you've been rebellious towards him the whole time from when you left Mitsrayim (Egypt) until your arrival here. **8** Even at Horev you made Yahweh angry, in fact he was angry enough to destroy you. **9** When I went up the mountain to receive the stone tablets containing Yahweh's agreement with you, I

58 RV 8:3 · Cross-ref. Mat 4:4; Luk 4:4.

59 RV 8:11-16 · Cross-ref. Hos 13:5-6.

stayed up on the mountain for forty days and nights without eating or drinking.[60] **10** Then Yahweh gave me the two stone tablets that had been written by God's finger. They had the words spoken to you by Yahweh out from the fire on the mountain on the day of that assembly. **11** Then finally at the end of those forty days and nights, Yahweh gave me those two stone tablets with the agreement written on them.

12 Then he told me, 'Now hurry and go down quickly from here, because your people who you brought out from Mitsrayim, have become corrupted. They didn't take at all long to turn away from following my instructions—they've already made a metal idol for themselves.'

13 Additionally, Yahweh said to me, 'I've noticed that this group of people is very stubborn. **14** Move away and I'll destroy them so they'll never be remembered again, and I'll make your descendants into a more powerful and more prestigious nation than they ever were.'

15 So I turned and headed back down the mountain that was still burning with fire, carrying the two tablets with the agreement written on them. **16** Then I looked, and wow, you certainly had disobeyed your god Yahweh. You'd cast a metal calf. You'd turned so quickly from the instructions that Yahweh had given you. **17** I grabbed those two stone tablets and threw them to the ground—shattering them right in front of your eyes. **18** Then I lay on the ground in front of Yahweh for forty days and nights without eating or drinking because of how you'd disobeyed Yahweh—doing evil things that provoked him into being angry. **19** Yes, I was afraid that in his terrible anger, Yahweh might destroy you,[61] but he listened to me at that time. **20** Yahweh was angry enough to want to destroy Aharon (Aaron), but I also interceded for him at that time. **21** I took that symbol of your disobedience—that calf idol that you all had made—and threw it into the fire, then I crushed it and ground it into dust, and threw the dust into the mountain stream.

22 You all also provoked Yahweh to get angry at Tav'erah,[62] at Masah,[63] and at Kivrot-Hata'avah.[64] **23** Also when Yahweh sent you all from Kadesh-Barnea,[65] saying, 'Go in and take possession of the land that I've given to you,'[66] but you rebelled against your god Yahweh's words, and you didn't believe him and didn't do what he said.[67] **24** You've all been rebellious against Yahweh since the day I knew you back in Mitsrayim (Egypt).

25 So I lay on the ground in Yahweh's presence for forty days and nights, because he said he'd destroy you all, **26** and I prayed, 'My master Yahweh, these people belong to you. Don't destroy them—they are people who you rescued and brought out of Mitsrayim by using your strength and power. **27** Don't forget what you promised your servants Avraham, Yitshak (Isaac), and Ya'akov (Jacob). Overlook the stubbornness, wickedness, and disobedience of these people **28** so that the people of Mitsrayim where we were brought out from don't say that you weren't able to bring them to the land that you'd promised to give to them. They'll say that you took them into the desert to kill them there because you hated them. **29** But they are your people and your inheritance, who you brought out of Mitsrayim using your strength and power.'

The replacement stone tablets[68]

10:1 After that, Yahweh told me, "Carve out two stone tablets like the first ones, and make a wooden chest to put them in, then come up to me on the mountain. **2** I'll write the words onto the tablets that were on the first tablets that you broke, then you can put them into the box."

3 So I made a box from acacia wood, and I carved out two stone tablets like the first ones, and I went up the mountain carrying the two tablets **4** and he wrote the ten instructions on the tablets like the first time—the same words that Yahweh had spoken to you from the fire on the mountain on the day of the assembly. Then he gave me the tablets **5** and I turned and went down the mountain. I put the tablets into the box that I'd made, just like Yahweh had told me to.

6 Then the Israelis travelled from Be'erot-Beney-Ya'akan[69] to Moserah[70] where Aharon (Aaron) died. He was buried there, and his son Eleazar replaced him as chief priest.[71] **7** From there they moved on to Gudgodah, then from there onto Yotvatah—an area with many streams. **8** At that time, Yahweh chose the tribe of Levi to carry the box containing

60 RV 9:9 · Cross-ref. Exo 24:18.

61 RV 9:19 · Cross-ref. Heb 12:21.

62 RV 9:22 · Cross-ref. Num 11:3.

63 RV 9:22 · Cross-ref. Exo 17:7.

64 RV 9:22 · Cross-ref. Num 11:34.

65 RV 9:23 · Cross-ref. Num 13:17.

66 RV 9:23 · Cross-ref. Deu 1:21.

67 RV 9:23 · Cross-ref. Num 13:31; Deu 1:26; Heb 3:16.

68 RV 10:1 · Parallel Exo. 34:1-10

69 RV 10:6 · Note Rather than just transliterating this name as we've done, it would also be possible to translate it as 'the wells of the sons of Yaakan'.

70 RV 10:6 · Note The document known as 'Numbers' tells us that Aharon died on Mt. Hor, so presumably Moserah is in that same region.

71 RV 10:6 · Cross-ref. Num 20:28; 33:38.

Readers' Version

Yahweh's agreement, and to stand in Yahweh's presence to serve and worship him, until this day.[72] 9 That's why the Levites didn't receive land in the same way as the other tribes as Yahweh told them that he is their inheritance. 10 I myself stayed up on the mountain for forty days and nights just like the first time.[73] Yahweh listened to me that time as well, and said that he wouldn't destroy you. 11 Then Yahweh told me, "Continue your journey leading the people to enter and occupy the land that I promised their ancestors that I'd give them.

The call to obedience

12 Now Yisrael (Israel), your god Yahweh expects you honour him and to follow his instructions and to love him, and to serve him with sincerity and with energy— 13 obeying his rules and regulations that I'm giving you today for the benefit of the country. 14 Listen, the highest heavens belong to your god Yahweh, as well as the earth and everything on it, 15 yet he decided to show love to your ancestors, and as their descendants, he chose you all out from all the peoples as you know to this day. 16 You all must eradicate your rebelliousness and stop being stubborn, 17 because your god Yahweh is god of gods and master of masters—the very powerful and awesome one who doesn't judge by looks and doesn't accept bribes.[74] 18 He delivers fair judgements for the fatherless and for widows, and shows love towards foreigners—giving them food and clothing, 19 so you all must show love to foreigners too because you all were foreigners when you were in Mitsrayim (Egypt). 20 You must honour your god Yahweh and serve him. Rely on him and only make promises with his authority. 21 He's the one you should praise. He's your god who's done powerful miracles on your behalf which you saw with your own eyes. 22 When your ancestors went down to Mitsrayim, there was only seventy of them,[75] but now your god Yahweh has increased your population like the stars in number.[76]

Remembering the miracles

11:1 You must love your god Yahweh and follow his instructions, rules, regulations, and commands from now on. 2 Of course that was you all and your parents who experienced your god Yahweh's discipline and who saw his power and strength and the amazing miracles done on your behalf—not your children. 3 They didn't see his actions and the miracles done to King Par'oh (Pharaoh) and all his people right there in Mitsrayim (Egypt),[77] 4 or what he did to the Mitsri (Egyptian) army with its horses and chariots when he caused the Red Sea to flow over the top of them as they chased you, and how Yahweh destroyed them and they've never recovered to this day,[78] 5 or how he helped you all in the wilderness until you reached this place. 6 Your children didn't see what Yahweh did to Eliav's sons Datan and Aviram (from the tribe of Re'uven) when the ground opened up and swallowed them, along with their houses and tents and all their families and animals right in the middle of the encampment[79] 7 because you all are the ones who actually saw the amazing miracles that Yahweh did.

The promises and warnings

8 So then, follow all the instructions that I'm giving you all today so that you'll all be strong to enter and take possession of the land once you cross the river 9 and so that you all might live for a long time in that land which Yahweh promised to give them and their descendants—a land flowing with milk and honey 10 because it's not like Mitsrayim (Egypt) where your ancestors came out from, where you planted seed and had to water the fields by hand. 11 But the land that you're all about to enter over the river has a terrain of hills and valleys, i.e., it drinks in the rain water. 12 It's a land that your god Yahweh cares about—watching over it from the beginning of each year to the end.

13 If you all listen to the instructions that I'm giving you today, loving your god Yahweh and serving him with sincerity and with energy,[80] 14 then he says that he'll give the land the seasonal early and late rains so that you'll be able to produce grain, and new wine, and olive oil. 15 He'll provide grass in the countryside for your livestock, and you'll eat and be satisfied. 16 Guard yourselves to make sure that you're not deceived and end up turning around to serve other 'gods' and bow down to them, 17 because then Yahweh would become angry at you and close the skies so that there'd be no rain, and the land would stop producing, and you'd all soon die from off the good land that he's about to give you.

18 Memorise these words of mine and constantly think about them. Your hands should always be applying them and your minds should always be evaluating them.[81] 19 Teach them repeatedly to your children: when you're sitting at home, when you're walking down the road, when you go to

72 **RV 10:8 · Cross-ref.** Num 3:5-8.

73 **RV 10:10 · Cross-ref.** Exo 34:28.

74 **RV 10:17 · Cross-ref.** 1Tim 6:15; Rev 17:14; 19:16; Acts 10:34; Rom 2:11; Gal 2:6; Eph 6:9.

75 **RV 10:22 · Cross-ref.** Gen 46:27.

76 **RV 10:22 · Cross-ref.** Gen 15:5; 22:17.

77 **RV 11:3 · Cross-ref.** Exo 7:8–12:13.

78 **RV 11:4 · Cross-ref.** Exo 14:28.

79 **RV 11:6 · Cross-ref.** Num 16:31-32.

80 **RV 11:13-17 · Cross-ref.** Lev 26:3-5; Deu 7:12-16; 28:1-14.

81 **RV 11:18-20 · Cross-ref.** Deu 6:6-9.

lie down, and when you get up. 20 Carve them on the doorposts of your homes and on your city gates, 21 so that your own lifetimes, and the lifetimes of your children will be extended in the land that Yahweh promised to give to your ancestors to have as long as the sky remains over the earth.

22 If you all follow these instructions that I'm telling you to do, to love your god Yahweh and live how he wants you to, and stay faithful to him, 23 then he'll drive all those peoples out ahead of you all, and you'll dispossess groups that are larger and more powerful than yourselves. 24 Every place that your feet step on will become yours: from the southern desert to Levanon in the north, and from the Perat (Euphrates) in the east to the Mediterranean Sea in the west.[82] 25 No one will be able to resist you all. Your god Yahweh will make those peoples in that land terrified of you, just as he promised he would.

26 Now listen, today I'm giving you all the option of a blessing or a curse: 27 the blessing is if you all decide to obey your god Yahweh's instructions that I'm giving you today, 28 but the curse is if you all don't take any notice of his instructions, or if you turn away from what I'm commanding you all today to go after other gods that you previously had nothing to do with. 29 Whenever your god Yahweh brings you into the land that you're entering to take possession of, you must pronounce the blessing from Mt. Gerizim, and the curse from Mt. Eyval.[83] 30 (Those two mountains are across the Yarden (Jordan) river, west of the river plain where the Kena'anim (Canaanites) live, near the Oak of Moreh opposite Gilgal.) 31 You'll all soon be crossing the Yarden to go in and occupy the land that your god Yahweh is giving you. As you all take it over and start to live there, 32 make sure that you follow all the instructions and rules that I'm giving to you all today.

One place for future worship

12:1 In the land that your god Yahweh has given you to own, these are the rules and regulations that you must keep obeying as long as you're alive. 2 When you drive those peoples out, you all must completely destroy all the places on the mountains and hills, and under the large trees where they served their gods. 3 You all must tear down their altars, shatter their stone pillars, and set fire to their Asherah poles. You must chop down their carved idols so they won't be remembered in that place any more.[84]

4 Don't worship your god Yahweh the same way they worship their gods, 5 because you all must go to the single place that Yahweh's going to choose out of all your tribes, that he'll attach his name to, so if you want find his residence, you'll have to go there. 6 That will also be where you'll all have to take your animal sacrifices and offerings, as well as the tenth of your produce and animals, special contributions, sacrifices for promises, free-will sacrifices, and the firstborn animals from your herds and flocks. 7 You'll all be able to take your families there in front of your god Yahweh to cheerfully eat what you've produced as a result of his blessing.

