

Life of Moses

2024 GPLTC Bible Quiz/Bowl

Scripture taken from Holy Bible, New International Version[®], NIV[®]
Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc[®]
Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Exodus 1

The Israelites Oppressed

¹ These are the names of the sons of Israel who went to Egypt with Jacob, each with his family:

² Reuben, Simeon, Levi and Judah;

³ Issachar, Zebulun and Benjamin;

⁴ Dan and Naphtali; Gad and Asher.

⁵ The descendants of Jacob numbered seventy^[a] in all; Joseph was already in Egypt.

⁶ Now Joseph and all his brothers and all that generation died,

⁷ but the Israelites were exceedingly fruitful; they multiplied greatly, increased in numbers and became so numerous that the land was filled with them.

⁸ Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt.

⁹ "Look," he said to his people, "the Israelites have become far too numerous for us.

¹⁰ Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country."

¹¹ So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh.

¹² But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites

¹³ and worked them ruthlessly.

¹⁴ They made their lives bitter with harsh labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labor the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly.

¹⁵ The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah,

¹⁶ "When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live."

¹⁷ The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live.

¹⁸ Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, "Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?"

¹⁹ The midwives answered Pharaoh, "Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive."

²⁰ So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous.

²¹ And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own.

²² Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live."

Footnotes

- a. Exodus 1:5 Masoretic Text (see also Gen. 46:27); Dead Sea Scrolls and Septuagint (see also Acts 7:14 and note at Gen. 46:27) *seventy-five*

Exodus 2

The Birth of Moses

¹ Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman,

² and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months.

³ But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket^[a] for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile.

⁴ His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

⁵ Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it.

⁶ She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said.

⁷ Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"

⁸ "Yes, go," she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother.

⁹ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him.

¹⁰ When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses,^[b] saying, "I drew him out of the water."

Moses Flees to Midian

¹¹ One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to where his own people were and watched them at their hard labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his own people.

¹² Looking this way and that and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.

¹³ The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, "Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?"

¹⁴ The man said, "Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and thought, "What I did must have become known."

¹⁵ When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian, where he sat down by a well.

¹⁶ Now a priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came to draw water and fill the troughs to water their father's flock.

¹⁷ Some shepherds came along and drove them away, but Moses got up and came to their rescue and watered their flock.

¹⁸ When the girls returned to Reuel their father, he asked them, "Why have you returned so early today?"

¹⁹ They answered, "An Egyptian rescued us from the shepherds. He even drew water for us and watered the flock."

²⁰ "And where is he?" Reuel asked his daughters. "Why did you leave him? Invite him to have something to eat."

²¹ Moses agreed to stay with the man, who gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses in marriage.

²² Zipporah gave birth to a son, and Moses named him Gershom,^[c] saying, "I have become a foreigner in a foreign land."

²³ During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God.

²⁴ God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob.

²⁵ So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them.

Footnotes

- a. Exodus 2:3 The Hebrew can also mean *ark*, as in Gen. 6:14.
- b. Exodus 2:10 *Moses* sounds like the Hebrew for *draw out*.
- c. Exodus 2:22 *Gershom* sounds like the Hebrew for *a foreigner there*.

Exodus 3

Moses and the Burning Bush

¹ Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

² There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up.

³ So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."

⁴ When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

And Moses said, "Here I am."

⁵ "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."

⁶ Then he said, "I am the God of your father,^[a] the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering.

⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.

⁹ And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them.

¹⁰ So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

¹² And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you^[b] will worship God on this mountain."

¹³ Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM.^[c] This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

¹⁵ God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD,^[d] the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.'

"This is my name forever,
the name you shall call me
from generation to generation.

¹⁶ "Go, assemble the elders of Israel and say to them, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—appeared to me and said: I have watched over you and have seen what has been done to you in Egypt.

¹⁷ And I have promised to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites—a land flowing with milk and honey.'

¹⁸ "The elders of Israel will listen to you. Then you and the elders are to go to the king of Egypt and say to him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. Let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God.'

¹⁹ But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him.

²⁰ So I will stretch out my hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will let you go.

²¹ "And I will make the Egyptians favorably disposed toward this people, so that when you leave you will not go empty-handed.

²² Every woman is to ask her neighbor and any woman living in her house for articles of silver and gold and for clothing, which you will put on your sons and daughters. And so you will plunder the Egyptians."

Footnotes

- a. Exodus 3:6 Masoretic Text; Samaritan Pentateuch (see Acts 7:32) *fathers*
- b. Exodus 3:12 The Hebrew is plural.
- c. Exodus 3:14 Or *I WILL BE WHAT I WILL BE*
- d. Exodus 3:15 The Hebrew for *LORD* sounds like and may be related to the Hebrew for *I AM* in verse 14.

Exodus 4

Signs for Moses

¹ Moses answered, "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The LORD did not appear to you'?"

² Then the LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?"

"A staff," he replied.

³ The LORD said, "Throw it on the ground."

Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it.

⁴ Then the LORD said to him, "Reach out your hand and take it by the tail." So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand.

⁵ "This," said the LORD, "is so that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has appeared to you."

⁶ Then the LORD said, "Put your hand inside your cloak." So Moses put his hand into his cloak, and when he took it out, the skin was leprous^[a]—it had become as white as snow.

⁷ "Now put it back into your cloak," he said. So Moses put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored, like the rest of his flesh.

⁸ Then the LORD said, "If they do not believe you or pay attention to the first sign, they may believe the second.

⁹ But if they do not believe these two signs or listen to you, take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground. The water you take from the river will become blood on the ground."

¹⁰ Moses said to the LORD, "Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue."

¹¹ The LORD said to him, "Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the LORD?"

¹² Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say."

¹³ But Moses said, "Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else."

¹⁴ Then the LORD's anger burned against Moses and he said, "What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and he will be glad to see you.

¹⁵ You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do.

¹⁶ He will speak to the people for you, and it will be as if he were your mouth and as if you were God to him.

¹⁷ But take this staff in your hand so you can perform the signs with it."

Moses Returns to Egypt

¹⁸ Then Moses went back to Jethro his father-in-law and said to him, "Let me return to my own people in Egypt to see if any of them are still alive."

Jethro said, "Go, and I wish you well."

¹⁹ Now the LORD had said to Moses in Midian, "Go back to Egypt, for all those who wanted to kill you are dead."

²⁰ So Moses took his wife and sons, put them on a donkey and started back to Egypt. And he took the staff of God in his hand.

²¹ The LORD said to Moses, "When you return to Egypt, see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders I have given you the power to do. But I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go.

²² Then say to Pharaoh, 'This is what the LORD says: Israel is my firstborn son,

²³ and I told you, "Let my son go, so he may worship me." But you refused to let him go; so I will kill your firstborn son.'"

²⁴ At a lodging place on the way, the LORD met Moses^[b] and was about to kill him.

²⁵ But Zipporah took a flint knife, cut off her son's foreskin and touched Moses' feet with it.^[c] "Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me," she said.

²⁶ So the LORD let him alone. (At that time she said "bridegroom of blood," referring to circumcision.)

²⁷ The LORD said to Aaron, "Go into the wilderness to meet Moses." So he met Moses at the mountain of God and kissed him.

²⁸ Then Moses told Aaron everything the LORD had sent him to say, and also about all the signs he had commanded him to perform.

²⁹ Moses and Aaron brought together all the elders of the Israelites,

³⁰ and Aaron told them everything the LORD had said to Moses. He also performed the signs before the people,

³¹ and they believed. And when they heard that the LORD was concerned about them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped.

Footnotes

- a. Exodus 4:6 The Hebrew word for *leprous* was used for various diseases affecting the skin.
- b. Exodus 4:24 Hebrew *him*
- c. Exodus 4:25 The meaning of the Hebrew for this clause is uncertain.

Exodus 5

Bricks Without Straw

¹ Afterward Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the wilderness.'"

² Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD and I will not let Israel go."

³ Then they said, "The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Now let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God, or he may strike us with plagues or with the sword."

⁴ But the king of Egypt said, "Moses and Aaron, why are you taking the people away from their labor? Get back to your work!"

⁵ Then Pharaoh said, "Look, the people of the land are now numerous, and you are stopping them from working."

⁶ That same day Pharaoh gave this order to the slave drivers and overseers in charge of the people:

⁷ "You are no longer to supply the people with straw for making bricks; let them go and gather their own straw.

⁸ But require them to make the same number of bricks as before; don't reduce the quota. They are lazy; that is why they are crying out, 'Let us go and sacrifice to our God.'

⁹ Make the work harder for the people so that they keep working and pay no attention to lies."

¹⁰ Then the slave drivers and the overseers went out and said to the people, "This is what Pharaoh says: 'I will not give you any more straw.

¹¹ Go and get your own straw wherever you can find it, but your work will not be reduced at all.”

¹² So the people scattered all over Egypt to gather stubble to use for straw.

¹³ The slave drivers kept pressing them, saying, “Complete the work required of you for each day, just as when you had straw.”

¹⁴ And Pharaoh’s slave drivers beat the Israelite overseers they had appointed, demanding, “Why haven’t you met your quota of bricks yesterday or today, as before?”

¹⁵ Then the Israelite overseers went and appealed to Pharaoh: “Why have you treated your servants this way?”

¹⁶ Your servants are given no straw, yet we are told, ‘Make bricks!’ Your servants are being beaten, but the fault is with your own people.”

¹⁷ Pharaoh said, “Lazy, that’s what you are—lazy! That is why you keep saying, ‘Let us go and sacrifice to the LORD.’”

¹⁸ Now get to work. You will not be given any straw, yet you must produce your full quota of bricks.”

¹⁹ The Israelite overseers realized they were in trouble when they were told, “You are not to reduce the number of bricks required of you for each day.”

²⁰ When they left Pharaoh, they found Moses and Aaron waiting to meet them,

²¹ and they said, “May the LORD look on you and judge you! You have made us obnoxious to Pharaoh and his officials and have put a sword in their hand to kill us.”

God Promises Deliverance

²² Moses returned to the LORD and said, “Why, Lord, why have you brought trouble on this people? Is this why you sent me?”

²³ Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble on this people, and you have not rescued your people at all.”

Exodus 6

¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: Because of my mighty hand he will let them go; because of my mighty hand he will drive them out of his country."

² God also said to Moses, "I am the LORD.

³ I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty,^[a] but by my name the LORD^[b] I did not make myself fully known to them.

⁴ I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, where they resided as foreigners.

⁵ Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are enslaving, and I have remembered my covenant.

⁶ "Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment.

⁷ I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians.

⁸ And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the LORD.'"

⁹ Moses reported this to the Israelites, but they did not listen to him because of their discouragement and harsh labor.

¹⁰ Then the LORD said to Moses,

¹¹ "Go, tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the Israelites go out of his country."

¹² But Moses said to the LORD, "If the Israelites will not listen to me, why would Pharaoh listen to me, since I speak with faltering lips^[c]?"

Family Record of Moses and Aaron

¹³ Now the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron about the Israelites and Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he commanded them to bring the Israelites out of Egypt.

¹⁴ These were the heads of their families^[d]:

The sons of Reuben the firstborn son of Israel were Hanok and Pallu, Hezron and Karmi. These were the clans of Reuben.

¹⁵ The sons of Simeon were Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jakin, Zohar and Shaul the son of a Canaanite woman. These were the clans of Simeon.

¹⁶ These were the names of the sons of Levi according to their records: Gershon, Kohath and Merari. Levi lived 137 years.

¹⁷ The sons of Gershon, by clans, were Libni and Shimei.

¹⁸ The sons of Kohath were Amram, Izhar, Hebron and Uzziel. Kohath lived 133 years.

¹⁹ The sons of Merari were Mahli and Mushi.

These were the clans of Levi according to their records.

²⁰ Amram married his father's sister Jochebed, who bore him Aaron and Moses. Amram lived 137 years.

²¹ The sons of Izhar were Korah, Nepheg and Zikri.

²² The sons of Uzziel were Mishael, Elzaphan and Sithri.

²³ Aaron married Elisheba, daughter of Amminadab and sister of Nahshon, and she bore him Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.

²⁴ The sons of Korah were Assir, Elkanah and Abiasaph. These were the Korahite clans.

²⁵ Eleazar son of Aaron married one of the daughters of Putiel, and she bore him Phinehas.

These were the heads of the Levite families, clan by clan.

²⁶ It was this Aaron and Moses to whom the LORD said, "Bring the Israelites out of Egypt by their divisions."

²⁷ They were the ones who spoke to Pharaoh king of Egypt about bringing the Israelites out of Egypt—this same Moses and Aaron.

Aaron to Speak for Moses

²⁸ Now when the LORD spoke to Moses in Egypt,

²⁹ he said to him, "I am the LORD. Tell Pharaoh king of Egypt everything I tell you."

³⁰ But Moses said to the LORD, "Since I speak with faltering lips, why would Pharaoh listen to me?"

Footnotes

- a. Exodus 6:3 Hebrew *El-Shaddai*
- b. Exodus 6:3 See note at 3:15.
- c. Exodus 6:12 Hebrew *I am uncircumcised of lips*; also in verse 30
- d. Exodus 6:14 The Hebrew for *families* here and in verse 25 refers to units larger than clans.

Exodus 7

¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, "See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron will be your prophet.

² You are to say everything I command you, and your brother Aaron is to tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go out of his country.

³ But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in Egypt,

⁴ he will not listen to you. Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and with mighty acts of judgment I will bring out my divisions, my people the Israelites.

⁵ And the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring the Israelites out of it."

⁶ Moses and Aaron did just as the LORD commanded them.

⁷ Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty-three when they spoke to Pharaoh.

Aaron's Staff Becomes a Snake

⁸ The LORD said to Moses and Aaron,

⁹ "When Pharaoh says to you, 'Perform a miracle,' then say to Aaron, 'Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh,' and it will become a snake."

¹⁰ So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did just as the LORD commanded. Aaron threw his staff down in front of Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a snake.

¹¹ Pharaoh then summoned wise men and sorcerers, and the Egyptian magicians also did the same things by their secret arts:

¹² Each one threw down his staff and it became a snake. But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs.

¹³ Yet Pharaoh's heart became hard and he would not listen to them, just as the LORD had said.

The Plague of Blood

¹⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Pharaoh's heart is unyielding; he refuses to let the people go.

¹⁵ Go to Pharaoh in the morning as he goes out to the river. Confront him on the bank of the Nile, and take in your hand the staff that was changed into a snake.

¹⁶ Then say to him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to say to you: Let my people go, so that they may worship me in the wilderness. But until now you have not listened.

¹⁷ This is what the LORD says: By this you will know that I am the LORD: With the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water of the Nile, and it will be changed into blood.

¹⁸ The fish in the Nile will die, and the river will stink; the Egyptians will not be able to drink its water.'"

¹⁹ The LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron, 'Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt—over the streams and canals, over the ponds and all the reservoirs—and they will turn to blood.' Blood will be everywhere in Egypt, even in vessels^[a] of wood and stone."

²⁰ Moses and Aaron did just as the LORD had commanded. He raised his staff in the presence of Pharaoh and his officials and struck the water of the Nile, and all the water was changed into blood.

²¹ The fish in the Nile died, and the river smelled so bad that the Egyptians could not drink its water. Blood was everywhere in Egypt.

²² But the Egyptian magicians did the same things by their secret arts, and Pharaoh's heart became hard; he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said.

²³ Instead, he turned and went into his palace, and did not take even this to heart.

²⁴ And all the Egyptians dug along the Nile to get drinking water, because they could not drink the water of the river.

The Plague of Frogs

²⁵ Seven days passed after the LORD struck the Nile.

Footnotes

- a. Exodus 7:19 *Or even on their idols*

Exodus 8

¹ [a]Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him, 'This is what the LORD says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me.

² If you refuse to let them go, I will send a plague of frogs on your whole country.

³ The Nile will teem with frogs. They will come up into your palace and your bedroom and onto your bed, into the houses of your officials and on your people, and into your ovens and kneading troughs.

⁴ The frogs will come up on you and your people and all your officials.'"

⁵ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron, 'Stretch out your hand with your staff over the streams and canals and ponds, and make frogs come up on the land of Egypt.'"

⁶ So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land.

⁷ But the magicians did the same things by their secret arts; they also made frogs come up on the land of Egypt.

⁸ Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Pray to the LORD to take the frogs away from me and my people, and I will let your people go to offer sacrifices to the LORD."

⁹ Moses said to Pharaoh, "I leave to you the honor of setting the time for me to pray for you and your officials and your people that you and your houses may be rid of the frogs, except for those that remain in the Nile."

¹⁰ "Tomorrow," Pharaoh said.

Moses replied, "It will be as you say, so that you may know there is no one like the LORD our God.

¹¹ The frogs will leave you and your houses, your officials and your people; they will remain only in the Nile.”

¹² After Moses and Aaron left Pharaoh, Moses cried out to the LORD about the frogs he had brought on Pharaoh.

¹³ And the LORD did what Moses asked. The frogs died in the houses, in the courtyards and in the fields.

¹⁴ They were piled into heaps, and the land reeked of them.

¹⁵ But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said.

The Plague of Gnats

¹⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron, ‘Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the ground,’ and throughout the land of Egypt the dust will become gnats.”

¹⁷ They did this, and when Aaron stretched out his hand with the staff and struck the dust of the ground, gnats came on people and animals. All the dust throughout the land of Egypt became gnats.

¹⁸ But when the magicians tried to produce gnats by their secret arts, they could not.

Since the gnats were on people and animals everywhere,

¹⁹ the magicians said to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” But Pharaoh’s heart was hard and he would not listen, just as the LORD had said.

The Plague of Flies

²⁰ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Get up early in the morning and confront Pharaoh as he goes to the river and say to him, 'This is what the LORD says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me.

²¹ If you do not let my people go, I will send swarms of flies on you and your officials, on your people and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians will be full of flies; even the ground will be covered with them.

²² "But on that day I will deal differently with the land of Goshen, where my people live; no swarms of flies will be there, so that you will know that I, the LORD, am in this land.

²³ I will make a distinction^[b] between my people and your people. This sign will occur tomorrow."

²⁴ And the LORD did this. Dense swarms of flies poured into Pharaoh's palace and into the houses of his officials; throughout Egypt the land was ruined by the flies.

²⁵ Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Go, sacrifice to your God here in the land."

²⁶ But Moses said, "That would not be right. The sacrifices we offer the LORD our God would be detestable to the Egyptians. And if we offer sacrifices that are detestable in their eyes, will they not stone us?

²⁷ We must take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God, as he commands us."

²⁸ Pharaoh said, "I will let you go to offer sacrifices to the LORD your God in the wilderness, but you must not go very far. Now pray for me."

²⁹ Moses answered, "As soon as I leave you, I will pray to the LORD, and tomorrow the flies will leave Pharaoh and his officials and his people. Only let Pharaoh be sure that he does not act deceitfully again by not letting the people go to offer sacrifices to the LORD."

³⁰ Then Moses left Pharaoh and prayed to the LORD,

³¹ and the LORD did what Moses asked. The flies left Pharaoh and his officials and his people; not a fly remained.

³² But this time also Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the people go.

Footnotes

- a. Exodus 8:1 In Hebrew texts 8:1-4 is numbered 7:26-29, and 8:5-32 is numbered 8:1-28.
- b. Exodus 8:23 Septuagint and Vulgate; Hebrew *will put a deliverance*

Exodus 9

The Plague on Livestock

¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him, 'This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: "Let my people go, so that they may worship me."

² If you refuse to let them go and continue to hold them back,

³ the hand of the LORD will bring a terrible plague on your livestock in the field—on your horses, donkeys and camels and on your cattle, sheep and goats.

⁴ But the LORD will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and that of Egypt, so that no animal belonging to the Israelites will die."

⁵ The LORD set a time and said, "Tomorrow the LORD will do this in the land."

⁶ And the next day the LORD did it: All the livestock of the Egyptians died, but not one animal belonging to the Israelites died.

