

DEUTERONOMY

Primary charge of Moses to the people

1¹THESE ARE THE WORDS THAT MOSES SPOKE to all Israel in Transjordan, in the wilderness, that is to say in the Arabah opposite Suph, between Paran on the one side and Tophel, Laban, Hazeroth, and Dizahab on the other, ²(The journey from Horeb through the hill-country of Seir to Kadesh-barnea takes eleven days.)

³⁻⁴On the first day of the eleventh month of the fortieth year, after the defeat of Sihon king of the Amorites who ruled in Heshbon, and the defeat at Edrei of Og king of Bashan who ruled in Ashtaroth, Moses repeated to the Israelites all the commands that the LORD had given him for them. ⁵It was in Transjordan, in Moab, that Moses resolved to promulgate this law. These were his words: ⁶The LORD our God spoke to us at Horeb and said, 'You have stayed on this mountain long enough; ⁷go now, make for the hill-country of the Amorites, and pass on to all their neighbours in the Arabah, in the hill-country, in the Shephelah, in the Negeb, and on the coast, in short, all Canaan and the Lebanon as far as the great river, the Euphrates. ⁸I have laid the land open before you; go in and occupy it, the land which the LORD swore to give to your forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and to their descendants after them.'

⁹At that time I said to you, 'You are a burden too heavy for me to carry unaided. ¹⁰The LORD your God has increased you so that today you are as numerous as the stars in the sky. ¹¹May the LORD the God of your fathers increase your number a thousand times and may he bless you as he promised. ¹²How can I bear unaided the heavy burden you are to me, and put up with your complaints? ¹³Choose men of wisdom, understanding, and repute for each of your tribes, and I will set them in authority over you.' ¹⁴Your answer was, 'What you have told us to do is right.' ¹⁵So I took men of wisdom and repute and set them in authority over you, some as commanders over units of a thousand, of a hundred, of fifty or of ten, and others as officers, for each of your tribes. ¹⁶And at that time I gave your judges this command; 'You are to hear the cases that arise among your kinsmen and judge fairly between man and man, whether fellow-countryman or resident alien. ¹⁷You must be impartial and listen to high and low alike: have no fear of man, for judgement belongs to God. If any case is too difficult for you, bring it before me and I will hear it.' ¹⁸At the same time I instructed you in all these duties.

¹⁹Then we set out from Horeb, in obedience to the orders of the LORD our God, and marched through that vast and terrible wilderness, as you found it to be, on the way to the hill-country of the Amorites; and so we came to Kadesh-barnea. ²⁰Then I said to you, 'You have reached the hill-country of the Amorites which the LORD our God is giving us. ²¹The LORD your God has indeed now laid the land open before you. Go forward and occupy it in fulfilment of the promise which the LORD the God of your fathers made you; do not be discouraged or afraid.' ²²But you all came to me and said, 'Let us send men ahead to spy out the country and report back to us about the route we

should take and the cities we shall find.’ ²³I approved this plan and picked twelve of you, one from each tribe. ²⁴They set out and made their way up into the hill-country as far as the gorge of Eshcol, which they explored. ²⁵They took samples of the fruit of the country and brought them back to us, and made their report: ‘It is a rich land that the LORD our God is giving us.’

²⁶But you refused to go up and rebelled against the command of the LORD your God. ²⁷You muttered treason in your tents and said, ‘It was because the LORD hated us that he brought us out of Egypt to hand us over to the Amorites to be wiped out. ²⁸What shall we find up there? Our kinsmen have discouraged us by their report of a people bigger and taller than we are, and of great cities with fortifications towering to the sky. And they told us they saw there the descendants of the Anakim [the descendants ... Anakim: *or* the tall men].’

²⁹Then I said to you, ‘You must not dread them nor be afraid of them. ³⁰The LORD your God who goes at your head will fight for you and he will do again what you saw him do for you in Egypt ³¹and in the wilderness. You saw there how the LORD your God carried you all the way to this place, as a father carries his son.’ ³²In spite of this you did not trust the LORD your God, ³³who went ahead on the journey to find a place for your camp. He went in fire by night to show you the way you should take, and in a cloud by day.

³⁴When the LORD heard your complaints, he was indignant and solemnly swore: ³⁵‘Not one of these men, this wicked generation, shall see the rich land which I swore to give your forefathers, ³⁶except Caleb son of Jephunneh. He shall see it, and to him and his descendants I will give the land on which he has set foot, because he followed the LORD with his whole heart.’ ³⁷On your account the LORD was angry with me also and said, ‘You yourself shall never enter it, ³⁸but Joshua son of Nun, who is in attendance on you, shall enter it. Encourage him, for he shall put Israel in possession of that land. ³⁹Your dependants who, you thought, would become spoils of war, and your children who do not yet know good and evil, they shall enter; I will give it to them, and they shall occupy it. ⁴⁰You must turn back and set out for the wilderness by way of the Red Sea [*Or* the Sea of Reeds].’

⁴¹You answered me, ‘We have sinned against the LORD; we will now go up and attack just as the LORD our God commanded us.’ And each of you fastened on his weapons, thinking it an easy thing to invade the hill-country. ⁴²But the LORD said to me, ‘Tell them not to go up and not to fight; for I will not be with them, and their enemies will defeat them.’ ⁴³And I told you this, but you did not listen; you rebelled against the LORD’s command and defiantly went up to the hill-country. ⁴⁴The Amorites living in the hills came out against you and like bees they chased you; they crushed you at Hormah in Seir. ⁴⁵Then you came back and wept before the LORD, but he would not hear you or listen to you. ⁴⁶That is why you remained in Kadesh as long as you did.

2¹So we turned and set out for the wilderness by way of the Red Sea as the LORD had told me we must do, and we spent many days marching round the hill-country of Seir. ²Then the LORD said to me, ³‘You have been long enough marching round these hills;

turn towards the north. ⁴And give the people this charge: "You are about to go through the territory of your kinsmen the descendants of Esau who live in Seir. Although they are afraid of you, be on your guard ⁵and do not provoke them; for I shall not give you any of their land, not so much as a foot's-breadth: I have given the hill-country of Seir to Esau as a possession. ⁶You may purchase food from them for silver, and eat it, and you may buy [*Or dig for*] water to drink." ' ⁷The LORD your God has blessed you in everything you have undertaken; he has watched your journey through this great wilderness; these forty years the LORD your God has been with you and you have gone short of nothing. ⁸So we went on past our kinsmen, the descendants of Esau who live in Seir, and along the road of the Arabah which comes from Elath and Ezion-geber, and we turned and followed the road to the wilderness of Moab. ⁹There the LORD said to me, 'Do not harass the Moabites nor provoke them to battle, for I will not give you any of their land as a possession. I have given Ar to the descendants of Lot as a possession.'¹⁰(The Emim once lived there – a great and numerous people, as tall as the Anakim. ¹¹The Rephaim also were reckoned as Anakim; but the Moabites called them Emim. ¹²The Horites lived in Seir at one time, but the descendants of Esau occupied their territory: they destroyed them as they advanced and then settled in the land instead of them, just as Israel did in their own territory which the LORD gave them.) ¹³'Come now, cross the gorge of the Zared.' So we went across. ¹⁴The journey from Kadesh-barnea to the crossing of the Zared took us thirty-eight years, until the whole generation of fighting men had passed away as the LORD had sworn that they would. ¹⁵The LORD's hand was raised against them, and he rooted them out of the camp to the last man.

¹⁶When the last of the fighting men among the people had died, ¹⁷the LORD spoke to me, ¹⁸'Today', he said, 'you are to cross by Ar [*by Ar: or the gully*] which lies on the frontier of Moab, ¹⁹and when you reach the territory of the Ammonites, you must not harass them or provoke them to battle, for I will not give you any Ammonite land as a possession; I have assigned it to the descendants of Lot.'²⁰(This also is reckoned as the territory of the Rephaim, who lived there at one time; but the Ammonites called them Zamzummim. ²¹They were a great and numerous people, as tall as the Anakim, but the LORD destroyed them as the Ammonites advanced and occupied their territory instead of them, ²²just as he had done for the descendants of Esau who lived in Seir. As they advanced, he destroyed the Horites so that they occupied their territory and took possession instead of them: so it is to this day. ²³It was Caphtorites from Caphtor who destroyed the Avvim who lived in the hamlets near Gaza, and settled in the land instead of them.) ²⁴'Come, set out on your journey and cross the gorge of the Arnon, for I have put Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his territory into your hands. Begin to occupy it and provoke him to battle. ²⁵Today I will begin to put the fear and dread of you upon all the peoples under heaven; if they so much as hear a rumour of you, they will quake and tremble before you.'

²⁶Then I sent messengers from the wilderness of Kedemoth to Sihon king of Heshbon with these peaceful overtures: ²⁷'Grant us passage through your country by the highway: we will keep to the highway, trespassing neither to right nor to left, ²⁸and we will pay you the full price for the food we eat and the water we drink. ²⁹The descendants of Esau who live in Seir granted us passage, and so did the Moabites who live in Ar. We will simply pass through your land on foot, until we cross the Jordan to the land which

the LORD our God is giving us.' ³⁰But Sihon king of Heshbon refused to grant us passage; for the LORD your God had made him stubborn and obstinate, in order that he and his land might become subject to you, as it still is. ³¹So the LORD said to me, 'Come, I have begun to deliver Sihon and his territory into your hands. Begin now to occupy his land.' ³²Then Sihon with all his people came out to meet us in battle at Jahaz, ³³and the LORD our God delivered him into our hands; we killed him with his sons and all his people. ³⁴We captured all his cities at that time and put to death everyone in the cities, men, women, and dependants; we left no survivor. ³⁵We took the cattle as booty and plundered the cities we captured. ³⁶From Aroer on the edge of the gorge of the Arnon and the level land of the gorge, as far as Gilead, no city walls were too lofty for us; the LORD our God laid them all open to us. ³⁷But you avoided the territory of the Ammonites, both the parts along the gorge of the Jabbok and their cities in the hills, thus fulfilling all that the LORD our God had commanded.

3¹Next we turned and advanced along the road to Bashan. Og king of Bashan, with all his people, came out against us at Edrei. ²The LORD said to me, 'Do not be afraid of him, for I have delivered him into your hands, with all his people and his land. Deal with him as you dealt with Sihon the king of the Amorites who lived in Heshbon.' ³So the LORD our God also delivered Og king of Bashan into our hands, with all his people. We slaughtered them and left no survivor, ⁴and at the same time we captured all his cities; there was not a single town that we did not take from them. In all we took sixty cities, the whole region of Argob, the kingdom of Og in Bashan; ⁵all these were fortified cities with high walls, gates, and bars, apart from a great many open settlements. ⁶Thus we put to death all the men, women, and dependants in every city, as we did to Sihon king of Heshbon. ⁷All the cattle and the spoil from the cities we took as booty for ourselves.

⁸At that time we took from these two Amorite kings in Transjordan the territory that runs from the gorge of the Arnon to Mount Hermon ⁹(the mountain that the Sidonians call Sirion and the Amorites Senir), ¹⁰all the cities of the tableland, and the whole of Gilead and Bashan as far as Salcah and Edrei, cities in the kingdom of Og in Bashan. ¹¹(Only Og king of Bashan remained as the sole survivor of the Rephaim. His sarcophagus of basalt [*Or iron*] was nearly fourteen feet long and six feet wide, and it may still be seen in the Ammonite city of Rabbah.)

¹²At that time, when we occupied this territory, I assigned to the Reubenites and Gadites the land beyond Aroer on the gorge of the Arnon and half the hill-country of Gilead with its towns. ¹³The rest of Gilead and the whole of Bashan the kingdom of Og, all the region of Argob, I assigned to half the tribe of Manasseh. (All Bashan used to be called the land of the Rephaim. ¹⁴Jair son of Manasseh took all the region of Argob as far as the Geshurite and Maacathite border. There are tent-villages in Bashan still called by his name, Havvoth-jair [*That is Tent-villages of Jair*].) ¹⁵To Machir I assigned Gilead, ¹⁶and to the Reubenites and the Gadites I assigned land from Gilead to the gorge of the Arnon, that is to the middle of the gorge; and its territory ran [*that is ... ran: or including the bed of the gorge and the adjacent strip of land ...*] [*and its territory ran: prob. rdg, Heb and territory and ...*] to the gorge of the Jabbok, the Ammonite frontier, ¹⁷and included the Arabah, with the Jordan and adjacent land, from Kinnereth to the Sea of the Arabah, that is the Dead Sea, below the watershed of Pisgah on the east.

¹⁸At that time I gave you this command: 'The LORD your God has given you this land to occupy; let all your fighting men be drafted and cross at the head of their fellow-Israelites. ¹⁹Only your wives and dependants and your livestock – I know you have much livestock – shall stay in the towns I have given you. ²⁰This you shall do until the LORD gives your kinsmen security as he has given it to you, and until they too occupy the land which the LORD your God is giving them on the other side of the Jordan; then you may return to the possession which I have given you, every man to his own.'

²¹At that time also I gave Joshua this charge: 'You have seen with your own eyes all that the LORD your God has done to these two kings; he will do the same to all the kingdoms into which you will cross over. ²²Do not be afraid of them, for the LORD your God himself will fight for you.'

²³At that same time I pleaded with the LORD, ²⁴'O Lord GOD, thou hast begun to show to thy servant thy greatness and thy strong hand: what god is there in heaven or on earth who can match thy works and mighty deeds? ²⁵Let me cross over and see that rich land which lies beyond the Jordan, and the fine hill-country and the Lebanon.' ²⁶But because of you the LORD brushed me aside and would not listen. 'Enough!' he answered. 'Say no more about this. ²⁷Go to the top of Pisgah and look west and north, south and east; look well at what you see, for you shall not cross this river Jordan. ²⁸Give Joshua his commission, encourage him and strengthen him; for he will lead this people across, and he will put them in possession of the land you see before you.'

²⁹So we remained in the valley opposite Beth-peor.

4¹NOW, ISRAEL, LISTEN to the statutes and laws which I am teaching you, and obey them; then you will live, and go in and occupy the land which the LORD the God of your fathers is giving you. ²You must not add anything to my charge, nor take anything away from it. You must carry out all the commandments of the LORD your God which I lay upon you.

