

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

Israel's entry into the promised land

1¹AFTER THE DEATH OF MOSES the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, his assistant, ²My servant Moses is dead; now it is for you to cross the Jordan, you and this whole people of Israel, to the land which I am giving them. ³Every place where you set foot is yours: I have given it to you, as I promised Moses. ⁴From the desert and the Lebanon to the great river, the river Euphrates, and across all the Hittite country westwards to the Great Sea [*Or the Mediterranean Sea*], all this shall be your land. ⁵No one will ever be able to stand against you: as I was with Moses, so will I be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. ⁶Be strong, be resolute; it is you who are to put this people in possession of the land which I swore to give to their fathers. ⁷Only be strong and resolute; observe diligently all the law which my servant Moses has given you. You must not turn from it to right or left, if you would prosper wherever you go. ⁸This book of the law must ever be on your lips; you must keep it in mind day and night so that you may diligently observe all that is written in it. Then you will prosper and be successful in all that you do. ⁹This is my command: be strong, be resolute; do not be fearful or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.' ¹⁰Then Joshua told the officers ¹¹to pass through the camp and give this order to the people: 'Get food ready to take with you; for within three days you will be crossing the Jordan to occupy the country which the LORD your God is giving you to possess.' ¹²To the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh, Joshua said, ¹³Remember the command which Moses the servant of the LORD gave you when he said, "The LORD your God will grant you security here and will give you this territory." ¹⁴Your wives and dependants and your herds may stay east of the Jordan in the territory which Moses has given you, but for yourselves, all the warriors among you must cross over as a fighting force at the head of your kinsmen. You must help them, ¹⁵until the LORD grants them security like you and they too take possession of the land which the LORD your God is giving them. You may then return to the land which is your own possession, the territory which Moses the servant of the LORD has given you east of the Jordan.' ¹⁶They answered Joshua, 'Whatever you tell us, we will do; wherever you send us, we will go. ¹⁷As we obeyed Moses, so will we obey you; and may the LORD your God be with you as he was with Moses! ¹⁸Whoever rebels against your authority, and fails to carry out all your orders, shall be put to death. Only be strong and resolute.'

2¹Joshua son of Nun sent two spies out from Shittim secretly with orders to reconnoitre the country. The two men came to Jericho and went to the house of a prostitute named Rahab, and spent the night there. ²It was reported to the king of Jericho that some Israelites had arrived that night to explore the country. ³So the king sent to Rahab and said, 'Bring out the men who have come to you and are now in your house; they are here to explore the whole country.' ⁴The woman, who had taken the two men and hidden them [*prob. rdg, Heb him*], replied, 'Yes, the men did come to me, but I did not know where they came from; ⁵and when it was time to shut the gate at nightfall, they had gone. I do not know where they were going, but if you hurry after them, you will

catch them up.’⁶In fact, she had taken them up on to the roof and concealed them among the stalks of flax which she had laid out there in rows.⁷The messengers went in pursuit of them down the road to the fords of the Jordan, and the gate was closed as soon as they had gone out.⁸The men had not yet settled down, when Rahab came up to them on the roof⁹and said to them, ‘I know that the LORD has given this land to you, that terror of you has descended upon us all, and that because of you the whole country is panic-stricken.¹⁰For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea [Or the Sea of Reeds] before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two Amorite kings beyond the Jordan, whom you put to death.¹¹When we heard this, our courage failed us; your coming has left no spirit in any of us; for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on earth below.¹²Swear to me now by the LORD that you will keep faith with my family, as I have kept faith with you. Give me a token of good faith; ¹³promise that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters and all who belong to them, and save us from death.’¹⁴The men replied, ‘Our lives for yours, so long as you do not betray our business. When the LORD gives us the country, we will deal honestly and faithfully by you.’¹⁵She then let them down through an opening by a rope; for the house where she lived was on an angle of the wall.¹⁶‘Take to the hills,’ she said, ‘or the pursuers will come upon you. Hide yourselves there for three days until they come back, and then go on your way.’¹⁷The men warned her that they would be released from the oath she had made them take unless she did what they told her.¹⁸‘When we enter the land,’ they said, ‘you must fasten this strand of scarlet cord in the opening through which you have lowered us, and get everybody together here in the house, your father and mother, your brothers and all your family.¹⁹If anybody goes out of doors into the street, his blood shall be on his own head; we shall be quit of the oath. But if a hand is laid on anyone who stays indoors with you, his blood shall be on our heads.²⁰Remember too that, if you betray our business, then we shall be quit of the oath you have made us take.’²¹She replied, ‘It shall be as you say’, and sent them away. They set off, and she fastened the strand of scarlet cord in the opening.²²The men made their way into the hills and stayed there three days until the pursuers returned. They had searched all along the road, but had not found them [three days ... found them: *or* three days while the pursuers scoured the land and searched all along the road, but did not find them].²³The two men then turned and came down from the hills, crossed the river and returned to Joshua son of Nun. They told him all that had happened to them²⁴and said to him, ‘The LORD has put the whole country into our hands, and now all its people are panic-stricken at our approach.’