⁷ Pharaoh investigated and found that not even one of the animals of the Israelites had died. Yet his heart was unyielding and he would not let the people go.

The Plague of Boils

⁸ Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Take handfuls of soot from a furnace and have Moses toss it into the air in the presence of Pharaoh.

⁹ It will become fine dust over the whole land of Egypt, and festering boils will break out on people and animals throughout the land."

¹⁰ So they took soot from a furnace and stood before Pharaoh. Moses tossed it into the air, and festering boils broke out on people and animals.

¹¹ The magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils that were on them and on all the Egyptians.

¹² But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart and he would not listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had said to Moses.

The Plague of Hail

¹³ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Get up early in the morning, confront Pharaoh and say to him, 'This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me,

¹⁴ or this time I will send the full force of my plagues against you and against your officials and your people, so you may know that there is no one like me in all the earth.

¹⁵ For by now I could have stretched out my hand and struck you and your people with a plague that would have wiped you off the earth.

¹⁶ But I have raised you up^[a] for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.

¹⁷ You still set yourself against my people and will not let them go.

¹⁸ Therefore, at this time tomorrow I will send the worst hailstorm that has ever fallen on Egypt, from the day it was founded till now.

¹⁹ Give an order now to bring your livestock and everything you have in the field to a place of shelter, because the hail will fall on every person and animal that has not been brought in and is still out in the field, and they will die.'"

²⁰ Those officials of Pharaoh who feared the word of the LORD hurried to bring their slaves and their livestock inside.

²¹ But those who ignored the word of the LORD left their slaves and livestock in the field.

²² Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that hail will fall all over Egypt—on people and animals and on everything growing in the fields of Egypt."

²³ When Moses stretched out his staff toward the sky, the LORD sent thunder and hail, and lightning flashed down to the ground. So the LORD rained hail on the land of Egypt;

²⁴ hail fell and lightning flashed back and forth. It was the worst storm in all the land of Egypt since it had become a nation.

²⁵ Throughout Egypt hail struck everything in the fields—both people and animals; it beat down everything growing in the fields and stripped every tree.

²⁶ The only place it did not hail was the land of Goshen, where the Israelites were.

²⁷ Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron. “This time I have sinned,” he said to them. “The LORD is in the right, and I and my people are in the wrong.

²⁸ Pray to the LORD, for we have had enough thunder and hail. I will let you go; you don’t have to stay any longer.”

²⁹ Moses replied, “When I have gone out of the city, I will spread out my hands in prayer to the LORD. The thunder will stop and there will be no more hail, so you may know that the earth is the LORD’s.

³⁰ But I know that you and your officials still do not fear the LORD God.”

³¹ (The flax and barley were destroyed, since the barley had headed and the flax was in bloom.

³² The wheat and spelt, however, were not destroyed, because they ripen later.)

³³ Then Moses left Pharaoh and went out of the city. He spread out his hands toward the LORD; the thunder and hail stopped, and the rain no longer poured down on the land.

³⁴ When Pharaoh saw that the rain and hail and thunder had stopped, he sinned again: He and his officials hardened their hearts.

³⁵ So Pharaoh’s heart was hard and he would not let the Israelites go, just as the LORD had said through Moses.

Footnotes

- a. Exodus 9:16 Or *have spared you*

Exodus 10

The Plague of Locusts

¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the hearts of his officials so that I may perform these signs of mine among them

² that you may tell your children and grandchildren how I dealt harshly with the Egyptians and how I performed my signs among them, and that you may know that I am the LORD."

³ So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said to him, "This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before me? Let my people go, so that they may worship me.

⁴ If you refuse to let them go, I will bring locusts into your country tomorrow.

⁵ They will cover the face of the ground so that it cannot be seen. They will devour what little you have left after the hail, including every tree that is growing in your fields.

⁶ They will fill your houses and those of all your officials and all the Egyptians—something neither your parents nor your ancestors have ever seen from the day they settled in this land till now.'" Then Moses turned and left Pharaoh.

⁷ Pharaoh's officials said to him, "How long will this man be a snare to us? Let the people go, so that they may worship the LORD their God. Do you not yet realize that Egypt is ruined?"

⁸ Then Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh. "Go, worship the LORD your God," he said. "But tell me who will be going."

⁹ Moses answered, "We will go with our young and our old, with our sons and our daughters, and with our flocks and herds, because we are to celebrate a festival to the LORD."

10 Pharaoh said, "The LORD be with you—if I let you go, along with your women and children! Clearly you are bent on evil.^[a]

11 No! Have only the men go and worship the LORD, since that's what you have been asking for." Then Moses and Aaron were driven out of Pharaoh's presence.

12 And the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over Egypt so that locusts swarm over the land and devour everything growing in the fields, everything left by the hail."

13 So Moses stretched out his staff over Egypt, and the LORD made an east wind blow across the land all that day and all that night. By morning the wind had brought the locusts;

14 they invaded all Egypt and settled down in every area of the country in great numbers. Never before had there been such a plague of locusts, nor will there ever be again.

15 They covered all the ground until it was black. They devoured all that was left after the hail—everything growing in the fields and the fruit on the trees. Nothing green remained on tree or plant in all the land of Egypt.

16 Pharaoh quickly summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "I have sinned against the LORD your God and against you.

17 Now forgive my sin once more and pray to the LORD your God to take this deadly plague away from me."

18 Moses then left Pharaoh and prayed to the LORD.

19 And the LORD changed the wind to a very strong west wind, which caught up the locusts and carried them into the Red Sea.^[b] Not a locust was left anywhere in Egypt.

20 But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let the Israelites go.

The Plague of Darkness

²¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that darkness spreads over Egypt—darkness that can be felt."

²² So Moses stretched out his hand toward the sky, and total darkness covered all Egypt for three days.

²³ No one could see anyone else or move about for three days. Yet all the Israelites had light in the places where they lived.

²⁴ Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and said, "Go, worship the LORD. Even your women and children may go with you; only leave your flocks and herds behind."

²⁵ But Moses said, "You must allow us to have sacrifices and burnt offerings to present to the LORD our God.

²⁶ Our livestock too must go with us; not a hoof is to be left behind. We have to use some of them in worshipping the LORD our God, and until we get there we will not know what we are to use to worship the LORD."

²⁷ But the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he was not willing to let them go.

²⁸ Pharaoh said to Moses, "Get out of my sight! Make sure you do not appear before me again! The day you see my face you will die."

²⁹ "Just as you say," Moses replied. "I will never appear before you again."

Footnotes

- a. Exodus 10:10 Or *Be careful, trouble is in store for you!*
- b. Exodus 10:19 Or *the Sea of Reeds*

Exodus 11

The Plague on the Firstborn

¹ Now the LORD had said to Moses, "I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. After that, he will let you go from here, and when he does, he will drive you out completely.

² Tell the people that men and women alike are to ask their neighbors for articles of silver and gold."

³ (The LORD made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and Moses himself was highly regarded in Egypt by Pharaoh's officials and by the people.)

⁴ So Moses said, "This is what the LORD says: 'About midnight I will go throughout Egypt.

⁵ Every firstborn son in Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne, to the firstborn son of the female slave, who is at her hand mill, and all the firstborn of the cattle as well.

⁶ There will be loud wailing throughout Egypt—worse than there has ever been or ever will be again.

⁷ But among the Israelites not a dog will bark at any person or animal.' Then you will know that the LORD makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.

⁸ All these officials of yours will come to me, bowing down before me and saying, 'Go, you and all the people who follow you!' After that I will leave." Then Moses, hot with anger, left Pharaoh.

⁹ The LORD had said to Moses, "Pharaoh will refuse to listen to you—so that my wonders may be multiplied in Egypt."

¹⁰ Moses and Aaron performed all these wonders before Pharaoh, but the LORD hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let the Israelites go out of his country.

Exodus 12

The Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread

¹ The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt,

² "This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year.

³ Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb^[a] for his family, one for each household.

⁴ If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat.

⁵ The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats.

⁶ Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight.

⁷ Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs.

⁸ That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast.

⁹ Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water, but roast it over a fire—with the head, legs and internal organs.

¹⁰ Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it.

¹¹ This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD's Passover.

¹² "On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD.

¹³ The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

¹⁴ "This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD—a lasting ordinance.

¹⁵ For seven days you are to eat bread made without yeast. On the first day remove the yeast from your houses, for whoever eats anything with yeast in it from the first day through the seventh must be cut off from Israel.

¹⁶ On the first day hold a sacred assembly, and another one on the seventh day. Do no work at all on these days, except to prepare food for everyone to eat; that is all you may do.

¹⁷ "Celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread, because it was on this very day that I brought your divisions out of Egypt. Celebrate this day as a lasting ordinance for the generations to come.

¹⁸ In the first month you are to eat bread made without yeast, from the evening of the fourteenth day until the evening of the twenty-first day.

¹⁹ For seven days no yeast is to be found in your houses. And anyone, whether foreigner or native-born, who eats anything with yeast in it must be cut off from the community of Israel.

²⁰ Eat nothing made with yeast. Wherever you live, you must eat unleavened bread."

²¹ Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb.

²² Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. None of you shall go out of the door of your house until morning.

²³ When the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.

²⁴ "Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants.

²⁵ When you enter the land that the LORD will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony.

²⁶ And when your children ask you, 'What does this ceremony mean to you?'

²⁷ then tell them, 'It is the Passover sacrifice to the LORD, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.'" Then the people bowed down and worshiped.

²⁸ The Israelites did just what the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron.

²⁹ At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well.

³⁰ Pharaoh and all his officials and all the Egyptians got up during the night, and there was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead.

The Exodus

³¹ During the night Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Up! Leave my people, you and the Israelites! Go, worship the LORD as you have requested.

³² Take your flocks and herds, as you have said, and go. And also bless me."

³³ The Egyptians urged the people to hurry and leave the country. "For otherwise," they said, "we will all die!"

³⁴ So the people took their dough before the yeast was added, and carried it on their shoulders in kneading troughs wrapped in clothing.

³⁵ The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing.

³⁶ The LORD had made the Egyptians favorably disposed toward the people, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians.

³⁷ The Israelites journeyed from Rameses to Sukkoth. There were about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children.

³⁸ Many other people went up with them, and also large droves of livestock, both flocks and herds.

³⁹ With the dough the Israelites had brought from Egypt, they baked loaves of unleavened bread. The dough was without yeast because they had been driven out of Egypt and did not have time to prepare food for themselves.

⁴⁰ Now the length of time the Israelite people lived in Egypt^[b] was 430 years.

⁴¹ At the end of the 430 years, to the very day, all the LORD's divisions left Egypt.

⁴² Because the LORD kept vigil that night to bring them out of Egypt, on this night all the Israelites are to keep vigil to honor the LORD for the generations to come.

Passover Restrictions

⁴³ The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "These are the regulations for the Passover meal: "No foreigner may eat it.

⁴⁴ Any slave you have bought may eat it after you have circumcised him,

⁴⁵ but a temporary resident or a hired worker may not eat it.

⁴⁶ "It must be eaten inside the house; take none of the meat outside the house. Do not break any of the bones.

⁴⁷ The whole community of Israel must celebrate it.

⁴⁸ "A foreigner residing among you who wants to celebrate the LORD's Passover must have all the males in his household circumcised; then he may take part like one born in the land. No uncircumcised male may eat it.

⁴⁹ The same law applies both to the native-born and to the foreigner residing among you."

⁵⁰ All the Israelites did just what the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron.

⁵¹ And on that very day the LORD brought the Israelites out of Egypt by their divisions.

Footnotes

- a. Exodus 12:3 The Hebrew word can mean *lamb* or *kid*; also in verse 4.
- b. Exodus 12:40 Masoretic Text; Samaritan Pentateuch and Septuagint *Egypt and Canaan*

Exodus 13

Consecration of the Firstborn

¹ The LORD said to Moses,

² "Consecrate to me every firstborn male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites belongs to me, whether human or animal."

³ Then Moses said to the people, "Commemorate this day, the day you came out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery, because the LORD brought you out of it with a mighty hand. Eat nothing containing yeast.

⁴ Today, in the month of Aviv, you are leaving.

⁵ When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Hivites and Jebusites—the land he swore to your ancestors to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey—you are to observe this ceremony in this month:

⁶ For seven days eat bread made without yeast and on the seventh day hold a festival to the LORD.

⁷ Eat unleavened bread during those seven days; nothing with yeast in it is to be seen among you, nor shall any yeast be seen anywhere within your borders.

⁸ On that day tell your son, 'I do this because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt.'

⁹ This observance will be for you like a sign on your hand and a reminder on your forehead that this law of the LORD is to be on your lips. For the LORD brought you out of Egypt with his mighty hand.

¹⁰ You must keep this ordinance at the appointed time year after year.

¹¹ "After the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites and gives it to you, as he promised on oath to you and your ancestors,

¹² you are to give over to the LORD the first offspring of every womb. All the firstborn males of your livestock belong to the LORD.

¹³ Redeem with a lamb every firstborn donkey, but if you do not redeem it, break its neck. Redeem every firstborn among your sons.

¹⁴ "In days to come, when your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' say to him, 'With a mighty hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.'

¹⁵ When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed the firstborn of both people and animals in Egypt. This is why I sacrifice to the LORD the first male offspring of every womb and redeem each of my firstborn sons.'

¹⁶ And it will be like a sign on your hand and a symbol on your forehead that the LORD brought us out of Egypt with his mighty hand."

Crossing the Sea

¹⁷ When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, "If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt."

¹⁸ So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea.^[a] The Israelites went up out of Egypt ready for battle.

¹⁹ Moses took the bones of Joseph with him because Joseph had made the Israelites swear an oath. He had said, "God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up with you from this place."^[b]

²⁰ After leaving Sukkoth they camped at Etham on the edge of the desert.

²¹ By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night.

²² Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

Footnotes

- a. Exodus 13:18 Or *the Sea of Reeds*
- b. Exodus 13:19 See Gen. 50:25.

Exodus 14

¹ Then the LORD said to Moses,

² "Tell the Israelites to turn back and encamp near Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. They are to encamp by the sea, directly opposite Baal Zephon.

³ Pharaoh will think, 'The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert.'

⁴ And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD." So the Israelites did this.

⁵ When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds about them and said, "What have we done? We have let the Israelites go and have lost their services!"

⁶ So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him.

⁷ He took six hundred of the best chariots, along with all the other chariots of Egypt, with officers over all of them.

⁸ The LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, so that he pursued the Israelites, who were marching out boldly.

⁹ The Egyptians—all Pharaoh's horses and chariots, horsemen^[a] and troops—pursued the Israelites and overtook them as they camped by the sea near Pi Hahiroth, opposite Baal Zephon.

¹⁰ As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the LORD.

¹¹ They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt?"

¹² Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!"

¹³ Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again.

¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."

¹⁵ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on.

¹⁶ Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground.

¹⁷ I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen.

¹⁸ The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen."

¹⁹ Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them,

²⁰ coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided,

²² and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

²³ The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea.

²⁴ During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion.

²⁵ He jammed^[b] the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen."

²⁷ Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward^[c] it, and the LORD swept them into the sea.

²⁸ The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived.

²⁹ But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

³⁰ That day the LORD saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the shore.

³¹ And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.

Footnotes

- a. Exodus 14:9 Or *charioteers*; also in verses 17, 18, 23, 26 and 28
- b. Exodus 14:25 See Samaritan Pentateuch, Septuagint and Syriac; Masoretic Text *removed*
- c. Exodus 14:27 Or *from*

Exodus 15

The Song of Moses and Miriam

¹ Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:

"I will sing to the LORD,
for he is highly exalted.

Both horse and driver
he has hurled into the sea.

² "The LORD is my strength and my defense^[a];
he has become my salvation.

He is my God, and I will praise him,
my father's God, and I will exalt him.

³ The LORD is a warrior;
the LORD is his name.

⁴ Pharaoh's chariots and his army
he has hurled into the sea.

The best of Pharaoh's officers
are drowned in the Red Sea.^[b]

⁵ The deep waters have covered them;
they sank to the depths like a stone.

⁶ Your right hand, LORD,
was majestic in power.

Your right hand, LORD,
shattered the enemy.

⁷ "In the greatness of your majesty
you threw down those who opposed you.

You unleashed your burning anger;
it consumed them like stubble.

⁸ By the blast of your nostrils
the waters piled up.

The surging waters stood up like a wall;
the deep waters congealed in the heart of the sea.

⁹ The enemy boasted,
'I will pursue, I will overtake them.

I will divide the spoils;
I will gorge myself on them.

I will draw my sword
and my hand will destroy them.'

¹⁰ But you blew with your breath,
and the sea covered them.

They sank like lead
in the mighty waters.

¹¹ Who among the gods
is like you, LORD?

Who is like you—
majestic in holiness,
awesome in glory,
working wonders?

¹² "You stretch out your right hand,
and the earth swallows your enemies.

¹³ In your unfailing love you will lead
the people you have redeemed.

In your strength you will guide them
to your holy dwelling.

¹⁴ The nations will hear and tremble;
anguish will grip the people of Philistia.

¹⁵ The chiefs of Edom will be terrified,
the leaders of Moab will be seized with trembling,
the people^[c] of Canaan will melt away;

¹⁶ terror and dread will fall on them.

By the power of your arm
they will be as still as a stone—
until your people pass by, LORD,
until the people you bought^[d] pass by.

¹⁷ You will bring them in and plant them
on the mountain of your inheritance—
the place, LORD, you made for your dwelling,
the sanctuary, Lord, your hands established.

¹⁸ "The LORD reigns
for ever and ever."

¹⁹ When Pharaoh's horses, chariots and horsemen^[e] went into the sea, the LORD brought
the waters of the sea back over them, but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry
ground.

²⁰ Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the
women followed her, with timbrels and dancing.

²¹ Miriam sang to them:

"Sing to the LORD,
for he is highly exalted.

Both horse and driver
he has hurled into the sea."

The Waters of Marah and Elim

²² Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea and they went into the Desert of Shur. For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water.

²³ When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.^[f])

²⁴ So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What are we to drink?"

²⁵ Then Moses cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became fit to drink.

There the LORD issued a ruling and instruction for them and put them to the test.

²⁶ He said, "If you listen carefully to the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you."

²⁷ Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees, and they camped there near the water.

Footnotes

- a. Exodus 15:2 Or *song*
- b. Exodus 15:4 Or *the Sea of Reeds*; also in verse 22
- c. Exodus 15:15 Or *rulers*
- d. Exodus 15:16 Or *created*
- e. Exodus 15:19 Or *charioteers*
- f. Exodus 15:23 *Marah* means *bitter*.

Exodus 16

Manna and Quail

¹ The whole Israelite community set out from Elim and came to the Desert of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had come out of Egypt.

² In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron.

³ The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death."

⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions.

⁵ On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days."

⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt,

⁷ and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?"

⁸ Moses also said, "You will know that it was the LORD when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the LORD."

⁹ Then Moses told Aaron, "Say to the entire Israelite community, 'Come before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.'"

¹⁰ While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud.

¹¹ The LORD said to Moses,

¹² "I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, 'At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.'"

¹³ That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp.

¹⁴ When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor.

¹⁵ When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was.

Moses said to them, "It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat.

¹⁶ This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Everyone is to gather as much as they need. Take an omer^[a] for each person you have in your tent.'"

¹⁷ The Israelites did as they were told; some gathered much, some little.

¹⁸ And when they measured it by the omer, the one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little. Everyone had gathered just as much as they needed.

¹⁹ Then Moses said to them, "No one is to keep any of it until morning."

²⁰ However, some of them paid no attention to Moses; they kept part of it until morning, but it was full of maggots and began to smell. So Moses was angry with them.

²¹ Each morning everyone gathered as much as they needed, and when the sun grew hot, it melted away.

²² On the sixth day, they gathered twice as much—two omers^[b] for each person—and the leaders of the community came and reported this to Moses.