³You saw with your own eyes what the LORD did at Baal-peor; the LORD your God destroyed among you every man who went over to the Baal of Peor, ⁴but you who held fast to the LORD your God are all alive today. ⁵I have taught you statutes and laws, as the LORD my God commanded me; these you must duly keep when you enter the land and occupy it. ⁶You must observe them carefully, and thereby you will display your wisdom and understanding to other peoples. When they hear about these statutes. they will say, 'What a wise and understanding people this great nation is!' ⁷What great nation has a god [*Or gods*] close at hand as the LORD our God is close to us whenever we call to him? ⁸What great nation is there whose statutes and laws are just, as is all this law which I am setting before you today? ⁹But take good care: be on the watch not to forget the things that you have seen with your own eyes, and do not let them pass from your minds as long as you live, but teach them to your sons and to your sons' sons. ¹⁰You must never forget that day when you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, and the LORD said to me, 'Assemble the people before me; I will make them hear my words and they shall learn to fear me all their lives on earth, and they shall teach their sons to do so.' ¹¹Then you came near and stood at the foot of the mountain. The mountain was

ablaze with fire to the very skies: there was darkness, cloud, and thick mist. ¹²When the LORD spoke to you from the fire you heard a voice speaking, but you saw no figure; there was only a voice. ¹³He announced the terms of his covenant to you, bidding you observe the Ten Words [*Or Ten Commandments*], and he wrote them on two tablets of stone. ¹⁴At that time the LORD charged me to teach you statutes and laws which you should observe in the land into which you are passing to occupy it.

¹⁵On the day when the LORD spoke to you out of the fire on Horeb, you saw no figure of any kind; ¹⁶so take good care not to fall into the degrading practice of making figures carved in relief, in the form of a man or a woman, ¹⁷or of any animal on earth or bird that flies in the air, ¹⁸or of any reptile on the ground or fish in the waters under the earth. ¹⁹Nor must you raise your eyes to the heavens and look up to the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, and be led on to bow down to them and worship them; the LORD your God assigned these for the worship of [*assigned ... worship of: or created these for*] the various peoples under heaven. ²⁰But you are the people whom the LORD brought out of Egypt, from the smelting-furnace, and took for his own possession, as you are to this day. ²¹The LORD was angry with me on your account and swore that I should not cross the Jordan nor enter the rich land which the LORD your God is giving you for your possession. ²²I shall die in this country; I shall not cross the Jordan, but you are about to cross and occupy that rich land. ²³Be careful not to forget the covenant which the LORD your God made with you, and do not make yourselves a carved figure of anything which the LORD your God has forbidden. ²⁴For the LORD your God is a devouring fire, a jealous god.

²⁵When you have children and grandchildren and grow old in the land, if you then fall into the degrading practice of making any kind of carved figure, doing what is wrong in the eyes of the LORD your God and provoking him to anger, ²⁶I summon heaven and earth to witness against you this day: you will soon vanish from the land which you are to occupy after crossing the Jordan. You will not live long in it; you will be swept away. ²⁷The LORD will disperse you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations to which the LORD will lead you. ²⁸There you will worship gods made by human hands out of wood and stone, gods that will neither see nor hear, neither eat nor smell. ²⁹But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him, if indeed you search with all your heart and soul. ³⁰When you are in distress and all these things come upon you, you will in days to come turn back to the LORD your God and obey him. ³¹The LORD your God is a merciful god; he will never fail you nor destroy you, nor will he forget the covenant guaranteed by oath with your forefathers.

³²Search into days gone by, long before your time, beginning at the day when God created man on earth; search from one end of heaven to the other, and ask if any deed as mighty as this has been seen or heard. ³³Did my people ever hear the voice of God speaking out of the fire, as you heard it, and remain alive? ³⁴Or did ever a god attempt to come and take a nation for himself away from another nation, with a challenge, and with signs, portents, and wars, with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, and with great deeds of terror, as the LORD your God did for you in Egypt in the sight of you all? ³⁵You have had sure proof that the LORD is God; there is no other. ³⁶From heaven he let you hear his voice for your instruction, and on earth he let you see his great fire, and

out of the fire you heard his words. ³⁷Because he loved your fathers and chose their children after them, he in his own person brought you out of Egypt by his great strength, ³⁸so that he might drive out before you nations greater and more powerful than you and bring you in to give you their land in possession as it is today. ³⁹This day, then, be sure and take to heart that the LORD is God in heaven above and on earth below; there is no other. ⁴⁰You shall keep his statutes and his commandments which I give you today; then all will be well with you and with your children after you, and you will live long in the land which the LORD your God is giving you for all time.

⁴¹Then Moses set apart three cities in the east, in Transjordan, ⁴²to be places of refuge for the homicide who kills a man without intent, with no previous enmity between them. If he takes sanctuary in one of these cities his life shall be safe. ⁴³The cities were: Bezer-in-the-Wilderness on the tableland for the Reubenites, Ramoth in Gilead for the Gadites, and Golan in Bashan for the Manassites.

⁴⁴This is the law which Moses laid down for the Israelites. ⁴⁵These are the precepts, the statutes, and the laws which Moses proclaimed to the Israelites, when they came out of Egypt ⁴⁶and were in Transjordan in the valley opposite Beth-peor in the land of Sihon king of the Amorites who lived in Heshbon. Moses and the Israelites had defeated him when they came out of Egypt ⁴⁷and had occupied his territory and the territory of Og king of Bashan, the two Amorite kings in the east, in Transjordan. ⁴⁸The territory ran from Aroer on the gorge of the Arnon to Mount Sirion, that is Hermon; ⁴⁹and all the Arabah on the east, in Transjordan, as far as the Sea of the Arabah below the watershed of Pisgah.

5¹Moses summoned all Israel and said to them: Listen, O Israel, to the statutes and the laws which I proclaim in your hearing today. Learn them and be careful to observe them. ²The LORD our God made a covenant with us at Horeb. ³It was not with our forefathers that the LORD made this covenant, but with us, all of us who are alive and are here this day. ⁴The LORD spoke with you face to face on the mountain out of the fire. ⁵I stood between the LORD and you at that time to report the words of the LORD; for you were afraid of the fire and did not go up the mountain. And the LORD said:

⁶I am the LORD your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

⁷You shall have no other god [*Or gods*] to set against me.

⁸You shall not make a carved image for yourself not the likeness of anything in the heavens above, or on the earth below, or in the waters under the earth.

⁹You shall not bow down to them or worship [*Or or be led to worship*] them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous god. I punish the children for the sins of the fathers to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me. ¹⁰But I keep faith with thousands, with [*with ... with: or for a thousand generations with*] those who love me and keep my commandments.

¹¹You shall not make wrong use of the name of the LORD your God; the LORD will not

leave unpunished the man who misuses his name.

¹²Keep the sabbath day holy as the LORD your God commanded you. ¹³You have six days to labour and do all your work. ¹⁴But the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; that day you shall not do any work, neither you, your son or your daughter, your slave or your slave-girl, your ox, your ass, or any of your cattle, nor the alien within your gates, so that your slaves and slave-girls may rest as you do. ¹⁵Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the LORD your God brought you out with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, and for that reason the LORD your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day.

¹⁶Honour your father and your mother, as the LORD your God commanded you, so that you may live long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

¹⁷You shall not commit murder.

¹⁸You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁹You shall not steal.

²⁰You shall not give false evidence against your neighbour.

²¹You shall not covet your neighbour's wife; you shall not set your heart on your neighbour's house, his land, his slave, his slave-girl, his ox, his ass, or on anything that belongs to him.

²²These Commandments the LORD spoke in a great voice to your whole assembly on the mountain out of the fire, the cloud, and the thick mist; then he said no more. He wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me. ²³When you heard the voice out of the darkness, while the mountain was ablaze with fire, all the heads of your tribes and the elders came to me ²⁴and said, 'The LORD our God has shown us his glory and his greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the fire: today we have seen that God may speak with men and they may still live. ²⁵Why should we now risk death? for this great fire will devour us. If we hear the voice of the LORD our God again, we shall die. ²⁶Is there any mortal man who has heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the fire, as we have, and has lived? ²⁷You shall go near and listen to all that the LORD our God says, and report to us all that the LORD our God has said to you; we will listen and obey.'

²⁸When the LORD heard these words which you spoke to me, he said, 'I have heard what this people has said to you; every word they have spoken is right. ²⁹Would that they always had such a heart to fear me and to observe all my commandments, so that all might be well with them and their children for ever! ³⁰Go, and tell them to return to their tents, ³¹but you yourself stand here beside me, and I will set forth to you all the commandments, the statutes and laws which you shall teach them to observe in the land which I am giving them to occupy.'

³²You shall be careful to do as the LORD your God has commanded you; do not turn from it to right or to left. ³³You must conform to all the LORD your God commands you, if you would live and prosper and remain long in the land you are to occupy.

6¹These are the commandments, statutes, and laws which the LORD your God commanded me to teach you to observe in the land into which you are passing to occupy it, a land flowing with milk and honey, ²so that you may fear the LORD your God and keep all his statutes and commandments which I am giving you, both you, your sons, and your descendants all your lives, and so that you may live long. ³If you listen, O Israel, and are careful to observe them, you will prosper and increase greatly as the LORD the God of your fathers promised you.

⁴Hear, O Israel, the LORD [*See note on Exod. 3.15*] is our God, one LORD, ⁵and you must love the LORD your God with all your heart and soul and strength. ⁶These commandments which I give you this day are to be kept in your heart; ⁷you shall repeat them to your sons, and speak of them indoors and out of doors, when you lie down and when you rise. ⁸Bind them as a sign on the hand and wear them as a phylactery on the forehead; ⁹write them up on the door-posts of your houses and on your gates.

¹⁰The LORD your God will bring you into the land which he swore to your forefathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that he would give you, a land of great and fine cities which you did not build, ¹¹houses full of good things which you did not provide, rock-hewn cisterns which you did not hew, and vineyards and olive-groves which you did not plant. When you eat your fill there, ¹²be careful not to forget the LORD who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ¹³You shall fear the LORD your God, serve him alone and take your oaths in his name. ¹⁴You must not follow other gods, gods of the nations that are around you; ¹⁵if you do, the LORD your God who is in your midst will be angry with you, and he will sweep you away off the face of the earth, for the LORD your God is a jealous god.

¹⁶You must not challenge the LORD your God as you challenged him at Massah [*That is Challenge*]. ¹⁷You must diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God as well as the precepts and statutes which he gave you. ¹⁸You must do what is right and good in the LORD's eyes so that all may go well with you, and you may enter and occupy the rich land which the LORD promised by oath to your forefathers; ¹⁹then you shall drive out all your enemies before you, as the LORD promised.

²⁰When your son asks you in time to come, 'What is the meaning of the precepts, statutes, and laws which the LORD our God gave you?', ²¹you shall say to him, 'We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt, and the LORD brought us out of Egypt with his strong hand, ²²sending great disasters, signs, and portents against the Egyptians and against Pharaoh and all his family, as we saw for ourselves. ²³But he led us out from there to bring us into the land and give it to us as he had promised to our forefathers. ²⁴The LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes and to fear the LORD our God; it will be for our own good at all times, and he will continue to preserve our lives. ²⁵It will be counted to our credit if we keep all these commandments in the sight of the LORD our God, as he has bidden us.'

7¹WHEN THE LORD YOUR GOD BRINGS YOU into the land which you are entering to occupy and drives out many nations before you – Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, seven nations more numerous and powerful than you – ²when the LORD your God delivers them into your power and you defeat them, you must put them to death. You must not make a treaty with them or spare them. ³You must not intermarry with them, neither giving your daughters to their sons nor taking their daughters for your sons; ⁴if you do, they will draw your sons away from the LORD [*prob. rdg, Heb me*] and make them worship other gods. Then the LORD will be angry with you and will quickly destroy you. ⁵But this is what you must do to them: pull down their altars, break their sacred pillars, hack down their sacred poles and destroy their idols by fire, ⁶for you are a people holy to the LORD your God; the LORD your God chose you out of all nations on earth to be his special possession.

⁷It was not because you were more numerous than any other nation that the LORD cared for you and chose you, for you were the smallest of all nations; ⁸it was because the LORD loved you and stood by his oath to your forefathers, that he brought you out with his strong hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹Know then that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God; with those who love him and keep his commandments he keeps covenant and faith for a thousand generations, ¹⁰but those who defy him and show their hatred for him he repays with destruction: he will not be slow to requite any who so hate him.

¹¹You are to observe these commandments, statutes, and laws which I give you this day, and keep them.

¹²If you listen to these laws and are careful to observe them, then the LORD your God will observe the sworn covenant he made with your forefathers and will keep faith with you. ¹³He will love you, bless you and cause you to increase. He will bless the fruit of your body and the fruit of your land, your corn and new wine and oil, the offspring of your herds, and of your lambing flocks, in the land which he swore to your forefathers to give you. ¹⁴You shall be blessed above every other nation; neither among your people nor among your cattle shall there be impotent male or barren female. ¹⁵The LORD will take away all sickness from you; he will not bring upon you any of the foul diseases of Egypt which you know so well, but will bring them upon all your enemies. ¹⁶You shall devour all the nations which the LORD your God is giving over to you. Spare none of them, and do not worship their gods; that is the snare which awaits you.

¹⁷You may say to yourselves, 'These nations outnumber us, how can we drive them out?' ¹⁸But you need have no fear of them; only remember what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to the whole of Egypt, ¹⁹the great challenge which you yourselves witnessed, the signs and portents, the strong hand and the outstretched arm by which the LORD your God brought you out. He will deal thus with all the nations of whom you are afraid. ²⁰He will also spread panic among them until all who are left or have gone into hiding perish before you. ²¹Be in no dread of them, for the LORD your God is in your midst, a great and terrible god. ²²He will drive out these nations before you little by little. You will not be able to exterminate them quickly, for fear the wild beasts

become too numerous for you. ²³The LORD your God will deliver these nations over to you and will throw them into great panic in the hour of their destruction. ²⁴He will put their kings into your hands, and you shall wipe out their name from under heaven. When you destroy them, no man will be able to withstand you. ²⁵Their idols you shall destroy by fire; you must not covet the silver and gold on them and take it for yourselves, or you will be ensnared by it; for these things are abominable to the LORD your God. ²⁶You must not introduce any abominable idol into your houses and thus bring yourselves under solemn ban along with it. You shall hold it loathsome and abominable, for it is forbidden under the ban.