3¹Joshua rose early in the morning, and he and all the Israelites set out from Shittim and came to the Jordan, where they encamped before crossing the river.²At the end of three days the officers passed through the camp,³and gave this order to the people: ‘When you see the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD your God being carried forward by the levitical priests, then you too shall leave your positions and set out. Follow it,⁴but do not go close to it; keep some distance behind, about a thousand yards. This will show you the way you are to go, for you have not travelled this way before.’⁵Joshua then said to the people, ‘Hallow yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do a great miracle among you.’⁶To the priests he said, ‘Lift up the Ark of the Covenant and pass in front of the people.’ So they lifted up the Ark of the Covenant and went in front of the people,

⁷Then the LORD said to Joshua, 'Today I will begin to make you stand high in the eyes of all Israel, and they shall know that I will be with you as I was with Moses. ⁸Give orders to the priests who carry the Ark of the Covenant, and tell them that when they come to the edge of the waters of the Jordan, they are to take their stand in the river.'

⁹Then Joshua said to the Israelites, 'Come here and listen to the words of the LORD your God. ¹⁰By this you shall know that the living God is among you and that he will drive out before you the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Hivites, the Perizzites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, and the Jebusites: ¹¹the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD [of the LORD: *prob. rdg, cp v17 Heb omitted*], the lord of all the earth, is to cross the Jordan at your head. ¹²Choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one man from each tribe. ¹³When the priests carrying the Ark of the LORD, the lord of all the earth, set foot in the waters of the Jordan, then the waters of the Jordan will be cut off; the water coming down from upstream will stand piled up like a bank.' ¹⁴So the people set out from their tents to cross the Jordan, with the priests in front of them carrying the Ark of the Covenant. ¹⁵Now the Jordan is in full flood in all its reaches throughout the time of harvest. When the priests reached the Jordan and dipped their feet in the water at the edge, ¹⁶the water coming down from upstream was brought to a standstill; it piled up like a bank for a long way back, as far as Adam, a town near Zarethan. The waters coming down to the Sea of the Arabah, the Dead Sea, were completely cut off, and the people crossed over opposite Jericho. ¹⁷The priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD stood firm on the dry bed in the middle of the Jordan; and all Israel passed over on dry ground until the whole nation had crossed the river.

4¹WHEN THE WHOLE NATION HAD FINISHED CROSSING the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua, ²Take twelve men from the people, one from each tribe, ³and order them to lift up twelve stones from this place, out of the middle of the Jordan, where the feet of the priests stood firm. They are to carry them across and set them down in the camp where you spend the night.' ⁴Joshua summoned the twelve men whom he had chosen out of the Israelites, one man from each tribe, ⁵and said to them, 'Cross over in front of the Ark of the LORD your God as far as the middle of the Jordan, and let each of you take a stone and hoist it on his shoulder, one for each of the tribes of Israel. ⁶These stones are to stand as a memorial among you; and in days to come, when your children ask you what these stones mean, ⁷you shall tell them how the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD when it crossed the Jordan. Thus these stones will always be a reminder to the Israelites.' ⁸The Israelites did as Joshua had commanded: they lifted up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, as the LORD had instructed Joshua, one for each of the tribes of Israel, carried them across to the camp and set them down there.