²³ He said to them, "This is what the LORD commanded: 'Tomorrow is to be a day of sabbath rest, a holy sabbath to the LORD. So bake what you want to bake and boil what you want to boil. Save whatever is left and keep it until morning.'"

²⁴ So they saved it until morning, as Moses commanded, and it did not stink or get maggots in it.

²⁵ "Eat it today," Moses said, "because today is a sabbath to the LORD. You will not find any of it on the ground today.

²⁶ Six days you are to gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will not be any."

²⁷ Nevertheless, some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather it, but they found none.

²⁸ Then the LORD said to Moses, "How long will you^[c] refuse to keep my commands and my instructions?

²⁹ Bear in mind that the LORD has given you the Sabbath; that is why on the sixth day he gives you bread for two days. Everyone is to stay where they are on the seventh day; no one is to go out."

³⁰ So the people rested on the seventh day.

³¹ The people of Israel called the bread manna.^[d] It was white like coriander seed and tasted like wafers made with honey.

³² Moses said, "This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Take an omer of manna and keep it for the generations to come, so they can see the bread I gave you to eat in the wilderness when I brought you out of Egypt.'"

³³ So Moses said to Aaron, "Take a jar and put an omer of manna in it. Then place it before the LORD to be kept for the generations to come."

³⁴ As the LORD commanded Moses, Aaron put the manna with the tablets of the covenant law, so that it might be preserved.

³⁵ The Israelites ate manna forty years, until they came to a land that was settled; they ate manna until they reached the border of Canaan.

³⁶ (An omer is one-tenth of an ephah.)

Footnotes

- a. Exodus 16:16 That is, possibly about 3 pounds or about 1.4 kilograms; also in verses 18, 32, 33 and 36
- b. Exodus 16:22 That is, possibly about 6 pounds or about 2.8 kilograms
- c. Exodus 16:28 The Hebrew is plural.
- d. Exodus 16:31 *Manna* sounds like the Hebrew for *What is it?* (see verse 15).

Exodus 17

Water From the Rock

¹ The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.

² So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink."

Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?"

³ But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?"

⁴ Then Moses cried out to the LORD, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me."

⁵ The LORD answered Moses, "Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go.

⁶ I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel.

⁷ And he called the place Massah^[a] and Meribah^[b] because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the LORD saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

The Amalekites Defeated

⁸ The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim.

⁹ Moses said to Joshua, "Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands."

¹⁰ So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill.

¹¹ As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning.

¹² When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset.

¹³ So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword.

¹⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it, because I will completely blot out the name of Amalek from under heaven."

¹⁵ Moses built an altar and called it The LORD is my Banner.

¹⁶ He said, "Because hands were lifted up against^[c] the throne of the LORD,^[d] the LORD will be at war against the Amalekites from generation to generation."

Footnotes

- a. Exodus 17:7 *Massah* means *testing*.
- b. Exodus 17:7 *Meribah* means *quarreling*.
- c. Exodus 17:16 Or *to*
- d. Exodus 17:16 The meaning of the Hebrew for this clause is uncertain.

Exodus 18

Jethro Visits Moses

¹ Now Jethro, the priest of Midian and father-in-law of Moses, heard of everything God had done for Moses and for his people Israel, and how the LORD had brought Israel out of Egypt.

² After Moses had sent away his wife Zipporah, his father-in-law Jethro received her ³ and her two sons. One son was named Gershom,^[a] for Moses said, "I have become a foreigner in a foreign land";

⁴ and the other was named Eliezer,^[b] for he said, "My father's God was my helper; he saved me from the sword of Pharaoh."

⁵ Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, together with Moses' sons and wife, came to him in the wilderness, where he was camped near the mountain of God.

⁶ Jethro had sent word to him, "I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you with your wife and her two sons."

⁷ So Moses went out to meet his father-in-law and bowed down and kissed him. They greeted each other and then went into the tent.

⁸ Moses told his father-in-law about everything the LORD had done to Pharaoh and the Egyptians for Israel's sake and about all the hardships they had met along the way and how the LORD had saved them.

⁹ Jethro was delighted to hear about all the good things the LORD had done for Israel in rescuing them from the hand of the Egyptians.

¹⁰ He said, "Praise be to the LORD, who rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians and of Pharaoh, and who rescued the people from the hand of the Egyptians.

¹¹ Now I know that the LORD is greater than all other gods, for he did this to those who had treated Israel arrogantly."

¹² Then Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, brought a burnt offering and other sacrifices to God, and Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat a meal with Moses' father-in-law in the presence of God.

¹³ The next day Moses took his seat to serve as judge for the people, and they stood around him from morning till evening.

¹⁴ When his father-in-law saw all that Moses was doing for the people, he said, "What is this you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge, while all these people stand around you from morning till evening?"

¹⁵ Moses answered him, "Because the people come to me to seek God's will.

¹⁶ Whenever they have a dispute, it is brought to me, and I decide between the parties and inform them of God's decrees and instructions."

¹⁷ Moses' father-in-law replied, "What you are doing is not good.

¹⁸ You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone.

¹⁹ Listen now to me and I will give you some advice, and may God be with you. You must be the people's representative before God and bring their disputes to him.

²⁰ Teach them his decrees and instructions, and show them the way they are to live and how they are to behave.

²¹ But select capable men from all the people—men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens.

²² Have them serve as judges for the people at all times, but have them bring every difficult case to you; the simple cases they can decide themselves. That will make your load lighter, because they will share it with you.

²³ If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied."

²⁴ Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said.

²⁵ He chose capable men from all Israel and made them leaders of the people, officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens.

²⁶ They served as judges for the people at all times. The difficult cases they brought to Moses, but the simple ones they decided themselves.

²⁷ Then Moses sent his father-in-law on his way, and Jethro returned to his own country.

Footnotes

- a. Exodus 18:3 *Gershom* sounds like the Hebrew for *a foreigner there*.
- b. Exodus 18:4 *Eliezer* means *my God is helper*.

Exodus 19

At Mount Sinai

¹ On the first day of the third month after the Israelites left Egypt—on that very day—they came to the Desert of Sinai.

² After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain.

³ Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel:

⁴ ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself.

⁵ Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine,

⁶ you^[a] will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”

⁷ So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the LORD had commanded him to speak.

⁸ The people all responded together, “We will do everything the LORD has said.” So Moses brought their answer back to the LORD.

⁹ The LORD said to Moses, “I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, so that the people will hear me speaking with you and will always put their trust in you.” Then Moses told the LORD what the people had said.

¹⁰ And the LORD said to Moses, “Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. Have them wash their clothes

¹¹ and be ready by the third day, because on that day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.

¹² Put limits for the people around the mountain and tell them, 'Be careful that you do not approach the mountain or touch the foot of it. Whoever touches the mountain is to be put to death.

¹³ They are to be stoned or shot with arrows; not a hand is to be laid on them. No person or animal shall be permitted to live.' Only when the ram's horn sounds a long blast may they approach the mountain."

¹⁴ After Moses had gone down the mountain to the people, he consecrated them, and they washed their clothes.

¹⁵ Then he said to the people, "Prepare yourselves for the third day. Abstain from sexual relations."

¹⁶ On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled.

¹⁷ Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.

¹⁸ Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the LORD descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, and the whole mountain^[b] trembled violently.

¹⁹ As the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him.^[c]

²⁰ The LORD descended to the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain. So Moses went up

²¹ and the LORD said to him, "Go down and warn the people so they do not force their way through to see the LORD and many of them perish.

²² Even the priests, who approach the LORD, must consecrate themselves, or the LORD will break out against them."

²³ Moses said to the LORD, "The people cannot come up Mount Sinai, because you yourself warned us, 'Put limits around the mountain and set it apart as holy.'"

²⁴ The LORD replied, "Go down and bring Aaron up with you. But the priests and the people must not force their way through to come up to the LORD, or he will break out against them."

²⁵ So Moses went down to the people and told them.

Footnotes

a. Exodus 19:6 Or *possession, for the whole earth is mine.*

⁶ *You*

b. Exodus 19:18 Most Hebrew manuscripts; a few Hebrew manuscripts and Septuagint *and all the people*

c. Exodus 19:19 Or *and God answered him with thunder*

Exodus 20

The Ten Commandments

¹ And God spoke all these words:

² "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

³ "You shall have no other gods before^[a] me.

⁴ "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.

⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,

⁶ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

¹⁰ but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns.

¹¹ For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹² "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³ "You shall not murder.

¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ "You shall not steal.

¹⁶ "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

¹⁷ "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

¹⁸ When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance

¹⁹ and said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die."

²⁰ Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning."

²¹ The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was.

Idols and Altars

²² Then the LORD said to Moses, "Tell the Israelites this: 'You have seen for yourselves that I have spoken to you from heaven:

²³ Do not make any gods to be alongside me; do not make for yourselves gods of silver or gods of gold.

²⁴ "'Make an altar of earth for me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, your sheep and goats and your cattle. Wherever I cause my name to be honored, I will come to you and bless you.

²⁵ If you make an altar of stones for me, do not build it with dressed stones, for you will defile it if you use a tool on it.

²⁶ And do not go up to my altar on steps, or your private parts may be exposed.'

Footnotes

- a. Exodus 20:3 Or *besides*

Exodus 32

The Golden Calf

¹ When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods^[a] who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him."

² Aaron answered them, "Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me."

³ So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron.

⁴ He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, "These are your gods,^[b] Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt."

⁵ When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, "Tomorrow there will be a festival to the LORD."

⁶ So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.

⁷ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt.

⁸ They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, 'These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.'

⁹ "I have seen these people," the LORD said to Moses, "and they are a stiff-necked people.

¹⁰ Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation.”

¹¹ But Moses sought the favor of the LORD his God. “LORD,” he said, “why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand?

¹² Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people.

¹³ Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: ‘I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.’”

¹⁴ Then the LORD relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

¹⁵ Moses turned and went down the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands. They were inscribed on both sides, front and back.

¹⁶ The tablets were the work of God; the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets.

¹⁷ When Joshua heard the noise of the people shouting, he said to Moses, “There is the sound of war in the camp.”

¹⁸ Moses replied:

“It is not the sound of victory,
it is not the sound of defeat;
it is the sound of singing that I hear.”

¹⁹ When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain.

²⁰ And he took the calf the people had made and burned it in the fire; then he ground it to powder, scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it.

²¹ He said to Aaron, "What did these people do to you, that you led them into such great sin?"

²² "Do not be angry, my lord," Aaron answered. "You know how prone these people are to evil.

²³ They said to me, 'Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him.'

²⁴ So I told them, 'Whoever has any gold jewelry, take it off.' Then they gave me the gold, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!"

²⁵ Moses saw that the people were running wild and that Aaron had let them get out of control and so become a laughingstock to their enemies.

²⁶ So he stood at the entrance to the camp and said, "Whoever is for the LORD, come to me." And all the Levites rallied to him.

²⁷ Then he said to them, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Each man strap a sword to his side. Go back and forth through the camp from one end to the other, each killing his brother and friend and neighbor.'"

²⁸ The Levites did as Moses commanded, and that day about three thousand of the people died.

²⁹ Then Moses said, "You have been set apart to the LORD today, for you were against your own sons and brothers, and he has blessed you this day."

³⁰ The next day Moses said to the people, "You have committed a great sin. But now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin."

³¹ So Moses went back to the LORD and said, "Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made themselves gods of gold.

³² But now, please forgive their sin—but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written.”

³³ The LORD replied to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of my book.

³⁴ Now go, lead the people to the place I spoke of, and my angel will go before you. However, when the time comes for me to punish, I will punish them for their sin.”

³⁵ And the LORD struck the people with a plague because of what they did with the calf Aaron had made.

Footnotes

- a. Exodus 32:1 Or *a god*; also in verses 23 and 31
- b. Exodus 32:4 Or *This is your god*; also in verse 8

Exodus 33

¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Leave this place, you and the people you brought up out of Egypt, and go up to the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants.'

² I will send an angel before you and drive out the Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.

³ Go up to the land flowing with milk and honey. But I will not go with you, because you are a stiff-necked people and I might destroy you on the way."

⁴ When the people heard these distressing words, they began to mourn and no one put on any ornaments.

⁵ For the LORD had said to Moses, "Tell the Israelites, 'You are a stiff-necked people. If I were to go with you even for a moment, I might destroy you. Now take off your ornaments and I will decide what to do with you.'"

⁶ So the Israelites stripped off their ornaments at Mount Horeb.

The Tent of Meeting

⁷ Now Moses used to take a tent and pitch it outside the camp some distance away, calling it the "tent of meeting." Anyone inquiring of the LORD would go to the tent of meeting outside the camp.

⁸ And whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people rose and stood at the entrances to their tents, watching Moses until he entered the tent.

⁹ As Moses went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and stay at the entrance, while the LORD spoke with Moses.

¹⁰ Whenever the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance to the tent, they all stood and worshiped, each at the entrance to their tent.

¹¹ The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Then Moses would return to the camp, but his young aide Joshua son of Nun did not leave the tent.

Moses and the Glory of the LORD

¹² Moses said to the LORD, "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favor with me.'

¹³ If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people."

¹⁴ The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

¹⁵ Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here.

¹⁶ How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"

¹⁷ And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name."

¹⁸ Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory."

¹⁹ And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.

²⁰ But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live."

²¹ Then the LORD said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock.

²² When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by.

²³ Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen."

Exodus 34

The New Stone Tablets

¹ The LORD said to Moses, "Chisel out two stone tablets like the first ones, and I will write on them the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke.

² Be ready in the morning, and then come up on Mount Sinai. Present yourself to me there on top of the mountain.

³ No one is to come with you or be seen anywhere on the mountain; not even the flocks and herds may graze in front of the mountain."

⁴ So Moses chiseled out two stone tablets like the first ones and went up Mount Sinai early in the morning, as the LORD had commanded him; and he carried the two stone tablets in his hands.

⁵ Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD.

⁶ And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness,

⁷ maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation."

⁸ Moses bowed to the ground at once and worshiped.

⁹ "Lord," he said, "if I have found favor in your eyes, then let the Lord go with us. Although this is a stiff-necked people, forgive our wickedness and our sin, and take us as your inheritance."

¹⁰ Then the LORD said: "I am making a covenant with you. Before all your people I will do wonders never before done in any nation in all the world. The people you live among will see how awesome is the work that I, the LORD, will do for you.

Exodus 34:11-22

11 Obey what I command you today. I will drive out before you the Amorites, Canaanites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.

12 Be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in the land where you are going, or they will be a snare among you.

13 Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones and cut down their Asherah poles.^[a]

14 Do not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.

15 "Be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in the land; for when they prostitute themselves to their gods and sacrifice to them, they will invite you and you will eat their sacrifices.

16 And when you choose some of their daughters as wives for your sons and those daughters prostitute themselves to their gods, they will lead your sons to do the same.

17 "Do not make any idols.

18 "Celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread. For seven days eat bread made without yeast, as I commanded you. Do this at the appointed time in the month of Aviv, for in that month you came out of Egypt.

19 "The first offspring of every womb belongs to me, including all the firstborn males of your livestock, whether from herd or flock.

20 Redeem the firstborn donkey with a lamb, but if you do not redeem it, break its neck. Redeem all your firstborn sons.

"No one is to appear before me empty-handed.

21 "Six days you shall labor, but on the seventh day you shall rest; even during the plowing season and harvest you must rest.

22 "Celebrate the Festival of Weeks with the firstfruits of the wheat harvest, and the Festival of Ingathering at the turn of the year.^[b]

Exodus 34:23-28

²³ Three times a year all your men are to appear before the Sovereign LORD, the God of Israel.

²⁴ I will drive out nations before you and enlarge your territory, and no one will covet your land when you go up three times each year to appear before the LORD your God.

²⁵ "Do not offer the blood of a sacrifice to me along with anything containing yeast, and do not let any of the sacrifice from the Passover Festival remain until morning.

²⁶ "Bring the best of the firstfruits of your soil to the house of the LORD your God.

"Do not cook a young goat in its mother's milk."

²⁷ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write down these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel."

²⁸ Moses was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights without eating bread or drinking water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant—the Ten Commandments.

The Radiant Face of Moses

²⁹ When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the LORD.

³⁰ When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him.

³¹ But Moses called to them; so Aaron and all the leaders of the community came back to him, and he spoke to them.

³² Afterward all the Israelites came near him, and he gave them all the commands the LORD had given him on Mount Sinai.

³³ When Moses finished speaking to them, he put a veil over his face.

³⁴ But whenever he entered the LORD's presence to speak with him, he removed the veil until he came out. And when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded,

³⁵ they saw that his face was radiant. Then Moses would put the veil back over his face until he went in to speak with the LORD.

Footnotes

- a. Exodus 34:13 That is, wooden symbols of the goddess Asherah
- b. Exodus 34:22 That is, in the autumn

Numbers 1

The Census

¹ The LORD spoke to Moses in the tent of meeting in the Desert of Sinai on the first day of the second month of the second year after the Israelites came out of Egypt. He said:

² "Take a census of the whole Israelite community by their clans and families, listing every man by name, one by one.

³ You and Aaron are to count according to their divisions all the men in Israel who are twenty years old or more and able to serve in the army.

⁴ One man from each tribe, each of them the head of his family, is to help you.

⁵ These are the names of the men who are to assist you:

from Reuben, Elizur son of Shedeur;

⁶ from Simeon, Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai;

⁷ from Judah, Nahshon son of Amminadab;

⁸ from Issachar, Nethanel son of Zuar;

⁹ from Zebulun, Eliab son of Helon;

¹⁰ from the sons of Joseph:

from Ephraim, Elishama son of Ammihud;

from Manasseh, Gamaliel son of Pedahzur;

¹¹ from Benjamin, Abidan son of Gideoni;

¹² from Dan, Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai;

¹³ from Asher, Pagiël son of Okran;

¹⁴ from Gad, Eliasaph son of Deuel;

¹⁵ from Naphtali, Ahira son of Enan."

¹⁶ These were the men appointed from the community, the leaders of their ancestral tribes. They were the heads of the clans of Israel.

¹⁷ Moses and Aaron took these men whose names had been specified,
¹⁸ and they called the whole community together on the first day of the second month. The people registered their ancestry by their clans and families, and the men twenty years old or more were listed by name, one by one,
¹⁹ as the LORD commanded Moses. And so he counted them in the Desert of Sinai:

²⁰ From the descendants of Reuben the firstborn son of Israel:
All the men twenty years old or more who were able to serve in the army were listed by name, one by one, according to the records of their clans and families.

²¹ The number from the tribe of Reuben was 46,500.

²² From the descendants of Simeon:
All the men twenty years old or more who were able to serve in the army were counted and listed by name, one by one, according to the records of their clans and families.

²³ The number from the tribe of Simeon was 59,300.

²⁴ From the descendants of Gad:
All the men twenty years old or more who were able to serve in the army were listed by name, according to the records of their clans and families.

²⁵ The number from the tribe of Gad was 45,650.

²⁶ From the descendants of Judah:
All the men twenty years old or more who were able to serve in the army were listed by name, according to the records of their clans and families.

²⁷ The number from the tribe of Judah was 74,600.

²⁸ From the descendants of Issachar:
All the men twenty years old or more who were able to serve in the army were listed by name, according to the records of their clans and families.

²⁹ The number from the tribe of Issachar was 54,400.

³⁰ From the descendants of Zebulun:

All the men twenty years old or more who were able to serve in the army were listed by name, according to the records of their clans and families.

³¹ The number from the tribe of Zebulun was 57,400.

³² From the sons of Joseph:

From the descendants of Ephraim:

All the men twenty years old or more who were able to serve in the army were listed by name, according to the records of their clans and families.

³³ The number from the tribe of Ephraim was 40,500.

³⁴ From the descendants of Manasseh:

All the men twenty years old or more who were able to serve in the army were listed by name, according to the records of their clans and families.

³⁵ The number from the tribe of Manasseh was 32,200.