8¹You must carefully observe everything that I command you this day so that you may live and increase and may enter and occupy the land which the LORD promised to your forefathers upon oath. ²You must remember all that road by which the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness to humble you, to test you and to discover whether or no it was in your heart to keep his commandments. ³He humbled you and made you hungry; then he fed you on manna which neither you nor your fathers had known before, to teach you that man cannot live on bread alone but lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. ⁴The clothes on your backs did not wear out nor did your feet swell all these forty years. ⁵Take this lesson to heart: that the LORD your God was disciplining you as a father disciplines his son; ⁶and keep the commandments of the LORD your God, conforming to his ways and fearing him. ⁷For the LORD your God is bringing you to a rich land, a land of streams, of springs and underground waters gushing out in hill and valley, ⁸a land of wheat and barley, of vines, fig-trees, and pomegranates, a land of olives, oil, and honey. ⁹It is a land where you will never live in poverty nor want for anything, a land whose stones are iron-ore and from whose hills you will dig copper. ¹⁰You will have plenty to eat and will bless the LORD your God for the rich land that he has given you.

¹¹Take care not to forget the LORD your God and do not fail to keep his commandments, laws, and statutes which I give you this day. ¹²When you have plenty to eat and live in fine houses of your own building, ¹³when your herds and flocks increase, and your silver and gold and all your possessions increase too, ¹⁴do not become proud and forget the LORD your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery; ¹⁵he led you through the vast and terrible wilderness infested with poisonous snakes and scorpions, a thirsty, waterless land, where he caused water to flow from the hard rock; ¹⁶he fed you in the wilderness on manna which your fathers did not know, to humble you and test you, and in the end to make you prosper. ¹⁷Nor must you say to yourselves, 'My own strength and energy have gained me this wealth', ¹⁸but remember the LORD your God; it is he that gives you strength to become prosperous, so fulfilling the covenant guaranteed by oath with your forefathers, as he is doing now.

¹⁹If you forget the LORD your God and adhere to other gods, worshipping them and bowing down to them, I give you a solemn warning this day that you will certainly be destroyed. ²⁰You will be destroyed because of your disobedience to the LORD your God, as surely as were the nations whom the LORD destroyed at your coming.

9¹Listen, O Israel; this day you will cross the Jordan to occupy the territory of nations

greater and more powerful than you, and great cities with walls towering to the sky. ²They are great and tall people, the descendants of the Anakim, of whom you know, for you have heard it said, 'Who can withstand the sons of Anak?' ³Know then this day that it is the LORD your God himself who goes at your head as a devouring fire; he will subdue them and destroy them at your approach; you shall drive them out and overwhelm them, as he promised you.

⁴When the LORD your God drives them out before you, do not say to yourselves, 'It is because of my own merit that the LORD has brought me in to occupy this land.' ⁵It is not because of your merit or your integrity that you are entering their land to occupy it; it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD your God is driving them out before you, and to fulfil the promise which the LORD made to your forefathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

⁶Know then that it is not because of any merit of yours that the LORD your God is giving you this rich land to occupy; indeed, you are a stubborn people. ⁷Remember and never forget, how you angered the LORD your God in the wilderness: from the day when you left Egypt until you came to this place you have defied the LORD. ⁸In Horeb you roused the LORD's anger, and the LORD in his wrath was on the point of destroying you. ⁹When I went up the mountain to receive the tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant which the LORD made with you, I remained on the mountain forty days and forty nights without food or drink. ¹⁰Then the LORD gave me the two tablets of stone written with the finger of God, and upon them were all the words the LORD spoke to you out of the fire, upon the mountain on the day of the assembly. ¹¹At the end of forty days and forty nights the LORD gave me the two tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant, ¹²and said to me, 'Make haste down from the mountain because your people whom you brought out of Egypt have done a disgraceful thing. They have already turned aside from the way which I told them to follow and have cast for themselves an image of metal.'

¹³Then the LORD said to me, 'I have considered this people and I find them a stubborn people. ¹⁴Let me be, and I will destroy them and blot out their name from under heaven; and of you alone I will make a nation more powerful and numerous than they.'
¹⁵So I turned and went down the mountain, and it was ablaze; and I had the two tablets of the covenant in my hands. ¹⁶When I saw that you had sinned against the LORD your God and had cast for yourselves an image of a bull-calf, and had already turned aside from the way the LORD had told you to follow, ¹⁷I took the two tablets and flung them down and shattered them in the sight of you all. ¹⁸Then once again I lay prostrate before the LORD, forty days and forty nights without food or drink, on account of all the sins that you had committed, and because you had done what was wrong in the eyes of the LORD and provoked him to anger. ¹⁹I dreaded the LORD's anger and his wrath which threatened to destroy you; and once again the LORD listened to me. ²⁰The LORD was greatly incensed with Aaron also and would have killed him; so I prayed for him as well at that same time. ²¹I took the calf, that sinful thing that you had made, and burnt it and pounded it, grinding it until it was as fine as dust; then I flung its dust into the torrent that flowed down the mountain. ²²You also roused the LORD's anger at Taberah, and at Massah, and at Kibroth-hattaavah. ²³Again, when the LORD sent you from

Kadesh-barnea with orders to advance and occupy the land which he was giving you, you defied the LORD your God and did not trust him or obey him. ²⁴You were defiant from the day that the LORD first knew you. ²⁵Forty days and forty nights I lay prostrate before the LORD because he had threatened to destroy you, ²⁶and I prayed to the LORD and said, 'O Lord GOD, do not destroy thy people, thy own possession, whom thou didst redeem by thy great power and bring out of Egypt by thy strong hand. ²⁷Remember thy servants, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and overlook the stubbornness of this people, their wickedness and their sin; ²⁸otherwise the people in the land out of which thou didst lead us will say, "It is because the LORD was not able to bring them into the land which he promised them and because he hated them, that he has led them out to kill them in the wilderness." ²⁹But they are thy people, thy own possession, whom thou didst bring out by thy great strength and by thy outstretched arm.'

10¹AT THAT TIME THE LORD SAID to me, 'Cut two tablets of stone like the first, and make also a wooden chest, an Ark. Come to me on the mountain, ²and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets which you broke in pieces, and you shall put them into the Ark.' ³So I made the Ark of acacia-wood and out two tablets of stone like the first, and went up the mountain taking the tablets with me. ⁴Then in the same writing as before, the LORD wrote down the Ten Words [*Or Ten Commandments*] which he had spoken to you out of the fire, upon the mountain on the day of the assembly, and the LORD gave them to me. ⁵I turned and came down the mountain, and I put the tablets in the Ark that I had made, as the LORD had commanded me, and there they have remained ever since.

6 [*vv6, 7: cp Num. 33.31, 32*](The Israelites journeyed by stages from Beeroth-bene-jaakan to Moserah. There Aaron died and was buried; and his son Eleazar succeeded him in the priesthood. ⁷From there they came to Gudgodah and from Gudgodah to Jotbathah, a land of many ravines. ⁸At that time the LORD set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD, to attend on the LORD and minister to him, and to give the blessing in his name, as they have done to this day. ⁹That is why the Levites have no holding or patrimony with their kinsmen; the LORD is their patrimony, as he promised them.)

¹⁰I stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights, as I did before, and once again the LORD listened to me; he consented not to destroy you. ¹¹The LORD said to me, 'Set out now at the head of the people so that they may enter and occupy the land which I swore to give to their forefathers.'

¹²What then, O Israel, does the LORD your God ask of you? Only to fear the LORD your God, to conform to all his ways, to love him and to serve him with all your heart and soul. ¹³This you will do by keeping the commandments of the LORD and his statutes which I give you this day for your good. ¹⁴To the LORD your God belong heaven itself, the highest heaven, the earth and everything in it; ¹⁵yet the LORD cared for your forefathers in his love for them and chose their descendants after them. Out of all nations you were his chosen people as you are this day. ¹⁶So now you must circumcise the foreskin of your hearts and not be stubborn any more, ¹⁷for the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, mighty, and terrible God. He is no respecter of

persons and is not to be bribed; ¹⁸he secures justice for widows and orphans, and loves the alien who lives among you, giving him food and clothing. ¹⁹You too must love the alien, for you once lived as aliens in Egypt. ²⁰You must fear the LORD your God, serve him, hold fast to him and take your oaths in his name. ²¹He is your praise, your God who has done for you these great and terrible things which you have seen with your own eyes. ²²When your forefathers went down into Egypt they were only seventy strong, but now the LORD your God has made you countless as the stars in the sky.

11¹You shall love the LORD your God and keep for all time the charge he laid upon you, the statutes, the laws, and the commandments. ²This day you know the discipline of the LORD, though your children who have neither known nor experienced it do not; you know his greatness, his strong hand and outstretched arm, ³the signs he worked and his acts in Egypt against Pharaoh the king and his country, ⁴and all that he did to the Egyptian army, its horses and chariots, when he caused the waters of the Red Sea to flow over them as they pursued you. In this way the LORD destroyed them, and so things remain to this day. ⁵You know what he did for you in the wilderness as you journeyed to this place, ⁶and what he did to Dathan and Abiram sons of Eliab, son of Reuben, when the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them in the sight of all Israel, together with their households and their tents and every living thing in their company. ⁷With your own eyes you have seen the mighty work that the LORD did.

⁸You shall observe all that I command you this day, so that you may have strength to enter and occupy the land into which you are crossing, ⁹and so that you may live long in the land which the LORD swore to your forefathers to give them and their descendants, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰The land which you are entering to occupy is not like the land of Egypt from which you have come, where, after sowing your seed, you irrigated it by foot like a vegetable garden. ¹¹But the land into which you are crossing to occupy is a land of mountains and valleys watered by the rain of heaven. ¹²It is a land which the LORD your God tends [which ... tends: *or whose soil the LORD your God has made firm*] and on which his eye rests from year's end to year's end. ¹³If you pay heed to the commandments which I give you this day, and love the LORD your God and serve him with all your heart and soul, ¹⁴then I will send rain for your land in season, both autumn and spring rains, and you will gather your corn and new wine and oil, ¹⁵and I will provide pasture in the fields for your cattle: you shall eat your fill. ¹⁶Take good care not to be led astray in your hearts nor to turn aside and serve other gods and prostrate yourselves to them, ¹⁷or the LORD will become angry with you: he will shut up the skies and there will be no rain, your ground will not yield its harvest, and you will soon vanish from the rich land which the LORD is giving you. ¹⁸You shall take these words of mine to heart and keep them in mind; you shall bind them as a sign on the hand and wear them as a phylactery on the forehead. ¹⁹Teach them to your children, and speak of them indoors and out of doors, when you lie down and when you rise. ²⁰Write them up on the door-posts of your houses and on your gates. ²¹Then you will live long, you and your children, in the land which the LORD swore to your forefathers to give them, for as long as the heavens are above the earth.

²²If you diligently keep all these commandments that I now charge you to observe, by

loving the LORD your God, by conforming to his ways and by holding fast to him, ²³the LORD will drive out all these nations before you and you shall occupy the territory of nations greater and more powerful than you. ²⁴Every place where you set the soles of your feet shall be yours. Your borders shall run from the wilderness to [*prob. rdg, Heb and*] the Lebanon and from the River, the river Euphrates, to the western sea. ²⁵No man will be able to withstand you; the LORD your God will put the fear and dread of you upon the whole land on which you set foot, as he promised you. ²⁶Understand that this day I offer you the choice of a blessing and a curse. ²⁷The blessing will come if you listen to the commandments of the LORD your God which I give you this day, ²⁸and the curse if you do not listen to the commandments of the LORD your God but turn aside from the way that I command you this day and follow other gods whom you do not know.

²⁹When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you are entering to occupy, there on Mount Gerizim you shall pronounce the blessing and on Mount Ebal the curse. ³⁰(These mountains are on the other side of the Jordan, close to Gilgal beside the terebinth of Moreh, beyond the road to the west which lies in the territory of the Canaanites of the Arabah.) ³¹You are about to cross the Jordan to enter and occupy the land which the LORD your God is giving you; you shall occupy it and settle in it, ³²and you shall be careful to observe all the statutes and laws which I set before you this day.

God's laws delivered by Moses

12¹THESE ARE THE STATUTES AND LAWS that you shall be careful to observe in the land which the LORD the God of your fathers is giving you to occupy as long as you live on earth. ²You shall demolish all the sanctuaries where the nations whose place you are taking worship their gods, on mountain-tops and hills and under every spreading tree. ³You shall pull down their altars and break their sacred pillars, burn their sacred poles and hack down the idols of their gods and thus blot out the name of them from that place.

⁴You shall not follow such practices in the worship of the LORD your God, ⁵but you shall resort to the place which the LORD your God will choose out of all your tribes to receive his Name that it may dwell there. There you shall come ⁶and bring your whole-offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and contributions, your vows and freewill Offerings, and the first-born of your herds and flocks. ⁷There you shall eat before the LORD your God; so you shall find joy in whatever you undertake, you and your families, because the LORD your God has blessed you.

⁸You shall not act as we act here today, each of us doing what he pleases, ⁹for till now you have not reached the place of rest, the patrimony which the LORD your God is giving you. ¹⁰You shall cross the Jordan and settle in the land which the LORD your God allots you as your patrimony; he will grant you peace from all your enemies on every side, and you will live in security. ¹¹Then you shall bring everything that I command you to the place which the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name – your whole-offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and contributions, and all the choice gifts that you have vowed to the LORD. ¹²You shall rejoice before the LORD your God with your

sons and daughters, your male and female slaves, and the Levites who live in your settlements because they have no holding or patrimony among you.