⁹Joshua set up twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan at the place where the priests stood who carried the Ark of the Covenant, and there they are to this day. ¹⁰The priests carrying the Ark remained standing in the middle of the Jordan until every command which the LORD had told Joshua to give to the people was fulfilled, and the people had made good speed across. ¹¹When all the people had finished crossing, then the Ark of the LORD crossed, and the priests with it [*Prob. rdg Heb adds before the people*]. ¹²At the head of the Israelites, there crossed over the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half

tribe of Manasseh, as a fighting force, as Moses had told them to do; ¹³about forty thousand strong, drafted for active service, they crossed over to the lowlands of Jericho in the presence of the LORD to do battle.

¹⁴That day the LORD made Joshua stand very high in the eyes of all Israel, and the people revered him, as they had revered Moses all his life.

¹⁵The LORD said to Joshua, ¹⁶'Command the priests carrying the Ark of the Tokens to come up from the Jordan.' ¹⁷So Joshua commanded the priests to come up from the Jordan; ¹⁸and when the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD came up from the river-bed, they had no sooner set foot on dry land than the waters of the Jordan came back to their place and filled up all its reaches as before. ¹⁹On the tenth day of the first month the people came up out of the Jordan and camped in Gilgal in the district east of Jericho, ²⁰and there Joshua set up the twelve stones which they had taken from the Jordan. ²¹He said to the Israelites, 'In days to come, when your descendants ask their fathers what these stones mean, ²²you shall explain that the Jordan was dry when Israel crossed over, ²³and that the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan in front of you until you had gone across, just as the LORD your God did at the Red Sea when he dried it up for us until we had crossed. ²⁴Thus all people on earth will know how strong is the hand of the LORD; and thus they will stand in awe of the LORD your God for ever.'

5¹When all the Amorite kings to the west of the Jordan and all the Canaanite kings by the sea-coast heard that the LORD had dried up the waters before the advance of the Israelites until they had crossed, their courage melted away and there was no more spirit left in them for fear of the Israelites.

²At that time the LORD said to Joshua, 'Make knives of flint, seat yourself, and make Israel a circumcised people again.' ³Joshua thereupon made knives of flint and circumcised the Israelites at Gibeath-haaraloth [*That is the Hill of Foreskins*]. ⁴This is why Joshua circumcised them: all the males who came out of Egypt, all the fighting men, had died in the wilderness on the journey from Egypt. ⁵The people who came out of Egypt had all been circumcised, but not those who had been born in the wilderness during the journey. ⁶For the Israelites travelled in the wilderness for forty years, until the whole nation, all the fighting men among them, had passed away, all who came out of Egypt and had disobeyed the voice of the LORD. The LORD swore that he would not allow any of these to see the land which he had sworn to their fathers to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey. ⁷So it was their sons, whom he had raised up in their place, that Joshua circumcised; they were uncircumcised because they had not been circumcised on the journey. ⁸When the circumcision of the whole nation was complete, they stayed where they were in camp until they had recovered. ⁹The LORD then said to Joshua, 'Today I have rolled away from you the reproaches of the Egyptians.' Therefore the place is called Gilgal [*That is Rolling Stones*] to this very day.

¹⁰The Israelites encamped in Gilgal, and at sunset on the fourteenth day of the month they kept the Passover in the lowlands of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the Passover, they ate their unleavened cakes and parched grain, and that day it was the produce of the

country. ¹²It was from that day, when they first ate the produce of the country, that the manna ceased. The Israelites received no more manna; and that year they ate what had grown in the land of Canaan.

¹³When Joshua came near Jericho he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and said, 'Are you for us or for our enemies?' ¹⁴And the man said to him, 'I am here as captain of the army of the LORD.' Joshua fell down before him, face to the ground, and said, 'What have you to say to your servant, my lord?' ¹⁵The captain of the LORD's army said to him, 'Take off your sandals; the place where you are standing is holy'; and Joshua did so.