³⁶ From the descendants of Benjamin:

All the men twenty years old or more who were able to serve in the army were listed by name, according to the records of their clans and families.

³⁷ The number from the tribe of Benjamin was 35,400.

³⁸ From the descendants of Dan:

All the men twenty years old or more who were able to serve in the army were listed by name, according to the records of their clans and families.

³⁹ The number from the tribe of Dan was 62,700.

⁴⁰ From the descendants of Asher:

All the men twenty years old or more who were able to serve in the army were listed by name, according to the records of their clans and families.

⁴¹ The number from the tribe of Asher was 41,500.

⁴² From the descendants of Naphtali:

All the men twenty years old or more who were able to serve in the army were listed by name, according to the records of their clans and families.

⁴³ The number from the tribe of Naphtali was 53,400.

⁴⁴ These were the men counted by Moses and Aaron and the twelve leaders of Israel, each one representing his family.

⁴⁵ All the Israelites twenty years old or more who were able to serve in Israel's army were counted according to their families.

⁴⁶ The total number was 603,550.

⁴⁷ The ancestral tribe of the Levites, however, was not counted along with the others.

⁴⁸ The LORD had said to Moses:

⁴⁹ "You must not count the tribe of Levi or include them in the census of the other Israelites.

⁵⁰ Instead, appoint the Levites to be in charge of the tabernacle of the covenant law—over all its furnishings and everything belonging to it. They are to carry the tabernacle and all its furnishings; they are to take care of it and encamp around it.

⁵¹ Whenever the tabernacle is to move, the Levites are to take it down, and whenever the tabernacle is to be set up, the Levites shall do it. Anyone else who approaches it is to be put to death.

⁵² The Israelites are to set up their tents by divisions, each of them in their own camp under their standard.

⁵³ The Levites, however, are to set up their tents around the tabernacle of the covenant law so that my wrath will not fall on the Israelite community. The Levites are to be responsible for the care of the tabernacle of the covenant law."

⁵⁴ The Israelites did all this just as the LORD commanded Moses.

Numbers 2

The Arrangement of the Tribal Camps

¹ The LORD said to Moses and Aaron:

² "The Israelites are to camp around the tent of meeting some distance from it, each of them under their standard and holding the banners of their family."

³ On the east, toward the sunrise, the divisions of the camp of Judah are to encamp under their standard. The leader of the people of Judah is Nahshon son of Amminadab.

⁴ His division numbers 74,600.

⁵ The tribe of Issachar will camp next to them. The leader of the people of Issachar is Nethanel son of Zuar.

⁶ His division numbers 54,400.

⁷ The tribe of Zebulun will be next. The leader of the people of Zebulun is Eliab son of Helon.

⁸ His division numbers 57,400.

⁹ All the men assigned to the camp of Judah, according to their divisions, number 186,400. They will set out first.

¹⁰ On the south will be the divisions of the camp of Reuben under their standard. The leader of the people of Reuben is Elizur son of Shedeur.

¹¹ His division numbers 46,500.

¹² The tribe of Simeon will camp next to them. The leader of the people of Simeon is Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai.

¹³ His division numbers 59,300.

¹⁴ The tribe of Gad will be next. The leader of the people of Gad is Eliasaph son of Deuel.^[a]

¹⁵ His division numbers 45,650.

¹⁶ All the men assigned to the camp of Reuben, according to their divisions, number 151,450. They will set out second.

¹⁷ Then the tent of meeting and the camp of the Levites will set out in the middle of the camps. They will set out in the same order as they encamp, each in their own place under their standard.

¹⁸ On the west will be the divisions of the camp of Ephraim under their standard. The leader of the people of Ephraim is Elishama son of Ammihud.

¹⁹ His division numbers 40,500.

²⁰ The tribe of Manasseh will be next to them. The leader of the people of Manasseh is Gamaliel son of Pedahzur.

²¹ His division numbers 32,200.

²² The tribe of Benjamin will be next. The leader of the people of Benjamin is Abidan son of Gideoni.

²³ His division numbers 35,400.

²⁴ All the men assigned to the camp of Ephraim, according to their divisions, number 108,100. They will set out third.

²⁵ On the north will be the divisions of the camp of Dan under their standard. The leader of the people of Dan is Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai.

²⁶ His division numbers 62,700.

²⁷ The tribe of Asher will camp next to them. The leader of the people of Asher is Pagiel son of Okran.

²⁸ His division numbers 41,500.

²⁹ The tribe of Naphtali will be next. The leader of the people of Naphtali is Ahira son of Enan.

³⁰ His division numbers 53,400.

³¹ All the men assigned to the camp of Dan number 157,600. They will set out last, under their standards.

³² These are the Israelites, counted according to their families. All the men in the camps, by their divisions, number 603,550.

³³ The Levites, however, were not counted along with the other Israelites, as the LORD commanded Moses.

³⁴ So the Israelites did everything the LORD commanded Moses; that is the way they encamped under their standards, and that is the way they set out, each of them with their clan and family.

Footnotes

- a. Numbers 2:14 Many manuscripts of the Masoretic Text, Samaritan Pentateuch and Vulgate (see also 1:14); most manuscripts of the Masoretic Text *Reuel*

Numbers 3

The Levites

¹ This is the account of the family of Aaron and Moses at the time the LORD spoke to Moses at Mount Sinai.

² The names of the sons of Aaron were Nadab the firstborn and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.

³ Those were the names of Aaron's sons, the anointed priests, who were ordained to serve as priests.

⁴ Nadab and Abihu, however, died before the LORD when they made an offering with unauthorized fire before him in the Desert of Sinai. They had no sons, so Eleazar and Ithamar served as priests during the lifetime of their father Aaron.

⁵ The LORD said to Moses,

⁶ "Bring the tribe of Levi and present them to Aaron the priest to assist him.

⁷ They are to perform duties for him and for the whole community at the tent of meeting by doing the work of the tabernacle.

⁸ They are to take care of all the furnishings of the tent of meeting, fulfilling the obligations of the Israelites by doing the work of the tabernacle.

⁹ Give the Levites to Aaron and his sons; they are the Israelites who are to be given wholly to him.^[a]

¹⁰ Appoint Aaron and his sons to serve as priests; anyone else who approaches the sanctuary is to be put to death."

¹¹ The LORD also said to Moses,

¹² "I have taken the Levites from among the Israelites in place of the first male offspring of every Israelite woman. The Levites are mine,

¹³ for all the firstborn are mine. When I struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, I set apart for myself every firstborn in Israel, whether human or animal. They are to be mine. I am the LORD.”

¹⁴ The LORD said to Moses in the Desert of Sinai,

¹⁵ “Count the Levites by their families and clans. Count every male a month old or more.”

¹⁶ So Moses counted them, as he was commanded by the word of the LORD.

¹⁷ These were the names of the sons of Levi:

Gershon, Kohath and Merari.

¹⁸ These were the names of the Gershonite clans:

Libni and Shimei.

¹⁹ The Kohathite clans:

Amram, Izhar, Hebron and Uzziel.

²⁰ The Merarite clans:

Mahli and Mushi.

These were the Levite clans, according to their families.

²¹ To Gershon belonged the clans of the Libnites and Shimeites; these were the Gershonite clans.

²² The number of all the males a month old or more who were counted was 7,500.

²³ The Gershonite clans were to camp on the west, behind the tabernacle.

²⁴ The leader of the families of the Gershonites was Eliasaph son of Lael.

²⁵ At the tent of meeting the Gershonites were responsible for the care of the tabernacle and tent, its coverings, the curtain at the entrance to the tent of meeting,

²⁶ the curtains of the courtyard, the curtain at the entrance to the courtyard surrounding the tabernacle and altar, and the ropes—and everything related to their use.

²⁷ To Kohath belonged the clans of the Amramites, Izharites, Hebronites and Uzzielites; these were the Kohathite clans.

²⁸ The number of all the males a month old or more was 8,600.^[b] The Kohathites were responsible for the care of the sanctuary.

²⁹ The Kohathite clans were to camp on the south side of the tabernacle.

³⁰ The leader of the families of the Kohathite clans was Elizaphan son of Uzziel.

³¹ They were responsible for the care of the ark, the table, the lampstand, the altars, the articles of the sanctuary used in ministering, the curtain, and everything related to their use.

³² The chief leader of the Levites was Eleazar son of Aaron, the priest. He was appointed over those who were responsible for the care of the sanctuary.

³³ To Merari belonged the clans of the Mahlites and the Mushites; these were the Merarite clans.

³⁴ The number of all the males a month old or more who were counted was 6,200.

³⁵ The leader of the families of the Merarite clans was Zuriel son of Abihail; they were to camp on the north side of the tabernacle.

³⁶ The Merarites were appointed to take care of the frames of the tabernacle, its crossbars, posts, bases, all its equipment, and everything related to their use,

³⁷ as well as the posts of the surrounding courtyard with their bases, tent pegs and ropes.

³⁸ Moses and Aaron and his sons were to camp to the east of the tabernacle, toward the sunrise, in front of the tent of meeting. They were responsible for the care of the sanctuary on behalf of the Israelites. Anyone else who approached the sanctuary was to be put to death.

³⁹ The total number of Levites counted at the LORD's command by Moses and Aaron according to their clans, including every male a month old or more, was 22,000.

⁴⁰ The LORD said to Moses, "Count all the firstborn Israelite males who are a month old or more and make a list of their names.

⁴¹ Take the Levites for me in place of all the firstborn of the Israelites, and the livestock of the Levites in place of all the firstborn of the livestock of the Israelites. I am the LORD.”

⁴² So Moses counted all the firstborn of the Israelites, as the LORD commanded him.

⁴³ The total number of firstborn males a month old or more, listed by name, was 22,273.

⁴⁴ The LORD also said to Moses,

⁴⁵ “Take the Levites in place of all the firstborn of Israel, and the livestock of the Levites in place of their livestock. The Levites are to be mine. I am the LORD.

⁴⁶ To redeem the 273 firstborn Israelites who exceed the number of the Levites,

⁴⁷ collect five shekels^[c] for each one, according to the sanctuary shekel, which weighs twenty gerahs.

⁴⁸ Give the money for the redemption of the additional Israelites to Aaron and his sons.”

⁴⁹ So Moses collected the redemption money from those who exceeded the number redeemed by the Levites.

⁵⁰ From the firstborn of the Israelites he collected silver weighing 1,365 shekels,^[d] according to the sanctuary shekel.

⁵¹ Moses gave the redemption money to Aaron and his sons, as he was commanded by the word of the LORD.

Footnotes

- a. Numbers 3:9 Most manuscripts of the Masoretic Text; some manuscripts of the Masoretic Text, Samaritan Pentateuch and Septuagint (see also 8:16) *to me*
- b. Numbers 3:28 Hebrew; some Septuagint manuscripts *8,300*
- c. Numbers 3:47 That is, about 2 ounces or about 58 grams
- d. Numbers 3:50 That is, about 35 pounds or about 16 kilograms

Numbers 9

The Passover

¹ The LORD spoke to Moses in the Desert of Sinai in the first month of the second year after they came out of Egypt. He said,

² "Have the Israelites celebrate the Passover at the appointed time.

³ Celebrate it at the appointed time, at twilight on the fourteenth day of this month, in accordance with all its rules and regulations."

⁴ So Moses told the Israelites to celebrate the Passover,

⁵ and they did so in the Desert of Sinai at twilight on the fourteenth day of the first month. The Israelites did everything just as the LORD commanded Moses.

⁶ But some of them could not celebrate the Passover on that day because they were ceremonially unclean on account of a dead body. So they came to Moses and Aaron that same day

⁷ and said to Moses, "We have become unclean because of a dead body, but why should we be kept from presenting the LORD's offering with the other Israelites at the appointed time?"

⁸ Moses answered them, "Wait until I find out what the LORD commands concerning you."

⁹ Then the LORD said to Moses,

¹⁰ "Tell the Israelites: 'When any of you or your descendants are unclean because of a dead body or are away on a journey, they are still to celebrate the LORD's Passover,

¹¹ but they are to do it on the fourteenth day of the second month at twilight. They are to eat the lamb, together with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

¹² They must not leave any of it till morning or break any of its bones. When they celebrate the Passover, they must follow all the regulations.

¹³ But if anyone who is ceremonially clean and not on a journey fails to celebrate the Passover, they must be cut off from their people for not presenting the LORD's offering at the appointed time. They will bear the consequences of their sin.

¹⁴ "A foreigner residing among you is also to celebrate the LORD's Passover in accordance with its rules and regulations. You must have the same regulations for both the foreigner and the native-born."

The Cloud Above the Tabernacle

¹⁵ On the day the tabernacle, the tent of the covenant law, was set up, the cloud covered it. From evening till morning the cloud above the tabernacle looked like fire.

¹⁶ That is how it continued to be; the cloud covered it, and at night it looked like fire.

¹⁷ Whenever the cloud lifted from above the tent, the Israelites set out; wherever the cloud settled, the Israelites encamped.

¹⁸ At the LORD's command the Israelites set out, and at his command they encamped. As long as the cloud stayed over the tabernacle, they remained in camp.

¹⁹ When the cloud remained over the tabernacle a long time, the Israelites obeyed the LORD's order and did not set out.

²⁰ Sometimes the cloud was over the tabernacle only a few days; at the LORD's command they would encamp, and then at his command they would set out.

²¹ Sometimes the cloud stayed only from evening till morning, and when it lifted in the morning, they set out. Whether by day or by night, whenever the cloud lifted, they set out.

²² Whether the cloud stayed over the tabernacle for two days or a month or a year, the Israelites would remain in camp and not set out; but when it lifted, they would set out.

²³ At the LORD's command they encamped, and at the LORD's command they set out. They obeyed the LORD's order, in accordance with his command through Moses.

Numbers 10

The Silver Trumpets

¹ The LORD said to Moses:

² "Make two trumpets of hammered silver, and use them for calling the community together and for having the camps set out.

³ When both are sounded, the whole community is to assemble before you at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

⁴ If only one is sounded, the leaders—the heads of the clans of Israel—are to assemble before you.

⁵ When a trumpet blast is sounded, the tribes camping on the east are to set out.

⁶ At the sounding of a second blast, the camps on the south are to set out. The blast will be the signal for setting out.

⁷ To gather the assembly, blow the trumpets, but not with the signal for setting out.

⁸ "The sons of Aaron, the priests, are to blow the trumpets. This is to be a lasting ordinance for you and the generations to come.

⁹ When you go into battle in your own land against an enemy who is oppressing you, sound a blast on the trumpets. Then you will be remembered by the LORD your God and rescued from your enemies.

¹⁰ Also at your times of rejoicing—your appointed festivals and New Moon feasts—you are to sound the trumpets over your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, and they will be a memorial for you before your God. I am the LORD your God."

The Israelites Leave Sinai

¹¹ On the twentieth day of the second month of the second year, the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle of the covenant law.

¹² Then the Israelites set out from the Desert of Sinai and traveled from place to place until the cloud came to rest in the Desert of Paran.

¹³ They set out, this first time, at the LORD's command through Moses.

¹⁴ The divisions of the camp of Judah went first, under their standard. Nahshon son of Amminadab was in command.

¹⁵ Nethanel son of Zuar was over the division of the tribe of Issachar,

¹⁶ and Eliab son of Helon was over the division of the tribe of Zebulun.

¹⁷ Then the tabernacle was taken down, and the Gershonites and Merarites, who carried it, set out.

¹⁸ The divisions of the camp of Reuben went next, under their standard. Elizur son of Shedeur was in command.

¹⁹ Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai was over the division of the tribe of Simeon,

²⁰ and Eliasaph son of Deuel was over the division of the tribe of Gad.

²¹ Then the Kohathites set out, carrying the holy things. The tabernacle was to be set up before they arrived.

²² The divisions of the camp of Ephraim went next, under their standard. Elishama son of Ammihud was in command.

²³ Gamaliel son of Pedahzur was over the division of the tribe of Manasseh,

²⁴ and Abidan son of Gideoni was over the division of the tribe of Benjamin.

²⁵ Finally, as the rear guard for all the units, the divisions of the camp of Dan set out under their standard. Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai was in command.

²⁶ Pagiel son of Okran was over the division of the tribe of Asher,

Numbers 10:27-36

²⁷ and Ahira son of Enan was over the division of the tribe of Naphtali.

²⁸ This was the order of march for the Israelite divisions as they set out.

²⁹ Now Moses said to Hobab son of Reuel the Midianite, Moses' father-in-law, "We are setting out for the place about which the LORD said, 'I will give it to you.' Come with us and we will treat you well, for the LORD has promised good things to Israel."

³⁰ He answered, "No, I will not go; I am going back to my own land and my own people."

³¹ But Moses said, "Please do not leave us. You know where we should camp in the wilderness, and you can be our eyes.

³² If you come with us, we will share with you whatever good things the LORD gives us."

³³ So they set out from the mountain of the LORD and traveled for three days. The ark of the covenant of the LORD went before them during those three days to find them a place to rest.

³⁴ The cloud of the LORD was over them by day when they set out from the camp.

³⁵ Whenever the ark set out, Moses said,

"Rise up, LORD!

 May your enemies be scattered;
 may your foes flee before you."

³⁶ Whenever it came to rest, he said,

"Return, LORD,

 to the countless thousands of Israel."

Numbers 11

Fire From the LORD

¹ Now the people complained about their hardships in the hearing of the LORD, and when he heard them his anger was aroused. Then fire from the LORD burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp.

² When the people cried out to Moses, he prayed to the LORD and the fire died down.

³ So that place was called Taberah,^[a] because fire from the LORD had burned among them.

Quail From the LORD

⁴ The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, "If only we had meat to eat!

⁵ We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost—also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic.

⁶ But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!"

⁷ The manna was like coriander seed and looked like resin.

⁸ The people went around gathering it, and then ground it in a hand mill or crushed it in a mortar. They cooked it in a pot or made it into loaves. And it tasted like something made with olive oil.

⁹ When the dew settled on the camp at night, the manna also came down.

¹⁰ Moses heard the people of every family wailing at the entrance to their tents.

The LORD became exceedingly angry, and Moses was troubled.

¹¹ He asked the LORD, "Why have you brought this trouble on your servant? What have I done to displease you that you put the burden of all these people on me?"

¹² Did I conceive all these people? Did I give them birth? Why do you tell me to carry them in my arms, as a nurse carries an infant, to the land you promised on oath to their ancestors?"

Numbers 11:13-24

¹³ Where can I get meat for all these people? They keep wailing to me, 'Give us meat to eat!'

¹⁴ I cannot carry all these people by myself; the burden is too heavy for me.

¹⁵ If this is how you are going to treat me, please go ahead and kill me—if I have found favor in your eyes—and do not let me face my own ruin."

¹⁶ The LORD said to Moses: "Bring me seventy of Israel's elders who are known to you as leaders and officials among the people. Have them come to the tent of meeting, that they may stand there with you.

¹⁷ I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take some of the power of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them. They will share the burden of the people with you so that you will not have to carry it alone.

¹⁸ "Tell the people: 'Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow, when you will eat meat. The LORD heard you when you wailed, "If only we had meat to eat! We were better off in Egypt!" Now the LORD will give you meat, and you will eat it.

¹⁹ You will not eat it for just one day, or two days, or five, ten or twenty days,

²⁰ but for a whole month—until it comes out of your nostrils and you loathe it—because you have rejected the LORD, who is among you, and have wailed before him, saying, "Why did we ever leave Egypt?"'"

²¹ But Moses said, "Here I am among six hundred thousand men on foot, and you say, 'I will give them meat to eat for a whole month!'

²² Would they have enough if flocks and herds were slaughtered for them? Would they have enough if all the fish in the sea were caught for them?"

²³ The LORD answered Moses, "Is the LORD's arm too short? Now you will see whether or not what I say will come true for you."

²⁴ So Moses went out and told the people what the LORD had said. He brought together seventy of their elders and had them stand around the tent.