8 We won't be able to continue like we are at present, with each person worshipping however they feel is right 9 because until now, you haven't reached the inheritance and the peaceful life that your god Yahweh is giving to you. 10 After you all cross the Yarden (Jordan) and live in the land that your god Yahweh is giving you as an inheritance, it's then that he'll give you peace from all your surrounding enemies, and so you'll all live safely. 11 Then your god Yahweh will choose one place to attach his name to, and that's where you'll all bring everything that I tell you to: your animal sacrifices and offerings, as well as the tenth of your produce and animals, special contributions, and sacrifices for promises made to Yahweh. 12 You'll all celebrate there in front of Yahweh: you and your children and your servants, along with any Levites who live in your towns (because they don't personally inherit any land of their own). 13 Make sure that you don't offer burnt sacrifices at any place that you just decide is good— 14 only at the place that Yahweh will choose from one of your tribes. That's where you'll offer your sacrifices, and do everything else that I tell you.

15 However, you may kill and eat your animals wherever you live as much as you want. Those animals are blessings from your god Yahweh. You can eat that meat whether or not you're ceremonially 'clean', just like you'd eat a wild gazelle or deer. 16 However, don't eat the blood[85]—it must be poured out on the ground like water. 17 In your towns, don't eat the tenth of your produce or the firstborns from your herd or flock, or at the celebration of a vow, or any free-will offering or contribution that you've made. 18 You can only eat those in Yahweh's presence in the place that he'll choose. The same applies to your children, your servants, and any Levites who live in your towns. The celebration for what you've produced must be done in front of your god Yahweh. 19 Make sure that you don't neglect the Levites as long as you live in your land.

20 In the future, when your god Yahweh widens your territory like he's said he would, if you want to eat meat there, then go ahead and do it. 21 If the place that he chooses to attach his name to is too far away, then it's permissible to sacrifice like I've instructed you from your herd or flock, and you can eat it where you live whenever you want. 22 You can

82 **RV 11:24-25 · Cross-ref.** Josh 1:3-5.

83 **RV 11:29 · Cross-ref.** Deu 27:11-14; Josh 8:33-35.

84 **RV 12:3 · Cross-ref.** Deu 7:5.

85 **RV 12:16 · Cross-ref.** Gen 9:4; Lev 7:26-27; 17:10-14; 19:26; Deu 15:23.

eat it whether or not you're ceremonially 'clean', just like you'd eat a wild gazelle or deer. 23 However, don't eat the blood of any animal, because the blood is the life and you mustn't eat the life with the meat.[86] 24 Don't eat the blood—it must be poured out on the ground like water. 25 Don't eat it so that things will go well for you and your children after you, when you do what Yahweh says is right. 26 However, you still must take your sacred things and offerings for vows to the place that Yahweh will choose. 27 The meat and blood from burnt offerings must only be placed on your god Yahweh's future altar, and the blood of your other sacrifices must be poured on the altar, but you can eat the meat. 28 Make sure to follow all these instructions that I'm giving you so that everything will go well for you and for your descendants into the future, when you do what your god Yahweh has said is good and right.

Warnings about false gods

29 When you enter the land that you will occupy, your god Yahweh will destroy the people groups that live there as you advance. 30 Watch out after they've been destroyed, that you don't get trapped by curiosity about how they served their gods, and then you end up doing the same. 31 Don't do that to your god Yahweh, because he hates the disgusting things they've done for their gods—even burning their own sons and daughters on altars for their gods.

32 Make sure that you obey all those instructions—don't add anything to them, or remove anything from them.[87]

Warnings about false prophets

13:1 If someone among you claims to be a prophet or interpreter of dreams, or able to do miracles, 2 and it seems true, but they use those things to convince you to go after other 'new' gods and worship them, 3 then don't listen to that person, because your god Yahweh is testing you to know whether you love him with sincerity and with your energy. 4 You must conduct your lives as your god Yahweh wants you to. Honour him, and listen to his voice and follow his instructions, and serve him and remain loyal to him. 5 But that prophet or interpreter of dreams must be executed because they've incited rebellion against your god Yahweh who brought you all out from slavery in Mitsrayim (Egypt). Those kinds of people want to drive you away from @Yahweh's instructions, hence why you must remove that evil from among you.

6 Your brother, son, daughter, beloved wife, or some close friend might privately urge you to worship other gods that you and your ancestors hadn't heard about before. 7 That might be the gods of the surrounding peoples, either nearby or right across the world. 8 Don't give in to them, or take notice of them. Don't even feel sympathy for them or cover up for them, 9 because you'll definitely need to execute them. You yourself must be the first to take action, followed by the rest of the community. 10 You must execute people like that by throwing rocks at them, because they try to drive you away from your god Yahweh who brought you out of slavery in Mitsrayim. 11 After that, all Yisrael (Israel) will hear and become afraid of doing such wicked things in the future.

12 If in the future, you hear that in one of the cities that your god Yahweh will give you to live in, 13 some wicked people have enticed those in the city to go and serve other 'new' gods, 14 then you must thoroughly investigate the matter. If it's actually true that that disgusting thing had been done among you, 15 then all the people in that place must be executed by the sword, along with all their livestock. 16 Gather all the people's possessions and pile them up in the city plaza, then burn the place and everything in it like a 'burnt offering' to Yahweh. Leave the place as an abandoned heap—it should never be rebuilt again. 17 Don't be tempted to pick anything valuable out from the pile headed for destruction, but obey carefully so that Yahweh's anger will subside. Then he'll show compassion to you and mercy, and make you increase like he promised to your ancestors 18 when you listen to what he says—following all his instructions and doing what he says is the right thing to do.

Prohibitions during mourning

14:1 You're all children of your god Yahweh so don't cut yourselves or shave the front of your heads for the sake of the dead,[88] 2 because you're a nation that's set apart for your god Yahweh, and he's chosen you out of all the other peoples in the world to be his own people.[89]

'Clean' and 'unclean' foods[90]

3 Don't eat anything that Yahweh detests. 4 These are the animals that you all can eat: cattle, sheep, goats, 5 all kinds of deer, gazelles, wild goats, and mountain sheep, 6 i.e., you can eat any of the animals that have split hooves and that also chew the cud. 7 But there are other animals that chew the cud that you mustn't eat: camels, rabbits and hares, and rock badgers. They chew the cud, but don't have split hooves so they are unacceptable for you to eat. 8 Don't eat pigs—they're unacceptable for you to eat. They have split hooves, but they don't chew the cud. Don't eat the meat of those animals and don't even touch their dead bodies.

9 You all can eat anything that lives in water that has both fins and scales, 10 but anything in the water that doesn't have both is unacceptable for you to eat.

11 You all can eat any clean bird, 12 but not these: eagles,

86 **RV 12:23-24 · Cross-ref.** Lev 17:10-14.

87 **RV 12:32 · Cross-ref.** Deu 4:2; Rev 22:18-19.

88 **RV 14:1 · Cross-ref.** Lev 19:28; 21:5.

89 **RV 14:2 · Cross-ref.** Exo 19:5-6; Deu 4:20; 7:6; 26:18; Tit 2:14; 1Pe 2:9.

90 **RV 14:3 · Parallel** Lev. 11:1-47

vultures, ospreys, 13 buzzards, kites, falcons, 14 any kind of ravens or crows, 15 ostriches, owls, seagulls, any kind of hawk, 16 any kinds of owls, 17 pelicans, carrion vultures, cormorants, 18 storks, any kind of heron, hoopoes, or bats. 19 You mustn't eat any insect with wings and which swarm—they're unacceptable to Yahweh for you to eat, 20 but other insects with wings are acceptable to eat.

21 Don't eat any creature that's died naturally. You may allow foreigners who live among you to eat those things. You may also sell them to other foreigners. But you are a people group that belongs to your god Yahweh.

You mustn't cook a young sheep or goat in its mother's milk.[91]

22 Make sure you set aside a tenth of all the crops that you harvest from your fields.[92] 23 You must eat it in the presence of your god Yahweh, in the place that he'll choose and attach his name to. That's where you must eat the tenth of your grain, wine, olive oil, and the firstborn male animals from your herd and your flock, so that you'll learn to always honour your god Yahweh. 24 When he blesses you with produce, if the place he chooses to attach his name to is too far for you to be able to carry it to, 25 then you can give the equivalent in cash, and carefully take the cash with you all the way to the place that he chooses. 26 When you get there, use the money to purchase any kinds of meat or drink that you want, and consume it there in front of your god Yahweh, and celebrate along with your household.

27 Be sure not to neglect any Levites that live in your town, because they weren't given ancestral land for agriculture like you were. 28 At the end of every third year, bring the tenth of all your produce for that year and store it in your town 29 for the Levites (because they didn't get land), and for any foreigners, orphans, and widows who live in your towns. They can come and get what they need so that your god Yahweh can bless you in everything that you do.

The 7-year economic reset[93]

15:1 At the end of every seven years, you must cancel all debts. 2 Handle it like this: Everyone who's loaned money to their Israeli neighbour must cancel that debt, i.e., they must not insist that it's paid back, because Yahweh has announced a cancellation. 3 You can pressure a foreigner to repay, but you must cancel any debt from a fellow Israeli.

4 However, there shouldn't be any poor among you, because your god Yahweh will bless you in the land that he's giving you to own as an inheritance, 5 as long as you listen to what he says and keep following these instructions that I'm telling you today. 6 Because your god Yahweh will bless you (like he promised he would), you'll lend to many nations rather than borrowing from them, and you'll rule over many nations rather than them ruling you.

7 In the towns that your god Yahweh is giving you, if it so happens that any of your fellow Israelis are poor, then don't just ignore them and refuse to help them,[94] 8 but instead, open your wallet and lend them however much they need. 9 Be careful not to quietly think to yourself that the seventh-year reset is close so they won't have to pay it back. It would be wrong not to help a fellow Israeli, and if you did and he called out to Yahweh for help, then it would be counted against you as disobedience. 10 Give generously to the poor without getting resentful inside, because then your god Yahweh can bless you in all your work and all your investments. 11 There'll always be poor people in your country,[95] so I command you to give generously to the poor and needy and your fellow Israelis.

Freeing slaves[96]

12 If a fellow Israeli is sold to you[97] and serves you for six years, then you must free them in the seventh year.[98] 13 But when you free them, don't send them off empty-handed 14 but instead, give to them generously from your flock and from your barn and from your wine. In whatever ways your god Yahweh has blessed you, you should give to them. 15 Always remember that you were a slave in Mitsrayim (Egypt) and your god Yahweh redeemed you out of there, so that's why I'm commanding you to do that.

16 However, if any slave says that they don't want to leave you, because they appreciate you and your household, and so they're better off to stay with you, 17 then get an awl and stand them against the doorpost and pierce one of their earlobes with the awl, then that person (male or female) will be your slave forever. 18 Don't complain when you have to release your slaves, because they've served you up to six years and been double the value of a regular hired worker, plus your god Yahweh will bless you in whatever you do.