6¹JERICHO WAS BOLTED AND BARRED against the Israelites; no one went out, no one came in. ²The LORD said to Joshua, 'Look, I have delivered Jericho and her king [*Prob. rdg, Heb adds the fighting men*] into your hands. ³You shall march round the city with all your fighting men, making the circuit of it once, for six days running. ⁴Seven priests shall go in front of the Ark carrying seven trumpets made from rams' horns. On the seventh day you shall march round the city seven times and the priests shall blow their trumpets. ⁵At the blast of the rams' horns, when you hear the trumpet sound, the whole army shall raise a great shout; the wall of the city will collapse and the army shall advance, every man straight ahead.' ⁶So Joshua son of Nun summoned the priests and gave them their orders: 'Take up the Ark of the Covenant; let seven priests with seven trumpets of ram's horn go in front of the Ark of the LORD.' ⁷Then he said to the army, 'March on and make the circuit of the city, and let the men drafted from the two and a half tribes go in front of the Ark of the LORD.' ⁸When Joshua had spoken to the army, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets of ram's horn before the LORD passed on and blew the trumpets, with the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD following them. ⁹The drafted men marched in front of the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rearguard followed the Ark, the trumpets sounding as they marched. ¹⁰But Joshua ordered the army not to shout, or to raise their voices or utter a word, till the day came when he would tell them to shout; then they were to give a loud shout. ¹¹Thus he caused the Ark of the LORD to go round the city, making the circuit of it once, and then they went back to the camp and spent the night there. ¹²Joshua rose early in the morning and the priests took up the Ark of the LORD. ¹³The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets of ram's horn went marching in front of the Ark of the LORD, blowing the trumpets as they went, with the drafted men in front of them and the rearguard following the Ark of the LORD, the trumpets sounding as they marched. ¹⁴They marched round the city once on the second day and returned to the camp; this they did for six days. ¹⁵But on the seventh day they rose at dawn and marched seven times round the city in the same way; that was the only day on which they marched round seven times. ¹⁶The seventh time the priests blew the trumpets and Joshua said to the army, 'Shout! The LORD has given you the city. ¹⁷The city shall be under solemn ban: everything in it belongs to the LORD. No one is to be spared except the prostitute Rahab and everyone who is with her in the house, because she hid the men whom we sent. ¹⁸And you must beware of coveting anything that is forbidden under the ban; you must take none of it for yourselves; this would put the Israelite camp itself under the ban and bring trouble on it. ¹⁹All the silver and gold, all the vessels of copper and iron, shall be holy; they belong to the LORD and they must go into the LORD's treasury.' ²⁰So they blew the trumpets,

and when the army heard the trumpet sound, they raised a great shout, and down fell the walls. The army advanced on the city, every man straight ahead, and took it. ²¹Under the ban they destroyed everything in the city; they put everyone to the sword, men and women, young and old, and also cattle, sheep, and asses.

²²But the two men who had been sent out as spies were told by Joshua to go into the prostitute's house and bring out her and all who belonged to her, as they had sworn to do. ²³So the young men went and brought out Rahab, her father and mother, her brothers and all who belonged to her. They brought out the whole family and left them outside the Israelite camp. ²⁴They then set fire to the city and everything in it, except that they deposited the silver and gold and the vessels of copper and iron in the treasury of the LORD's house. ²⁵Thus Joshua spared the lives of Rahab the prostitute, her household and all who belonged to her, because she had hidden the men whom Joshua had sent to Jericho as spies; she and her family settled permanently among the Israelites. ²⁶It was then that Joshua laid this curse on Jericho:

May the LORD's curse light on the man who comes forward to rebuild this city of Jericho:

the laying of its foundations shall cost him his eldest son,
the setting up of its gates shall cost him his youngest.

²⁷Thus the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout the country.

⁷¹But the Israelites defied the ban: Achan son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of the forbidden things, and the LORD was angry with the Israelites.