Numbers 11:25-35

²⁵ Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke with him, and he took some of the power of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied—but did not do so again.

²⁶ However, two men, whose names were Eldad and Medad, had remained in the camp. They were listed among the elders, but did not go out to the tent. Yet the Spirit also rested on them, and they prophesied in the camp.

²⁷ A young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp."

²⁸ Joshua son of Nun, who had been Moses' aide since youth, spoke up and said, "Moses, my lord, stop them!"

²⁹ But Moses replied, "Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the LORD's people were prophets and that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!"

³⁰ Then Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

³¹ Now a wind went out from the LORD and drove quail in from the sea. It scattered them up to two cubits^[b] deep all around the camp, as far as a day's walk in any direction.

³² All that day and night and all the next day the people went out and gathered quail. No one gathered less than ten homers.^[c] Then they spread them out all around the camp.

³³ But while the meat was still between their teeth and before it could be consumed, the anger of the LORD burned against the people, and he struck them with a severe plague.

³⁴ Therefore the place was named Kibroth Hattaavah,^[d] because there they buried the people who had craved other food.

³⁵ From Kibroth Hattaavah the people traveled to Hazeroth and stayed there.

Footnotes

- a. Numbers 11:3 *Taberah* means *burning*.
- b. Numbers 11:31 That is, about 3 feet or about 90 centimeters
- c. Numbers 11:32 That is, possibly about 1 3/4 tons or about 1.6 metric tons
- d. Numbers 11:34 *Kibroth Hattaavah* means *graves of craving*.

Numbers 12

Miriam and Aaron Oppose Moses

¹ Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite.

² "Has the LORD spoken only through Moses?" they asked. "Hasn't he also spoken through us?" And the LORD heard this.

³ (Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.)

⁴ At once the LORD said to Moses, Aaron and Miriam, "Come out to the tent of meeting, all three of you." So the three of them went out.

⁵ Then the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud; he stood at the entrance to the tent and summoned Aaron and Miriam. When the two of them stepped forward,

⁶ he said, "Listen to my words:

"When there is a prophet among you,
I, the LORD, reveal myself to them in visions,
I speak to them in dreams.

⁷ But this is not true of my servant Moses;
he is faithful in all my house.

⁸ With him I speak face to face,
clearly and not in riddles;
he sees the form of the LORD.

Why then were you not afraid
to speak against my servant Moses?"

⁹ The anger of the LORD burned against them, and he left them.

Numbers 12:10-16

¹⁰ When the cloud lifted from above the tent, Miriam's skin was leprous^[a]—it became as white as snow. Aaron turned toward her and saw that she had a defiling skin disease,

¹¹ and he said to Moses, "Please, my lord, I ask you not to hold against us the sin we have so foolishly committed.

¹² Do not let her be like a stillborn infant coming from its mother's womb with its flesh half eaten away."

¹³ So Moses cried out to the LORD, "Please, God, heal her!"

¹⁴ The LORD replied to Moses, "If her father had spit in her face, would she not have been in disgrace for seven days? Confine her outside the camp for seven days; after that she can be brought back."

¹⁵ So Miriam was confined outside the camp for seven days, and the people did not move on till she was brought back.

¹⁶ After that, the people left Hazeroth and encamped in the Desert of Paran.

Footnotes

- a. Numbers 12:10 The Hebrew for *leprous* was used for various diseases affecting the skin.

Numbers 13

Exploring Canaan

¹ The LORD said to Moses,

² "Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders."

³ So at the LORD's command Moses sent them out from the Desert of Paran. All of them were leaders of the Israelites.

⁴ These are their names:

from the tribe of Reuben, Shammua son of Zakkur;

⁵ from the tribe of Simeon, Shaphat son of Hori;

⁶ from the tribe of Judah, Caleb son of Jephunneh;

⁷ from the tribe of Issachar, Igal son of Joseph;

⁸ from the tribe of Ephraim, Hoshea son of Nun;

⁹ from the tribe of Benjamin, Palti son of Raphu;

¹⁰ from the tribe of Zebulun, Gaddiel son of Sodi;

¹¹ from the tribe of Manasseh (a tribe of Joseph), Gaddi son of Susi;

¹² from the tribe of Dan, Ammiel son of Gemalli;

¹³ from the tribe of Asher, Sethur son of Michael;

¹⁴ from the tribe of Naphtali, Nahbi son of Vophsi;

¹⁵ from the tribe of Gad, Geuel son of Maki.

¹⁶ These are the names of the men Moses sent to explore the land. (Moses gave Hoshea son of Nun the name Joshua.)

¹⁷ When Moses sent them to explore Canaan, he said, "Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country.

¹⁸ See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many.

¹⁹ What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad? What kind of towns do they live in? Are they unwalled or fortified?

²⁰ How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees in it or not? Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land." (It was the season for the first ripe grapes.)

²¹ So they went up and explored the land from the Desert of Zin as far as Rehob, toward Lebo Hamath.

²² They went up through the Negev and came to Hebron, where Ahiman, Sheshai and Talmai, the descendants of Anak, lived. (Hebron had been built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.)

²³ When they reached the Valley of Eshkol,^[a] they cut off a branch bearing a single cluster of grapes. Two of them carried it on a pole between them, along with some pomegranates and figs.

²⁴ That place was called the Valley of Eshkol because of the cluster of grapes the Israelites cut off there.

²⁵ At the end of forty days they returned from exploring the land.

Report on the Exploration

²⁶ They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land.

²⁷ They gave Moses this account: "We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit.

²⁸ But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there.

²⁹ The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan."

³⁰ Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it."

Numbers 13:31-33

³¹ But the men who had gone up with him said, “We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are.”

³² And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, “The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size.

³³ We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.”

Footnotes

- a. Numbers 13:23 *Eshkol* means *cluster*; also in verse 24.

Numbers 14

The People Rebel

¹ That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud.

² All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness!

³ Why is the LORD bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?"

⁴ And they said to each other, "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

⁵ Then Moses and Aaron fell facedown in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there.

⁶ Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes

⁷ and said to the entire Israelite assembly, "The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good.

⁸ If the LORD is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us.

⁹ Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us. Do not be afraid of them."

¹⁰ But the whole assembly talked about stoning them. Then the glory of the LORD appeared at the tent of meeting to all the Israelites.

¹¹ The LORD said to Moses, "How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the signs I have performed among them?

¹² I will strike them down with a plague and destroy them, but I will make you into a nation greater and stronger than they."

Numbers 14:13-25

¹³ Moses said to the LORD, "Then the Egyptians will hear about it! By your power you brought these people up from among them.

¹⁴ And they will tell the inhabitants of this land about it. They have already heard that you, LORD, are with these people and that you, LORD, have been seen face to face, that your cloud stays over them, and that you go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

¹⁵ If you put all these people to death, leaving none alive, the nations who have heard this report about you will say,

¹⁶ 'The LORD was not able to bring these people into the land he promised them on oath, so he slaughtered them in the wilderness.'

¹⁷ "Now may the Lord's strength be displayed, just as you have declared:

¹⁸ 'The LORD is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.'

¹⁹ In accordance with your great love, forgive the sin of these people, just as you have pardoned them from the time they left Egypt until now."

²⁰ The LORD replied, "I have forgiven them, as you asked.

²¹ Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the LORD fills the whole earth,

²² not one of those who saw my glory and the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times—

²³ not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their ancestors. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it.

²⁴ But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it.

²⁵ Since the Amalekites and the Canaanites are living in the valleys, turn back tomorrow and set out toward the desert along the route to the Red Sea.^[a]"

²⁶ The LORD said to Moses and Aaron:

²⁷ "How long will this wicked community grumble against me? I have heard the complaints of these grumbling Israelites.

²⁸ So tell them, 'As surely as I live, declares the LORD, I will do to you the very thing I heard you say:

²⁹ In this wilderness your bodies will fall—every one of you twenty years old or more who was counted in the census and who has grumbled against me.

³⁰ Not one of you will enter the land I swore with uplifted hand to make your home, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.

³¹ As for your children that you said would be taken as plunder, I will bring them in to enjoy the land you have rejected.

³² But as for you, your bodies will fall in this wilderness.

³³ Your children will be shepherds here for forty years, suffering for your unfaithfulness, until the last of your bodies lies in the wilderness.

³⁴ For forty years—one year for each of the forty days you explored the land—you will suffer for your sins and know what it is like to have me against you.'

³⁵ I, the LORD, have spoken, and I will surely do these things to this whole wicked community, which has banded together against me. They will meet their end in this wilderness; here they will die."

³⁶ So the men Moses had sent to explore the land, who returned and made the whole community grumble against him by spreading a bad report about it—

³⁷ these men who were responsible for spreading the bad report about the land were struck down and died of a plague before the LORD.

³⁸ Of the men who went to explore the land, only Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh survived.

³⁹ When Moses reported this to all the Israelites, they mourned bitterly.

⁴⁰ Early the next morning they set out for the highest point in the hill country, saying, "Now we are ready to go up to the land the LORD promised. Surely we have sinned!"

Numbers 14:41-45

⁴¹ But Moses said, "Why are you disobeying the LORD's command? This will not succeed!

⁴² Do not go up, because the LORD is not with you. You will be defeated by your enemies,

⁴³ for the Amalekites and the Canaanites will face you there. Because you have turned away from the LORD, he will not be with you and you will fall by the sword."

⁴⁴ Nevertheless, in their presumption they went up toward the highest point in the hill country, though neither Moses nor the ark of the LORD's covenant moved from the camp.

⁴⁵ Then the Amalekites and the Canaanites who lived in that hill country came down and attacked them and beat them down all the way to Hormah.

Footnotes

- a. Numbers 14:25 Or *the Sea of Reeds*

Numbers 16

Korah, Dathan and Abiram

¹ Korah son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and certain Reubenites—Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab, and On son of Peleth—became insolent^[a]

² and rose up against Moses. With them were 250 Israelite men, well-known community leaders who had been appointed members of the council.

³ They came as a group to oppose Moses and Aaron and said to them, “You have gone too far! The whole community is holy, every one of them, and the LORD is with them. Why then do you set yourselves above the LORD’s assembly?”

⁴ When Moses heard this, he fell facedown.

⁵ Then he said to Korah and all his followers: “In the morning the LORD will show who belongs to him and who is holy, and he will have that person come near him. The man he chooses he will cause to come near him.

⁶ You, Korah, and all your followers are to do this: Take censers

⁷ and tomorrow put burning coals and incense in them before the LORD. The man the LORD chooses will be the one who is holy. You Levites have gone too far!”

⁸ Moses also said to Korah, “Now listen, you Levites!

⁹ Isn’t it enough for you that the God of Israel has separated you from the rest of the Israelite community and brought you near himself to do the work at the LORD’s tabernacle and to stand before the community and minister to them?

¹⁰ He has brought you and all your fellow Levites near himself, but now you are trying to get the priesthood too.

¹¹ It is against the LORD that you and all your followers have banded together. Who is Aaron that you should grumble against him?”

¹² Then Moses summoned Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab. But they said, “We will not come!

Numbers 16:13-26

¹³ Isn't it enough that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey to kill us in the wilderness? And now you also want to lord it over us!

¹⁴ Moreover, you haven't brought us into a land flowing with milk and honey or given us an inheritance of fields and vineyards. Do you want to treat these men like slaves^[b]? No, we will not come!"

¹⁵ Then Moses became very angry and said to the LORD, "Do not accept their offering. I have not taken so much as a donkey from them, nor have I wronged any of them."

¹⁶ Moses said to Korah, "You and all your followers are to appear before the LORD tomorrow—you and they and Aaron.

¹⁷ Each man is to take his censer and put incense in it—250 censers in all—and present it before the LORD. You and Aaron are to present your censers also."

¹⁸ So each of them took his censer, put burning coals and incense in it, and stood with Moses and Aaron at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

¹⁹ When Korah had gathered all his followers in opposition to them at the entrance to the tent of meeting, the glory of the LORD appeared to the entire assembly.

²⁰ The LORD said to Moses and Aaron,

²¹ "Separate yourselves from this assembly so I can put an end to them at once."

²² But Moses and Aaron fell facedown and cried out, "O God, the God who gives breath to all living things, will you be angry with the entire assembly when only one man sins?"

²³ Then the LORD said to Moses,

²⁴ "Say to the assembly, 'Move away from the tents of Korah, Dathan and Abiram.'"

²⁵ Moses got up and went to Dathan and Abiram, and the elders of Israel followed him.

²⁶ He warned the assembly, "Move back from the tents of these wicked men! Do not touch anything belonging to them, or you will be swept away because of all their sins."

Numbers 16:27-39

²⁷ So they moved away from the tents of Korah, Dathan and Abiram. Dathan and Abiram had come out and were standing with their wives, children and little ones at the entrances to their tents.

²⁸ Then Moses said, "This is how you will know that the LORD has sent me to do all these things and that it was not my idea:

²⁹ If these men die a natural death and suffer the fate of all mankind, then the LORD has not sent me.

³⁰ But if the LORD brings about something totally new, and the earth opens its mouth and swallows them, with everything that belongs to them, and they go down alive into the realm of the dead, then you will know that these men have treated the LORD with contempt."

³¹ As soon as he finished saying all this, the ground under them split apart

³² and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them and their households, and all those associated with Korah, together with their possessions.

³³ They went down alive into the realm of the dead, with everything they owned; the earth closed over them, and they perished and were gone from the community.

³⁴ At their cries, all the Israelites around them fled, shouting, "The earth is going to swallow us too!"

³⁵ And fire came out from the LORD and consumed the 250 men who were offering the incense.

³⁶ The LORD said to Moses,

³⁷ "Tell Eleazar son of Aaron, the priest, to remove the censers from the charred remains and scatter the coals some distance away, for the censers are holy—

³⁸ the censers of the men who sinned at the cost of their lives. Hammer the censers into sheets to overlay the altar, for they were presented before the LORD and have become holy. Let them be a sign to the Israelites."

³⁹ So Eleazar the priest collected the bronze censers brought by those who had been burned to death, and he had them hammered out to overlay the altar,

⁴⁰ as the LORD directed him through Moses. This was to remind the Israelites that no one except a descendant of Aaron should come to burn incense before the LORD, or he would become like Korah and his followers.

⁴¹ The next day the whole Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. "You have killed the LORD's people," they said.

⁴² But when the assembly gathered in opposition to Moses and Aaron and turned toward the tent of meeting, suddenly the cloud covered it and the glory of the LORD appeared.

⁴³ Then Moses and Aaron went to the front of the tent of meeting,

⁴⁴ and the LORD said to Moses,

⁴⁵ "Get away from this assembly so I can put an end to them at once." And they fell facedown.

⁴⁶ Then Moses said to Aaron, "Take your censer and put incense in it, along with burning coals from the altar, and hurry to the assembly to make atonement for them. Wrath has come out from the LORD; the plague has started."

⁴⁷ So Aaron did as Moses said, and ran into the midst of the assembly. The plague had already started among the people, but Aaron offered the incense and made atonement for them.

⁴⁸ He stood between the living and the dead, and the plague stopped.

⁴⁹ But 14,700 people died from the plague, in addition to those who had died because of Korah.

⁵⁰ Then Aaron returned to Moses at the entrance to the tent of meeting, for the plague had stopped.^[c]

Footnotes

- a. Numbers 16:1 Or *Peleth—took men*
- b. Numbers 16:14 Or *to deceive these men*; Hebrew *Will you gouge out the eyes of these men*
- c. Numbers 16:50 In Hebrew texts 16:36-50 is numbered 17:1-15.

Numbers 17

The Budding of Aaron's Staff

¹ ^[a]The LORD said to Moses,

² "Speak to the Israelites and get twelve staffs from them, one from the leader of each of their ancestral tribes. Write the name of each man on his staff.

³ On the staff of Levi write Aaron's name, for there must be one staff for the head of each ancestral tribe.

⁴ Place them in the tent of meeting in front of the ark of the covenant law, where I meet with you.

⁵ The staff belonging to the man I choose will sprout, and I will rid myself of this constant grumbling against you by the Israelites."

⁶ So Moses spoke to the Israelites, and their leaders gave him twelve staffs, one for the leader of each of their ancestral tribes, and Aaron's staff was among them.

⁷ Moses placed the staffs before the LORD in the tent of the covenant law.

⁸ The next day Moses entered the tent and saw that Aaron's staff, which represented the tribe of Levi, had not only sprouted but had budded, blossomed and produced almonds.

⁹ Then Moses brought out all the staffs from the LORD's presence to all the Israelites. They looked at them, and each of the leaders took his own staff.

¹⁰ The LORD said to Moses, "Put back Aaron's staff in front of the ark of the covenant law, to be kept as a sign to the rebellious. This will put an end to their grumbling against me, so that they will not die."

¹¹ Moses did just as the LORD commanded him.

¹² The Israelites said to Moses, "We will die! We are lost, we are all lost!

¹³ Anyone who even comes near the tabernacle of the LORD will die. Are we all going to die?"

Footnotes

- a. Numbers 17:1 In Hebrew texts 17:1-13 is numbered 17:16-28.

Numbers 20

Water From the Rock

¹ In the first month the whole Israelite community arrived at the Desert of Zin, and they stayed at Kadesh. There Miriam died and was buried.

² Now there was no water for the community, and the people gathered in opposition to Moses and Aaron.

³ They quarreled with Moses and said, "If only we had died when our brothers fell dead before the LORD!

⁴ Why did you bring the LORD's community into this wilderness, that we and our livestock should die here?

⁵ Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to this terrible place? It has no grain or figs, grapevines or pomegranates. And there is no water to drink!"

⁶ Moses and Aaron went from the assembly to the entrance to the tent of meeting and fell facedown, and the glory of the LORD appeared to them.

⁷ The LORD said to Moses,

⁸ "Take the staff, and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. Speak to that rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water. You will bring water out of the rock for the community so they and their livestock can drink."

⁹ So Moses took the staff from the LORD's presence, just as he commanded him.

¹⁰ He and Aaron gathered the assembly together in front of the rock and Moses said to them, "Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?"

¹¹ Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank.

¹² But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them."

¹³ These were the waters of Meribah,^[a] where the Israelites quarreled with the LORD and where he was proved holy among them.

Edom Denies Israel Passage

14 Moses sent messengers from Kadesh to the king of Edom, saying:

“This is what your brother Israel says: You know about all the hardships that have come on us.

15 Our ancestors went down into Egypt, and we lived there many years. The Egyptians mistreated us and our ancestors,

16 but when we cried out to the LORD, he heard our cry and sent an angel and brought us out of Egypt.

“Now we are here at Kadesh, a town on the edge of your territory.

17 Please let us pass through your country. We will not go through any field or vineyard, or drink water from any well. We will travel along the King’s Highway and not turn to the right or to the left until we have passed through your territory.”

18 But Edom answered:

“You may not pass through here; if you try, we will march out and attack you with the sword.”

19 The Israelites replied:

“We will go along the main road, and if we or our livestock drink any of your water, we will pay for it. We only want to pass through on foot—nothing else.”

20 Again they answered:

“You may not pass through.”

Then Edom came out against them with a large and powerful army.

21 Since Edom refused to let them go through their territory, Israel turned away from them.

The Death of Aaron

²² The whole Israelite community set out from Kadesh and came to Mount Hor.

²³ At Mount Hor, near the border of Edom, the LORD said to Moses and Aaron,

²⁴ "Aaron will be gathered to his people. He will not enter the land I give the Israelites, because both of you rebelled against my command at the waters of Meribah.

²⁵ Get Aaron and his son Eleazar and take them up Mount Hor.

²⁶ Remove Aaron's garments and put them on his son Eleazar, for Aaron will be gathered to his people; he will die there."

²⁷ Moses did as the LORD commanded: They went up Mount Hor in the sight of the whole community.

²⁸ Moses removed Aaron's garments and put them on his son Eleazar. And Aaron died there on top of the mountain. Then Moses and Eleazar came down from the mountain,

²⁹ and when the whole community learned that Aaron had died, all the Israelites mourned for him thirty days.