The firstborn animals

19 You must set apart for your god Yahweh, all the firstborn male animals from your herds and your flocks.[99] You mustn't use the cattle for working, and mustn't shear the sheep or goats. 20 Each

91 RV 14:21 · Cross-ref. Exo 23:19; 34:26.

92 RV 14:22-29 · Cross-ref. Lev 27:30-33; Num 18:21.

93 RV 15:1 · Parallel Lev. 25:1-7

94 RV 15:7-8 · Cross-ref. Lev 25:35.

95 RV 15:11 · Cross-ref. Mat 26:11; Mrk 14:7; Yhn 12:8.

96 RV 15:12 · Parallel Exo. 21:1-11

97 RV 15:12 · Note Often to pay off their debt.

98 RV 15:12-18 · Cross-ref. Lev 25:39-46.

99 RV 15:19 · Cross-ref. Exo 13:12.

year, you and your household must take them to the place that Yahweh will choose, and eat them there in front of him. **21** However, any animals that have defects (e.g., lame or blind, or with a severe blemish) mustn't be sacrificed to your god Yahweh. **22** Instead, you can eat those at home whether or not you're ceremonially 'clean', just like you'd eat a wild gazelle or deer. **23** However, don't eat the blood—it must be poured out on the ground like water.[100]

The messenger's 'pass-over' celebration[101]

16:1 Each year, honour your god Yahweh in the early spring by celebrating the 'pass-over', because it was one night in the early spring that he brought you out of Mitsrayim (Egypt).[102] **2** In order to celebrate, go to the place that your god Yahweh will choose to attach his name to, and there sacrifice to him one young animal from your flock or herd. **3** Don't eat any leavened bread with it. For seven days, you must eat flat bread (the bread of suffering) because you came out of Mitsrayim in a rush. That's how you should remember the day of your exit from Mitsrayim for the rest of your life. **4** In fact, for seven days you shouldn't even have any rising agent within your borders, and none of the meat from the sacrifice on that first evening is allowed to be left until the morning.

5 You mustn't sacrifice the 'pass-over' animal within any of your towns that your god Yahweh is giving to you— **6** only at the place that your god Yahweh will choose to attach his name to. That's where you must sacrifice the 'pass-over' animal at sunset, which was the time when your ancestors started leaving Mitsrayim. **7** You must cook the meat and eat it at the place that Yahweh will choose, then in the morning you can start returning to your homes. **8** Then for six days you must only eat flat bread, and the seventh day is a special celebration for your god Yahweh—don't do any work on that day.

The harvest celebration[103]

9 You must count off seven weeks starting from when the very first harvesting of grain begins.[104] **10** Then celebrate the 'Festival of Weeks'[105] to honour your god Yahweh by contributing a freewill offering acknowledging however much he has blessed you. **11** You should celebrate in Yahweh's presence, along with your children and your servants, and any Levites living in your town, and the foreigners, orphans, and widows living among you. Take your offerings to the place that your god Yahweh will choose to attach his name to. **12** Always remember that you were a slave in Mitsrayim (Egypt), so carefully follow those instructions.

The celebration in temporary huts[106]

13 After you've brought in the grain harvest and pressed out the grape juice, you must celebrate the 'Festival of Shelters' for seven days.[107] **14** You should celebrate along with your children and your servants, as well as any Levites and foreigners and orphans and widows who live in your town. **15** Honour your god Yahweh at the place he'll choose, by celebrating for seven days because he's blessed your harvest and all your other work.

16 In summary, all your men must travel three times each year to the place that your god Yahweh will choose: at the Flat Bread Celebration, at the Festival of Weeks, and at the Festival of Shelters. No man should come empty-handed, **17** but rather, each man must give in proportion to the blessings that your god Yahweh has given you during that year.

Strive for justice

18 You must appoint judges and other officials throughout your tribes, in all the towns that your god Yahweh is giving to you. They must judge the people fairly and correctly. **19** You mustn't pervert justice or give favours. Don't accept bribes because a bribe causes an otherwise wise person to ignore evil and misrepresents what innocent people say.[108] **20** True justice is what you should aim for, so that you'll occupy and live in the land that your god Yahweh is giving you.

Prohibitions in worship and justice

21 Never put an Asherah pole near the altar to your god Yahweh that you'll build for yourself,[109] **22** and don't erect any stone pillars that your god Yahweh hates.[110]

17:1 Don't sacrifice any animal to your god Yahweh that has any blemish or defect, because he detests that.

2 In any of the towns that your god Yahweh is giving you, if you discover any man or woman who does evil by disobeying the agreement that he's made with you **3** and worshipped other gods, or the sun, moon, or stars—all of which I've pro-

100 **RV 15:23 · Cross-ref.** Gen 9:4; Lev 7:26-27; 17:10-14; 19:26; Deu 12:16-23.

101 **RV 16:1 · Parallel** Exo. 12:1-20

102 **RV 16:1-8 · Cross-ref.** Exo 12:1-20; Lev 23:5-8; Num 28:16-25.

103 **RV 16:9 · Parallel** Exo. 34:22; Lev. 23:15-21

104 **RV 16:9-12 · Cross-ref.** Lev 23:15-21; Num 28:26-31.

105 **RV 16:10 · Note** Also known as the 'Harvest Festival' or 'Pentecost' (relating to the fifty days = seven weeks plus one day).

106 **RV 16:13 · Parallel** Lev. 23:33-43

107 **RV 16:13-15 · Cross-ref.** Lev 23:33-36,39-43; Num 29:12-38.

108 **RV 16:19 · Cross-ref.** Exo 23:6-8; Lev 19:15.

109 **RV 16:21 · Cross-ref.** Exo 34:13.

110 **RV 16:22 · Cross-ref.** Lev 26:1.

hibited you from doing,[111] 4 and it's reported to you, and you listen and investigate it thoroughly, and it's true that this detestable thing was done in Yisrael (Israel), 5 you must bring that man or woman out to the town gates, and execute them by throwing rocks at them. 6 Note that that person can only be executed if there's at least two witnesses as evidence—no one can be put to death on the testimony of just one witness.[112] 7 The witnesses must be the ones to throw the first rocks then all the other people after that, and that's how you'll remove evil from your society.[113]

8 If a case is too difficult for you yourselves to judge (e.g., two parties claiming bloodshed, or lawsuits, or assaults, or other disputes within your towns), you must leave town and go to the place that your god Yahweh is going to choose. 9 You should go to the Levitical priests and to the judge on duty there and they will produce a judgement. 10 Whatever the decision is that's made at the place Yahweh will choose, that's the verdict that must be applied to the case— 11 accept their judgement and do what they say without making any adjustments to their decision. 12 Anyone who shows contempt for the decision of the judge or the priest who's standing there serving your god Yahweh, then that person must be executed to remove that evil from Yisrael (Israel), 13 then all the people will hear about it and be afraid, and it'll stamp out such arrogance.

Expectations for a king

14 When you enter the land that your god Yahweh is about to give you, then occupy and live in it, and you say that you need a king over you like all the surrounding countries have,[114] 15 you can appoint the king over you that Yahweh chooses. Your king must be an Israeli—never allow a foreigner to become your king. 16 However, he mustn't acquire a large number of horses for himself, and he should never send people to Mitsrayim (Egypt) to buy horses,[115] because Yahweh has told you all to never go back that way again. 17 He mustn't take a lot of wives for himself or else he might stop worshipping Yahweh.[116] Nor should he accumulate too much gold and silver.[117]

18 Once he's sitting on his royal throne, he must copy for himself the instructions on the scroll that's in the custody of the Levitical priests, 19 then he must keep it with him and read some of it every day so that he learns to honour his god Yahweh—being careful to follow all the instructions and regulations written in it 20 so that he won't think he's more valued than his fellow citizens, and so that he doesn't ignore those instructions even slightly. As a result, him and his descendants will rule as kings in Yisrael (Israel) for many years.

Portions for Levites

18:1 None of the Levites (including the priests) will receive any land as an inheritance like the other Israelis. Instead, the people's offerings to Yahweh will be their inheritance to sustain them. 2 Yes, unlike fellow Israelis, they won't have any inherited land—Yahweh is their inheritance like he told them.[118]

3 This is the requirement that the people do for the priests: whenever they bring a bull or a sheep as a sacrifice, they must give the shoulder, the cheeks, and the stomach to the priest. 4 Also you must give the Levites the firstfruits of your grain, your grape juice, your olive oil, and the wool shorn from your sheep, 5 because your god Yahweh chose them out of all your tribes for them and their descendants permanently to serve him.

6 If a Levite chooses to move his family from their town in any part of Yisrael (Israel) and sincerely wants to go to the place that Yahweh will choose, 7 then he can join the other Levites there to serve his god Yahweh 8 and must be given a portion like all the others. (He can keep anything he got from the sale of their family home.)

Warnings against divination and magic

9 When you enter the land that your god Yahweh is about to give you, don't imitate the disgusting habits of those peoples. 10 There mustn't be anyone among you who passes their son or daughter through fire, or who uses divination or omens to try to tell the future,[119] or who practices sorcery,[120] 11 or who puts spells on people, or who tries to talk to spirits of deceased people, 12 because anyone who does those things is abhorrent to Yahweh. It's because of those kinds of things that your god Yahweh will drive those other peoples away ahead of you. 13 You must be a blameless nation in the eyes of your god Yahweh,[121] 14 because the groups that you'll expel from the land rely on fortune-tellers and diviners, but your god Yahweh won't allow you to do that.

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111 RV 17:3 · Cross-ref. Exo 22:20.

112 RV 17:6 · Cross-ref. Num 35:30; Deu 19:15; Mat 18:16; 2Cor 13:1; 1Tim 5:19; Heb 10:28.

113 RV 17:7 · Cross-ref. 1Cor 5:13.

114 RV 17:14 · Cross-ref. 1Sam 8:5.

115 RV 17:16 · Cross-ref. 1Ki 10:28; 2Ch 1:16; 9:28.

116 RV 17:17 · Cross-ref. 1Ki 11:1-8.

117 RV 17:17 · Cross-ref. 1Ki 10:14-22,27; 2Ch 1:15; 9:27.

118 RV 18:2 · Cross-ref. Num 18:20.

119 RV 18:10 · Cross-ref. Lev 19:26.

120 RV 18:10 · Cross-ref. Exo 22:18.

121 RV 18:13 · Cross-ref. Mat 5:48.

Readers' Version

Yahweh promises to send prophets

15 Your god Yahweh will select a man from among you and send him as a prophet like me. You must take notice of him,[122] 16 since you begged your god Yahweh from the bottom of Mt. Horev when you said, "We can't handle directly hearing the voice of our god Yahweh and looking at this terrible fire. Let us go home so we won't die here." 17 Then Yahweh told me, "They're right in what they're saying. 18 I'll choose a prophet from among them and see him. I'll tell him what to say, and he can pass it on to them, 19 and if anyone doesn't listen to what he says with my authority, I'll punish that person as if they ignored me.[123] 20 However, if the prophet says things that I didn't tell him to say but claims they came from me, or if he speaks in the name of other gods, then that prophet must die."

21 Now if you ask yourselves, "How can we recognise a message that didn't come from Yahweh?" 22 then when the prophet speaks in Yahweh's name but that thing doesn't happen, then you'll know that it didn't come from Yahweh. The prophet spoke it assuming that I'd want that, but you don't need to be afraid of him.

The refuge cities[124]

19:1 When your god Yahweh destroys those peoples where he's giving you the land, and you occupy the land and live in their cities and houses, 2 you must select three cities[125] spread across the land that Yahweh is giving you. 3 You must define three borders and build roads in the land that your god Yahweh is giving you to inherit. Anyone who kills another person can then flee to one of those cities. 4 This is the rule for someone who's killed another person and flees to live there: if they've accidentally killed another person and had no hate for that person from past events, 5 (for example, if two men went into the forest to chop wood and an axe head flew off its handle and killed the other man) then that accidental killer can flee to one of those cities and live there. 6 Otherwise a friend or relative of the dead person might chase the killer in a sudden rage and overtake and kill the accidental killer if the city was too far away. However, the killer doesn't deserve death if they hadn't hated that person from past events— 7 that's why I'm ordering you to select three cities for this.

8 Then in the future, if your god Yahweh extends your territory as he promised your ancestors that he would do, and gives you all the land that he told them about, 9 and if you're still following all these instructions that I'm giving you today (loving your god Yahweh and always obeying what he's said), then you'll need to add three more refuge cities for your country. 10 That's so innocent people won't be killed in the land that your god Yahweh is giving you, and so that you won't be found guilty of the murder of that accidental killer.