²Joshua sent men from Jericho with orders to go up to Ai, near Beth-aven, east of Bethel, and see how the land lay; so the men went up and explored Ai. ³They returned to Joshua and reported that there was no need for the whole army to move: 'Let some two or three thousand men go forward to attack Ai. Do not make the whole army toil up there; the population is small.' ⁴And so about three thousand men went up, but they turned tail before the men of Ai, ⁵who killed some thirty-six of them; they chased them all the way from the gate to the Quarries [*Or to Shebarim*] and killed them on the pass. At this the courage of the people melted and flowed away like water. ⁶Joshua and the elders of Israel rent their clothes and flung themselves face downwards to the ground; they lay before the Ark of the LORD till evening and threw dust on their heads. ⁷Joshua said, 'Alas, O Lord GOD, why didst thou bring this people across the Jordan only to hand us over to the Amorites to be destroyed? If only we had been content to settle on the other side of the Jordan! ⁸I beseech thee, O Lord; what can I say, now that Israel has been routed by the enemy? ⁹When the Canaanites and all the natives of the country hear of this, they will come swarming around us and wipe us off the face of the earth. What wilt thou do then for the honour of thy great name?'

¹⁰The LORD said to Joshua, 'Stand up; why lie prostrate on your face? ¹¹Israel has sinned: they have broken the covenant which I laid upon them, by taking forbidden things for themselves. They have stolen them, and concealed it by mingling them with their own possessions. ¹²That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies: they are put to flight because they have brought themselves under the ban. Unless they

destroy every single thing among them that is forbidden under the ban, I will be with them no longer. ¹³Stand up; you must hallow the people; tell them they must hallow themselves for tomorrow. Tell them, These are the words of the LORD the God of Israel: You have forbidden things among you, Israel; you cannot stand against your enemies until you have rid yourselves of them. ¹⁴In the morning come forward tribe by tribe, and the tribe which the LORD chooses shall come forward clan by clan; the clan which the LORD chooses shall come forward family by family; and the family which the LORD chooses shall come forward man by man. ¹⁵The man who is chosen as the harbourer of forbidden things shall be burnt, he and all that is his, because he has broken the covenant of the LORD and committed outrage in Israel.' ¹⁶Early in the morning Joshua rose and brought Israel forward tribe by tribe, and the tribe of Judah was chosen. ¹⁷He brought forward the clans of Judah, and the clan of Zerah was chosen; then the clan of Zerah family by family, and the family of Zabdi was chosen. ¹⁸He brought that family forward man by man, and Achan son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was chosen. ¹⁹Then Joshua said to Achan, 'My son, give honour to the LORD the God of Israel and make your confession to him: tell me what you have done, hide nothing from me.' ²⁰Achan answered Joshua, 'I confess, I have sinned against the LORD the God of Israel. This is what I did: ²¹among the booty I caught sight of a fine mantle from Shinar, two hundred shekels of silver, and a bar of gold weighing fifty shekels. I coveted them and I took them. You will find them hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath.' ²²So Joshua sent messengers, who ran to the tent, and there was the stuff [*Or the mantle*] hidden in the tent with the silver underneath. ²³They took the things from the tent, brought them to Joshua and all the Israelites, and spread them out before the LORD. ²⁴Then Joshua took Achan son of Zerah, with the silver, the mantle, and the bar of gold, together with his sons and daughters, his oxen, his asses, and his sheep, his tent, and everything he had, and he and all Israel brought them up to the Vale of Achor [*That is Trouble*]. ²⁵Joshua said, 'What trouble you have brought on us! Now the LORD will bring trouble on you.' Then all the Israelites stoned him to death; ²⁶and they raised a great pile of stones over him, which remains to this day. So the LORD's anger was abated. That is why to this day that place is called the Vale of Achor.

8¹THE LORD SAID TO JOSHUA, 'Do not be fearful or dismayed; take the whole army and attack Ai. I deliver the king of Ai into your hands, him and his people, his city and his country. ²Deal with Ai and her king as you dealt with Jericho and her king; but you may keep for yourselves the cattle and any other spoil that you may take. Set an ambush for the city to the west of it.' ³So Joshua and all the army prepared for the assault on Ai. He chose thirty thousand fighting men and dispatched them by night, ⁴with these orders: 'Lie in ambush to the west of the city, not far from it, and all of you hold yourselves in readiness. ⁵I myself will approach the city with the rest of the army, and when the enemy come out to meet us as they did last time, we shall take to flight before them. ⁶Then they will come out and pursue us until we have drawn them away from the city, thinking that we have taken to flight as we did last time. While we are in flight, ⁷come out from your ambush and occupy the city; the LORD your God will deliver it into your hands. ⁸When you have taken it, set it on fire. Thus you will do what the LORD commands. These are your orders.' ⁹So Joshua sent them off, and they went to the place of ambush and waited between Bethel and Ai to the west of Ai, while Joshua spent the night with the army.