¹³See that you do not offer your whole-offerings in any place at random, ¹⁴but offer them only at the place which the LORD will choose in one of your tribes, and there you must do all I command you. ¹⁵On the other hand, you may freely kill for food in all your settlements, as the LORD your God blesses you. Clean and unclean alike may eat it, as they would eat the meat of gazelle or buck. ¹⁶But on no account must you eat the blood; pour it out on the ground like water. ¹⁷In all your settlements you may not eat any of the tithe of your corn and new wine and oil, or any of the first-born of your cattle and sheep, or any of the gifts that you vow, or any of your freewill offerings and contributions; ¹⁸but you shall eat it before the LORD your God in the place that the LORD your God will choose – you, your sons and daughters, your male and female slaves, and the Levites in your settlements; so you shall find joy before the LORD your God in all that you undertake. ¹⁹Be careful not to neglect the Levites in your land as long as you live.

²⁰When the LORD your God extends your boundaries, as he has promised you, and you say to yourselves, 'I would like to eat meat', because you have a craving for it, then you may freely eat it. ²¹If the place that the LORD your God will choose to receive his Name is far away, then you may slaughter a beast from the herds or flocks which the LORD has given you and freely eat it in your own settlements as I command you. ²²You may eat it as you would the meat of gazelle or buck; both clean and unclean alike may eat it. ²³But you must strictly refrain from eating the blood, because the blood is the life; you must not eat the life with the flesh. ²⁴You must not eat it, you must pour it out on the ground like water. ²⁵If you do not eat it, all will be well with you and your children after you; for you will be doing what is right in the eyes of the LORD. ²⁶But such holy-gifts as you may have and the gifts you have vowed, you must bring to the place which the LORD will choose. ²⁷You must present your whole-offerings, both the flesh and the blood, on the altar of the LORD your God; but of your shared-offerings you shall eat the flesh, while the blood is to be poured on the altar of the LORD your God. ²⁸See that you listen and do all that I command you, and then it will go well with you and your children after you for ever; for you will be doing what is good and right in the eyes of the LORD your God.

²⁹When the LORD your God exterminates, as you advance, the nations whose country you are entering to occupy, you shall take their place and settle in their land. ³⁰After they have been destroyed, take care that you are not ensnared into their ways. Do not inquire about their gods and say, 'How do these nations worship their gods? I too will do the same.' ³¹You must not do for the LORD your God what they do, for all that they do for their gods is hateful and abominable to the LORD. As sacrifices for their gods they even burn their sons and their daughters.

³²See that you observe everything I command you: you must not add anything to it, nor take anything away from it.

13¹When a prophet or dreamer appears among you and offers you a sign or a portent

²and calls on you to follow other gods whom you have not known and worship them, even if the sign or portent should come true, ³do not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer. God is testing you through him to discover whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and soul. ⁴You must follow the LORD your God and fear him; you must keep his commandments and obey him, serve him and hold fast to him. ⁵That prophet or that dreamer shall be put to death, for he has preached rebellion against the LORD your God who brought you out of Egypt and redeemed you from that land of slavery; he has tried to lead you astray from the path which the LORD your God commanded you to take. You must rid yourselves of this wickedness.

⁶If your brother, your father's son or your mother's son, or your son or daughter, or the wife of your bosom or your dearest friend should entice you secretly to go and worship other gods – gods whom neither you nor your fathers have known, ⁷gods of the people round about you, near or far, at one end of the land or the other – ⁸then you shall not consent or listen. You shall have no pity on him, you shall not spare him nor shield him, ⁹you shall put him to death; your own hand shall be the first to be raised against him and then all the people shall follow. ¹⁰You shall stone him to death, because he tried to lead you astray from the LORD your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ¹¹All Israel shall hear of it and be afraid; never again will anything as wicked as this be done among you.

¹²⁻¹³When you hear that miscreants have appeared in any of the cities which the LORD your God is giving you to occupy, and have led its inhabitants astray by calling on them to serve other gods whom you have not known, ¹⁴then you shall investigate the matter carefully. If, after diligent examination, the report proves to be true and it is shown that this abominable thing has been done among you, ¹⁵you shall put the inhabitants of that city to the sword; you shall lay the city under solemn ban together with everything in it. ¹⁶You shall gather all its goods into the square and burn both city and goods as a complete offering to the LORD your God; and it shall remain a mound of ruins, never to be rebuilt. ¹⁷Let nothing out of all that has been laid under the ban be found in your possession, so that the LORD may turn from his anger and show you compassion; and in his compassion he will increase you as he swore to your forefathers, ¹⁸provided that you obey the LORD your God and keep all his commandments which I give you this day, doing only what is right in the eyes of the LORD your God.

14¹YOU ARE THE SONS OF THE LORD your God: you shall not gash yourselves nor shave your forelocks in mourning for the dead. ²You are a people holy to the LORD your God, and the LORD has chosen you out of all peoples on earth to be his special possession.

³You shall not eat any abominable thing. ⁴These are the animals you may eat: ox, sheep, goat, ⁵buck, gazelle, roebuck, wild-goat, white-rumped deer, long-horned antelope, and rock-goat. ⁶You may eat any animal which has a parted foot or a cloven hoof and also chews the cud; ⁷those which only chew the cud or only have a parted or cloven hoof you may not eat. These are: the camel, the hare, and the rock-badger [*Or* rock-rabbit], because they chew the cud but do not have cloven hoofs; you shall regard them as unclean; ⁸and the pig, because it has a cloven hoof but does not chew the cud,

you shall regard as unclean. You shall not eat their flesh or even touch their dead carcasses. ⁹Of creatures that live in water you may eat all those that have fins and scales, ¹⁰but you may not eat any that have neither fins nor scales; you shall regard them as unclean. ¹¹You may eat all clean birds. ¹²These are the birds you may not eat: the griffon-vulture [*Or eagle*], the black vulture, the bearded vulture [*Or ossifrage*], ¹³the kite, every kind of falcon, ¹⁴every kind of crow [*Or raven*], ¹⁵the desert-owl, the short-eared owl, the long-eared owl, every kind of hawk, ¹⁶the tawny owl, the screech-owl, the little owl, ¹⁷the horned owl, the osprey, the fisher-owl, ¹⁸the stork [*Or heron*], every kind of cormorant, the hoopoe, and the bat.

¹⁹All teeming winged creatures you shall regard as unclean; they may not be eaten. ²⁰You may eat every clean insect.

²¹You shall not eat anything that has died a natural death. You shall give it to the aliens who live in your settlements, and they may eat it, or you may sell it to a foreigner; for you are a people holy to the LORD your God.

You shall not boil a kid in its mother's milk.

²²Year by year you shall set aside a tithe of all the produce of your seed, of everything that grows on the land. ²³You shall eat it in the presence of the LORD your God in the place which he will choose as a dwelling for his Name – the tithe of your corn and new wine and oil, and the first-born of your cattle and sheep, so that for all time you may learn to fear the LORD your God. ²⁴When the LORD your God has blessed you with prosperity, and the place which he will choose to receive his Name is far from you and the journey too great for you to be able to carry your tithe, ²⁵then you may exchange it for silver. You shall tie up the silver and take it with you to the place which the LORD your God will choose. ²⁶There you shall spend it as you will on cattle or sheep, wine or strong drink, or whatever you desire; you shall consume it there with rejoicing, both you and your family, in the presence of the LORD your God. ²⁷You must not neglect the Levites who live in your settlements; for they have no holding or patrimony among you.

²⁸At the end of every third year you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce for that year and leave it in your settlements ²⁹so that the Levites, who have no holding or patrimony among you, and the aliens, orphans, and widows in your settlements may come and eat their fill. If you do this the LORD your God will bless you in everything to which you set your hand.

15¹At the end of every seventh year you shall make a remission of debts. ²This is how the remission shall be made: everyone who holds a pledge shall remit the pledge of anyone indebted to him. He shall not press a fellow-countryman for repayment, for the LORD's year of remission has been declared [*Or has come*]. ³You may press foreigners; but if it is a fellow-countryman that holds anything of yours, you must remit all claim upon it. ⁴⁻⁵There will never be any poor among you if only you obey the LORD your God by carefully keeping these commandments which I lay upon you this day; for the LORD your God will bless you with great prosperity in the land which he is giving you to occupy as your patrimony. ⁶When the LORD your God blesses you, as he promised, you

will lend to men of many nations, but you yourselves will not borrow; you will rule many nations, but they will not rule you.

⁷When one of your fellow-countrymen in any of your settlements in the land which the LORD your God is giving you becomes poor, do not be hard-hearted or close-fisted with your countryman in his need. ⁸Be open-handed towards him and lend him on pledge as much as he needs. ⁹See that you do not harbour iniquitous thoughts when you find that the seventh year, the year of remission, is near, and look askance at your needy countryman and give him nothing. If you do, he will appeal to the LORD against you, and you will be found guilty of sin. ¹⁰Give freely to him and do not begrudge him your bounty, because it is for this very bounty that the LORD your God will bless you in everything that you do or undertake. ¹¹The poor will always be with you in the land, and for that reason I command you to be open-handed with your countrymen, both poor and distressed, in your own land.

¹²When a fellow-Hebrew, man or woman, sells himself to you as a slave, he shall serve you for six years and in the seventh year you shall set him free. ¹³But when you set him free, do not let him go empty-handed. ¹⁴Give to him lavishly from your flock, from your threshing-floor and your winepress. Be generous to him, because the LORD your God has blessed you. ¹⁸ Do not take it amiss when you have to set him free, for his six years' service to you has been worth twice [*worth twice: or equivalent to*] the wage of a hired man. Then the LORD your God will bless you in everything you do. ¹⁵Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you; that is why I am giving you this command today.

¹⁶If, however, a slave is content to be with you and says, 'I will not leave you, I love you and your family', ¹⁷then you shall take an awl and pierce through his ear to the door, and he will be your slave for life. You shall treat a slave-girl in the same way.

¹⁹*[v18 transposed to follow v14]* You shall dedicate to the LORD your God every male first-born of your herds and flocks. You shall not plough with the first-born of your cattle, nor shall you shear the first-born of your sheep. ²⁰Year by year you and your family shall eat them in the presence of the LORD your God, in the place which the LORD will choose. ²¹If any animal is defective, if it is lame or blind, or has any other serious defect, you must not sacrifice it to the LORD your God. ²²Eat it in your settlements; both clean and unclean alike may eat it as they would the meat of gazelle or buck. ²³But you must not eat the blood; pour it out on the ground like water.

16¹OBSERVE THE MONTH OF ABIB and keep the Passover to the LORD your God, for it was in that month that the LORD your God brought you out of Egypt by night. ²You shall slaughter a lamb, a kid, or a calf as a Passover victim to the LORD your God in the place which he will choose as a dwelling for his Name. ³You shall eat nothing leavened with it. For seven days you shall eat unleavened cakes, the bread of affliction. In urgent haste you came out of Egypt, and thus as long as you live you shall commemorate the day of your coming out of Egypt. ⁴No leaven shall be seen in all your territory for seven days, nor shall any of the flesh which you have slaughtered in the evening of the first day remain overnight till morning. ⁵You may not slaughter the Passover victim in any of the

settlements which the LORD your God is giving you, ⁶but only in the place which he will choose as a dwelling for his Name; you shall slaughter the Passover victim in the evening as the sun goes down, the time of your coming out of Egypt. ⁷You shall boil it and eat it in the place which the LORD your God will choose, and then next morning you shall turn and go to your tents. ⁸For six days you shall eat unleavened cakes, and on the seventh day there shall be a closing ceremony in honour of the LORD your God; you shall do no work.

⁹Seven weeks shall be counted: start counting the seven weeks from the time when the sickle is put to the standing corn; ¹⁰then you shall keep the pilgrim-feast of Weeks to the LORD your God and offer a freewill offering in proportion to the blessing that the LORD your God has given you. ¹¹You shall rejoice before the LORD your God, with your sons and daughters, your male and female slaves, the Levites who live in your settlements, and the aliens, orphans, and widows among you. You shall rejoice in the place which the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name ¹²and remember that you were slaves in Egypt. You shall keep and observe all these statutes.

¹³You shall keep the pilgrim-feast of Tabernacles [*Or Booths or Arbours*] for seven days, when you bring in the produce from your threshing-floor and winepress. ¹⁴You shall rejoice in your feast, with your sons and daughters, your male and female slaves, the Levites, aliens, orphans, and widows who live in your settlements. ¹⁵For seven days you shall keep this feast to the LORD your God to the place which he will choose, when the LORD your God gives you his blessing in all your harvest and in all your work; you shall keep the feast with joy.

¹⁶Three times a year all your males shall come into the presence of the LORD your God in the place which he will choose: at the pilgrim-feasts of Unleavened Bread, of Weeks, and of Tabernacles. No one shall come into the presence of the LORD empty-handed. ¹⁷Each of you shall bring such a gift as he can in proportion to the blessing which the LORD your God has given you.

¹⁸You shall appoint for yourselves judges and officers, tribe by tribe, in every settlement which the LORD your God is giving you, and they shall dispense true justice to the people. ¹⁹You shall not pervert the course of justice or show favour, nor shall you accept a bribe; for bribery makes the wise man blind and the just man give a crooked answer. ²⁰Justice, and justice alone, you shall pursue, so that you may live and occupy the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

²¹You shall not plant any kind of tree as a sacred pole beside the altar of the LORD your God which you shall build. ²²You shall not set up a sacred pillar, for the LORD your God hates them.

17¹You shall not sacrifice to the LORD your God a bull or sheep that has any defect or serious blemish, for that would be abominable to the LORD your God.

²If so be that, in any one of the settlements which the LORD your God is giving you, a man or woman is found among you who does what is wrong in the eyes of the LORD your God, ³by breaking his covenant and going to worship other gods and prostrating

himself before them or before the sun and moon and all the host of heaven – a thing that I have forbidden – ⁴then, if it is reported to you or you hear of it, make thorough inquiry. If the report proves to be true, and it is shown that this abominable thing has been done in Israel, ⁵then bring the man or woman who has done this wicked deed to the city gate and stone him to death. ⁶Sentence of death shall be carried out on the testimony of two or of three witnesses: no one shall be put to death on the testimony of a single witness. ⁷The first stones shall be thrown by the witnesses and then all the people shall follow; thus you shall rid yourselves of this wickedness.