11 However, if someone hates another person and then ambushes them and kills them, and then flees to one of those cities, 12 then the elders from their home town should go and get that person from the refuge city and hand that killer over to the relatives handling the case, and the murderer must be executed. 13 You must show no mercy to murderers but they must be executed so that the country isn't responsible for the blood of innocent people, and then things will go well for you.

Respecting boundaries

14 Once you're in the land that your god Yahweh is giving you to occupy, you mustn't move the boundary markers which were set between you and your neighbour.[126]

Concerning witnesses in court

15 A single witness must not be used to condemn anyone—a matter must only be considered proven if there's at least two or three witnesses.[127] 16 Suppose that a 'witness' brought a false allegation against a man, 17 then both parties must go and stand in front of Yahweh—in front of the priests and judges on duty at that time. 18 The judges must investigate the case thoroughly, and if the witness is proved to be lying (and so falsely accusing a fellow citizen), 19 you must give the false witness the punishment that was planned for the person falsely accused, and that's how you can remove the evil from among your nation. 20 Then the rest of the people will hear about that and be afraid to do that kind of evil thing in your country. 21 Don't pity violent people: it's a life for a life, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, a hand for a hand, and a foot for a foot.[128]

Rules of battle

20:1 When you go out to battle against your enemies, and see many horses and chariots and a bigger army than yours, don't be afraid of them, because your god Yahweh who helped you out of Mitsrayim (Egypt) is with you. 2 As you approach the place of battle, the high priest must go and stand in front of the warriors, 3 and tell them, "Listen, Yisrael (Israel), you're about to battle against your enemies. Don't be nervous or afraid, and don't tremble or be terrified of them, 4 because your god Yahweh will go with you to fight for you against your enemies. He'll give you victory."

5 Then the officers must ask the people, "Is there anyone

122 **RV 18:15 · Cross-ref.** Acts 3:22; 7:37.

123 **RV 18:19 · Cross-ref.** Acts 3:23.

124 **RV 19:1 · Parallel** Num. 35:9-28; Josh. 20:1-9

125 **RV 19:1-13 · Cross-ref.** Josh 20:1-9.

126 **RV 19:14 · Cross-ref.** Deu 27:17.

127 **RV 19:15 · Cross-ref.** Num 35:30; Deu 17:6; Mat 18:16; Yhn 8:17; 2Cor 13:1; 1Tim 5:19; Heb 10:28.

128 **RV 19:21 · Cross-ref.** Exo 21:23-25; Lev 24:19-20; Mat 5:38.

here who's just built a new house and hasn't dedicated it yet? If so, he can go home in case he dies in battle and someone else gets to dedicate his house. 6 Is there anyone who's planted a vineyard and not benefitted from it yet? If so, he can go home in case he dies in battle and someone else enjoys the grape harvest. 7 Is there anyone who's gotten engaged, but not yet married? If so, he can go home in case he died in battle and someone else marries her."

8 Then those officers should also ask, "Is there anyone who's scared or fearful? If so, he should go home so his fear doesn't spread to others." 9 Once they've finished speaking with the fighting men, they must appoint commanders over them.

10 When you approach a city ready to attack it, first call out to offer peace for surrender, 11 and if they agree to surrender and open the city gates, then they'll all be forced to work for you. 12 But if they refuse your terms and decide to fight against you, then you should besiege that city. 13 Then when your god Yahweh helps you to capture it, you must kill every male in that city. 14 However, you can take the women and children and cattle and everything else in the city as plunder for yourself. You can enjoy your enemies' possessions that Yahweh has given to you. 15 That's how you should treat the cities located far from you—it doesn't apply to the cities of nearby peoples.

16 In contrast, the cities of those peoples that your god Yahweh is giving you as an inheritance, you mustn't leave a single living thing alive 17 because you must complete eliminate the Hitim, the Amorim, the Kena'anim (Canaanites), the Perizim, the Hivim, and the Yevusim. Do that just as your god Yahweh commanded you 18 so that they don't teach you to sin against Yahweh by doing any of their abhorrent activities that they do for their gods.

19 When you besiege a city for a lengthy period, battling against it to capture it, you mustn't use your axes to destroy its trees, because you can eat their fruit. Don't cut them down because the trees in the countryside aren't likely to turn around and attack you. 20 However, the trees that aren't fruit trees can be cut down and make ladders and towers to enable you to go over the walls and capture the city that is resisting you.

Handling an unseen murder

21:1 If a dead body is found in the land that your god Yahweh is about to give you, and it appears that that person had been killed out in the countryside by some unknown person, 2 then your elders and your judges must go out and work out the distance to each of the towns close to that victim. 3 Then the elders from that closest town must select a heifer from their herd that's never been yoked or had to pull anything, 4 and take it down into a valley that has a stream but the ground has never been ploughed or planted. They must break its neck there 5 and the Levitical priests must approach it because your god Yahweh has chosen them to serve him and pronounce blessings on Yahweh's behalf, and to give rulings on disputes and assaults. 6 Then all the elders from that closest town must wash their hands over the heifer whose neck was broken in the valley, 7 and say, "We didn't murder this person, nor did we see who did it. 8 Yahweh, forgive your Israeli people who you rescued from Mitsrayim (Egypt). Don't count us as guilty for murdering an innocent person."
When they do that, Yisrael (Israel) will be forgiven for that murder. 9 That's how your country will remove from yourselves the guilt of shedding innocent blood, when you do what's right in Yahweh's eyes.

Handling captured women

10 When you go out to battle against your enemies and your god Yahweh helps you defeat them, and you capture some of their people 11 and you notice an attractive woman that you'd like to take as a wife, 12 then you must publicly take her to your house. There you must shave off her hair and trim her nails, 13 and discard the clothes she was wearing when she was captured. She must stay in that house, and be allowed an entire month to mourn for her parents before she's taken to be your wife. 14 If you're not happy with her, then you can't sell her—you must release her to go wherever she wants because you've already humiliated her.

The oldest son's inheritance

15 If a man has two wives and loves one more than the other, but they've both given birth to sons for him but the oldest son is from the wife he dislikes, 16 then when he assigns his inheritance to his sons, he mustn't favour the son of the favourite wife over that eldest son. 17 Instead, he must acknowledge the son of the wife he dislikes, and given him double of everything, because that son is the beginning of his strength, and the largest share belongs to him.

The rebellious child

18 If a person has a stubborn, rebellious son who won't listen to the voice of his parents, and they tell him off, but he still won't listen to them, 19 then his parents must physically bring him to the elders at the gate of his hometown. 20 Then they must tell those elders, "Our son is stubborn and rebellious and pays no attention to what we say—he's a glutton and a drunkard." 21 Then all the men from that place must execute him by throwing rocks at him, thus removing that evil from among you. Then everyone in Yisrael (Israel) will hear about it and be afraid to imitate him.

Miscellaneous rules

22 If someone has committed a crime worthy of death, and that person is executed and you hang their body on a tree, 23 then the corpse mustn't remain overnight on the tree—it must be buried that same day, because anyone who's hanged is cursed by God[129] and you mustn't defile your country that your god Yahweh is about

129 RV 21:23 · Cross-ref. Gal 3:13.

to give you as an inheritance.

22:1 If you see someone else's cow or sheep that has strayed away, don't act as though you didn't see it. Take it back to its owner.[130] **2** However, if the owner doesn't live near you, or if you don't know who it is, then take the animal to your house. It can stay with you until the owner comes looking for it, then you must give it to them. **3** Similarly if it's a donkey or clothing or anything else that someone's lost, don't pretend that you never saw it.

4 If you see someone else's donkey or cow that's fallen beside the road, don't act as though you didn't see it. You must try to help the owner to get the animal up.

5 Women mustn't wear men's clothes, and men mustn't wear women's clothes. Your god Yahweh hates people who do things like that.

6 If you happen to find a bird's nest in a tree or on the ground, and the mother bird is sitting in the nest on its eggs or with the baby birds, don't take both the mother bird and the babies. **7** You may take the eggs or the baby birds, but you must allow the mother bird to fly away. Do that so that things will go well for you and so that you'll live in the land for a long time.

8 When you build a new house, be sure to include a railing around your flat roof, so you won't be guilty of having caused someone's death if a person falls off it and dies.

9 Don't plant a crop in your vineyard, because then the harvest of the crop and the fruit from the vineyard will both be defiled.[131][132]

10 Don't plough with a cow and a donkey harnessed together.

11 Don't wear clothes with a mix of wool and linen.

12 Twist threads together to make tassels and sew them onto the four corners of your cloak.[133]

Rules about marriage and rape

13 If a man takes a wife and sleeps with her, then hates her **14** and accuses her of shameful things, destroying her reputation and claiming that she hadn't been a virgin, **15** then the young woman's parents must show the evidence of her virginity[134] to the elders at the city gate. **16** The young woman's father must tell the elders how he gave his daughter to the man as a wife, but now he's rejected her **17** and made shameful accusations about her not being a virgin. Then the parents must spread out that cloth and show it to the city elders. **18** Then the city elders must punish that man **19** and fine him a hundred silver coins to be paid to the young woman's father for defaming an Israeli virgin. Then she'll remain as his wife and he'll be prohibited from ever divorcing her.

20 However, if the accusation was true and the young woman hadn't been a virgin, **21** then they must take her to the doorway of her father's house. Then the men from that city must execute her by throwing rocks at her, because she's done a disgraceful thing in Yisrael (Israel)—committing fornication while she still lived in her father's house. That's how you'll remove evil from your country.

22 If a man is discovered sleeping with another man's wife, then both of them must be executed. That's how you'll remove evil from Yisrael.

23 If a young woman is engaged to a man, and another man sleeps with her, **24** then you must execute both of them at the city gate by throwing rocks at them—the young woman because she didn't scream, and the man for defiling another man's fiancée.

25 If the man found the young woman out in the countryside and overpowers her and rapes her, then the man must be executed **26** but don't do anything to that woman because she's not worthy of death. (This is similar to the case of a man murdering another man out in the countryside.)
27 When that man found her out in the countryside, then she would have cried out for help, but no one was there to save her.

28 If a man overpowers a young woman who's not engaged, and rapes her, and it's discovered,[135] **29** that man must pay her father fifty silver coins, and she'll become his wife because he's violated her. He'll then be prohibited from ever divorcing her.

30 A man must never sleep with any of his father's wives because that would expose his father's nakedness.[136]

Excluded people

23:1 No man with crushed testicles or a severed penis is allowed to enter into Yahweh's assembly.

2 No illegitimate child[137] is allowed to enter into Yahweh's assembly, even down to the tenth generation.

3 No Amoni or Moavi is allowed to enter into Yahweh's assembly, even down past the tenth generation[138] **4** since they wouldn't even sell you bread and water when the people were travelling from Mitsrayim (Egypt) to Kena'an (Canaan). What's more, they hired Be'or's son Bil'am (Balaam) (from

130 **RV 22:1-4 · Cross-ref.** Exo 23:4-5.

131 **RV 22:9 · Note** Or possibly, become sacred.

132 **RV 22:9-11 · Cross-ref.** Lev 19:19.

133 **RV 22:12 · Cross-ref.** Num 15:37-41.

134 **RV 22:15 · Note** Presumably, the blood-stained sheet.

135 **RV 22:28-29 · Cross-ref.** Exo 22:16-17.

136 **RV 22:30 · Cross-ref.** Lev 18:8; 20:11; Deu 27:20.

137 **RV 23:2 · Note** Or possibly, child from mixed parentage.

138 **RV 23:3-5 · Cross-ref.** Neh 13:1-2.

Readers' Version

Petor in Aram-Naharayim) to curse you **5** However, your god Yahweh took no notice of Bil'am and turned the curse into a blessing because he loves you,[139] **6** so you must never strive for peace or prosperity for the Amonim or the Moavim.

7 In contrast, don't despise the Edomim because they're your cousins (descendants of your ancestor Yitshak (Isaac)). And don't despise the Mitsrim (Egyptians), because you lived there as foreigners. **8** The third generation (grandchildren) of any of Edomim or Mitsrim that live among you, may enter Yahweh's assembly.