¹⁰Early in the morning Joshua rose, mustered the army and marched against Ai, he himself and the elders of Israel at its head. ¹¹All the armed forces with him marched on until they came within sight of the city. They encamped north of Ai, with the valley between them and the city; ¹²but Joshua took some five thousand men and set them in ambush between Bethel and Ai to the west of the city [*So Septuagint. Heb adds* ¹³*So the army pitched camp to the north of the city, and the rearguard to the west, while Joshua went that night into the valley*]. ¹⁴When the king of Ai saw them, he and the citizens rose with all speed that morning and marched out to do battle against Israel; he did not know that there was an ambush set for him to the west of the city. ¹⁵Joshua and all the Israelites made as if they were routed by them and fled towards the wilderness, ¹⁶and all the people in the city were called out in pursuit. So they pursued Joshua and were drawn away from the city. ¹⁷Not a man was left in Ai; they had all gone out in pursuit of the Israelites and during the pursuit had left the city undefended.

¹⁸Then the LORD said to Joshua, 'Point towards Ai with the dagger you are holding, for I will deliver the city into your hands.' So Joshua pointed with his dagger towards Ai. ¹⁹At his signal, the men in ambush rose quickly from their places and, entering the city at a run, took it and promptly set fire to it. ²⁰The men of Ai looked back and saw the smoke from the city already going up to the sky; they were powerless to make their escape in any direction, and the Israelites who had feigned flight towards the wilderness turned on their pursuers. ²¹For when Joshua and all the Israelites saw that the ambush had seized the city and that smoke was already going up from it, they turned and fell upon the men of Ai. ²²Those who had come out to meet the Israelites were now hemmed in with Israelites on both sides of them, and the Israelites cut them down until there was not a single survivor, nor had any escaped. ²³The king of Ai was taken alive and brought to Joshua. ²⁴When the Israelites had cut down to the last man all the citizens of Ai who were in the open country or in the wilderness to which they had pursued them, and the massacre was complete, they all turned back to Ai and put it to the sword. ²⁵The number who were killed that day, men and women, was twelve thousand, the whole population of Ai. ²⁶Joshua held out his dagger and did not draw back his hand until he had put to death all who lived in Ai; ²⁷but the Israelites kept for themselves the cattle and any other spoil that they took, following the word of the LORD spoken to Joshua. ²⁸So Joshua burnt Ai to the ground, and left it the desolate ruined mound it remains to this day. ²⁹He hanged the king of Ai on a tree and left him there till sunset; and when the sun had set, he gave the order and they cut him down and flung down his body at the entrance of the city gate. Over the body they raised a great pile of stones, which is there to this day.

³⁰At that time Joshua built an altar to the LORD the God of Israel on Mount Ebal. ³¹The altar was of blocks of undressed stone on which no tool of iron had been used, following the commands given to the Israelites by Moses the servant of the LORD, as is described in the book of the law of Moses. At the altar they offered whole-offerings to the LORD, and slaughtered shared-offerings. ³²There in the presence of the Israelites he engraved on blocks [*Or on the blocks*] of stone a copy of the law of Moses. ³³And all Israel, elders, officers, and judges, took their stand on either side of the Ark, facing the levitical priests who carried the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD – all Israel, native and alien alike. Half

of them stood facing Mount Gerizim and half facing Mount Ebal, to fulfil the command of Moses the servant of the LORD that the blessing should be pronounced first. ³⁴Then Joshua recited the whole of the blessing and the cursing word by word, as they are written in the book of the law. ³⁵There was not a single word of all that Moses had commanded which he did not read aloud before the whole congregation of Israel, including the women and dependants and the aliens resident in their company.

9¹When the news of these happenings reached all the kings west of the Jordan, in the hill-country, the Shephelah, and all the coast of the Great Sea running up to the Lebanon, the kings of the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites ²agreed to join forces and fight against Joshua and Israel.