⁸When the issue in any lawsuit is beyond your competence, whether it be a case of blood against blood, plea against plea, or blow against blow, that is disputed in your courts, then go up without delay to the place which the LORD your God will choose. ⁹There you must go to the levitical priests or to the judge then in office; seek their guidance, and they will pronounce the sentence. ¹⁰You shall act on the pronouncement which they make from the place which the LORD will choose. See that you carry out all their instructions. ¹¹Act on the instruction which they give you, or on the precedent that they cite; do not swerve from what they tell you, either to right or to left. ¹²Anyone who presumes to reject the decision either of the priest who ministers there to the LORD your God, or of the judge, shall die; thus you will rid Israel of wickedness. ¹³Then all the people will hear of it and be afraid, and will never again show such presumption.

¹⁴When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, and occupy it and settle in it, and you then say, 'Let us appoint over us a king, as all the surrounding nations do', ¹⁵you shall appoint as king the man whom the LORD your God will choose. You shall appoint over you a man of your own race; you must not appoint a foreigner, one who is not of your own race. ¹⁶He shall not acquire many horses, nor, to add to his horses, shall he cause the people to go back to Egypt, for this is what the LORD said to you, 'You shall never go back that way.' ¹⁷He shall not acquire many wives and so be led astray; nor shall he acquire great quantities of silver and gold for himself. ¹⁸When he has ascended the throne of the kingdom, he shall make a copy of this law in a book at the dictation of the levitical priests. ¹⁹He shall keep it by him and read from it all his life, so that he may learn to fear the LORD his God and keep all the words of this law and observe these statutes. ²⁰In this way he shall not become prouder than his fellow-countrymen, nor shall he turn from these commandments to right or to left; then he and his sons will reign long over his kingdom in Israel.

18¹The levitical priests, the whole tribe of Levi, shall have no holding or patrimony in Israel; they shall eat the food-offerings of the LORD, their patrimony. ²They shall have no patrimony among their fellow-countrymen; the LORD is their patrimony, as he promised them.

³This shall be the customary due of the priests from those of the people who offer sacrifice, whether a bull or a sheep: the shoulders, the cheeks, and the stomach shall be given to the priest. ⁴You shall give him also the firstfruits of your corn and new wine and oil, and the first fleeces at the shearing of your flocks. ⁵For it was he whom the LORD your God chose from all your tribes to attend on the LORD and to minister in the name of the LORD, both he and his sons for all time.

⁶When a Levite comes from any settlement in Israel where he may be lodging to the place which the LORD will choose, if he comes in the eagerness of his heart ⁷and ministers in the name of the LORD his God, like all his fellow-Levites who attend on the LORD there, ⁸he shall have an equal share of food with them, besides what he may inherit from his father's family.

⁹When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the abominable customs of those other nations. ¹⁰Let no one be found among you who makes his son or daughter pass through fire, no augur or soothsayer or diviner or sorcerer, ¹¹no one who casts spells or traffics with ghosts and spirits, and no necromancer. ¹²Those who do these things are abominable to the LORD, and it is because of these abominable practices that the LORD your God is driving them out before you. ¹³You shall be whole-hearted in your service of the LORD your God.

¹⁴These nations whose place you are taking listen to soothsayers and augurs, but the LORD your God does not permit you to do this. ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up a prophet from among you like myself, and you shall listen to him. ¹⁶All this follows from your request to the LORD your God on Horeb on the day of the assembly. There you said, 'Let us not hear again the voice of the LORD our God, nor see this great fire again, or we shall die.' ¹⁷Then the LORD said to me, 'What they have said is right. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you, one of their own race, and I will put my words into his mouth. He shall convey all my commands to them, ¹⁹and if anyone does not listen to the words which he will speak in my name I will require satisfaction from him. ²⁰But the prophet who presumes to utter in my name what I have not commanded him or who speaks in the name of other gods – that prophet shall die.' ²¹If you ask yourselves, 'How shall we recognize a word that the LORD has not uttered?', this is the answer: ²²When the word spoken by the prophet in the name of the LORD is not fulfilled and does not come true, it is not a word spoken by the LORD. The prophet has spoken presumptuously; do not hold him [*Or it*] in awe.

19¹WHEN THE LORD YOUR GOD EXTERMINATES the nations whose land he is giving you, and you take their place and settle in their cities and houses, ²you shall set apart three cities in the land which he is giving you to occupy. ³Divide into three districts the territory which the LORD your God is giving you as patrimony, and determine where each city shall lie. These shall be places in which homicides may take sanctuary.

⁴This is the kind of homicide who may take sanctuary there and save his life: the man who strikes another without intent and with no previous enmity between them; ⁵for instance, the man who goes into a wood with his mate to fell trees, and, when cutting a tree, he relaxes his grip on the axe [*when ... axe: or as he swings the axe to cut a tree*], the head glances off the tree, hits the other man and kills him. The homicide may take sanctuary in any one of these cities, and his life shall be safe. ⁶Otherwise, when the dead man's next-of-kin who had the duty of vengeance pursued him in the heat of passion, he might overtake him if the distance were great, and take his life, although the homicide was not liable to the death-penalty because there had been no previous enmity on his part. ⁷That is why I command you to set apart three cities.

⁸If the LORD your God extends your boundaries, as he swore to your forefathers, and gives you the whole land which he promised to them, ⁹because you keep all the commandments that I am laying down today and carry them out by loving the LORD your God and by conforming to his ways for all time, then you shall add three more cities of refuge to these three. ¹⁰Let no innocent blood be shed in the land which the LORD your God is giving you as your patrimony, or blood-guilt will fall on you.

¹¹When one man is the enemy of another, and he lies in wait for him, attacks him and strikes him a blow so that he dies, and then takes sanctuary in one of these cities, ¹²the elders of his own city shall send to fetch him; they shall hand him over to the next-of-kin, and he shall die. ¹³You shall show him no mercy, but shall rid Israel of the guilt of innocent blood; then all will be well with you.

¹⁴Do not move your neighbour's boundary stone, fixed by the men of former times in the patrimony which you shall occupy in the land the LORD your God gives you for your possession.

¹⁵A single witness may not give evidence against a man in the matter of any crime or sin which he commits: a charge must be established on the evidence of two or of three witnesses.

¹⁶When a malicious witness comes forward to give false evidence against a man, ¹⁷and the two disputants stand before the LORD, before the priests and the judges then in office, ¹⁸if, after careful examination by the judges, he be proved to be a false witness giving false evidence against his fellow, ¹⁹you shall treat him as he intended to treat his fellow, and thus rid yourselves of this wickedness. ²⁰The rest of the people when they hear of it will be afraid: never again will anything as wicked as this be done among you. ²¹You shall show no mercy: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

20¹WHEN YOU TAKE THE FIELD against an enemy and are faced by horses and chariots and an army greater than yours, do not be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, will be with you. ²When you are about to join battle, the priest shall come forward and address the army in these words: ³'Hear, O Israel, this day you are joining battle with the enemy; do not lose heart, or be afraid, or give way to panic in face of them; ⁴for the LORD your God will go with you to fight your enemy for you and give you the victory.' ⁵Then the officers shall address the army in these words: 'Any man who has built a new house and has not dedicated it shall go back to his house; or he may die in battle and another man dedicate it. ⁶Any man who has planted a vineyard and has not begun to use it shall go back home; or he may die in battle and another man use it. ⁷Any man who has pledged himself to take a woman in marriage and has not taken her shall go back home; or he may die in battle and another man take her.' ⁸The officers shall further address the army: 'Any man who is afraid and has lost heart shall go back home; or his comrades will be discouraged as he is.' ⁹When these officers have finished addressing the army, commanders shall be appointed to lead it.

¹⁰When you advance on a city to attack it, make an offer of peace. ¹¹If the city accepts the offer and opens its gates to you, then all the people in it shall be put to forced labour and shall serve you. ¹²If it does not make peace with you but offers battle, you shall besiege it, ¹³and the LORD your God will deliver it into your hands. You shall put all its males to the sword, ¹⁴but you may take the women, the dependants, and the cattle for yourselves, and plunder everything else in the city. You may enjoy the use of the spoil of your enemies which the LORD your God gives you. ¹⁵That is what you shall do to cities at a great distance, as opposed to those which belong to nations near at hand. ¹⁶In the cities of these nations whose land the LORD your God is giving you as a patrimony, you shall not leave any creature alive. ¹⁷You shall annihilate them – Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, Jebusites – as the LORD your God commanded you, ¹⁸so that they may not teach you to imitate all the abominable things that they have done for their gods and so cause you to sin against the LORD your God.

¹⁹When you are at war, and lay siege to a city for a long time in order to take it, do not destroy its trees by taking the axe to them, for they provide you with food; you shall not cut them down. The trees of the field are not men that you should besiege them. ²⁰But you may destroy or cut down any trees that you know do not yield food, and use them in siege-works against the city that is at war with you, until it falls.

21¹When a dead body is found lying in open country, in the land which the LORD your God is giving you to occupy, and it is not known who struck the blow, ²your elders and your judges shall come out and measure the distance to the surrounding towns to find which is nearest. ³The elders of that town shall take a heifer that has never been mated [*prob. rdg, Heb put to work*] or worn a yoke, ⁴and bring it down to a ravine where there is a stream that never runs dry and the ground is never tilled or sown, and there in the ravine they shall break its neck. ⁵The priests, the sons of Levi, shall then come forward; for the LORD your God has chosen them to minister to him and to bless in the name of the LORD, and their voice shall be decisive in all cases of dispute and assault. ⁶Then all the elders of the town nearest to the dead body shall wash their hands over the heifer whose neck has been broken in the ravine. ⁷They shall solemnly declare: 'Our hands did not shed this blood, nor did we witness the bloodshed. ⁸Accept expiation, O LORD, for thy people Israel whom thou hast redeemed, and do not let the guilt of innocent blood rest upon thy people Israel: let this bloodshed be expiated on their behalf.' ⁹Thus, by doing what is right in the eyes of the LORD, you shall rid yourselves of the guilt of innocent blood.

¹⁰When you wage war against your enemy and the LORD your God delivers them into your hands and you take some of them captive, ¹¹then if you see a comely woman among the captives and take a liking to her, you may marry her. ¹²You shall bring her into your house, where she shall shave her head, pare her nails, ¹³and discard the clothes which she had when captured. Then she shall stay in your house and mourn for her father and mother for a full month. After that you may have intercourse with her; you shall be her husband and she your wife. ¹⁴But if you no longer find her pleasing, let her go free. You must not sell her, nor treat her harshly, since you have had your will with her.

¹⁵When a man has two wives, one loved and the other unloved, if they both bear him sons, and the son of the unloved wife is the elder, ¹⁶then, when the day comes for him to divide his property among his sons, he shall not treat the son of the loved wife as his first-born in contempt of his true first-born, the son of the unloved wife. ¹⁷He shall recognize the rights of his first-born, the son of the unloved wife, and give him a double share of all that he possesses; for he was the firstfruits of his manhood, and the right of the first-born is his.

¹⁸When a man has a son who is disobedient and out of control, and will not obey his father or his mother, or pay attention when they punish him, ¹⁹then his father and mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of the town, at the town gate. ²⁰They shall say to the elders of the town, 'This son of ours is disobedient and out of control; he will not obey us, he is a wastrel and a drunkard.' ²¹Then all the men of the town shall stone him to death, and you will thereby rid yourselves of this wickedness. All Israel will hear of it and be afraid.

²²When a man is convicted of a capital offence and is put to death, you shall hang him on a gibbet; ²³but his body shall not remain on the gibbet overnight; you shall bury it on the same day, for a hanged man is offensive [*Or accursed*] in the sight of God. You shall not pollute the land which the LORD your God is giving you as your patrimony.

22¹WHEN YOU SEE A FELLOW-COUNTRYMAN'S OX or sheep straying, do not ignore it but take it back to him. ²If the owner is not a near neighbour and you do not know who he is, take the animal into your own house and keep it with you until he claims it, and then give it back to him. ³Do the same with his ass or his cloak or anything else that your fellow-countryman has lost, if you find it. You may not ignore it.

⁴When you see your fellow-countryman's ass or ox lying on the road, do not ignore it; you must help him to lift it to its feet again.

⁵No woman shall wear an article of man's clothing, nor shall a man put on woman's dress; for those who do these things are abominable to the LORD your God.

⁶When you come across a bird's nest by the road, in a tree or on the ground, with fledglings or eggs in it and the mother-bird on the nest, do not take both mother and young. ⁷Let the mother-bird go free, and take only the young; then you will prosper and live long.

⁸When you build a new house, put a parapet along the roof, or you will bring the guilt of bloodshed on your house if anyone should fall from it.

⁹You shall not sow your vineyard with a second crop, or the full yield will be forfeit, both the yield of the seed you sow and the fruit of the vineyard.

¹⁰You shall not plough with an ox and an ass yoked together.

¹¹You shall not wear clothes woven with two kinds of yarn, wool and flax together.

¹²You shall make twisted tassels on the four corners of your cloaks which you wrap round you.

¹³When a man takes a wife and after having intercourse with her turns against her ¹⁴and brings trumped-up charges against her, giving her a bad name and saying, 'I took this woman and slept with her and did not find proof of virginity in her', ¹⁵then the girl's father and mother shall take the proof of her virginity to the elders of the town, at the town gate. ¹⁶The girl's father shall say to the elders, 'I gave my daughter in marriage to this man, and he has turned against her. ¹⁷He has trumped up a charge and said, "I have not found proofs of virginity in your daughter." Here are the proofs.' They shall then spread the garment before the elders of the town. ¹⁸The elders shall take the man and punish him: ¹⁹they shall fine him a hundred pieces of silver because he has given a bad name to a virgin of Israel, and hand them to the girl's father. She shall be his wife: he is not free to divorce her all his life long. ²⁰If, on the other hand, the accusation is true and no proof of the girl's virginity is found, ²¹then they shall bring her out to the door of her father's house and the men of her town shall stone her to death. She has committed an outrage in Israel by playing the prostitute in her father's house: you shall rid yourselves of this wickedness.

²²When a man is discovered lying with a married woman, they shall both die, the woman as well as the man who lay with her: you shall rid Israel of this wickedness.