Purity when at war

9 When your warriors are out besieging your enemies, they you must avoid ceremonial impurity. **10** If something happens at night to make a man 'unclean', then he must stay outside the camp the next day and not join the others. **11** That evening, he must wash himself in water, then once the sun has set, he may reenter the camp.

12 You must have a place outside your camp where you can go to relieve yourself. **13** You must have a spade among your equipment so that when you go to relieve yourself, you can dig a hole and then cover it up afterwards, **14** because your god Yahweh walks in your camp to give you victory to defeat your enemies, so your camp must be sacred so he won't see anything 'unclean' and turn away from you.

Various regulations

15 You mustn't return any slaves to their master if they escaped and got to you. **16** Allow them to stay in your town and don't mistreat them.

17 Don't allow any Israeli man or woman to become a religious[140] prostitute.[141] **18** Don't allow anyone woman or man to bring any part of their wages as a secular prostitute into your god Yahweh's temple, because both female and male prostitution is abhorrent to him.

19 You mustn't charge interest to your fellow Israeli, whether it's money or food or anything else that's borrowed.[142] **20** You can charge foreigners interest, but not fellow Israelis so that your god Yahweh will bless your society in everything you do in the land that you're about to occupy.

Making promises to God

21 When you make a vow to your god Yahweh, don't put off fulfilling it, because he will hold you accountable and not doing it would count as disobeying him. **22** However of course, if you don't make any vows, then you won't be guilty, **23** but if you've spoken your promise out loud to your god Yahweh, then you're obligated to keep it.

24 If you're walking through someone else's vineyard, you can eat as many grapes as you like, but you mustn't pick any to take away in a container. **25** Similarly, if you're going through someone else's field of grain, you can crunch a few kernels, but you mustn't cut off any of the stalks.

Divorce and remarriage

24:1 When a man marries a woman, then further on he decides he doesn't want her because of something he found out about her, then he must write a divorce notice and give it to her, and send her out of his house.[143] **2** After she leaves that marriage, another man is allowed to marry her. **3** If that second husband also decides to divorce her by sending her away with a divorce notice, or if he were to die, **4** then the first husband isn't allow to take her back as his wife. That's because she's been defiled and it would be abhorrent to Yahweh, and you mustn't defile the land that your god Yahweh is giving you.

5 When a man is newly married, he mustn't be called for the army or be given any other responsibilities. He must be free for one year to establish his house and to satisfy his new wife.

6 If someone borrows money, the lender mustn't take their millstone for grinding grain as a pledge, because they need it to stay alive.

Abduction

7 If someone is found to have abducted a fellow Israeli to make them into a slave or to sell them, then that abductor must be executed in order to purge such evils from your country.[144]

Skin diseases

8 Stay on guard against a deadly skin disease. Always follow what the priests and Levites tell you all to do, as I've instructed them.[145] **9** Remember what your god Yahweh did to Miryam (Miriam) on the way out of Mitsrayim (Egypt).[146]

10 If you've lent anything to a neighbour, don't go into their house to collect their pledge. **11** Just wait outside, then the person you've lent something to will bring the item out to you. **12** However, if that person is poor and gives clothing or a blanket as security, don't keep it overnight. **13** Take it back to them when the sun goes down so they'll be warm when they sleep. Then they'll bless you and your god Yahweh will be pleased with you.

14 Don't oppress any poor or needy hired workers, whether they're fellow Israelis or foreigners who live in your towns.[147] **15** At the end of each day, pay them before sunset,

139 **RV 23:5 · Cross-ref.** Num 23:7–24:9.

140 **RV 23:17 · Note** Or, cultic.

141 **RV 23:17 · Cross-ref.** Lev 19:29.

142 **RV 23:19-20 · Cross-ref.** Exo 22:25; Lev 25:36-37; Deu 15:7-11.

143 **RV 24:1 · Cross-ref.** Mat 5:31; 19:7; Mrk 10:4.

144 **RV 24:7 · Cross-ref.** Exo 21:16.

145 **RV 24:8 · Cross-ref.** Lev 13:1–14:54.

146 **RV 24:9 · Cross-ref.** Num 12:9-10.

147 **RV 24:14-15 · Cross-ref.** Lev 19:13.

because they need it to live on. Then they won't cry out to Yahweh against you and have him hold you accountable.

16 Parents mustn't be executed for what their children have done, and children mustn't be executed for what their parents have done. Any person must only be executed for what they themselves have done.[148]

17 Don't pervert justice if it involves foreigners or orphans, and don't take a widow's cloak as security for a loan.[149] 18 Remember that you were a slave in Mitsrayim (Egypt) and your god Yahweh rescued you from there. That's why I'm commanding you to do those things—to be considerate about helping other people who are in need.

19 When you harvest your crops, if you forget a tied bundle in your field, don't go back to get it—it'll be for a resident foreigner or an orphan or widow to pick up,[150] so that your god Yahweh can bless everything that you do. 20 When you beat your olive tree to make the fruit fall, don't go back over it to pick the ones still on the tree. Those will be for the foreigner, or the orphan or widow. 21 Similarly, when you pick your grapes in the vineyard, don't go back over the vines a second time. Those will be for the foreigner, or the orphan or widow. 22 Don't forget that you were a slave in Mitsrayim—that's why I'm instructing you to do those things.

Whipping for criminals

25:1 If two parties have a dispute, they can request a judgement and the judges will decide who's right and wrong. 2 If the guilty person is deserving of punishment, the judge will order him to lie on the ground where he'll be whipped in front of the judge as the crime deserves. 3 He may not receive more than forty lashes because that would be too degrading.

4 Don't cover your cow's mouth when it's pulling the grain threshing sledge.[151]

Continuing the family name

5 If some brothers live on the same property and one of them dies without leaving a son, then the widow mustn't marry outside of the family. Her brother-in-law must take her as a wife for himself and perform the duty of a brother-in-law.[152] 6 If she gives birth to a son in due course, he'll be considered as the son of the brother who died, so that his family name won't disappear from Yisrael (Israel). 7 But if the dead man's brother doesn't want to marry the widow, she must go to the elders at the city gate and explain that her brother-in-law is refusing to do his duty to preserve the dead brother's family name in Yisrael. 8 Then those elders must summon the brother and talk to him. However, if he really doesn't want to marry her, 9 then his late brother's wife must go up to him in front of those elders, and take his sandal off his foot[153] and spit in his face. Then she must say, 'That's what happens to a man who won't strengthen his brother's family.' 10 After that, the brother will be known in Yisrael as the man who had his sandal taken off.

Being fair and honest

11 If two men are fighting each other, and one man's wife comes to help her husband, and reaches out and grabs the other man's private parts, 12 then you must cut her hand off. Don't pity her.

Don't all cheat

13 Don't keep two stone weights in your bag—a lighter one and a heavier one for when you're buying and selling.[154] 14 Don't keep two measuring containers in your house—a smaller one and a larger one. 15 You must use exact stone weights and measuring containers so that your god Yahweh will prolong your time in the country that he's giving you— 16 he can't stand people who cheat others.

Eliminating the Amalekim

17 Don't forget what the Amalekim did to you people when you came out of Mitsrayim (Egypt).[155] 18 They met you on the road, then attacked you from behind—getting the stragglers who were weak and exhausted. They had no fear of God. 19 At some point in the future when your god Yahweh has given you the land to occupy as an inheritance, and you're no longer being attacked by your enemies, you must eliminate the Amalekim so they won't be remembered anymore. Don't forget to do that.

Offerings for the beginning of the harvest

26:1 After you've entered the land that your god Yahweh is giving you as an inheritance, and you occupy it and live there, 2 each of you should take the first part of your harvest in that place and put it in a basket. Then take it to the place that your god Yahweh is going to choose to attach his name to.[156] 3 Go to the high priest in office at that time, and tell him, "I declare today to your god Yahweh that I've entered the land that he promised to our ancestors to give us."

4 The priest will take that basket of food and place it in front of your god Yahweh's altar. 5 Then in Yahweh's presence you should respond, "My ancestor was a wandering

148 **RV 24:16 · Cross-ref.** 2Ki 14:6; 2Ch 25:4; Eze 18:20.

149 **RV 24:17-18 · Cross-ref.** Exo 23:9; Lev 19:33-34; Deu 27:19.

150 **RV 24:19-21 · Cross-ref.** Lev 19:9-10; 23:22.

151 **RV 25:4 · Cross-ref.** 1Cor 9:9; 1Tim 5:18.

152 **RV 25:5-6 · Cross-ref.** Mat 22:24; Mrk 12:19; Luk 20:28.

153 **RV 25:9 · Cross-ref.** Rut 4:7-8.

154 **RV 25:13-16 · Cross-ref.** Lev 19:35-36.

155 **RV 25:17-19 · Cross-ref.** Exo 17:8-14; 1Sam 15:2-9.

156 **RV 26:2 · Cross-ref.** Exo 23:19.

Readers' Version

Aramean, and he went down to Mitsrayim (Egypt) with his smallish family, and lived there and eventually became a large and powerful people. **6** But the Mitsrim (Egyptians) treated us badly and oppressed us—forcing us into hard labour. **7** We cried out to our ancestors' god Yahweh to help us, and he heard our cry and saw our suffering and oppression and the hard labour. **8** Then using your great power and doing many miracles and other terrifying things, you brought us out from Mitsrayim **9** and brought us to this very fertile land **10** So now, Yahweh, I've brought the first part of the harvest from that land that you've given me."

Then as the basket is placed in front of Yahweh, you must bow down in front of him. **11** Then you can celebrate by eating all the good things that your god Yahweh has given to you and your household, and it's also for the Levites and the foreigners who live among you.

12 Every third year, take a tenth of your harvest to the Levites, the foreigners, and the orphans and widows in your town for them to eat and be content.[157] **13** Then you must explain in front of your god Yahweh, "I've taken the sacred tenth from my house and given it to the Levites, the foreigners, the orphans and widows, thus following all of your instructions. I've not disobeyed or forgotten your regulations. **14** I never used any of it at a funeral, or took it in disobedience, or offered it to the dead. I've listen to the voice of my god Yahweh and followed all your instructions, **15** so look down from your sacred home in the heavens and bless your people Yisrael (Israel) and the land that you've given us that's so fertile, as you had promised our ancestors.

16 Today your god Yahweh is commanding you to follow all these instructions and regulations, so follow them sincerely and enthusiastically. **17** You have declared today that Yahweh is your god, and that you'll follow all his instructions and keep his regulations and commands and rules, and listen to his voice. **18** Also today, Yahweh has declared that you are his people, like a prized possession, like he told you that you would be.[158] You must follow all his instructions **19** and then he'll make your country greater than all the others that he's established. You'll be praised for your reputation and beauty, and you'll be different from the others—being a sacred people for your god Yahweh, just like he's said.

The warnings of not still entering of Kena'an

27:1 Then Mosheh (Moses) and the Israeli elders commanded the people, "Follow all the instructions that I'm giving you today. **2** When you cross the Yarden (Jordan) river to enter the land that your god Yahweh is giving you, then you must stand up some tall pieces of rock and cover them with plaster.[159] **3** Then write all these instructions onto them as soon as you've crossed the river, so that you can enter the very fertile land that your god Yahweh is giving you, as he had promised your ancestors. **4** Then after you've gone further in, stand some tall pieces of rock up on end on Mt. Eyval like I've told you, and cover them with plaster, **5** and build a stone altar there to offer sacrifices to your god Yahweh. Don't use any iron tools to shape the stones.[160] **6** You must built Yahweh's altar with uncut stones. Then you can offer burnt sacrifices to your god Yahweh on it. **7** Also, you can sacrifice peace offerings and cheerfully eat them there in front of your god Yahweh. **8** When you write these instructions on those stones, you must write them very clearly.

9 Then Mosheh (Moses) along with the priests and the Levites, spoke to all Yisrael (Israel), "Be silent and listen, Yisrael. Today you have become the people of your god Yahweh. **10** So from now on, you must listen to what he says and follow all the instructions and rules that I'm giving you today."