³When the inhabitants of Gibeon heard how Joshua had dealt with Jericho and Ai, ⁴they adopted a ruse of their own. They went and disguised themselves, with old sackings for their asses, old wine-skins split and mended, ⁵old and patched sandals for their feet, old clothing to wear, and by way of provisions nothing but dry and mouldy bread. ⁶They came to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal and said to him and the Israelites, 'We have come from a distant country to ask you now to grant us a treaty.' ⁷The Israelites said to the Hivites, 'But maybe you live in our neighbourhood: if so, how can we grant you a treaty?' ⁸They said to Joshua, 'We are your slaves.' Joshua asked them who they were and where they came from. ⁹'Sir,' they replied, 'our country is very far away, and we have come because of the renown of the LORD your God. We have heard of his fame, of all that he did to Egypt, ¹⁰and to the two Amorite kings east of the Jordan, Sihon king of Heshbon and Og king of Bashan who lived at Ashtaroth. ¹¹Our elders and all the people of our country told us to take provisions for the journey and come to meet you, and say, "We are your slaves; please grant us a treaty." ¹²Look at our bread; it was hot from the oven when we packed it at home on the day we came away. Now it is dry and mouldy. ¹³Look at the wine-skins; they were new when we filled them, and now they are all split; look at our clothes and our sandals, worn out by the long journey.' ¹⁴The chief men of the community accepted some of their provisions, and did not at first seek guidance from the LORD. ¹⁵So Joshua received them peaceably and granted them a treaty, promising to spare their lives, and the chiefs pledged their faith to them on oath.

¹⁶Within three days of granting them the treaty, the Israelites learnt that they were in fact neighbours and lived near by. ¹⁷So the Israelites set out and on the third day they reached their cities; these were Gibeon, Kephirah, Beeroth, and Kiriath-jearim. ¹⁸The Israelites did not slaughter them, because of the oath which the chief men of the community had sworn to them by the LORD the God of Israel, but the people were all indignant with their chiefs. ¹⁹The chiefs all replied to the assembled people, 'But we swore an oath to them by the LORD the God of Israel; we cannot touch them now. ²⁰What we will do is this: we will spare their lives so that the oath which we swore to them may bring no harm upon us. ²¹But though their lives must be spared, they shall be set to chop wood and draw water for the community.' The people agreed to do as their chiefs had said. ²²Joshua summoned the Gibeonites and said, 'Why did you play this trick on us? You told us that you live a long way off, when you are near neighbours. ²³There is a curse upon you for this: for all time you shall provide us with slaves, to chop wood and draw water for the house of my God.' ²⁴They answered Joshua, 'We

were told, sir, that the LORD your God had commanded Moses his servant to give you the whole country and to exterminate all its inhabitants; so because of you we were in terror of our lives, and that is why we did this. ²⁵We are in your power: do with us whatever you think right and proper.' ²⁶What he did was this: he saved them from death at the hands of the Israelites, and they did not kill them; ²⁷but thenceforward he set them to chop wood and draw water for the community and for the altar of the LORD. And to this day they do it at the place which the LORD chose.

10¹When Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem heard that Joshua had captured Ai and destroyed it (for Joshua had dealt with Ai and her king as he had dealt with Jericho and her king), and that the inhabitants of Gibeon had made their peace with Israel and were living among them, ²he was greatly alarmed; for Gibeon was a large place, like a royal city: it was larger than Ai, and its men were all good fighters. ³So Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem sent to Hoham king of Hebron, Piram king of Jarmuth, Japhia king of Lachish, and Debir king of Eglon, and said, ⁴'Come up and help me, and we will attack the Gibeonites, because they have made their peace with Joshua and the Israelites.' ⁵So the five Amorite kings, the kings of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish, and Eglon, joined forces and advanced to take up their positions for the attack on Gibeon. ⁶But the men of Gibeon sent this message to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal: 'We are your slaves, do not abandon us, come quickly to our relief. All the Amorite kings in the hill-country have joined forces against us; come and help us.' ⁷So Joshua went up from Gilgal with all his forces and all his fighting men. ⁸The LORD said to Joshua, 'Do not be afraid of them; I have delivered them into your hands, and not a man will be able to stand against you.' ⁹Joshua came upon them suddenly, after marching all night from Gilgal. ¹⁰The LORD threw them into confusion before the Israelites, and Joshua defeated them utterly in Gibeon; he pursued them down the pass of Beth-horon and kept up the slaughter as far as Azekah and Makkedah. ¹¹As they were fleeing from Israel down the pass, the LORD hurled great hailstones at them out of the sky all the way to Azekah: more died from the hailstones than the Israelites slew by the sword.