Footnotes

- a. Numbers 20:13 *Meribah* means *quarreling*.

Numbers 21

Arad Destroyed

¹ When the Canaanite king of Arad, who lived in the Negev, heard that Israel was coming along the road to Atharim, he attacked the Israelites and captured some of them.

² Then Israel made this vow to the LORD: "If you will deliver these people into our hands, we will totally destroy^[a] their cities."

³ The LORD listened to Israel's plea and gave the Canaanites over to them. They completely destroyed them and their towns; so the place was named Hormah.^[b]

The Bronze Snake

⁴ They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea,^[c] to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way;

⁵ they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!"

⁶ Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died.

⁷ The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

⁸ The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live."

⁹ So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

The Journey to Moab

¹⁰ The Israelites moved on and camped at Oboth.

¹¹ Then they set out from Oboth and camped in Iye Abarim, in the wilderness that faces Moab toward the sunrise.

¹² From there they moved on and camped in the Zered Valley.

¹³ They set out from there and camped alongside the Arnon, which is in the wilderness extending into Amorite territory. The Arnon is the border of Moab, between Moab and the Amorites.

¹⁴ That is why the Book of the Wars of the LORD says:

“ . . . Zahab^[d] in Suphah and the ravines,
the Arnon

¹⁵ and^[e] the slopes of the ravines
that lead to the settlement of Ar
and lie along the border of Moab.”

¹⁶ From there they continued on to Beer, the well where the LORD said to Moses, “Gather the people together and I will give them water.”

¹⁷ Then Israel sang this song:

“Spring up, O well!
Sing about it,

¹⁸ about the well that the princes dug,
that the nobles of the people sank—
the nobles with scepters and staffs.”

Then they went from the wilderness to Mattanah,

¹⁹ from Mattanah to Nahaliel, from Nahaliel to Bamoth,

²⁰ and from Bamoth to the valley in Moab where the top of Pisgah overlooks the wasteland.

Defeat of Sihon and Og

²¹ Israel sent messengers to say to Sihon king of the Amorites:

²² "Let us pass through your country. We will not turn aside into any field or vineyard, or drink water from any well. We will travel along the King's Highway until we have passed through your territory."

²³ But Sihon would not let Israel pass through his territory. He mustered his entire army and marched out into the wilderness against Israel. When he reached Jahaz, he fought with Israel.

²⁴ Israel, however, put him to the sword and took over his land from the Arnon to the Jabbok, but only as far as the Ammonites, because their border was fortified.

²⁵ Israel captured all the cities of the Amorites and occupied them, including Heshbon and all its surrounding settlements.

²⁶ Heshbon was the city of Sihon king of the Amorites, who had fought against the former king of Moab and had taken from him all his land as far as the Arnon.

²⁷ That is why the poets say:

"Come to Heshbon and let it be rebuilt;
let Sihon's city be restored.

²⁸ "Fire went out from Heshbon,
a blaze from the city of Sihon.

It consumed Ar of Moab,
the citizens of Arnon's heights.

²⁹ Woe to you, Moab!
You are destroyed, people of Chemosh!

He has given up his sons as fugitives
and his daughters as captives
to Sihon king of the Amorites.

³⁰ "But we have overthrown them;

Heshbon's dominion has been destroyed all the way to Dibon.

We have demolished them as far as Nophah,
which extends to Medeba."

³¹ So Israel settled in the land of the Amorites.

³² After Moses had sent spies to Jazer, the Israelites captured its surrounding settlements and drove out the Amorites who were there.

³³ Then they turned and went up along the road toward Bashan, and Og king of Bashan and his whole army marched out to meet them in battle at Edrei.

³⁴ The LORD said to Moses, "Do not be afraid of him, for I have delivered him into your hands, along with his whole army and his land. Do to him what you did to Sihon king of the Amorites, who reigned in Heshbon."

³⁵ So they struck him down, together with his sons and his whole army, leaving them no survivors. And they took possession of his land.

Footnotes

- a. Numbers 21:2 The Hebrew term refers to the irrevocable giving over of things or persons to the LORD, often by totally destroying them; also in verse 3.
- b. Numbers 21:3 *Hormah* means *destruction*.
- c. Numbers 21:4 Or *the Sea of Reeds*
- d. Numbers 21:14 Septuagint; Hebrew *Waheb*
- e. Numbers 21:15 Or "*I have been given from Suphah and the ravines / of the Arnon*
¹⁵ *to*

Numbers 22

Balak Summons Balaam

¹ Then the Israelites traveled to the plains of Moab and camped along the Jordan across from Jericho.

² Now Balak son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites,

³ and Moab was terrified because there were so many people. Indeed, Moab was filled with dread because of the Israelites.

⁴ The Moabites said to the elders of Midian, "This horde is going to lick up everything around us, as an ox licks up the grass of the field."

So Balak son of Zippor, who was king of Moab at that time,

⁵ sent messengers to summon Balaam son of Beor, who was at Pethor, near the Euphrates River, in his native land. Balak said:

"A people has come out of Egypt; they cover the face of the land and have settled next to me.

⁶ Now come and put a curse on these people, because they are too powerful for me. Perhaps then I will be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land. For I know that whoever you bless is blessed, and whoever you curse is cursed."

⁷ The elders of Moab and Midian left, taking with them the fee for divination. When they came to Balaam, they told him what Balak had said.

⁸ "Spend the night here," Balaam said to them, "and I will report back to you with the answer the LORD gives me." So the Moabite officials stayed with him.

⁹ God came to Balaam and asked, "Who are these men with you?"

Numbers 22:10-20

¹⁰ Balaam said to God, "Balak son of Zippor, king of Moab, sent me this message:

¹¹ 'A people that has come out of Egypt covers the face of the land. Now come and put a curse on them for me. Perhaps then I will be able to fight them and drive them away.'"

¹² But God said to Balaam, "Do not go with them. You must not put a curse on those people, because they are blessed."

¹³ The next morning Balaam got up and said to Balak's officials, "Go back to your own country, for the LORD has refused to let me go with you."

¹⁴ So the Moabite officials returned to Balak and said, "Balaam refused to come with us."

¹⁵ Then Balak sent other officials, more numerous and more distinguished than the first.

¹⁶ They came to Balaam and said:

"This is what Balak son of Zippor says: Do not let anything keep you from coming to me,
¹⁷ because I will reward you handsomely and do whatever you say. Come and put a curse on these people for me."

¹⁸ But Balaam answered them, "Even if Balak gave me all the silver and gold in his palace, I could not do anything great or small to go beyond the command of the LORD my God.

¹⁹ Now spend the night here so that I can find out what else the LORD will tell me."

²⁰ That night God came to Balaam and said, "Since these men have come to summon you, go with them, but do only what I tell you."

Balaam's Donkey

²¹ Balaam got up in the morning, saddled his donkey and went with the Moabite officials.

²² But God was very angry when he went, and the angel of the LORD stood in the road to oppose him. Balaam was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him.

²³ When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road with a drawn sword in his hand, it turned off the road into a field. Balaam beat it to get it back on the road.

²⁴ Then the angel of the LORD stood in a narrow path through the vineyards, with walls on both sides.

²⁵ When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, it pressed close to the wall, crushing Balaam's foot against it. So he beat the donkey again.

²⁶ Then the angel of the LORD moved on ahead and stood in a narrow place where there was no room to turn, either to the right or to the left.

²⁷ When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, it lay down under Balaam, and he was angry and beat it with his staff.

²⁸ Then the LORD opened the donkey's mouth, and it said to Balaam, "What have I done to you to make you beat me these three times?"

²⁹ Balaam answered the donkey, "You have made a fool of me! If only I had a sword in my hand, I would kill you right now."

³⁰ The donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your own donkey, which you have always ridden, to this day? Have I been in the habit of doing this to you?"

"No," he said.

³¹ Then the LORD opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road with his sword drawn. So he bowed low and fell facedown.

³² The angel of the LORD asked him, "Why have you beaten your donkey these three times? I have come here to oppose you because your path is a reckless one before me.^[a]

³³ The donkey saw me and turned away from me these three times. If it had not turned away, I would certainly have killed you by now, but I would have spared it."

³⁴ Balaam said to the angel of the LORD, "I have sinned. I did not realize you were standing in the road to oppose me. Now if you are displeased, I will go back."

³⁵ The angel of the LORD said to Balaam, "Go with the men, but speak only what I tell you." So Balaam went with Balak's officials.

³⁶ When Balak heard that Balaam was coming, he went out to meet him at the Moabite town on the Arnon border, at the edge of his territory.

³⁷ Balak said to Balaam, "Did I not send you an urgent summons? Why didn't you come to me? Am I really not able to reward you?"

³⁸ "Well, I have come to you now," Balaam replied. "But I can't say whatever I please. I must speak only what God puts in my mouth."

³⁹ Then Balaam went with Balak to Kiriath Huzoth.

⁴⁰ Balak sacrificed cattle and sheep, and gave some to Balaam and the officials who were with him.

⁴¹ The next morning Balak took Balaam up to Bamoth Baal, and from there he could see the outskirts of the Israelite camp.

Footnotes

- a. Numbers 22:32 The meaning of the Hebrew for this clause is uncertain.

Numbers 23

Balaam's First Message

¹ Balaam said, "Build me seven altars here, and prepare seven bulls and seven rams for me."

² Balak did as Balaam said, and the two of them offered a bull and a ram on each altar.

³ Then Balaam said to Balak, "Stay here beside your offering while I go aside. Perhaps the LORD will come to meet with me. Whatever he reveals to me I will tell you." Then he went off to a barren height.

⁴ God met with him, and Balaam said, "I have prepared seven altars, and on each altar I have offered a bull and a ram."

⁵ The LORD put a word in Balaam's mouth and said, "Go back to Balak and give him this word."

⁶ So he went back to him and found him standing beside his offering, with all the Moabite officials.

⁷ Then Balaam spoke his message:

"Balak brought me from Aram,
the king of Moab from the eastern mountains.

'Come,' he said, 'curse Jacob for me;
come, denounce Israel.'

⁸ How can I curse
those whom God has not cursed?

How can I denounce
those whom the LORD has not denounced?

⁹ From the rocky peaks I see them,
from the heights I view them.

I see a people who live apart
and do not consider themselves one of the nations.

¹⁰ Who can count the dust of Jacob
or number even a fourth of Israel?

Let me die the death of the righteous,
and may my final end be like theirs!"

¹¹ Balak said to Balaam, "What have you done to me? I brought you to curse my enemies, but you have done nothing but bless them!"

¹² He answered, "Must I not speak what the LORD puts in my mouth?"

Balaam's Second Message

¹³ Then Balak said to him, "Come with me to another place where you can see them; you will not see them all but only the outskirts of their camp. And from there, curse them for me."

¹⁴ So he took him to the field of Zophim on the top of Pisgah, and there he built seven altars and offered a bull and a ram on each altar.

¹⁵ Balaam said to Balak, "Stay here beside your offering while I meet with him over there."

¹⁶ The LORD met with Balaam and put a word in his mouth and said, "Go back to Balak and give him this word."

¹⁷ So he went to him and found him standing beside his offering, with the Moabite officials. Balak asked him, "What did the LORD say?"

¹⁸ Then he spoke his message:

"Arise, Balak, and listen;
hear me, son of Zippor.

¹⁹ God is not human, that he should lie,
not a human being, that he should change his mind.

Does he speak and then not act?

Does he promise and not fulfill?

²⁰ I have received a command to bless;
he has blessed, and I cannot change it.

²¹ "No misfortune is seen in Jacob,
no misery observed^[a] in Israel.

The LORD their God is with them;
the shout of the King is among them.

²² God brought them out of Egypt;
they have the strength of a wild ox.

²³ There is no divination against^[b] Jacob,
no evil omens against^[c] Israel.

It will now be said of Jacob
and of Israel, 'See what God has done!'

²⁴ The people rise like a lioness;
they rouse themselves like a lion
that does not rest till it devours its prey
and drinks the blood of its victims."

²⁵ Then Balak said to Balaam, "Neither curse them at all nor bless them at all!"

²⁶ Balaam answered, "Did I not tell you I must do whatever the LORD says?"

Balaam's Third Message

²⁷ Then Balak said to Balaam, "Come, let me take you to another place. Perhaps it will please God to let you curse them for me from there."

²⁸ And Balak took Balaam to the top of Peor, overlooking the wasteland.

²⁹ Balaam said, "Build me seven altars here, and prepare seven bulls and seven rams for me."

³⁰ Balak did as Balaam had said, and offered a bull and a ram on each altar.

Footnotes

a. Numbers 23:21 Or *He has not looked on Jacob's offenses / or on the wrongs found*

b. Numbers 23:23 Or *in*

c. Numbers 23:23 Or *in*

Numbers 24

¹ Now when Balaam saw that it pleased the LORD to bless Israel, he did not resort to divination as at other times, but turned his face toward the wilderness.

² When Balaam looked out and saw Israel encamped tribe by tribe, the Spirit of God came on him

³ and he spoke his message:

“The prophecy of Balaam son of Beor,
the prophecy of one whose eye sees clearly,
⁴ the prophecy of one who hears the words of God,
who sees a vision from the Almighty,^[a]
who falls prostrate, and whose eyes are opened:

⁵ “How beautiful are your tents, Jacob,
your dwelling places, Israel!

⁶ “Like valleys they spread out,
like gardens beside a river,
like aloes planted by the LORD,
like cedars beside the waters.

⁷ Water will flow from their buckets;
their seed will have abundant water.

“Their king will be greater than Agag;
their kingdom will be exalted.

⁸ “God brought them out of Egypt;
they have the strength of a wild ox.

They devour hostile nations
and break their bones in pieces;
with their arrows they pierce them.

⁹ Like a lion they crouch and lie down,
like a lioness—who dares to rouse them?

“May those who bless you be blessed
and those who curse you be cursed!”

¹⁰ Then Balak’s anger burned against Balaam. He struck his hands together and said to him, “I summoned you to curse my enemies, but you have blessed them these three times.

¹¹ Now leave at once and go home! I said I would reward you handsomely, but the LORD has kept you from being rewarded.”

¹² Balaam answered Balak, “Did I not tell the messengers you sent me,

¹³ ‘Even if Balak gave me all the silver and gold in his palace, I could not do anything of my own accord, good or bad, to go beyond the command of the LORD—and I must say only what the LORD says’?

¹⁴ Now I am going back to my people, but come, let me warn you of what this people will do to your people in days to come.”

Balaam’s Fourth Message

¹⁵ Then he spoke his message:

“The prophecy of Balaam son of Beor,
the prophecy of one whose eye sees clearly,

¹⁶ the prophecy of one who hears the words of God,
who has knowledge from the Most High,

who sees a vision from the Almighty,
who falls prostrate, and whose eyes are opened:

17 "I see him, but not now;
I behold him, but not near.
A star will come out of Jacob;
a scepter will rise out of Israel.
He will crush the foreheads of Moab,
the skulls^[b] of^[c] all the people of Sheth.^[d]
18 Edom will be conquered;
Seir, his enemy, will be conquered,
but Israel will grow strong.
19 A ruler will come out of Jacob
and destroy the survivors of the city."

Balaam's Fifth Message

20 Then Balaam saw Amalek and spoke his message:
"Amalek was first among the nations,
but their end will be utter destruction."

Balaam's Sixth Message

21 Then he saw the Kenites and spoke his message:
"Your dwelling place is secure,
your nest is set in a rock;
22 yet you Kenites will be destroyed
when Ashur takes you captive."

Balaam's Seventh Message

²³ Then he spoke his message:

"Alas! Who can live when God does this?^[e]

²⁴ Ships will come from the shores of Cyprus;
they will subdue Ashur and Eber,
 but they too will come to ruin."

²⁵ Then Balaam got up and returned home, and Balak went his own way.

Footnotes

- a. Numbers 24:4 Hebrew *Shaddai*; also in verse 16
- b. Numbers 24:17 Samaritan Pentateuch (see also Jer. 48:45); the meaning of the word in the Masoretic Text is uncertain.
- c. Numbers 24:17 Or possibly *Moab*, / *batter*
- d. Numbers 24:17 Or *all the noisy boasters*
- e. Numbers 24:23 Masoretic Text; with a different word division of the Hebrew *The people from the islands will gather from the north.*

Numbers 25

Moab Seduces Israel

¹ While Israel was staying in Shittim, the men began to indulge in sexual immorality with Moabite women,

² who invited them to the sacrifices to their gods. The people ate the sacrificial meal and bowed down before these gods.

³ So Israel yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor. And the LORD's anger burned against them.

⁴ The LORD said to Moses, "Take all the leaders of these people, kill them and expose them in broad daylight before the LORD, so that the LORD's fierce anger may turn away from Israel."

⁵ So Moses said to Israel's judges, "Each of you must put to death those of your people who have yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor."

⁶ Then an Israelite man brought into the camp a Midianite woman right before the eyes of Moses and the whole assembly of Israel while they were weeping at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

⁷ When Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, the priest, saw this, he left the assembly, took a spear in his hand

⁸ and followed the Israelite into the tent. He drove the spear into both of them, right through the Israelite man and into the woman's stomach. Then the plague against the Israelites was stopped;

⁹ but those who died in the plague numbered 24,000.

¹⁰ The LORD said to Moses,

¹¹ "Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, the priest, has turned my anger away from the Israelites. Since he was as zealous for my honor among them as I am, I did not put an end to them in my zeal.

Numbers 25:12-18

¹² Therefore tell him I am making my covenant of peace with him.

¹³ He and his descendants will have a covenant of a lasting priesthood, because he was zealous for the honor of his God and made atonement for the Israelites.”

¹⁴ The name of the Israelite who was killed with the Midianite woman was Zimri son of Salu, the leader of a Simeonite family.

¹⁵ And the name of the Midianite woman who was put to death was Kozbi daughter of Zur, a tribal chief of a Midianite family.

¹⁶ The LORD said to Moses,

¹⁷ “Treat the Midianites as enemies and kill them.

¹⁸ They treated you as enemies when they deceived you in the Peor incident involving their sister Kozbi, the daughter of a Midianite leader, the woman who was killed when the plague came as a result of that incident.”

Numbers 26

The Second Census

¹ After the plague the LORD said to Moses and Eleazar son of Aaron, the priest,

² "Take a census of the whole Israelite community by families—all those twenty years old or more who are able to serve in the army of Israel."

³ So on the plains of Moab by the Jordan across from Jericho, Moses and Eleazar the priest spoke with them and said,

⁴ "Take a census of the men twenty years old or more, as the LORD commanded Moses."

These were the Israelites who came out of Egypt:

⁵ The descendants of Reuben, the firstborn son of Israel, were:

through Hanok, the Hanokite clan;

through Pallu, the Palluite clan;

⁶ through Hezron, the Hezronite clan;

through Karmi, the Karmite clan.

⁷ These were the clans of Reuben; those numbered were 43,730.

⁸ The son of Pallu was Eliab,

⁹ and the sons of Eliab were Nemuel, Dathan and Abiram. The same Dathan and Abiram were the community officials who rebelled against Moses and Aaron and were among Korah's followers when they rebelled against the LORD.

¹⁰ The earth opened its mouth and swallowed them along with Korah, whose followers died when the fire devoured the 250 men. And they served as a warning sign.

¹¹ The line of Korah, however, did not die out.

12 The descendants of Simeon by their clans were:

through Nemuel, the Nemuelite clan;

through Jamin, the Jaminite clan;

through Jakin, the Jakinite clan;

13 through Zerah, the Zerahite clan;

through Shaul, the Shaulite clan.

14 These were the clans of Simeon; those numbered were 22,200.

15 The descendants of Gad by their clans were:

through Zephon, the Zephonite clan;

through Haggi, the Haggite clan;

through Shuni, the Shunite clan;

16 through Ozni, the Oznite clan;

through Eri, the Erite clan;

17 through Arodi,^[a] the Arodite clan;

through Areli, the Arelite clan.