²³When a virgin is pledged in marriage to a man and another man comes upon her in the town and lies with her, ²⁴you shall bring both of them out to the gate of that town and stone them to death; the girl because, although in the town, she did not cry for help, and the man because he dishonoured another man's wife: you shall rid yourselves of this wickedness. ²⁵If the man comes upon such a girl in the country and rapes her, then the man alone shall die because he lay with her. ²⁶You shall do nothing to the girl, she has done nothing worthy of death: this deed is like that of a man who attacks another and murders him, ²⁷for the man came upon her in the country and, though the girl cried for help, there was no one to rescue her.

²⁸When a man comes upon a virgin who is not pledged in marriage and forces her to lie with him, and they are discovered, ²⁹then the man who lies with her shall give the girl's father fifty pieces of silver, and she shall be his wife because he has dishonoured her. He is not free to divorce her all his life long.

³⁰A man shall not take his father's wife: he shall not bring shame on his father.

23¹No man whose testicles have been crushed or whose organ has been severed shall become a member of the assembly of the LORD.

²No descendant of an irregular union, even down to the tenth generation, shall become a member of the assembly of the LORD.

³No Ammonite or Moabite, even down to the tenth generation, shall become a member

of the assembly of the LORD. They shall never become members of the assembly of the LORD, ⁴because they did not meet you with food and water on your way out of Egypt, and because they hired Balaam son of Beor from Pethor in Aram-naharaim [*That is Aram of Two Rivers*] to revile you. ⁵The LORD your God refused to listen to Balaam and turned his denunciation into a blessing, because the LORD your God loved you. ⁶You shall never seek their welfare or their good all your life long.

⁷You shall not regard an Edomite as an abomination, for he is your own kin; nor an Egyptian, for you were aliens in his land. ⁸The third generation of children born to them may become members of the assembly of the LORD.

⁹When you are encamped against an enemy, you shall be careful to avoid any foulness. ¹⁰When one of your number is unclean because of an emission of seed at night, he must go outside the camp; he may not come within it. ¹¹Towards evening he shall wash himself in water, and at sunset he may come back into the camp. ¹²You shall have a sign outside the camp showing where you can withdraw. ¹³With your equipment you will have a trowel, and when you squat outside, you shall scrape a hole with it and then turn and cover your excrement. ¹⁴For the LORD your God goes about in your camp, to keep you safe and to hand over your enemies as you advance, and your camp must be kept holy for fear that he should see something indecent and go with you no further.

¹⁵You shall not surrender to his master a slave who has taken refuge with you. ¹⁶Let him stay with you anywhere he chooses in any one of your settlements, wherever suits him best; you shall not force him.

¹⁷No Israelite woman shall become a temple-prostitute, and no Israelite man shall prostitute himself in this way.

¹⁸You shall not allow a common prostitute's fee, or the pay of a male prostitute, to be brought into the house of the LORD your God in fulfilment of any vow, for both of them are abominable to the LORD your God.

¹⁹You shall not charge interest on anything you lend to a fellow-countryman, money or food or anything else on which interest can be charged. ²⁰You may charge interest on a loan to a foreigner but not on a loan to a fellow-countryman, for then the LORD your God will bless you in all you undertake in the land which you are entering to occupy.

²¹When you make a vow to the LORD your God, do not put off its fulfilment; otherwise the LORD your God will require satisfaction of you and you will be guilty of sin. ²²If you choose not to make a vow, you will not be guilty of sin; ²³but if you voluntarily make a vow to the LORD your God, mind what you say and do what you have promised.

²⁴When you go into another man's vineyard, you may eat as many grapes as you wish to satisfy your hunger, but you may not put any into your basket.

²⁵When you go into another man's standing corn, you may pluck ears to rub in your hands, but you may not put a sickle to his standing corn.

24¹When a man has married a wife, but she does not win his favour because he finds something shameful in her, and he writes her a note of divorce, gives it to her and dismisses her; and suppose after leaving his house ²she goes off to become the wife of another man, ³and this next husband turns against her and writes her a note of divorce which he gives her and dismisses her, or dies after making her his wife – ⁴then in that case her first husband who dismissed her is not free to take her back to be his wife again after she has become for him unclean. This is abominable to the LORD; you must not bring sin upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you as your patrimony.

⁵When a man is newly married, he shall not be liable for military service or any other public duty. He shall remain at home exempt from service for one year and enjoy the wife he has taken.

⁶No man shall take millstones, or even the upper one alone, in pledge; that would be taking a life in pledge.

⁷When a man is found to have kidnapped a fellow-countryman, an Israelite, and to have treated him harshly and sold him, he shall die: you shall rid yourselves of this wickedness.

⁸Be careful how you act in all cases of malignant skin-disease; be careful to observe all that the levitical priests tell you; I gave them my commands which you must obey.

⁹Remember what the LORD your God did to Miriam, on your way out of Egypt.

¹⁰When you make a loan to another man, do not enter his house to take a pledge from him. ¹¹Wait outside, and the man whose creditor you are shall bring the pledge out to you. ¹²If he is a poor man, you shall not sleep in the cloak he has pledged. ¹³Give it back to him at sunset so that he may sleep in it and bless you; then it will be counted to your credit in the sight of the LORD your God.

¹⁴You shall not keep back the wages of a man who is poor and needy, whether a fellow-countryman or an alien living in your country in one of your settlements. ¹⁵Pay him his wages on the same day before sunset, for he is poor and his heart is set on them: he may appeal to the LORD against you, and you will be guilty of sin.

¹⁶Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor children for their fathers; a man shall be put to death only for his own sin.

¹⁷You shall not deprive aliens and orphans of justice nor take a widow's cloak in pledge.

¹⁸Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you from there; that is why I command you to do this.

¹⁹When you reap the harvest in your field and forget a swathe, do not go back to pick it up; it shall be left for the alien, the orphan, and the widow, in order that the LORD your God may bless you in all that you undertake.

²⁰When you beat your olive-trees, do not strip them afterwards; what is left shall be for

the alien, the orphan, and the widow.

²¹When you gather the grapes from your vineyard, do not glean afterwards; what is left shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow. ²²Remember that you were slaves in Egypt; that is why I command you to do this.

25¹When two men go to law and present themselves for judgement, the judges shall try the case; they shall acquit the innocent and condemn the guilty. ²If the guilty man is sentenced to be flogged, the judge shall cause him to lie down and be beaten in his presence; the number of strokes shall correspond to the gravity of the offence. ³They may give him forty strokes, but not more; otherwise, if they go further and exceed this number, your fellow-countryman will have been publicly degraded.

⁴You shall not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the corn.

⁵When brothers live together and one of them dies without leaving a son, his widow shall not marry outside the family. Her husband's brother shall have intercourse with her; he shall take her in marriage and do his duty by her as her husband's brother. ⁶The first son she bears shall perpetuate the dead brother's name so that it may not be blotted out from Israel. ⁷But if the man is unwilling to take his brother's wife, she shall go to the elders at the town gate and say, 'My husband's brother refuses to perpetuate his brother's name in Israel; he will not do his duty by me.' ⁸At this the elders of the town shall summon him and reason with him. If he still stands his ground and says, 'I will not take her', ⁹his brother's widow shall go up to him in the presence of the elders; she shall pull his sandal off his foot and spit in his face and declare: 'Thus we requite the man who will not build up his brother's family.' ¹⁰His family shall be known in Israel as the House of the Unsandalled Man.'

¹¹When two men are fighting and the wife of one of them comes near to drag her husband clear of his opponent, if she puts out her hand and catches hold of the man's genitals, ¹²you shall cut off her hand and show her no mercy.

¹³You shall not have unequal weights in your bag, one heavy, the other light. ¹⁴You shall not have unequal measures in your house, one large, the other small. ¹⁵You shall have true and correct weights and true and correct measures, so that you may live long in the land which the LORD your God is giving you. ¹⁶All who commit these offences, all who deal dishonestly, are abominable to the LORD.

¹⁷Remember what the Amalekites did to you on your way out of Egypt, ¹⁸how they met you on the road when you were faint and weary and cut off your rear, which was lagging behind exhausted: they showed no fear of God. ¹⁹When the LORD your God gives you peace from your enemies on every side, in the land which he is giving you to occupy as your patrimony, you shall not fail to blot out the memory of the Amalekites from under heaven.

26¹WHEN YOU COME INTO THE LAND which the LORD your God is giving you to occupy as your patrimony and settle in it, ²you shall take the firstfruits of all the produce of the

soil, which you gather in from the land which the LORD your God is giving you, and put them in a basket. Then you shall go to the place which the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name ³and come to the priest, whoever he shall be in those days. You shall say to him, 'I declare this day to the LORD your God that I have entered the land which the LORD swore to our forefathers to give us.' ⁴The priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the LORD your God. ⁵Then you shall solemnly recite before the LORD your God: 'My father was a homeless [*Or wandering*] Aramaean who went down to Egypt with a small company and lived there until they became a great, powerful, and numerous nation. ⁶But the Egyptians ill-treated us, humiliated us and imposed cruel slavery upon us. ⁷Then we cried to the LORD the God of our fathers for help, and he listened to us and saw our humiliation, our hardship and distress; ⁸and so the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand and outstretched arm, with terrifying deeds, and with signs and portents. ⁹He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰And now I have brought the firstfruits of the soil which thou, O LORD, hast given me.' You shall then set the basket before the LORD your God and bow down in worship before him. ¹¹You shall all rejoice, you and the Levites and the aliens living among you, for all the good things which the LORD your God has given to you and to your family.

¹²When you have finished taking a tithe of your produce in the third year, the tithe-year, you shall give it to the Levites and to the aliens, the orphans, and the widows. They shall eat it in your settlements and be well fed. ¹³Then you shall declare before the LORD your God: 'I have rid my house of the tithe that was holy to thee and given it to the Levites, to the aliens, the orphans, and the widows, according to all the commandments which thou didst lay upon me. I have not broken or forgotten any of thy commandments. ¹⁴I have not eaten any of the tithe while in mourning, nor have I rid myself of it for unclean purposes, nor offered any of it to [*Or for*] the dead. I have obeyed the LORD my God: I have done all that thou didst command me. ¹⁵Look down from heaven, thy holy dwelling-place, and bless thy people Israel and the ground which thou hast given to us as thou didst swear to our forefathers, a land flowing with milk and honey.'

¹⁶This day the LORD your God commands you to keep these statutes and laws: be careful to observe them with all your heart and soul. ¹⁷You have recognized the LORD this day as your God; you are to conform to his ways, to keep his statutes, his commandments, and his laws, and to obey him. ¹⁸The LORD has recognized you this day as his special possession, as he promised you, and to keep his commandments; ¹⁹he will raise you high above all the nations which he has made, to bring him praise and fame and glory, and to be a people holy to the LORD your God, according to his promise.

Concluding charge of Moses to the people

27¹MOSES, WITH THE ELDERS OF ISRAEL, gave the people this charge: 'Keep all the commandments that I lay upon you this day. ²On the day that you cross the Jordan to the land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall set up great stones and plaster them over. ³You shall inscribe on them all the words of this law, when you have

crossed over to enter the land which the LORD your God is giving you, a land flowing with milk and honey, as the LORD the God of your fathers promised you. ⁴When you have crossed the Jordan you shall set up these stones on Mount Ebal, as I command you this day, and cover them with plaster. ⁵You shall build an altar there to the LORD your God: it shall be an altar of stones on which you shall use no tool of iron. ⁶You shall build the altar of the LORD your God with blocks of undressed stone, and you shall offer whole-offerings upon it to the LORD your God. ⁷You shall slaughter shared-offerings and eat them there, and rejoice before the LORD your God. ⁸You shall inscribe on the stones all the words of this law, engraving them with care.'

⁹Moses and the levitical priests spoke to all Israel, 'Be silent, Israel, and listen; this day you have become a people belonging to the LORD your God. ¹⁰Obey the LORD your God, and observe his commandments and statutes which I lay upon you this day.'

¹¹That day Moses gave the people this command: ¹²Those who shall stand for the blessing of the people on Mount Gerizim when you have crossed the Jordan are these: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin. ¹³Those who shall stand on Mount Ebal for the curse are these: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali.'

¹⁴The Levites, in the hearing of all Israel, shall intone these words:

¹⁵'A curse upon the man who carves an idol or casts an image, anything abominable to the LORD that craftsmen make, and sets it up in secret': the people shall all respond and say, 'Amen.'

¹⁶'A curse upon him who slights his father or his mother': the people shall all say, 'Amen.'

¹⁷'A curse upon him who moves his neighbour's boundary stone': the people shall all say, 'Amen.'

¹⁸'A curse upon him who misdirects a blind man': the people shall all say, 'Amen.'

¹⁹'A curse upon him who withholds justice from the alien, the orphan, and the widow': the people shall all say, 'Amen.'

²⁰'A curse upon him who lies with his father's wife, for he brings shame upon his father': the people shall all say, 'Amen.'

²¹'A curse upon him who lies with any animal': the people shall all say, 'Amen.'

²²'A curse upon him who lies with his sister, his father's daughter or his mother's daughter': the people shall all say, 'Amen.'

²³'A curse upon him who lies with his wife's mother': the people shall all say, 'Amen.'

²⁴'A curse upon him who strikes another man in secret': the people shall all say, 'Amen.'

²⁵A curse upon him who takes reward to kill a man with whom he has no feud': the people shall all say, 'Amen.'

²⁶A curse upon any man who does not fulfil this law by doing all that it prescribes': the people shall all say, 'Amen.'

28¹IF YOU WILL OBEY THE LORD your God by diligently observing all his commandments which I lay upon you this day, then the LORD your God will raise you high above all nations of the earth,² and all these blessings shall come to you and light upon you, because you obey the LORD your God:

³A blessing on you in the city; a blessing on you in the country.'

⁴A blessing on the fruit of your body, the fruit of your land and of your cattle, the offspring of your herds and of your lambing flocks.'

⁵A blessing on your basket and your kneading-trough.

⁶A blessing on you as you come in; and a blessing on you as you go out.

⁷May the LORD deliver up the enemies who attack you and let them be put to rout before you. Though they come out against you by one way, they shall flee before you by seven ways.

⁸May the LORD grant you a blessing in your granaries and in all your labours; may the LORD your God bless you in the land which he is giving you.