Curses for disobedience

11 That same day, Mosheh (Moses) told the people, **12** "After you've all crossed the Yarden (Jordan) river, the tribes of Shim'on (Simeon), Levi, Yehudah (Judah), Yisakar (Issachar), Yosef (Joseph), and Benyamin must stand on Mt. Gerizim and bless the people.[161] **13** Meanwhile, the tribes of Re'uven, Gad, Asher, Zevulun, Dan, and Naftali (Naphtali) must stand on Mt. Eyval to hear the curse.

14 Then the Levites will call out loudly to tell every Israeli:

15 'Anyone who makes a figure, whether carved from wood or cast from metal, and secretly sets it up to worship will be cursed because Yahweh abhors it.'[162]

Then the people must reply, 'Let it be so.'

16 'Anyone who dishonours their father or mother will be cursed.'

Then the people must reply, 'Let it be so.'

17 'Anyone who moves their boundary marker back into their neighbour's property will be cursed.'

Then the people must reply, 'Let it be so.'

18 'Anyone who leads a blind person down the wrong path will be cursed.'

Then the people must reply, 'Let it be so.'

19 'Anyone who perverts justice for a foreigner or orphan or widow will be cursed.'[163]

Then the people must reply, 'Let it be so.'

157 RV 26:12 · Cross-ref. Deu 14:28-29.

158 RV 26:18 · Cross-ref. Exo 19:5; Deu 4:20; 7:6; 14:2; Tit 2:14; 1Pe 2:9.

159 RV 27:2-8 · Cross-ref. Josh 8:30-32.

160 RV 27:5-6 · Cross-ref. Exo 20:25.

161 RV 27:12 · Cross-ref. Deu 11:29; Josh 8:33-35.

162 RV 27:15 · Cross-ref. Exo 20:4; 34:17; Lev 19:4; 26:1; Deu 4:15-18; 5:8.

163 RV 27:19 · Cross-ref. Exo 22:21; 23:9; Lev 19:33-34; Deu 24:17-18.

Readers' Version

20 'Any man who sleeps with a wife of his father will be cursed because he's exposed his father's nakedness.'
Then the people must reply, 'Let it be so.'
21 'Anyone who has sex with an animal will be cursed.'
Then the people must reply, 'Let it be so.'
22 'Any male who sleeps with his sister or his half sister will be cursed.'
Then the people must reply, 'Let it be so.'
23 'Anyone who sleeps with his mother-in-law will be cursed.'
Then the people must reply, 'Let it be so.'
24 'Anyone who secretly murders his neighbour will be cursed.'
Then the people must reply, 'Let it be so.'
25 'Anyone who takes payment to murder an innocent person will be cursed.'
Then the people must reply, 'Let it be so.'
26 'Anyone who doesn't follow all these instructions will be cursed.'[164]
Then the people must reply, 'Let it be so.'

Blessings for obedience[165]

28:1 If you, Yisrael (Israel), listen to what god Yahweh says and follow all his instructions that I'm giving you today, then he will make you the greatest of all the nations in the world,[166] 2 and all these blessings will come to you if you listen to his voice:
3 You'll be blessed in the city, and blessed in the countryside.
4 Your children, your harvests, and your calves, and lambs and kids will all be blessed.
5 Your basket and your kneading bowl will be blessed.
6 You'll be blessed when you're coming in and when you're going out.
7 Yahweh will enable you to defeat your enemies who come to attack you—they'll march in all orderly, but will flee from you in all directions.
8 Yahweh will decree a blessing on your barns and on all the work you do, and he'll bless you in the land that he's giving to you.
9 If you follow your God Yahweh's instructions and do what he wants, he will establish you as his sacred people just like he promised. 10 Then all the peoples around the world will realise that Yahweh's name is attached to you, and they'll be afraid of you. 11 Yahweh will help you to really prosper through your children, your animals, and your harvests in the land that he promised to your ancestors that he'd give to you. 12 Yahweh will open his treasure house in the sky and send good rain when it's needed and bless everything you do, so that you'll lend money to many nations instead of needing to borrow it. 13 Yahweh will make you the head, not the tail. You'll be above, not beneath, if you listen to your god Yahweh's instructions that I'm giving you today, and follow them 14 Make sure you don't turn away from those instructions, and never worship other gods.

Curses for disobedience[167]

15 On the other hand, if you don't listen to your god Yahweh's voice and keep following his instructions and obeying his rules that I'm giving you today, then all these curses will catch up to you and hit you:
16 You'll be cursed in the city and cursed in the countryside.
17 Your basket and your kneading bowl will be cursed.
18 Your children, your harvests, and your calves, and lambs and kids will all be cursed.
19 You'll be cursed when you're coming in and when you're going out.

The curses of repentance from God

20 Yahweh will send curses against you, and confusion and opposition in everything your country does until you're destroyed and quickly eliminated because of your evil activities that demonstrate that you've abandoned me.
21 Yahweh will make the deadly disease cling to you until he's finished you from off the land that you're about to enter and take ownership of. 22 Yahweh will send cancer and fever and inflammation. There'll be fiery heat and drought, and blight and mildew, and will chase you until you die. 23 The overhead sky will be locked up like bronze, and the dryness will make the land like iron. 24 Instead of rain on your land, Yahweh will send powdered dust that will cover you until your country is destroyed.
25 Yahweh will allow your enemies to destroy you—your army will march in all orderly, but will flee from you in all directions, and all the other countries in the world will be horrified at what happens to you. 26 Your corpses will become food for birds and wild animals, and there'll be no one left to scare them away. 27 Yahweh will afflict you with boils like he sent to the Mitsri (Egyptian) people, along with ulcers, rashes, and itching which there's no cure for. 28 Yahweh will strike you with madness and blindness, and with confused minds. 29 Even in the middle of the day, you'll be groping around like blind people, and your projects won't be successful. You'll be oppressed and robbed continually, and there'll be no one to rescue you.
30 A man will be engaged to a young woman, but someone else will rape her. You'll build a house, but never get to live in it, and you'll plant a vineyard, but not get to produce any wine. 31 Your cow will be slaughtered right in front of your

164 RV 27:26 · Cross-ref. Gal 3:10.
165 RV 28:1 · Parallel Lev. 26:3-13; Deu. 7:12-24
166 RV 28:1-14 · Cross-ref. Deu 11:13-17.
167 RV 28:15 · Parallel Lev. 26:14-46

eyes, but you won't get to eat any of it. You donkey will be stolen right in front of you, but will never be returned. Your sheep will be given to your enemies, but no one will help you rescue them. 32 Your sons and daughters will be handed over to another country, and you'll strain your eyes all day looking for them, but you won't be able to do anything about it. 33 People from a country you've never heard of will harvest your crops and enjoy the results of your work, but you'll just be oppressed and crushed. 34 All the things you witness will drive you to insanity. 35 Yahweh will strike your people with bad boils on your knees and legs that will never heal up—from the bottom of your soles right up to the tops of your heads.

36 Yahweh will lead you and the king that you'll place over you, to a country that you and your ancestors have never been to, and you'll end up serving other gods there made of wood or stone. 37 Those people in the countries that Yahweh will push you into will be horrified about you, and create sayings and jokes about you.

38 You'll plant a lot of seed in your fields, but only gather a small harvest because locusts will eat the crops. 39 You'll plant vineyards and cultivate them, but you won't harvest the grapes or drink the wine, because worms will eat them. 40 You'll have olive trees across your territory, but you won't have any oil to rub on your skin, because the unripe olives will drop off the trees. 41 You'll have sons and daughters, but you won't be able to keep them because they'll be taken away as captives. 42 Swarms of crickets will take over your trees and plants.

43 The foreigners who live among you will become more and more powerful and you'll become less and less powerful. 44 They'll lend to you, not you lending to them. The foreigner will be the head and you'll be the tail.

45 All those curses will come on you and chase and overtake you until you're destroyed because your country didn't listen to the voice of your god Yahweh, or follow his instructions, or obey the rules that he gave you. 46 Those curses will afflict you and your descendants forever as signs 47 because you didn't serve your god Yahweh with cheerfulness resulting from the abundance that you took for granted. 48 So then, Yahweh will send enemies against you and you'll serve them in hunger and thirst, and in nakedness and lacking everything. Yahweh will put an iron yoke on your neck used for pulling heavy loads with, until he destroys you. 49 Yahweh will send a very distant nation against you. They'll swoop in like an eagle—speaking a language that you won't understand. 50 They'll be fierce looking and with no mercy for either the elderly or the young. 51 They'll eat the meat of your animals and the harvests from your crops until you're destroyed. They won't leave any grain or new wine, or calves, lambs, or kids—you'll all die of hunger. 52 They'll surround all your cities until your high, fortified walls that you trusted in come down all over your country. Yes, you'll be contained inside your cities throughout the land the your god Yahweh has given you.

53 Due to that siege and the distress that you experience from the oppression of your enemies, you'll end up eating the flesh of the sons and daughters that your god Yahweh has given you. 54 Even the most sensitive, kind-hearted man among you will be selfish towards his brother, towards the wife that he loves, and towards his own remaining children— 55 withholding from them, the flesh of his children that he'll eat, in his distress as he has nothing else left due to that siege and the oppression from your enemies that have surrounded your cities. 56 Even the most delicate, tender woman among you who never once stepped outside the house in her bare feet, will be selfish towards the husband that she loves and to her own son and her own daughter— 57 eating both her new baby and the placenta,[168] in her distress as she has nothing else left due to that siege and the oppression from your enemies that have surrounded your cities.

58 If you don't keep following all the instructions that are written in this book, i.e., not honouring and showing respect to your incredible god Yahweh, 59 then he'll punish you by sending terrible deadly diseases to you and your descendants, along with long-lasting illnesses. 60 All the terrible problems and diseases that he sent onto the Mitsrim (Egyptians) and which terrified you, he'll send them onto you now and they'll cling to you. 61 Every kind of sickness and disease that isn't even written in this book, Yahweh will send them all onto you until you're destroyed. 62 Even though you all had been as numerous as the stars in the sky, your country will be left underpopulated because you didn't listen to your god Yahweh's voice. 63 Just as Yahweh was happy to do good things for you and multiply you all, he would then be happy to bring you all to ruin and destruction. Then you'll be torn away from the land that you're going in to take ownership of.

64 Yahweh will scatter you among all the peoples right around the world where you'll serve gods made out of wood or stone that neither you nor your ancestors had heard of. 65 You won't have any peace among those nations, and you'll never be able to relax, but rather Yahweh will give you trembling hearts, sore eyes, and minds full of despair. 66 Time will go very slowly for you, and you'll be scared both night and day, without any certainty in your life. 67 In the morning you'll say, 'If only it was evening,' and in the evening you'll say, 'If only it was morning,' because of the continual tightness in your stomach and because of the sights you'll have to witness. 68 Yahweh will send some of you back to Mitsrayim (Egypt) by ship, even though I'd told you that you'll never

168 RV 28:57 · Cross-ref. 2Ki 6:28-29; Lam 4:10.

see that country again. Then you'll be offered there for sale as slaves, but no one will want to buy you.

29:1 Those are the words of the agreement that Yahweh commanded Mosheh (Moses) to make with the Israelis there in Moav (Moab), on top of the agreement that he'd made with them at Horev.

Overview of the agreement

2 Then Mosheh (Moses) called all Yisrael (Israel) together and told them, "You've all seen everything that Yahweh did to Par'oh (Pharaoh) and all his servants in Mitsrayim (Egypt) and what he did to all his country right in front of your eyes— **3** the sufferings of the people there that you saw for yourselves, along with the incredible miracles, **4** yet up until now, Yahweh hasn't enabled you all to understand the meaning of everything that you saw and heard. **5** For forty years, Yahweh led you all in the wilderness, but your clothes didn't wear through, and the sandals on your feet never wore out. **6** You all survived without bread to eat or any wine or alcohol to drink so that you'd realise that I am your god Yahweh. **7** Then when we arrived here, King Sihon from Heshbon[169] and King Og from Bashan[170] came out to battle against us, but we defeated them. **8** We took their land and gave it to the tribes of Re'uven and Gad, and the half-tribe of Menasheh (Manasseh) to become their inheritance.[171] **9** So follow all the instructions in this agreement and obey the rules so that you'll all prosper in everything you do.