18 These were the clans of Gad; those numbered were 40,500.

19 Er and Onan were sons of Judah, but they died in Canaan.

20 The descendants of Judah by their clans were:

through Shelah, the Shelanite clan;

through Perez, the Perezite clan;

through Zerah, the Zerahite clan.

21 The descendants of Perez were:

through Hezron, the Hezronite clan;

through Hamul, the Hamulite clan.

22 These were the clans of Judah; those numbered were 76,500.

²³ The descendants of Issachar by their clans were:

through Tola, the Tolaite clan;

through Puah, the Puite^[b] clan;

²⁴ through Jashub, the Jashubite clan;

through Shimron, the Shimronite clan.

²⁵ These were the clans of Issachar; those numbered were 64,300.

²⁶ The descendants of Zebulun by their clans were:

through Sered, the Seredite clan;

through Elon, the Elonite clan;

through Jahleel, the Jahleelite clan.

²⁷ These were the clans of Zebulun; those numbered were 60,500.

²⁸ The descendants of Joseph by their clans through Manasseh and Ephraim were:

²⁹ The descendants of Manasseh:

through Makir, the Makirite clan (Makir was the father of Gilead);

through Gilead, the Gileadite clan.

³⁰ These were the descendants of Gilead:

through Iezer, the Iezerite clan;

through Helek, the Helekite clan;

³¹ through Asriel, the Asrielite clan;

through Shechem, the Shechemite clan;

³² through Shemida, the Shemidaite clan;

through Hopher, the Hopherite clan.

³³ (Zelophehad son of Hopher had no sons; he had only daughters, whose names were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milkah and Tirzah.)

³⁴ These were the clans of Manasseh; those numbered were 52,700.

³⁵ These were the descendants of Ephraim by their clans:

through Shuthelah, the Shuthelahite clan;

through Beker, the Bekerite clan;

through Tahan, the Tahanite clan.

³⁶ These were the descendants of Shuthelah:

through Eran, the Eranite clan.

³⁷ These were the clans of Ephraim; those numbered were 32,500.

These were the descendants of Joseph by their clans.

³⁸ The descendants of Benjamin by their clans were:

through Bela, the Belaite clan;

through Ashbel, the Ashbelite clan;

through Ahiram, the Ahiramite clan;

³⁹ through Shupham,^[c] the Shuphamite clan;

through Hupham, the Huphamite clan.

⁴⁰ The descendants of Bela through Ard and Naaman were:

through Ard,^[d] the Ardite clan;

through Naaman, the Naamite clan.

⁴¹ These were the clans of Benjamin; those numbered were 45,600.

⁴² These were the descendants of Dan by their clans:

through Shuham, the Shuhamite clan.

These were the clans of Dan:

⁴³ All of them were Shuhamite clans; and those numbered were 64,400.

⁴⁴ The descendants of Asher by their clans were:

through Imnah, the Imnite clan;

through Ishvi, the Ishvite clan;

through Beriah, the Beriite clan;

⁴⁵ and through the descendants of Beriah:

through Heber, the Heberite clan;

through Malkiel, the Malkielite clan.

⁴⁶ (Asher had a daughter named Serah.)

⁴⁷ These were the clans of Asher; those numbered were 53,400.

⁴⁸ The descendants of Naphtali by their clans were:

through Jahzeel, the Jahzeelite clan;

through Guni, the Gunitite clan;

⁴⁹ through Jezer, the Jezerite clan;

through Shillem, the Shillemite clan.

⁵⁰ These were the clans of Naphtali; those numbered were 45,400.

⁵¹ The total number of the men of Israel was 601,730.

⁵² The LORD said to Moses,

⁵³ "The land is to be allotted to them as an inheritance based on the number of names.

⁵⁴ To a larger group give a larger inheritance, and to a smaller group a smaller one; each is to receive its inheritance according to the number of those listed.

⁵⁵ Be sure that the land is distributed by lot. What each group inherits will be according to the names for its ancestral tribe.

⁵⁶ Each inheritance is to be distributed by lot among the larger and smaller groups."

⁵⁷ These were the Levites who were counted by their clans:

through Gershon, the Gershonite clan;

through Kohath, the Kohathite clan;

through Merari, the Merarite clan.

⁵⁸ These also were Levite clans:

the Libnite clan, the Hebronite clan, the Mahlite clan, the Mushite clan, the Korahite clan.

(Kohath was the forefather of Amram;

⁵⁹ the name of Amram's wife was Jochebed, a descendant of Levi, who was born to the Levites^[e] in Egypt. To Amram she bore Aaron, Moses and their sister Miriam.

⁶⁰ Aaron was the father of Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.

⁶¹ But Nadab and Abihu died when they made an offering before the LORD with unauthorized fire.)

⁶² All the male Levites a month old or more numbered 23,000. They were not counted along with the other Israelites because they received no inheritance among them.

⁶³ These are the ones counted by Moses and Eleazar the priest when they counted the Israelites on the plains of Moab by the Jordan across from Jericho.

⁶⁴ Not one of them was among those counted by Moses and Aaron the priest when they counted the Israelites in the Desert of Sinai.

⁶⁵ For the LORD had told those Israelites they would surely die in the wilderness, and not one of them was left except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.

Footnotes

- a. Numbers 26:17 Samaritan Pentateuch and Syriac (see also Gen. 46:16); Masoretic Text *Arod*
- b. Numbers 26:23 Samaritan Pentateuch, Septuagint, Vulgate and Syriac (see also 1 Chron. 7:1); Masoretic Text *through Puvah, the Punite*
- c. Numbers 26:39 A few manuscripts of the Masoretic Text, Samaritan Pentateuch, Vulgate and Syriac (see also Septuagint); most manuscripts of the Masoretic Text *Shephupham*
- d. Numbers 26:40 Samaritan Pentateuch and Vulgate (see also Septuagint); Masoretic Text does not have *through Ard*.
- e. Numbers 26:59 Or *Jochebed, a daughter of Levi, who was born to Levi*

Numbers 27

Zelophehad's Daughters

¹ The daughters of Zelophehad son of Hopher, the son of Gilead, the son of Makir, the son of Manasseh, belonged to the clans of Manasseh son of Joseph. The names of the daughters were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milkah and Tirzah. They came forward

² and stood before Moses, Eleazar the priest, the leaders and the whole assembly at the entrance to the tent of meeting and said,

³ "Our father died in the wilderness. He was not among Korah's followers, who banded together against the LORD, but he died for his own sin and left no sons.

⁴ Why should our father's name disappear from his clan because he had no son? Give us property among our father's relatives."

⁵ So Moses brought their case before the LORD,

⁶ and the LORD said to him,

⁷ "What Zelophehad's daughters are saying is right. You must certainly give them property as an inheritance among their father's relatives and give their father's inheritance to them.

⁸ "Say to the Israelites, 'If a man dies and leaves no son, give his inheritance to his daughter.

⁹ If he has no daughter, give his inheritance to his brothers.

¹⁰ If he has no brothers, give his inheritance to his father's brothers.

¹¹ If his father had no brothers, give his inheritance to the nearest relative in his clan, that he may possess it. This is to have the force of law for the Israelites, as the LORD commanded Moses."

Joshua to Succeed Moses

¹² Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go up this mountain in the Abarim Range and see the land I have given the Israelites.

¹³ After you have seen it, you too will be gathered to your people, as your brother Aaron was,

¹⁴ for when the community rebelled at the waters in the Desert of Zin, both of you disobeyed my command to honor me as holy before their eyes." (These were the waters of Meribah Kadesh, in the Desert of Zin.)

¹⁵ Moses said to the LORD,

¹⁶ "May the LORD, the God who gives breath to all living things, appoint someone over this community

¹⁷ to go out and come in before them, one who will lead them out and bring them in, so the LORD's people will not be like sheep without a shepherd."

¹⁸ So the LORD said to Moses, "Take Joshua son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit of leadership,^[a] and lay your hand on him.

¹⁹ Have him stand before Eleazar the priest and the entire assembly and commission him in their presence.

²⁰ Give him some of your authority so the whole Israelite community will obey him.

²¹ He is to stand before Eleazar the priest, who will obtain decisions for him by inquiring of the Urim before the LORD. At his command he and the entire community of the Israelites will go out, and at his command they will come in."

²² Moses did as the LORD commanded him. He took Joshua and had him stand before Eleazar the priest and the whole assembly.

²³ Then he laid his hands on him and commissioned him, as the LORD instructed through Moses.

Footnotes

- a. Numbers 27:18 Or *the Spirit*

Numbers 31

Vengeance on the Midianites

¹ The LORD said to Moses,

² "Take vengeance on the Midianites for the Israelites. After that, you will be gathered to your people."

³ So Moses said to the people, "Arm some of your men to go to war against the Midianites so that they may carry out the LORD's vengeance on them.

⁴ Send into battle a thousand men from each of the tribes of Israel."

⁵ So twelve thousand men armed for battle, a thousand from each tribe, were supplied from the clans of Israel.

⁶ Moses sent them into battle, a thousand from each tribe, along with Phinehas son of Eleazar, the priest, who took with him articles from the sanctuary and the trumpets for signaling.

⁷ They fought against Midian, as the LORD commanded Moses, and killed every man.

⁸ Among their victims were Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur and Reba—the five kings of Midian. They also killed Balaam son of Beor with the sword.

⁹ The Israelites captured the Midianite women and children and took all the Midianite herds, flocks and goods as plunder.

¹⁰ They burned all the towns where the Midianites had settled, as well as all their camps.

¹¹ They took all the plunder and spoils, including the people and animals,

¹² and brought the captives, spoils and plunder to Moses and Eleazar the priest and the Israelite assembly at their camp on the plains of Moab, by the Jordan across from Jericho.

¹³ Moses, Eleazar the priest and all the leaders of the community went to meet them outside the camp.

Numbers 31:14-24

¹⁴ Moses was angry with the officers of the army—the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds—who returned from the battle.

¹⁵ “Have you allowed all the women to live?” he asked them.

¹⁶ “They were the ones who followed Balaam’s advice and enticed the Israelites to be unfaithful to the LORD in the Peor incident, so that a plague struck the LORD’s people.

¹⁷ Now kill all the boys. And kill every woman who has slept with a man,

¹⁸ but save for yourselves every girl who has never slept with a man.

¹⁹ “Anyone who has killed someone or touched someone who was killed must stay outside the camp seven days. On the third and seventh days you must purify yourselves and your captives.

²⁰ Purify every garment as well as everything made of leather, goat hair or wood.”

²¹ Then Eleazar the priest said to the soldiers who had gone into battle, “This is what is required by the law that the LORD gave Moses:

²² Gold, silver, bronze, iron, tin, lead

²³ and anything else that can withstand fire must be put through the fire, and then it will be clean. But it must also be purified with the water of cleansing. And whatever cannot withstand fire must be put through that water.

²⁴ On the seventh day wash your clothes and you will be clean. Then you may come into the camp.”

Dividing the Spoils

²⁵ The LORD said to Moses,

²⁶ "You and Eleazar the priest and the family heads of the community are to count all the people and animals that were captured.

²⁷ Divide the spoils equally between the soldiers who took part in the battle and the rest of the community.

²⁸ From the soldiers who fought in the battle, set apart as tribute for the LORD one out of every five hundred, whether people, cattle, donkeys or sheep.

²⁹ Take this tribute from their half share and give it to Eleazar the priest as the LORD's part.

³⁰ From the Israelites' half, select one out of every fifty, whether people, cattle, donkeys, sheep or other animals. Give them to the Levites, who are responsible for the care of the LORD's tabernacle."

³¹ So Moses and Eleazar the priest did as the LORD commanded Moses.

³² The plunder remaining from the spoils that the soldiers took was 675,000 sheep,

³³ 72,000 cattle,

³⁴ 61,000 donkeys

³⁵ and 32,000 women who had never slept with a man.

³⁶ The half share of those who fought in the battle was: 337,500 sheep,

³⁷ of which the tribute for the LORD was 675;

³⁸ 36,000 cattle, of which the tribute for the LORD was 72;

³⁹ 30,500 donkeys, of which the tribute for the LORD was 61;

⁴⁰ 16,000 people, of whom the tribute for the LORD was 32.

⁴¹ Moses gave the tribute to Eleazar the priest as the LORD's part, as the LORD commanded Moses.

⁴² The half belonging to the Israelites, which Moses set apart from that of the fighting men—

⁴³ the community's half—was 337,500 sheep,

⁴⁴ 36,000 cattle,

⁴⁵ 30,500 donkeys

⁴⁶ and 16,000 people.

⁴⁷ From the Israelites' half, Moses selected one out of every fifty people and animals, as the LORD commanded him, and gave them to the Levites, who were responsible for the care of the LORD's tabernacle.

⁴⁸ Then the officers who were over the units of the army—the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds—went to Moses

⁴⁹ and said to him, "Your servants have counted the soldiers under our command, and not one is missing.

⁵⁰ So we have brought as an offering to the LORD the gold articles each of us acquired—armlets, bracelets, signet rings, earrings and necklaces—to make atonement for ourselves before the LORD."

⁵¹ Moses and Eleazar the priest accepted from them the gold—all the crafted articles.

⁵² All the gold from the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds that Moses and Eleazar presented as a gift to the LORD weighed 16,750 shekels.^[a]

⁵³ Each soldier had taken plunder for himself.

⁵⁴ Moses and Eleazar the priest accepted the gold from the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds and brought it into the tent of meeting as a memorial for the Israelites before the LORD.

Footnotes

- a. Numbers 31:52 That is, about 420 pounds or about 190 kilograms

Numbers 32

The Transjordan Tribes

¹ The Reubenites and Gadites, who had very large herds and flocks, saw that the lands of Jazer and Gilead were suitable for livestock.

² So they came to Moses and Eleazar the priest and to the leaders of the community, and said,

³ "Ataroth, Dibon, Jazer, Nimrah, Heshbon, Elealeh, Sebam, Nebo and Beon—

⁴ the land the LORD subdued before the people of Israel—are suitable for livestock, and your servants have livestock.

⁵ If we have found favor in your eyes," they said, "let this land be given to your servants as our possession. Do not make us cross the Jordan."

⁶ Moses said to the Gadites and Reubenites, "Should your fellow Israelites go to war while you sit here?

⁷ Why do you discourage the Israelites from crossing over into the land the LORD has given them?

⁸ This is what your fathers did when I sent them from Kadesh Barnea to look over the land.

⁹ After they went up to the Valley of Eshkol and viewed the land, they discouraged the Israelites from entering the land the LORD had given them.

¹⁰ The LORD's anger was aroused that day and he swore this oath:

¹¹ 'Because they have not followed me wholeheartedly, not one of those who were twenty years old or more when they came up out of Egypt will see the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—

¹² not one except Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite and Joshua son of Nun, for they followed the LORD wholeheartedly.'

¹³ The LORD's anger burned against Israel and he made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until the whole generation of those who had done evil in his sight was gone.

¹⁴ "And here you are, a brood of sinners, standing in the place of your fathers and making the LORD even more angry with Israel.

Numbers 32:15-28

- ¹⁵ If you turn away from following him, he will again leave all this people in the wilderness, and you will be the cause of their destruction.”
- ¹⁶ Then they came up to him and said, “We would like to build pens here for our livestock and cities for our women and children.
- ¹⁷ But we will arm ourselves for battle^[a] and go ahead of the Israelites until we have brought them to their place. Meanwhile our women and children will live in fortified cities, for protection from the inhabitants of the land.
- ¹⁸ We will not return to our homes until each of the Israelites has received their inheritance.
- ¹⁹ We will not receive any inheritance with them on the other side of the Jordan, because our inheritance has come to us on the east side of the Jordan.”
- ²⁰ Then Moses said to them, “If you will do this—if you will arm yourselves before the LORD for battle
- ²¹ and if all of you who are armed cross over the Jordan before the LORD until he has driven his enemies out before him—
- ²² then when the land is subdued before the LORD, you may return and be free from your obligation to the LORD and to Israel. And this land will be your possession before the LORD.
- ²³ “But if you fail to do this, you will be sinning against the LORD; and you may be sure that your sin will find you out.
- ²⁴ Build cities for your women and children, and pens for your flocks, but do what you have promised.”
- ²⁵ The Gadites and Reubenites said to Moses, “We your servants will do as our lord commands.
- ²⁶ Our children and wives, our flocks and herds will remain here in the cities of Gilead.
- ²⁷ But your servants, every man who is armed for battle, will cross over to fight before the LORD, just as our lord says.”
- ²⁸ Then Moses gave orders about them to Eleazar the priest and Joshua son of Nun and to the family heads of the Israelite tribes.

²⁹ He said to them, "If the Gadites and Reubenites, every man armed for battle, cross over the Jordan with you before the LORD, then when the land is subdued before you, you must give them the land of Gilead as their possession.

³⁰ But if they do not cross over with you armed, they must accept their possession with you in Canaan."

³¹ The Gadites and Reubenites answered, "Your servants will do what the LORD has said.

³² We will cross over before the LORD into Canaan armed, but the property we inherit will be on this side of the Jordan."

³³ Then Moses gave to the Gadites, the Reubenites and the half-tribe of Manasseh son of Joseph the kingdom of Sihon king of the Amorites and the kingdom of Og king of Bashan—the whole land with its cities and the territory around them.

³⁴ The Gadites built up Dibon, Ataroth, Aroer,

³⁵ Atroth Shopan, Jazer, Jogbehah,

³⁶ Beth Nimrah and Beth Haran as fortified cities, and built pens for their flocks.

³⁷ And the Reubenites rebuilt Heshbon, Elealeh and Kiriathaim,

³⁸ as well as Nebo and Baal Meon (these names were changed) and Sibmah. They gave names to the cities they rebuilt.

³⁹ The descendants of Makir son of Manasseh went to Gilead, captured it and drove out the Amorites who were there.

⁴⁰ So Moses gave Gilead to the Makirites, the descendants of Manasseh, and they settled there.

⁴¹ Jair, a descendant of Manasseh, captured their settlements and called them Havvoth Jair.^[b]

⁴² And Nobah captured Kenath and its surrounding settlements and called it Nobah after himself.

Footnotes

- a. Numbers 32:17 Septuagint; Hebrew *will be quick to arm ourselves*
- b. Numbers 32:41 *Or them the settlements of Jair*

Numbers 35

Towns for the Levites

¹ On the plains of Moab by the Jordan across from Jericho, the LORD said to Moses,

² "Command the Israelites to give the Levites towns to live in from the inheritance the Israelites will possess. And give them pasturelands around the towns.

³ Then they will have towns to live in and pasturelands for the cattle they own and all their other animals.

⁴ "The pasturelands around the towns that you give the Levites will extend a thousand cubits^[a] from the town wall.

⁵ Outside the town, measure two thousand cubits^[b] on the east side, two thousand on the south side, two thousand on the west and two thousand on the north, with the town in the center. They will have this area as pastureland for the towns.

Cities of Refuge

⁶ "Six of the towns you give the Levites will be cities of refuge, to which a person who has killed someone may flee. In addition, give them forty-two other towns.

⁷ In all you must give the Levites forty-eight towns, together with their pasturelands.

⁸ The towns you give the Levites from the land the Israelites possess are to be given in proportion to the inheritance of each tribe: Take many towns from a tribe that has many, but few from one that has few."

⁹ Then the LORD said to Moses:

¹⁰ "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'When you cross the Jordan into Canaan,

¹¹ select some towns to be your cities of refuge, to which a person who has killed someone accidentally may flee.

¹² They will be places of refuge from the avenger, so that anyone accused of murder may not die before they stand trial before the assembly.

¹³ These six towns you give will be your cities of refuge.

Numbers 35:14-27

¹⁴ Give three on this side of the Jordan and three in Canaan as cities of refuge.