⁹The LORD will set you up as his own holy people, as he swore to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and conform to his ways. ¹⁰Then all people on earth shall see that the LORD has named you as his very own, and they shall go in fear of you. ¹¹The LORD will make you prosper greatly in the fruit of your body and of your cattle, and in the fruit of the ground in the land which he swore to your forefathers to give you. ¹²May the LORD open the heavens for you, his rich treasure house, to give rain upon your land at the proper time and bless everything to which you turn your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow; ¹³the LORD will make you the head and not the tail: you shall be always at the top and never at the bottom, when you listen to the commandments of the LORD your God, which I give you this day to keep and to fulfil. ¹⁴You shall turn neither to the right nor to the left from all the things which I command you this day nor shall you follow after and worship other gods.

¹⁵BUT IF YOU DO NOT OBEY the LORD your God by diligently observing all his commandments and statutes which I lay upon you this day, then all these maledictions shall come to you and light upon you:

¹⁶A curse upon you in the city; a curse upon you in the country,

¹⁷A curse upon your basket and your kneading-trough.

¹⁸A curse upon the fruit of your body, the fruit of your land, the offspring of your herds and of your lambing flocks.

¹⁹A curse upon you as you come in; and a curse upon you as you go out.

²⁰May the LORD send upon you starvation, burning thirst, and dysentery [*Or cursing, confusion, and rebuke*], whatever you are about, until you are destroyed and quickly perish for your evil doings, because you have forsaken me.

²¹May the LORD cause pestilence to haunt you until he has exterminated you out of the land which you are entering to occupy; ²²may the LORD afflict you with wasting disease and recurrent fever, ague and eruptions; with drought, black blight and red; and may these plague you until you perish. ²³May the skies above you be bronze, and the earth beneath you iron. ²⁴May the LORD turn the rain upon your country into fine sand, and may dust come down upon you from the sky until you are blotted out.

²⁵May the LORD put you to rout before the enemy. Though you go out against them by one way, you shall flee before them by seven ways. May you be repugnant to all the kingdoms on earth. ²⁶May your bodies become food for the birds of the air and the wild beasts, with no man to scare them away.

²⁷May the LORD strike you with Egyptian boils and with tumours, scabs, and itches, for which you will find no cure. ²⁸May the LORD strike you with madness, blindness, and bewilderment; ²⁹so that you will grope about in broad daylight, just as a blind man gropes in darkness, and you will fail to find your way. You will also be oppressed and robbed, day in, day out, with no one to save you. ³⁰A woman will be pledged to you, but another shall ravish her; you will build a house but not live in it; you will plant a vineyard but not enjoy its fruit. ³¹Your ox will be slaughtered before your eyes, but you will not eat any of it; and before your eyes your ass will be stolen and will not come back to you; your sheep will be given to the enemy, and there will be no one to recover them. ³²Your sons and daughters will be given to another people while you look on; your eyes will strain after them all day long, and you will be powerless. ³³A nation whom you do not know shall eat the fruit of your land and all your toil, and your lot will be nothing but brutal oppression. ³⁴The sights you see will drive you mad. ³⁵May the LORD strike you on knee and leg with malignant boils for which you will find no cure; they will spread from the sole of your foot to the crown of your head. ³⁶May the LORD give you up, you and the king whom you have appointed, to a nation whom neither you nor your fathers have known, and there you will worship other gods, gods of wood and stone. ³⁷You will become a horror, a byword, and an object-lesson to all the peoples amongst whom the LORD disperses you.

³⁸You will carry out seed for your fields in plenty, but you will harvest little; for the locusts will devour it. ³⁹You will plant vineyards and cultivate them, but you will not drink the wine or gather the grapes; for the grub will eat them. ⁴⁰You will have olive-trees all over your territory, but you will not anoint yourselves with their oil; for your olives will drop off. ⁴¹You will bear sons and daughters, but they will not remain yours because they will be taken into captivity. ⁴²All your trees and the fruit of the ground will

be infested with the mole-cricket. ⁴³The alien who lives with you will raise himself higher and higher, and you will sink lower and lower. ⁴⁴He will lend to you but you will not lend to him: he will be the head and you the tail.

⁴⁵All these maledictions will come upon you; they will pursue you and overtake you until you are destroyed because you did not obey the LORD your God by keeping the commandments and statutes which he gave you. ⁴⁶They shall be a sign and a portent to you and your descendants for ever, ⁴⁷because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and with a glad heart for all your blessings. ⁴⁸Then in hunger and thirst, in nakedness and extreme want, you shall serve your enemies whom the LORD will send against you, and they will put a yoke of iron on your neck when they have subdued you. ⁴⁹May the LORD raise against you a nation from afar, from the other end of the earth, who will swoop upon you like a vulture, a nation whose language you will not understand, ⁵⁰a nation of grim aspect with no reverence for age and no pity for the young. ⁵¹They will devour the young of your cattle and the fruit of your land, when you have been subdued. They will leave you neither corn, nor new wine nor oil, neither the offspring of your herds nor of your lambing flocks, until you are annihilated. ⁵²They will besiege you in all your cities until they bring down your lofty impregnable walls, those city walls throughout your land in which you trust. They will besiege you within all your cities, throughout the land which the LORD your God has given you. ⁵³Then you will eat your own children, the flesh of your sons and daughters whom the LORD your God has given you, because of the dire straits to which you will be reduced when your enemy besieges you. ⁵⁴The pampered, delicate man will not share with his brother, or the wife of his bosom, or his own remaining children, ⁵⁵any of the meat which he is eating, the flesh of his own children. He is left with nothing else because of the dire straits to which you will be reduced when your enemy besieges you within your cities. ⁵⁶The pampered, delicate woman, the woman who has never even tried to put a foot to the ground, so delicate and pampered she is, will not share with her own husband or her son or her daughter ⁵⁷the afterbirth which she expels, or any boy or girl that she may bear. She will herself eat them secretly in her extreme want, because of the dire straits to which you will be reduced when your enemy besieges you within your cities.

⁵⁸If you do not observe and fulfil all the law written down in this book, if you do not revere this honoured and dreaded name, this name 'the LORD [*See note on Exod. 3.15*] your God', ⁵⁹then the LORD will strike you and your descendants with unimaginable plagues, malignant and persistent, and with sickness, persistent and severe. ⁶⁰He will bring upon you once again all the diseases of Egypt which you dread, and they will cling to you. ⁶¹The LORD will bring upon you sickness and plague of every kind not written down in this book of the law, until you are destroyed. ⁶²Then you who were countless as the stars in the sky will be left few in number, because you did not obey the LORD your God. ⁶³Just as the LORD took delight in you, prospering and increasing you, so now it will be his delight to destroy and exterminate you, and you will be uprooted from the land which you are entering to occupy. ⁶⁴The LORD will scatter you among all peoples from one end of the earth to the other, and there you will worship other gods whom neither you have known nor your forefathers, gods of wood and stone. ⁶⁵Among those nations you will find no peace, no rest for the sole of your foot. Then the LORD will give you an unquiet mind, dim eyes, and failing appetite. ⁶⁶Your life will hang continually in

suspense, fear will beset you night and day, and you will find no security all your life long. ⁶⁷Every morning you will say, 'Would God it were evening!', and every evening, 'Would God it were morning!', for the fear that lives in your heart and the sights that you see. ⁶⁸The LORD will bring you sorrowing back to Egypt by that very road of which I said to you, 'You shall not see that road again'; and there you will offer to sell yourselves to your enemies as slaves and slave-girls, but there will be no buyer.

29¹These are the words of the covenant which the LORD commanded Moses to make with the Israelites in Moab, in addition to the covenant which he made with them on Horeb.

²MOSES SUMMONED ALL THE ISRAELITES and said to them: 'You have seen with your own eyes all that the LORD did in Egypt to Pharaoh, to all his servants, and to the whole land, ³the great challenge which you yourselves witnessed, those great signs and portents, ⁴but to this day the LORD has not given you a mind to learn, or eyes to see, or ears to hear. ⁵I led you for forty years in the wilderness; your clothes did not wear out on you, nor did your sandals wear out and fall off your feet; ⁶you ate no bread and drank no wine or strong drink, in order that you might learn that I am the LORD your God. ⁷You came to this place where Sihon king of Heshbon and Og king of Bashan came to attack us, and we defeated them. ⁸We took their land and gave it as patrimony to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh. ⁹You shall observe the provisions of this covenant and keep them so that you may be successful in all you do.

¹⁰You all stand here today before the LORD your God, tribal chiefs, elders, and officers, all the men of Israel, ¹¹with your dependants, your wives, the aliens who live in your camp – all of them, from those who chop wood to those who draw water – ¹²and you are ready to accept the oath and enter into the covenant which the LORD your God is making with you today. ¹³The covenant is to constitute you his people this day, and he will be your God, as he promised you and as he swore to your forefathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. ¹⁴It is not with you alone that I am making this covenant and this oath, ¹⁵but with all those who stand here with us today before the LORD our God and also with those who are not here with us today. ¹⁶For you know how we lived in Egypt and how we and you, as we passed through the nations, ¹⁷saw their loathsome idols and the false gods they had, the gods of wood and stone, of silver and gold. ¹⁸If there should be among you a man or woman, family or tribe, who is moved today to turn from the LORD our God and to go worshipping the gods of those nations – if there is among you such a root from which springs gall and wormwood, ¹⁹then when he hears the terms of this oath, he may inwardly flatter himself and think, "All will be well with me even if I follow the promptings of my stubborn heart"; but this will bring everything to ruin. ²⁰The LORD will not be willing to forgive him; for then his anger and resentment will overwhelm this man, and the denunciations prescribed in this book will fall heavily on him, and the LORD will blot out his name from under heaven. ²¹The LORD will single him out from all the tribes of Israel for disaster to fall upon him, according to the oath required by the covenant and prescribed in this book of the law.

²²The next generation, your sons who follow you and the foreigners who come from distant countries, will see the plagues of this land and the ulcers which the LORD has

brought upon its people, ²³the whole land burnt up with brimstone and salt, so that it cannot be sown, or yield herb or green plant. It will be as desolate as were Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboyim, when the LORD overthrew them in his anger and rage. ²⁴Then they, and all the nations with them, will ask, "Why has the LORD so afflicted this land? Why has there been this great outburst of wrath?" ²⁵The answer will be: "Because they forsook the covenant of the LORD the God of their fathers which he made with them when he brought them out of Egypt. ²⁶They began to worship other gods and to bow down to them. gods whom they had not known and whom the LORD had not assigned to them. ²⁷The anger of the LORD was roused against that land, so that he brought upon it all the maledictions written in this book. ²⁸The LORD uprooted them from their soil in anger, in wrath and great fury, and banished them to another land, where they are to this day."

²⁹There are things hidden, and they belong to the LORD our God, but what is revealed belongs to us and our children for ever; it is for us to observe all that is prescribed in this law.

30¹When these things have befallen you, the blessing and the curse of which I have offered you the choice, if you and your sons take them to heart there in all the countries to which the LORD your God has banished you, ²if you turn back to him and obey him heart and soul in all that I command you this day, ³then the LORD your God will show you compassion and restore your fortunes. He will gather you again from all the countries to which he has scattered you. ⁴Even though he were to banish you to the four corners of the world, the LORD your God will gather you from there, from there he will fetch you home. ⁵The LORD your God will bring you into the land which your forefathers occupied, and you will occupy it again; then he will bring you prosperity and make you more numerous than your forefathers were. ⁶The LORD your God will circumcise [*Or* incline] your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you will love him with all your heart and soul and you will live. ⁷Then the LORD your God will turn all these denunciations against your enemies and the foes who persecute you. ⁸You will then again obey the LORD and keep all his commandments which I give you this day. ⁹⁻¹⁰The LORD your God will make you more than prosperous in all that you do, in the fruit of your body and of your cattle and in the fruits of the earth; for, when you obey the LORD your God by keeping his commandments and statutes, as they are written in this book of the law, and when you turn back to the LORD your God with all your heart and soul, he will again rejoice over you and be good to you, as he rejoiced over your forefathers.

¹¹The commandment that I lay on you this day is not too difficult for you, it is not too remote. ¹²It is not in heaven, that you should say, "Who will go up to heaven for us to fetch it and tell it to us, so that we can keep it?" ¹³Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, "Who will cross the sea for us to fetch it and tell it to us, so that we can keep it?" ¹⁴It is a thing very near to you, upon your lips and in your heart ready to be kept.

¹⁵Today I offer you the choice of life and good, or death and evil. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God which I give you this day, by loving the LORD your God, by conforming to his ways and by keeping his commandments, statutes, and

laws, then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you are entering to occupy. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not listen and you are led on to bow down to other gods and worship them, ¹⁸I tell you this day that you will perish; you will not live long in the land which you will enter to occupy after crossing the Jordan. ¹⁹I summon heaven and earth to witness against you this day: I offer you the choice of life or death, blessing or curse. Choose life and then you and your descendants will live; ²⁰love the LORD your God, obey him and hold fast to him: that is life for you and length of days in the land which the LORD swore to give to your forefathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.'

31¹Moses finished speaking these words to all Israel, ²and then he said, 'I am now a hundred and twenty years old, and I can no longer move about as I please; and the LORD has told me that I may not cross the Jordan. ³The LORD your God will cross over at your head and destroy these nations before your advance, and you shall occupy their lands; and, as he directed, Joshua will lead you across. ⁴The LORD will do to these nations as he did to Sihon and Og, kings of the Amorites, and to their lands; he will destroy them. ⁵The LORD will deliver them into your power, and you shall do to them as I commanded you. ⁶Be strong, be resolute; you must not dread them or be afraid, for the LORD your God himself goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you.'

⁷Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the presence of all Israel. 'Be strong, be resolute; for it is you who are to lead this people into the land which the LORD swore to give their forefathers, and you are to bring them into possession of it. ⁸The LORD himself goes at your head; he will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not be discouraged or afraid.'

⁹Moses wrote down this law and gave it to the priests, the sons of Levi, who carried the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD, and to all the elders of Israel. ¹⁰Moses gave them this command: 'At the end of every seven years, at the appointed time for the year of remission, at the pilgrim-feast of Tabernacles, ¹¹when all Israel comes to enter the presence of the LORD your God in the place which he will choose, you shall read this law publicly in the hearing of all Israel. ¹²Assemble the people, men, women, and dependants, together with the aliens who live in your settlements, so that they may listen, and learn to fear the LORD your God and observe all these laws with care. ¹³Their children, too, who do not know them, shall hear them, and learn to fear the LORD your God all their lives in the land which you will occupy after crossing the Jordan.'