10 All of you stand here today in front of your god Yahweh: your chiefs, your tribes, your elders, and your officers, all the Israeli men **11** along with your wives and children, and the foreigners living among you (who cut wood and fetch water for you), **12** to enter into an agreement with your god Yahweh, and to accept the promise that he's made to you today. **13** That will establish your country as his people, and he will be your god as he told you he would, having promised it to your ancestors Avraham, Yitshak (Isaac), and Ya'akov (Jacob). **14** This agreement isn't just with all of you here today, **15** the ones standing here, but also with those who aren't here with you today.

16 You all know how we lived in Mitsrayim (Egypt), and then travelled through other kingdoms on our way here, **17** and you've all seen their disgusting practices and the idols that they had, made of wood and stone, gold and silver. **18** If there happens to be a man or woman, or clan or tribe, whose loyalty is turning away today from your god Yahweh and to go and serve those gods in those other nations, i.e., if there's a bitter or poisonous root among you all,[172] **19** and if they hear the words of this curse, then they'll think to themselves, 'We'll have peace, even though our minds are fixed on where we're going,' so that the good and the bad are carried along together, **20** Yahweh won't be willing to forgive them. No, his jealousy and anger will rage against them, and all the curses written in this book will land on them, and Yahweh will wipe out their name never to be remembered again. **21** Then Yahweh will single out that person or group from all of Yisrael's (Israel's) tribe, to be marked out for disaster as per all the curses that are written in this book of instructions.

22 Then a future generation (your descendants who'll be born in the future, plus the foreigner who comes from a distant land), when they see the terrible problems that hit that land and the diseases that Yahweh sent to make it sick, will say, **23** 'All that land is sulfur and burning salt. No one plants anything and nothing sprouts, and not even grass grows in it, like the overthrow of Sedom and Amorah (Gomorrah), Admah and Tsevoim, which Yahweh destroyed in his rage and anger,'[173] **24** and all the nations will ask, 'Why did Yahweh do that to that country? What's he so angry about?' **25** Then others will reply, 'Because they neglected their agreement with Yahweh, the god of their ancestors, that he made with them when he brought them out from Mitsrayim (Egypt), **26** and they went and served other gods and bowed down to them—gods that they hadn't heard of before or had anything to do with. **27** That's why Yahweh was angry at that country and brought all the curses written in this scroll onto it— **28** tearing them away from their land in his raging anger, and threw them into another land as we can see today.'

29 Our god Yahweh has his secrets, but what he's revealed is for us and our children forever, so that we can follow all his instructions.

Opportunity for restoration

30:1 If you've experienced the blessings, and then the curses that I've told you about, but then you have a change of heart there among all the nations that your god Yahweh has scattered you across, **2** and you and your children decide to return to your god Yahweh and listen to his voice, and sincerely and diligently follow everything that I'm commanding you today, **3** then your god Yahweh will show compassion towards you and reverse your captivity, and he'll gather you from all the peoples where he's scattered you, and return you. **4** Even if your scattered people are at the ends of the earth, your god Yahweh would gather you from there and bring you back to your country. **5** Your god Yahweh would then bring you back into the country of your fathers, and you'd retake possession of it, and then he'd cause you to become more prosperous

169 **RV 29:7 · Cross-ref.** Num 21:21-30.

170 **RV 29:7 · Cross-ref.** Num 21:31-35.

171 **RV 29:8 · Cross-ref.** Num 32:33.

172 **RV 29:18 · Cross-ref.** Heb 12:15.

173 **RV 29:23 · Cross-ref.** Gen 19:24-25.

and more numerous than you are now. 6 He will 'circumcise the heart of' (remove the evil motives from) you and your children[174] to release you to love your god Yahweh with total sincerity and diligently, so that you can live. 7 Then he will put all those curses on your enemies and those who hate you and who oppressed you. 8 After that, you'll turn and listen to Yahweh's voice and follow all his instructions that I'm giving you today. 9 Your god Yahweh will give you prosperity in everything you work on, and in producing children, and expanding your herds and harvesting your crops. He'll happily cause you to prosper just like he'd done for your fathers, 10 if you listen to his voice, following his instructions and obeying his rules written in this book, i.e., if you return to your god Yahweh your God with total sincerity and with all your energy.

Yahweh's instructions aren't a distant dream

11 These instructions that I'm giving you today aren't too difficult or impractical for you— 12 it's not like you have to send someone up to heaven to get them so you can hear them and follow them.[175] 13 Nor are they on the opposite side of the ocean such that you have to find someone to cross over to get them so you can hear them and follow them. 14 On the contrary, these instructions are very close to you—you should discuss them and think about them so that you can follow them.

The selection of life

15 Listen, I've placed the choice between life and good, and death and evil, in front of you today. 16 What I'm commanding you today is to love your god Yahweh, to walk in his ways and to follow his instructions and obey his rules and regulations, and then you'll live and multiply, and your god Yahweh will bless you in the land that you're about to take possession of. 17 But if your loyalty shifts away and you don't listen but instead you're drawn away and bow down to other gods and serve them, 18 then I'm warning you all today that you'll all most certainly die, i.e., you won't live for a long time in the land which you're about to cross the Yarden (Jordan) river to take possession of. 19 I call on the heavens and the earth to witness against you today: I've placed in front of you the choice between life and death, and between blessings and the curses, so that you'll be forced to choose life so that you and your descendants will live. 20 Decide today to love your god Yahweh, to listen to his voice, and to cling to him, because he'll give you life and lengthen your lives so you can live in the land that Yahweh promised to give to your fathers, Avraham,[176] Yitshak (Isaac),[177] and Ya'akov (Jacob).[178]

Yehoshua (Joshua) installed as the new leader · Promised land

31:1 Then Mosheh (Moses) also told the Israelis, 2 "I'm already a hundred and twenty and no longer able to walk around easily, plus Yahweh has told me that I won't be able to cross the Yarden (Jordan) river.[179] 3 Your god Yahweh will go ahead of you and destroy those peoples right in front of your eyes, then you'll be able to take over that land. Yahweh has said that it's Yehoshua (Joshua) who will lead you in there. 4 Then Yahweh will do the same to those peoples as he did to the Amori kings Sihon and Og, when he destroyed them and their people.[180] 5 Yahweh will enable you to conquer those peoples, but you must do exactly what I've instructed you, to them. 6 Be strong and courageous. Don't be afraid or scared of those people, because it's your god Yahweh who'll go with you—he won't leave you or abandon you.

7 Then Mosheh called Yehoshua and told him in front of all Yisrael (Israel), "Be strong and courageous, because you'll go with these people into the land that Yahweh had promised to their ancestors to give to them, and you'll enable them to take it as their inheritance. 8 Yahweh will go ahead of you and he'll be with you. He won't fail or abandon you[181]—you mustn't be afraid or concerned.

Listening to these instructions every seven years

9 Then Mosheh (Moses) wrote these instructions down and gave the scroll to the Israeli elders and to the priests (Levi's descendants) who carry the box containing Yahweh's agreement. 10 Then Mosheh instructed them: Every seven years at the time for cancelling all debts[182] during the Celebration in Huts,[183] 11 when all Yisrael (Israel) must go and stand in front of your god Yahweh in the place that he will choose, you must read these instructions aloud to all Yisrael. 12 Assemble the people (men, women, children, and any foreigners that live in your country) so that they can listen and learn, and honour and respect your god Yahweh, and keep following all these instructions. 13 Then their descendants who won't have heard this yet, can hear them and learn to honour and respect your god Yahweh during all the years

174 **RV 30:6 · Cross-ref.** Rom 2:29.
175 **RV 30:12-14 · Cross-ref.** Rom 10:6-8.
176 **RV 30:20 · Cross-ref.** Gen 12:7.
177 **RV 30:20 · Cross-ref.** Gen 26:3.
178 **RV 30:20 · Cross-ref.** Gen 28:13.
179 **RV 31:2 · Cross-ref.** Num 20:12.
180 **RV 31:4 · Cross-ref.** Num 21:21-35.
181 **RV 31:8 · Cross-ref.** Josh 1:5; Heb 13:5.
182 **RV 31:10 · Cross-ref.** Deu 15:1-2.
183 **RV 31:10 · Cross-ref.** Deu 16:13-15.

Readers' Version

that you all live in the land that you are crossing the Yarden (Jordan) river in order to take possession of it.

The final command to Mosheh

14 Then Yahweh told Mosheh (Moses), "Listen, you'll soon die. Call Yehoshua (Joshua) present yourselves in the sacred tent, then I'll give him his instructions."

So Mosheh and Yehoshua went to the sacred tent. **15** Yahweh appeared to them there in a pillar of cloud that stood over the tent door.

16 Then Yahweh said to Mosheh, "Listen, you'll soon go to join your ancestors, and these people will turn and prostitute themselves to the strange gods of the land that they'll be going to. This nation will abandon me and break the agreement that I've made with it. **17** When that happens, my rage will burn against them, and I'll abandon them and distance myself from them. They'll be devoured by other kingdoms, and many disasters and troubles will hit them. Then they'll say at that time, 'Didn't these disasters come to us because our God is no longer here amongst us?' **18** Yes, I'll definitely stay away on that day because of all the evil that they will have done when they turned to other gods. **19** So now, write down this song and teach it to the Israelis. Make them memorise it so that it can become a witness for me against them. **20** When I bring them to the land that I promised to their ancestors, flowing with milk and honey, and they eat well and become satisfied and fat, then they'll turn to other gods and they'll serve them, and they'll despise me and break our agreement. **21** Then in the future when many evils and troubles hit the country, this song will testify to it as a witness (because it won't be forgotten by their descendants). Because I know their intent today, even before I've taken them into the land that I promised."

22 So Mosheh wrote down the song that day and taught it to the Israelis.

23 Then he instructed Nun's son Yehoshua (Joshua), "Be strong and courageous; because you'll be the one to take the Israelis into the land that I promised them, and I'll be with you."[184]

24 After Mosheh had finished writing all these instructions from beginning to end onto a scroll, **25** he told the Levites who carry the box containing Yahweh's agreement, **26** "Take this scroll with these instructions on it and place it beside the box containing your god Yahweh's agreement, and then it'll be there as a witness against your nation **27** because I know your rebellion and stubbornness. Listen while I'm still alive with you today: you've all been rebellious against Yahweh, and it'll surely be worse after my death. **28** Bring all the elders and officials of your tribes here to me, so that I can speak these words in their ears and call the heavens and the earth to witness against them, **29** because I know that after my death, you'll certainly corrupt yourselves and turn away from the ways that I have instructed you, and disaster will come to you in the future, because you'll all do evil in Yahweh's eyes, provoking him to anger by what you all do."

Mosheh's song

30 Then Mosheh (Moses) recited this entire song aloud to all the gathered Israelis:

32:1 "Listen you heavens, and let me speak,
and let the earth listen to what I have to say.
2 Let my teaching drop like rain,
my speech drip like dew,
like sprinkling on the grass,
and like showers on the plants,
3 because I declare Yahweh's name.
Tell God how great he is.
4 The Rock, his work is perfect,
because all his ways are fair and honest—
a faithful God who never does wrong.
He's always honest and always correct.
5 Yisrael (Israel) acted corruptly towards him—
they're not his children, that's their flaw.
They're a perverse and crooked generation.
6 Is that how you reward Yahweh,
you foolish people and without wisdom?
Isn't he your father, your creator?
He made you and established you.
7 Remember the days of old.
Consider generation after generation over the years.
Ask your father and he'll inform you.
Question your elders and they'll tell you.
8 When the highest one gave the nations an inheritance,
when he spread all humans out,
he defined the boundaries for the peoples,[185]
according to the number of Israelis,
9 because Yahweh's allocation is his people.
Ya'akov (Jacob) is the portion of his inheritance.
10 He found him in a land that was just wilderness,
and in the barren, howling desert.
He surrounded him and looked after him—
watched over him like a precious possession.
11 Like an eagle stirs up its nest,
hovering over its young.
He spread his wings, then took him—
sitting him on top of his feathers.
12 Yahweh alone led Yisrael (Israel),
^and there wasn't any foreign god helping them.
13 He helped Yisrael reach the hilltops,
and fed them the fruits of the countryside.
He nourished them with honey from the cliffs,
oil from the hardest rocks,
14 yogurt from the cattle and milk from the flocks,

184 **RV 31:23 · Cross-ref.** Num 27:23; Josh 1:6.