¹⁵ These six towns will be a place of refuge for Israelites and for foreigners residing among them, so that anyone who has killed another accidentally can flee there.

¹⁶ "If anyone strikes someone a fatal blow with an iron object, that person is a murderer; the murderer is to be put to death.

¹⁷ Or if anyone is holding a stone and strikes someone a fatal blow with it, that person is a murderer; the murderer is to be put to death.

¹⁸ Or if anyone is holding a wooden object and strikes someone a fatal blow with it, that person is a murderer; the murderer is to be put to death.

¹⁹ The avenger of blood shall put the murderer to death; when the avenger comes upon the murderer, the avenger shall put the murderer to death.

²⁰ If anyone with malice aforethought shoves another or throws something at them intentionally so that they die

²¹ or if out of enmity one person hits another with their fist so that the other dies, that person is to be put to death; that person is a murderer. The avenger of blood shall put the murderer to death when they meet.

²² "But if without enmity someone suddenly pushes another or throws something at them unintentionally

²³ or, without seeing them, drops on them a stone heavy enough to kill them, and they die, then since that other person was not an enemy and no harm was intended,

²⁴ the assembly must judge between the accused and the avenger of blood according to these regulations.

²⁵ The assembly must protect the one accused of murder from the avenger of blood and send the accused back to the city of refuge to which they fled. The accused must stay there until the death of the high priest, who was anointed with the holy oil.

²⁶ "But if the accused ever goes outside the limits of the city of refuge to which they fled

²⁷ and the avenger of blood finds them outside the city, the avenger of blood may kill the accused without being guilty of murder.

Numbers 35:28-34

²⁸ The accused must stay in the city of refuge until the death of the high priest; only after the death of the high priest may they return to their own property.

²⁹ "This is to have the force of law for you throughout the generations to come, wherever you live.

³⁰ "Anyone who kills a person is to be put to death as a murderer only on the testimony of witnesses. But no one is to be put to death on the testimony of only one witness.

³¹ "Do not accept a ransom for the life of a murderer, who deserves to die. They are to be put to death.

³² "Do not accept a ransom for anyone who has fled to a city of refuge and so allow them to go back and live on their own land before the death of the high priest.

³³ "Do not pollute the land where you are. Bloodshed pollutes the land, and atonement cannot be made for the land on which blood has been shed, except by the blood of the one who shed it.

³⁴ Do not defile the land where you live and where I dwell, for I, the LORD, dwell among the Israelites."

Footnotes

- a. Numbers 35:4 That is, about 1,500 feet or about 450 meters
- b. Numbers 35:5 That is, about 3,000 feet or about 900 meters

Numbers 36

Inheritance of Zelophehad's Daughters

¹ The family heads of the clan of Gilead son of Makir, the son of Manasseh, who were from the clans of the descendants of Joseph, came and spoke before Moses and the leaders, the heads of the Israelite families.

² They said, "When the LORD commanded my lord to give the land as an inheritance to the Israelites by lot, he ordered you to give the inheritance of our brother Zelophehad to his daughters.

³ Now suppose they marry men from other Israelite tribes; then their inheritance will be taken from our ancestral inheritance and added to that of the tribe they marry into. And so part of the inheritance allotted to us will be taken away.

⁴ When the Year of Jubilee for the Israelites comes, their inheritance will be added to that of the tribe into which they marry, and their property will be taken from the tribal inheritance of our ancestors."

⁵ Then at the LORD's command Moses gave this order to the Israelites: "What the tribe of the descendants of Joseph is saying is right.

⁶ This is what the LORD commands for Zelophehad's daughters: They may marry anyone they please as long as they marry within their father's tribal clan.

⁷ No inheritance in Israel is to pass from one tribe to another, for every Israelite shall keep the tribal inheritance of their ancestors.

⁸ Every daughter who inherits land in any Israelite tribe must marry someone in her father's tribal clan, so that every Israelite will possess the inheritance of their ancestors.

⁹ No inheritance may pass from one tribe to another, for each Israelite tribe is to keep the land it inherits."

Numbers 36:10-13

¹⁰ So Zelophehad's daughters did as the LORD commanded Moses.

¹¹ Zelophehad's daughters—Mahlah, Tirzah, Hoglah, Milkah and Noah—married their cousins on their father's side.

¹² They married within the clans of the descendants of Manasseh son of Joseph, and their inheritance remained in their father's tribe and clan.

¹³ These are the commands and regulations the LORD gave through Moses to the Israelites on the plains of Moab by the Jordan across from Jericho.

Deuteronomy 31

Joshua to Succeed Moses

¹ Then Moses went out and spoke these words to all Israel:

² "I am now a hundred and twenty years old and I am no longer able to lead you. The LORD has said to me, 'You shall not cross the Jordan.'

³ The LORD your God himself will cross over ahead of you. He will destroy these nations before you, and you will take possession of their land. Joshua also will cross over ahead of you, as the LORD said.

⁴ And the LORD will do to them what he did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites, whom he destroyed along with their land.

⁵ The LORD will deliver them to you, and you must do to them all that I have commanded you.

⁶ Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

⁷ Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the presence of all Israel, "Be strong and courageous, for you must go with this people into the land that the LORD swore to their ancestors to give them, and you must divide it among them as their inheritance.

⁸ The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

Public Reading of the Law

⁹ So Moses wrote down this law and gave it to the Levitical priests, who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and to all the elders of Israel.

¹⁰ Then Moses commanded them: "At the end of every seven years, in the year for canceling debts, during the Festival of Tabernacles,

¹¹ when all Israel comes to appear before the LORD your God at the place he will choose, you shall read this law before them in their hearing.

¹² Assemble the people—men, women and children, and the foreigners residing in your towns—so they can listen and learn to fear the LORD your God and follow carefully all the words of this law.

¹³ Their children, who do not know this law, must hear it and learn to fear the LORD your God as long as you live in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.”

Israel’s Rebellion Predicted

¹⁴ The LORD said to Moses, “Now the day of your death is near. Call Joshua and present yourselves at the tent of meeting, where I will commission him.” So Moses and Joshua came and presented themselves at the tent of meeting.

¹⁵ Then the LORD appeared at the tent in a pillar of cloud, and the cloud stood over the entrance to the tent.

¹⁶ And the LORD said to Moses: “You are going to rest with your ancestors, and these people will soon prostitute themselves to the foreign gods of the land they are entering. They will forsake me and break the covenant I made with them.

¹⁷ And in that day I will become angry with them and forsake them; I will hide my face from them, and they will be destroyed. Many disasters and calamities will come on them, and in that day they will ask, ‘Have not these disasters come on us because our God is not with us?’

¹⁸ And I will certainly hide my face in that day because of all their wickedness in turning to other gods.

¹⁹ “Now write down this song and teach it to the Israelites and have them sing it, so that it may be a witness for me against them.

²⁰ When I have brought them into the land flowing with milk and honey, the land I promised on oath to their ancestors, and when they eat their fill and thrive, they will turn to other gods and worship them, rejecting me and breaking my covenant.

Deuteronomy 31:21-30

²¹ And when many disasters and calamities come on them, this song will testify against them, because it will not be forgotten by their descendants. I know what they are disposed to do, even before I bring them into the land I promised them on oath.”

²² So Moses wrote down this song that day and taught it to the Israelites.

²³ The LORD gave this command to Joshua son of Nun: “Be strong and courageous, for you will bring the Israelites into the land I promised them on oath, and I myself will be with you.”

²⁴ After Moses finished writing in a book the words of this law from beginning to end,

²⁵ he gave this command to the Levites who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD:

²⁶ “Take this Book of the Law and place it beside the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God. There it will remain as a witness against you.

²⁷ For I know how rebellious and stiff-necked you are. If you have been rebellious against the LORD while I am still alive and with you, how much more will you rebel after I die!

²⁸ Assemble before me all the elders of your tribes and all your officials, so that I can speak these words in their hearing and call the heavens and the earth to testify against them.

²⁹ For I know that after my death you are sure to become utterly corrupt and to turn from the way I have commanded you. In days to come, disaster will fall on you because you will do evil in the sight of the LORD and arouse his anger by what your hands have made.”

The Song of Moses

³⁰ And Moses recited the words of this song from beginning to end in the hearing of the whole assembly of Israel:

Deuteronomy 32

¹ Listen, you heavens, and I will speak;
hear, you earth, the words of my mouth.

² Let my teaching fall like rain
and my words descend like dew,
like showers on new grass,
like abundant rain on tender plants.

³ I will proclaim the name of the LORD.
Oh, praise the greatness of our God!

⁴ He is the Rock, his works are perfect,
and all his ways are just.

A faithful God who does no wrong,
upright and just is he.

⁵ They are corrupt and not his children;
to their shame they are a warped and crooked generation.

⁶ Is this the way you repay the LORD,
you foolish and unwise people?
Is he not your Father, your Creator,^[a]
who made you and formed you?

⁷ Remember the days of old;
consider the generations long past.

Ask your father and he will tell you,
your elders, and they will explain to you.

⁸ When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance,
when he divided all mankind,
he set up boundaries for the peoples
according to the number of the sons of Israel.^[b]

⁹ For the LORD's portion is his people,
Jacob his allotted inheritance.

- 10** In a desert land he found him,
in a barren and howling waste.
He shielded him and cared for him;
he guarded him as the apple of his eye,
11 like an eagle that stirs up its nest
and hovers over its young,
that spreads its wings to catch them
and carries them aloft.
12 The LORD alone led him;
no foreign god was with him.
- 13** He made him ride on the heights of the land
and fed him with the fruit of the fields.
He nourished him with honey from the rock,
and with oil from the flinty crag,
14 with curds and milk from herd and flock
and with fattened lambs and goats,
with choice rams of Bashan
and the finest kernels of wheat.
You drank the foaming blood of the grape.
- 15** Jeshurun^[c] grew fat and kicked;
filled with food, they became heavy and sleek.
They abandoned the God who made them
and rejected the Rock their Savior.
- 16** They made him jealous with their foreign gods
and angered him with their detestable idols.
- 17** They sacrificed to false gods, which are not God—
gods they had not known,
gods that recently appeared,
gods your ancestors did not fear.

¹⁸ You deserted the Rock, who fathered you;
you forgot the God who gave you birth.

¹⁹ The LORD saw this and rejected them
because he was angered by his sons and daughters.

²⁰ "I will hide my face from them," he said,
"and see what their end will be;
for they are a perverse generation,
children who are unfaithful.

²¹ They made me jealous by what is no god
and angered me with their worthless idols.

I will make them envious by those who are not a people;
I will make them angry by a nation that has no understanding.

²² For a fire will be kindled by my wrath,
one that burns down to the realm of the dead below.
It will devour the earth and its harvests
and set afire the foundations of the mountains.

²³ "I will heap calamities on them
and spend my arrows against them.

²⁴ I will send wasting famine against them,
consuming pestilence and deadly plague;
I will send against them the fangs of wild beasts,
the venom of vipers that glide in the dust.

²⁵ In the street the sword will make them childless;
in their homes terror will reign.

The young men and young women will perish,
the infants and those with gray hair.

²⁶ I said I would scatter them
and erase their name from human memory,

²⁷ but I dreaded the taunt of the enemy,
lest the adversary misunderstand
and say, 'Our hand has triumphed;
the LORD has not done all this.'"

²⁸ They are a nation without sense,
there is no discernment in them.

²⁹ If only they were wise and would understand this
and discern what their end will be!

³⁰ How could one man chase a thousand,
or two put ten thousand to flight,
unless their Rock had sold them,
unless the LORD had given them up?

³¹ For their rock is not like our Rock,
as even our enemies concede.

³² Their vine comes from the vine of Sodom
and from the fields of Gomorrah.
Their grapes are filled with poison,
and their clusters with bitterness.

³³ Their wine is the venom of serpents,
the deadly poison of cobras.

³⁴ "Have I not kept this in reserve
and sealed it in my vaults?

³⁵ It is mine to avenge; I will repay.
In due time their foot will slip;
their day of disaster is near
and their doom rushes upon them."

³⁶ The LORD will vindicate his people
and relent concerning his servants
when he sees their strength is gone
and no one is left, slave or free.^[d]

³⁷ He will say: "Now where are their gods,
the rock they took refuge in,
³⁸ the gods who ate the fat of their sacrifices
and drank the wine of their drink offerings?
Let them rise up to help you!
Let them give you shelter!

³⁹ "See now that I myself am he!
There is no god besides me.
I put to death and I bring to life,
I have wounded and I will heal,
and no one can deliver out of my hand.

⁴⁰ I lift my hand to heaven and solemnly swear:
As surely as I live forever,
⁴¹ when I sharpen my flashing sword
and my hand grasps it in judgment,
I will take vengeance on my adversaries
and repay those who hate me.

⁴² I will make my arrows drunk with blood,
while my sword devours flesh:
the blood of the slain and the captives,
the heads of the enemy leaders."

⁴³ Rejoice, you nations, with his people,^{[e][f]}
for he will avenge the blood of his servants;
he will take vengeance on his enemies
and make atonement for his land and people.

⁴⁴ Moses came with Joshua^[9] son of Nun and spoke all the words of this song in the hearing of the people.

⁴⁵ When Moses finished reciting all these words to all Israel,

⁴⁶ he said to them, "Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law.

⁴⁷ They are not just idle words for you—they are your life. By them you will live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess."

Moses to Die on Mount Nebo

⁴⁸ On that same day the LORD told Moses,

⁴⁹ "Go up into the Abarim Range to Mount Nebo in Moab, across from Jericho, and view Canaan, the land I am giving the Israelites as their own possession.

⁵⁰ There on the mountain that you have climbed you will die and be gathered to your people, just as your brother Aaron died on Mount Hor and was gathered to his people.

⁵¹ This is because both of you broke faith with me in the presence of the Israelites at the waters of Meribah Kadesh in the Desert of Zin and because you did not uphold my holiness among the Israelites.

⁵² Therefore, you will see the land only from a distance; you will not enter the land I am giving to the people of Israel."

Footnotes

- a. Deuteronomy 32:6 Or *Father, who bought you*
- b. Deuteronomy 32:8 Masoretic Text; Dead Sea Scrolls (see also Septuagint) *sons of God*
- c. Deuteronomy 32:15 *Jeshurun* means *the upright one*, that is, Israel.
- d. Deuteronomy 32:36 Or *and they are without a ruler or leader*
- e. Deuteronomy 32:43 Or *Make his people rejoice, you nations*
- f. Deuteronomy 32:43 Masoretic Text; Dead Sea Scrolls (see also Septuagint) *people, / and let all the angels worship him, /*
- g. Deuteronomy 32:44 Hebrew *Hoshea*, a variant of *Joshua*

Deuteronomy 33

Moses Blesses the Tribes

¹ This is the blessing that Moses the man of God pronounced on the Israelites before his death.

² He said:

“The LORD came from Sinai
and dawned over them from Seir;
he shone forth from Mount Paran.

He came with^[a] myriads of holy ones
from the south, from his mountain slopes.^[b]

³ Surely it is you who love the people;
all the holy ones are in your hand.

At your feet they all bow down,
and from you receive instruction,

⁴ the law that Moses gave us,
the possession of the assembly of Jacob.

⁵ He was king over Jeshurun^[c]
when the leaders of the people assembled,
along with the tribes of Israel.

⁶ “Let Reuben live and not die,
nor^[d] his people be few.”

⁷ And this he said about Judah:

“Hear, LORD, the cry of Judah;
bring him to his people.

With his own hands he defends his cause.
Oh, be his help against his foes!”

⁸ About Levi he said:

“Your Thummim and Urim belong
to your faithful servant.

You tested him at Massah;
you contended with him at the waters of Meribah.

⁹ He said of his father and mother,
‘I have no regard for them.’

He did not recognize his brothers
or acknowledge his own children,
but he watched over your word
and guarded your covenant.

¹⁰ He teaches your precepts to Jacob
and your law to Israel.

He offers incense before you
and whole burnt offerings on your altar.

¹¹ Bless all his skills, LORD,
and be pleased with the work of his hands.

Strike down those who rise against him,
his foes till they rise no more.”

¹² About Benjamin he said:

“Let the beloved of the LORD rest secure in him,
for he shields him all day long,
and the one the LORD loves rests between his shoulders.”

¹³ About Joseph he said:

“May the LORD bless his land
with the precious dew from heaven above
and with the deep waters that lie below;

¹⁴ with the best the sun brings forth
and the finest the moon can yield;
¹⁵ with the choicest gifts of the ancient mountains
and the fruitfulness of the everlasting hills;
¹⁶ with the best gifts of the earth and its fullness
and the favor of him who dwelt in the burning bush.
Let all these rest on the head of Joseph,
on the brow of the prince among^[e] his brothers.
¹⁷ In majesty he is like a firstborn bull;
his horns are the horns of a wild ox.
With them he will gore the nations,
even those at the ends of the earth.
Such are the ten thousands of Ephraim;
such are the thousands of Manasseh.”

¹⁸ About Zebulun he said:

“Rejoice, Zebulun, in your going out,
and you, Issachar, in your tents.

¹⁹ They will summon peoples to the mountain
and there offer the sacrifices of the righteous;
they will feast on the abundance of the seas,
on the treasures hidden in the sand.”

²⁰ About Gad he said:

“Blessed is he who enlarges Gad’s domain!
Gad lives there like a lion,
tearing at arm or head.

²¹ He chose the best land for himself;
the leader's portion was kept for him.
When the heads of the people assembled,
he carried out the LORD's righteous will,
and his judgments concerning Israel."

²² About Dan he said:

"Dan is a lion's cub,
springing out of Bashan."

²³ About Naphtali he said:

"Naphtali is abounding with the favor of the LORD
and is full of his blessing;
he will inherit southward to the lake."

²⁴ About Asher he said:

"Most blessed of sons is Asher;
let him be favored by his brothers,
and let him bathe his feet in oil.

²⁵ The bolts of your gates will be iron and bronze,
and your strength will equal your days.

²⁶ "There is no one like the God of Jeshurun,
who rides across the heavens to help you
and on the clouds in his majesty.

²⁷ The eternal God is your refuge,
and underneath are the everlasting arms.

He will drive out your enemies before you,
saying, 'Destroy them!'

²⁸ So Israel will live in safety;
 Jacob will dwell^[f] secure
in a land of grain and new wine,
 where the heavens drop dew.

²⁹ Blessed are you, Israel!
 Who is like you,
 a people saved by the LORD?
He is your shield and helper
 and your glorious sword.
Your enemies will cower before you,
 and you will tread on their heights.”

Footnotes

- a. Deuteronomy 33:2 Or *from*
- b. Deuteronomy 33:2 The meaning of the Hebrew for this phrase is uncertain.
- c. Deuteronomy 33:5 *Jeshurun* means *the upright one*, that is, Israel; also in verse 26.
- d. Deuteronomy 33:6 Or *but let*
- e. Deuteronomy 33:16 Or *of the one separated from*
- f. Deuteronomy 33:28 Septuagint; Hebrew *Jacob's spring is*

Deuteronomy 34

The Death of Moses

¹ Then Moses climbed Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah, across from Jericho. There the LORD showed him the whole land—from Gilead to Dan,

² all of Naphtali, the territory of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Mediterranean Sea,

³ the Negev and the whole region from the Valley of Jericho, the City of Palms, as far as Zoar.

⁴ Then the LORD said to him, "This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it."

⁵ And Moses the servant of the LORD died there in Moab, as the LORD had said.

⁶ He buried him^[a] in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is.

⁷ Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone.

⁸ The Israelites grieved for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days, until the time of weeping and mourning was over.

⁹ Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit^[b] of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the LORD had commanded Moses.

¹⁰ Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face,

¹¹ who did all those signs and wonders the LORD sent him to do in Egypt—to Pharaoh and to all his officials and to his whole land.

¹² For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

Footnotes

- a. Deuteronomy 34:6 Or *He was buried*
- b. Deuteronomy 34:9 Or *Spirit*