Joshua appointed successor to Moses

¹⁴THE LORD SAID TO MOSES, 'The time of your death is drawing near; call Joshua, and then come and stand in the Tent of the Presence so that I may give him his commission.' So Moses and Joshua went and took their stand in the Tent of the Presence; ¹⁵and the LORD appeared in the tent in a pillar of cloud, and the pillar of cloud stood at the entrance of the tent.

¹⁶The LORD said to Moses, 'You are about to die like your forefathers, and this people, when they come into the land and live among foreigners, will go wantonly after their

gods; they will abandon me and break the covenant which I have made with them. ¹⁷Then my anger will be roused against them, and I will abandon them and hide my face from them. They will be an easy prey, and many terrible disasters will come upon them. They will say on that day, "These disasters have come because our God is not among us." ¹⁸On that day I will hide my face because of all the evil they have done in turning to other gods.

¹⁹Now write down this rule of life [rule of life: *or* song] and teach it to the Israelites; make them repeat it, so that it may be on record against them. ²⁰When I have brought them into the land which I swore to give to their forefathers, a land flowing with milk and honey, and they have plenty to eat and grow fat, they will turn to other gods and worship them, they will spurn me and break my covenant; ²¹and many calamities and disasters will follow. Then this rule of life will confront them as a record, for it will not be forgotten by their descendants. For even before I bring them into the land which I swore to give them, I know which way their thoughts incline already.'

²²That day Moses wrote down this rule of life and taught it to the Israelites. ²³The LORD [*prob. rdg, Heb He*] gave Joshua son of Nun his commission in these words: 'Be strong, be resolute; for you shall bring the Israelites into the land which I swore to give them, and I will be with you.'

²⁴When Moses had finished writing down these laws in a book, from beginning to end, ²⁵he gave this command to the Levites who carried the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD: ²⁶Take this book of the law and put it beside the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD your God to be a witness against you. ²⁷For I know how defiant and stubborn you are; even during my lifetime you have defied the LORD; how much more, then, will you do so when I am dead? ²⁸Assemble all the elders of your tribes and your officers; I will say all these things in their hearing and will summon heaven and earth to witness against them. ²⁹For I know that after my death you will take to degrading practices and turn aside from the way which I told you to follow, and in days to come disaster will come upon you, because you are doing what is wrong in the eyes of the LORD and so provoking him to anger.'

Two historical poems

³⁰MOSES RECITED THIS SONG from beginning to end in the hearing of the whole assembly of Israel:

32¹Give ear to what I say, O heavens,
earth, listen to my words;

²my teaching shall fall like drops of rain,
my words shall distil like dew,
like fine rain upon the grass
and like the showers on young plants.

³When I call aloud the name of the LORD [*Or* the name JEHOVAH],
you shall respond, 'Great is our God,

⁴the creator [*Or* rock] whose work is perfect,

and all his ways are just,
a faithful god, who does no wrong,
righteous and true is He!

⁵Perverse and crooked generation
whose faults have proved you no children of his,
⁶is this how you repay the LORD,
you brutish and stupid people?
Is he not your father who formed you?
Did he not make you and establish you?
⁷Remember the days of old,
think of the generations long ago;
ask your father to recount it
and your elders to tell you the tale.

⁸When the Most High parcelled out the nations,
when he dispersed all mankind,
he laid down the boundaries of every people
according to the number of the sons of God;
⁹but the LORD's share was his own people,
Jacob was his allotted portion.

¹⁰He found him in a desert land,
in a waste and howling void.
He protected and trained him,
he guarded him as the apple of his eye,
¹¹as an eagle watches over its nest,
hovers above its young,
spreads its pinions and takes them up,
and carries them upon its wings.

¹²The LORD alone led him,
no alien god at his side.

¹³He made him ride on the heights of the earth
and fed him on the harvest of the fields;
he satisfied him with honey from the crags
and oil from the flinty rock,

¹⁴curds from the cattle, milk from the ewes,
the fat of lambs' kidneys,
of rams, the breed of Bashan, and of goats,
with the finest flour of wheat;
and he drank wine from the blood of the grape.

¹⁵Jacob ate and was well fed,
Jeshurun grew fat and unruly [*Or* and kicked],
he grew fat, he grew bloated and sleek.
He forsook God who made him
and dishonoured the Rock of his salvation.

¹⁶They roused his jealousy with foreign gods
and provoked him with abominable practices.

¹⁷They sacrificed to foreign demons that are no gods,
gods who were strangers to them;

they took up with new gods from their neighbours,
gods whom your fathers did not acknowledge.

¹⁸You forsook the creator [*Or rock*] who begot you
and cared nothing for God who brought you to birth.

¹⁹The LORD saw and spurned them;
his own sons and daughters provoked him.

²⁰'I will hide my face from them,' he said;
'let me see what their end will be,
for they are a mutinous generation,
sons who are not to be trusted.

²¹They roused my jealousy with a god of no account,
with their false gods they provoked me;
so I will rouse their jealousy with a people of no account,
with a brutish nation I will provoke them.

²²For fire is kindled by my anger,
it burns to the depths of Sheol;
it devours earth and its harvest
and sets fire to the very roots of the mountains.

²³I will heap on them one disaster after another,
I will use up all my arrows on them:

²⁴pangs of hunger, ravages of plague,
and bitter pestilence.

I will harry them with the fangs of wild beasts
and the poison of creatures that crawl in the dust.

²⁵The sword will make orphans in the streets
and widows in their own homes;
it will take toll of young man and maid,
of babes in arms and old men.

²⁶I had resolved to strike them down
and to destroy all memory of them,

²⁷but I feared that I should be provoked by their foes,
that their enemies would take the credit
and say, "It was not the LORD,
it was we who raised the hand that did this." '

²⁸They are a nation that lacks good counsel,
devoid of understanding.

²⁹If only they had the wisdom to understand this
and give thought to their end!

³⁰How could one man pursue a thousand of them,
how could two put ten thousand to flight,
if their Rock had not sold them to their enemies,
if the LORD had not handed them over?

³¹For the enemy have no Rock like ours,
in themselves they are mere fools.

³²Their vines are vines of Sodom,
grown on the terraces of Gomorrah;
their grapes are poisonous,

the clusters bitter to the taste.

³³Their wine is the venom of serpents,
the cruel poison of asps;

³⁴all this I have in reserve,
sealed up in my storehouses

³⁵till the day of punishment and vengeance,
till the moment when they slip and fall;
for the day of their downfall is near,
their doom is fast approaching.

³⁶The LORD will give his people justice
and have compassion on his servants;
for he will see that their strength is gone:
alone, or defended by his clan, no one is left.

³⁷He will say, 'Where are your gods,
the rock in which you sought shelter,

³⁸the gods who ate the fat of your sacrifices
and drank the wine of your drink-offerings?
Let them rise to help you!
Let them give you shelter!

³⁹See now that I, I am He,
and there is no god beside me:
I put to death and I keep alive,
I wound and I heal;
there is no rescue from my grasp.

⁴⁰I lift my hand to heaven
and swear: As I live for ever,

⁴¹when I have whetted my flashing sword,
when I have set my hand to judgement,
then I will punish my adversaries
and take vengeance on my enemies.

⁴²I will make my arrows drunk with blood,
my sword shall devour flesh,
blood of slain and captives,
the heads of the enemy princes.'

⁴³Rejoice with him, you heavens,
bow down, all you gods, before him;
for he will avenge the blood of his sons
and take vengeance on his adversaries;
he will punish those who hate him
and make expiation for his people's land.

⁴⁴This is the song that Moses came and recited in the hearing of the people, he and Joshua son of Nun.

⁴⁵Moses finished speaking to all Israel, ⁴⁶ and then he said, 'Take to heart all these warnings which I solemnly give you this day: command your children to be careful to observe all the words of this law. ⁴⁷For you they are no empty words; they are your very life, and by them you shall live long in the land which you are to occupy after

crossing the Jordan.'

⁴⁸That same day the LORD spoke to Moses and said, ⁴⁹'Go up this mount Abarim, Mount Nebo in Moab, to the east of Jericho, and look out over the land of Canaan that I am giving to the Israelites for their possession. ⁵⁰On this mountain you shall die and be gathered to your father's kin, just as Aaron your brother died on Mount Hor and was gathered to his father's kin. ⁵¹This is because both of you were unfaithful to me at the waters of Meribah-by-Kadesh in the Wilderness of Zin, when you did not uphold my holiness among the Israelites. ⁵²You shall see the land from a distance but you may not enter the land I am giving to the Israelites.'

33¹THIS THE BLESSING that Moses the man of God pronounced upon the Israelites before his death:

²The LORD came from Sinai
and shone forth from Seir.
He showed himself from Mount Paran,
and with him were myriads of holy ones [and with ... holy ones: *prob. rdg, Heb* and he came from myriads of holiness]
streaming along at his right hand.

³Truly he loves his people
and blesses his saints [*Or* holy ones].
They sit at his feet
and receive his instruction,

⁴the law which Moses laid upon us,
as a possession for the assembly of Jacob.

⁵Then a king arose [*Or* Then there was a king] in Jeshurun,
when the chiefs of the people were assembled
together with all the tribes of Israel.

⁶Of Reuben he said [*Of Reuben he said: prob. rdg, Heb omitted*]:
May Reuben live and not die out,
but may he be few in number.

⁷And of Judah he said this:
Hear, O LORD, the cry of Judah
and join him to his people,
thou whose hands fight for him,
who art his helper against his foes.

⁸Of Levi he said:
Thou didst give thy Thummim to Levi,
thy Urim to thy loyal servant
whom thou didst prove at Massah,
for whom thou didst plead at the waters of Meribah,
⁹who said of his parents, I do not know them,
who did not acknowledge his brothers,
nor recognize his children.
They observe thy word
and keep thy covenant;
¹⁰they teach thy precepts to Jacob,
thy law to Israel.

They offer thee the smoke of sacrifice
and offerings on thy altar.

¹¹Bless all his powers [*Or skill*], O LORD,
and accept the work of his hands.
Strike his adversaries hip and thigh,
and may his enemies rise no more.

¹²Of Benjamin he said:

The LORD's beloved dwells in security,
the High God [*the High God: prob. rdg, Heb upon him*] shields him all the
day long,
and he dwells under his protection.

¹³Of Joseph he said:

The LORD's blessing is on his land
with precious fruit watered from heaven above
and from the deep that lurks below,

¹⁴with precious fruit ripened by the sun,
precious fruit, the produce of the months,

¹⁵with all good things from the ancient mountains,
the precious fruit of the everlasting hills,

¹⁶the precious fruits of earth and all its store,
by the favour of him who dwells in the burning bush.

This shall rest [*prob. rdg, cp Gen. 49.26, Heb has an unintelligible form*]
upon the head of Joseph,
on the brow of him who was prince among [*him ... among: or the one
cursed by*] his brothers.

¹⁷In majesty he shall be like a first-born ox,
his horns those of a wild ox
with which he will gore nations
and drive [*and drive: prob. rdg, Heb together*] them to the ends of earth.
Such will be the myriads of Ephraim,
and such the thousands of Manasseh.

¹⁸Of Zebulun he said:

Rejoice, Zebulun, when you sally forth,
rejoice in your tents, Issachar.

¹⁹They shall summon nations to the mountain,
there they will offer true sacrifices,
for they shall suck the abundance of the seas
and draw out [*draw out: prob. rdg, Heb obscure*] the hidden wealth of the
sand.

²⁰Of Gad he said:

Blessed be Gad, in his wide domain;
he couches like a lion
tearing an arm or a scalp.

²¹He chose the best for himself,
for to him was allotted a ruler's portion,
when the chiefs of the people were assembled together.
He did what the LORD deemed right,
observing his ordinances for Israel.

²²Of Dan he said:

Dan is a lion's cub
springing out from Bashan.

²³Of Naphtali he said:

Naphtali is richly favoured
and full of the blessings of the LORD;
his patrimony stretches to the sea and southward.

²⁴Of Asher he said:

Asher is most blest of sons,
may he be the favourite among [*Or of*] his brothers
and bathe his feet in oil.

²⁵May your bolts be of iron and bronze,
and your strength last as long as you live.

²⁶There is none like the God of Jeshurun
who rides the heavens to your help,
riding the clouds in his glory,
²⁷who humbled the gods of old
and subdued [*prob. rdg, Heb under*] the ancient powers;
who drove out the enemy before you
and gave the word to destroy.

²⁸Israel lives in security,
the tribes of Jacob by themselves,
in a land of corn and wine [*Or new wine*]
where the skies drip with dew.

²⁹Happy are you, people of Israel, peerless, set free;
the LORD is the shield that guards you,
the Blessed One is your glorious sword.
Your enemies come cringing to you,
and you shall trample their bodies under foot.

The death of Moses

34¹THEN MOSES WENT UP from the lowlands of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, eastwards from Jericho, and the LORD showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan; ²the whole of Naphtali; the territory of Ephraim and Manasseh, and all Judah as far as the western sea; ³the Negeb and the Plain; the valley of Jericho, the Vale of Palm Trees, as far as Zoar. ⁴The LORD said to him, 'This is the land which I swore to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that I would give to their descendants. I have let you see it with your own eyes, but you shall not cross over into it.'

⁵There in the land of Moab Moses the servant of the LORD died, as the LORD had said. ⁶He was buried in a valley in Moab opposite Beth-peor, but to this day no one knows his burial-place. ⁷Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died; his sight was not dimmed nor had his vigour failed. ⁸The Israelites wept for Moses in the lowlands of Moab for thirty days; then the time of mourning for Moses was ended. ⁹And Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. and the Israelites listened to him and did what the LORD had commanded Moses.

¹⁰There has never yet risen in Israel a prophet like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face: ¹¹remember all the signs and portents which the LORD sent him to show in Egypt to Pharaoh and all his servants and the whole land; ¹²remember the strong hand of Moses and the terrible deeds which he did in the sight of all Israel.