185 **RV 32:8 · Cross-ref.** Acts 17:26.

Readers' Version

with fat of lambs, and rams from Bashan, and goats,
with plump wheat kernels,
and the juice of grapes that you drank as wine.
15 So the good fellow got fat and kicked—
you were fat, getting bloated, you gorged.
Then he abandoned the God who created him,
and he rejected the rock that had saved him.
16 Yisrael (Israel) provoked him with strange gods.
They anger him with their abominations.
17 They sacrificed to demons, not God—
gods they hadn't known.
New ones that had come recently,
that your ancestor had never served.
18 You neglected the rock who carried you,
and you forgot God who gave birth to you.
19 Yahweh noticed that and he rejected you,
due to that provocation by his sons and daughters.
20 He said, 'Let me hide myself from them,
I'll just watch how they end up
because they're a perverse generation—
children who totally lack faithfulness.
21 They provoked me with a non-god—
angered me by their worthless idols,[186]
so I'll provoke them with a 'non-people'.
I'll anger them by means of a foolish nation,[187]
22 because my anger flames like a fire.
It burns down to the lowest grave,
and devours the land and its harvests,
and scorches the foundations of the mountains.
23 I'll send them even more disasters.
I'll use my arrows up on them.
24 They'll be wasted by hunger
and weakened by terrible contagious and deadly diseases.
I'll send those diseases on the teeth of wild animals,
along with the poison from various creatures that crawl in the dust.
25 Outside the sword will leave people dead,
and inside, in the bedrooms, there'll be terror,
whether it's for a young man or young woman,
or the baby or the grey-haired man.
26 I said I'd wipe them out—
I would remove their memory from humankind
27 if it wasn't for the fact that I expect that their enemies would boast.
I don't want their adversaries to misjudge,
saying, "It's us who's powerful,
and Yahweh didn't carry all this out." '
28 because they're a nation short of good advice,
and lacking in understanding.
29 If they were wise, they'd comprehend this.
They'd understand what was ahead of them.
30 How could one warrior chase a thousand Israelis,
or two put ten thousands to flight,
unless their 'rock' sold them,
and Yahweh gave them up?
31 Even our enemies know
that their protector/'rock' is not like ours,
32 because their vine has its roots in Sedom,
and comes from the vineyards of Amorah (Gomorrah).
Their grapes are full of poison—
their clusters of grapes taste bitter.
33 Their wine is snake venom,
and the deadly poison of vipers.
34 'Aren't these future events my secret—
sealed up in my treasure-houses?
35 Vengeance and recompense belong to me[188]
at the time when their foot slips,
because the day of their disaster is close,
and the things prepared for them hurry along.'
36 Yes, Yahweh vindicates his people,
and has compassion on his servants,[189]
because he'll see that their power is gone,
and no one remains, either free or enslaved.
37 Then he'll ask, 'Where are their gods—
the rock who they went to to be safe,
38 who ate the fat of their sacrifices,
and drank the wine that they'd offered?
Let those gods take action and help you.
Let them be a shelter over you.
39 Now you'll realise that I'm God,
and that there's no god other than me.
I put to death and give life.
I wound, and I heal,
and no one can challenge my power,
40 because I lift my hand up to heaven
and promise, "As I live forever,
41 when I sharpen my glittering sword,
and prepare to apply justice,
I will return vengeance on my enemies,
and I'll pay back those who hate me.
42 I'll make my arrows drunk with blood,
and my sword will devour flesh,
with the blood of those slaughtered and the captives—
from the heads of the enemy's leaders." '
43 You nations, need to appreciate his people,
because he'll avenge the blood of his servants,

186 **RV 32:21 · Cross-ref.** 1Cor 10:22.
187 **RV 32:21 · Cross-ref.** Rom 10:19.
188 **RV 32:35 · Cross-ref.** Rom 12:19; Heb 10:30.
189 **RV 32:36a · Cross-ref.** Psa 135:14.

Readers' Version

and he'll return vengeance onto his enemies,
and then he'll forgive his country—his people."
44 Then Mosheh (Moses), accompanied by Nun's son
Yehoshua (Joshua), went and recited all the words of that
song for the people to hear.
45 When Mosheh (Moses) had finished telling all that to all Yisrael (Israel), **46** he told them, "Never forget all those instructions
that I've been giving you today. Teach them to your children
so that they'll be able to keep following them, **47** because it's
no light matter for you all. Yes, it's your lives, and by doing
that you can prolong your time in the land which you are
crossing over the Yarden (Jordan) river to take possession
of."

Mosheh's final instructions

48 That same day, Yahweh told Mosheh, **49** "Go to Mt. Nevo
(a mountain in the Avarim range in Moav (Moab), across
from Yeriho (Jericho)). Climb up and you will see the land of
Kena'an (Canaan), which I'm giving to the Israelis to take
possession of. **50** Then you'll die on that mountain that you
are going up on, and you'll join your ancestors (just like your
brother Aharon (Aaron) died on Mt. Hor and joined his ancestors). **51** That's because you were unfaithful to me among
the Israelis at the Merivah springs in Kadesh, in the wilderness of Tsin (Zin), because you didn't regard me as holy in
front of the Israelis. **52** So you'll see the land in front of you,
but you won't enter that land that I'm giving to the Israelis.[190]

Mosheh's final blessing for Yisrael

33:1 This is the blessing with which
the man of God, Mosheh (Moses),
blessed Israelis just before his death:
2 "Yahweh came from Mt. Sinay came
and appeared to them from Mt. Se'ir—
shining out from Mt. Paran.
He came with ten thousands of holy ones,
holding lightning for them in his right hand.
3 Yes, he loves the peoples.
All his holy ones are in your hand.
They sat down at your feet.
They listen to your instructions:
4 Mosheh (Moses) gave us those instructions
that would become a valuable possession for Ya'akov's (Jacob's) descendants.
5 Yahweh became king over Yeshurun,[191]
when the leaders of the people had gathered—
Yisrael's (Israel's) tribes all together.
6 Let Re'uven live and not die,
but let his men be few."
7 Then he said this is for Yehudah (Judah),
"Yahweh, listen to Yehudah's voice,
and take him to his people.
He defended himself,
plus you help him against his enemies."
8 Then for Levi, he said,
"Your Tumim and your Urim[192]
belong to your godly man,
who you tested at Masah.[193]
You strove against him at the Merivah springs.[194]
9 He said that he hadn't seen his father and his mother,
and he didn't acknowledge his brothers or spend time with his sons.
because he guarded your message
and kept your agreement.
10 He teaches your rules to Ya'akov (Jacob),
and your instructions to Yisrael (Israel).
He'll burn fragrant incense for you,
and whole burnt offerings on your altar.
11 Yahweh, bless Yisrael's possessions,
and accept the work that he does.
Crush those who take action up against him,
and those who hate, in case they attack."
12 To Benyamin, he said,
"Yahweh's special one lives in security beside him.
He protects him all day long,
and Yahweh places him on his chest."
13 To Yosef (Joseph), he said,
"Yahweh will bless his land,
with the rain from the sky,
from the dew and from the springs lying beneath,
14 with a plentiful harvest from the good sunshine,
and from the bounty of the produce of the seasons,
15 and water from the tops of ancient mountains,
and from the bounty of age-old hills,
16 and from the bounty of the soil and from its fullness,
and the favour of the bush-dweller.
Let them come on Yosef's (Joseph's) head,
and on the top of the head of the leader of his brothers.
17 His majesty is like his firstborn bull,
and his horns are like the horns of a wild bull.
He'll ram the peoples with them,
together to the ends of the earth.
And they are the ten thousands of Efrayim (Ephraim),
and they are the thousands of Menasheh (Manasseh)."
18 To Zevulun, he said,
"Zevulun, be happy when you go out,

190 **RV 32:48-52 · Cross-ref.** Num 27:12-14; Deu 3:23-27.

191 **RV 33:5 · Note** Yeshurun means 'the upright one', a term of endearment for Yisrael, also in verse 26.

192 **RV 33:8 · Cross-ref.** Exo 28:30.

193 **RV 33:8 · Cross-ref.** Exo 17:7.

194 **RV 33:8 · Cross-ref.** Exo 17:7; Num 20:13.

and Yisakar (Issachar) too, in your tents.
19 They will call peoples to the mountain.
There they will offer sacrifices of righteousness.
because they feed on the abundance of the oceans,
and on treasures hidden in the sand."
20 To Gad, he said,
"Blessed be the one who enlarges Gad.
He'll live like a lioness,
and tear off an arm, perhaps also a head.
21 He picked out the best for himself,
because there the decreed portion is reserved.
He came with the people's leaders.
He administered Yahweh's justice,
and his judgements for Yisrael (Israel)."
22 To Dan, he said,
"Dan is a lion cub
leaping out from Bashan."
23 To Naftali (Naphtali), he said,
"Naftali, overflowing with favour,
and full of Yahweh's blessings,
you'll possess the west and the south."
24 To Asher, he said,
"Asher is blessed among the sons.
Let him be favoured among his brothers,
and enjoy having lots of olive oil.
25 Your gates will have iron and bronze bars,
and you'll be strong all your life.
26 There's no one else like Yeshurun's God,
riding the heavens to your help,
and in his majesty on the clouds.
27 The everlasting God is a place of safety,
and it's his eternal arms that are underneath you.
He drove the enemy away from in front of you,
and he said, 'Destroy them.'
28 Yisrael (Israel) will live in safety—
secure as Ya'akov's (Jacob's) fountain,
in a land of grain and new wine
where the skies above them drop dew.
29 Your happiness, Yisrael.
Who else is like you—a people saved by Yahweh,
the shield that protects you,
and who is the sword that makes you powerful?
Your enemies will cringe back from you,
and you'll trample all over their hills."

Yahweh shows the land to Mosheh

34:1 Then Mosheh (Moses) went from the plains of Moav (Moab) up to Mt. Nevo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Yeriho (Jericho), and Yahweh showed him all the Gilead region as far as Dan, 2 all Naftali (Naphtali), the land of Efrayim (Ephraim) and Menasheh (Manasseh), all the land of Yehudah (Judah), to the Mediterranean sea, 3 the Negev, and the plain of the Valley of Yeriho (Yeriho, the Palm City) as far as Tsoar.
4 Then Yahweh told him, "That's the land that I promised to Avraham,[195] to Yitshak (Isaac),[196] and to Ya'akov (Jacob),[197] saying, 'I'll give it to your descendants.' I've showed it to you for you to look at, but you won't go over there into it."

Mosheh's death

5 So Yahweh's servant Mosheh (Moses) died there in Moav (Moab) just as Yahweh had said would happen 6 and he buried him there in the valley opposite Beyt-Pe'or, but to this day, no one knows where his grave is. 7 Mosheh was one hundred and twenty when he died, but he still had excellent eyesight and strength in his body. 8 The Israelis mourned thirty days for him there in the Moav plain.
9 Meanwhile, Nun's son Yehoshua (Joshua) was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Mosheh had placed his hands on him and prayed over him, so the Israelis listened to him and did what Yahweh had commanded Mosheh.
10 No prophet like Mosheh who Yahweh knew face to face,[198] has ever emerged in Yisrael (Israel) since then, 11 or performed all the miracles and amazing things that Yahweh sent him to do in Mitsrayim (Egypt), to Par'oh (Pharaoh), and to all his servants, and to all his land. 12 No other prophet has been able to do all the incredible but terrifying things that Mosheh did while all Yisrael watched.

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195 **RV 34:4 · Cross-ref.** Gen 12:7.
196 **RV 34:4 · Cross-ref.** Gen 26:3.
197 **RV 34:4 · Cross-ref.** Gen 28:13.
198 **RV 34:10 · Cross-ref.** Exo 33:11.