¹²On that day when the LORD delivered the Amorites into the hands of Israel, Joshua spoke with the LORD, and he said in the presence of Israel:

Stand still, O Sun, in Gibeon;
stand, Moon, in the Vale of Aijalon.

¹³So the sun stood still and the moon halted until a nation had taken vengeance on its enemies, as indeed is written in the Book of Jashar [*Or the Book of the Upright*]. The sun stayed in mid heaven and made no haste to set for almost a whole day. ¹⁴Never before or since has there been such a day as this day on which the LORD listened to the voice of a man; for the LORD fought for Israel. ¹⁵So Joshua and all the Israelites returned to the camp at Gilgal.

¹⁶The five kings fled and hid themselves in a cave at Makkedah, ¹⁷and Joshua was told that they had been found hidden in this cave. ¹⁸Joshua replied, 'Roll some great stones to the mouth of the cave and post men there to keep watch over the kings. ¹⁹But you must not stay; keep up the pursuit, attack your enemies from the rear and do not let them reach their cities; the LORD your God has delivered them into your hands.' ²⁰When Joshua and the Israelites had finished the work of slaughter and all had been

put to the sword – except a few survivors who escaped and entered the fortified cities –
²¹the whole army rejoined Joshua at Makkedah in peace; not a man of the Israelites
suffered so much as a scratch on his tongue. ²²Then Joshua said, ‘Open the mouth of
the cave, and bring me out those five kings.’ ²³They did so; they brought the five kings
out of the cave, the kings of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish, and Eglon. ²⁴When
they had brought them to Joshua, he summoned all the Israelites and said to the
commanders of the troops who had served with him, ‘Come forward and put your feet
on the necks of these kings.’ So they came forward and put their feet on their necks.
²⁵Joshua said to them, ‘Do not be fearful or dismayed; be strong and resolute; for the
LORD will do this to every enemy you fight against.’ ²⁶And he struck down the kings and
slew them; then he hung their bodies on five trees, where they remained hanging till
evening. ²⁷At sunset, on Joshua’s orders they took them down from the trees and threw
them into the cave in which they had hidden; they piled great stones against its mouth,
and there the stones are to this day [and there ... day: *or on this very day*].

²⁸On that same day, Joshua captured Makkedah and put both king and people to the
sword, destroying both them and every living thing in the city. He left no survivor, and
he dealt with the king of Makkedah as he had dealt with the king of Jericho. ²⁹Then
Joshua and all the Israelites marched on from Makkedah to Libnah and attacked it.
³⁰The LORD delivered the city and its king to the Israelites, and they put its people and
every living thing in it to the sword; they left no survivor there, and dealt with its king
as they had dealt with the king of Jericho. ³¹From Libnah Joshua and all the Israelites
marched on to Lachish, took up their positions and attacked it. ³²The LORD delivered
Lachish into their hands; they took it on the second day and put every living thing in it
to the sword, as they had done at Libnah.

³³Meanwhile Horam king of Gezer had advanced to the relief of Lachish; but Joshua
struck them down, both king and people, and not a man of them survived. ³⁴Then
Joshua and all the Israelites marched on from Lachish to Eglon, took up their positions
and attacked it; ³⁵that same day they captured it and put its inhabitants to the sword,
destroying every living thing in it as they had done at Lachish. ³⁶From Eglon Joshua and
all the Israelites advanced to Hebron and attacked it. ³⁷They captured it and put its king
to the sword together with every living thing in it and in all its villages; as at Eglon, he
left no survivor, destroying it and every living thing in it. ³⁸Then Joshua and all the
Israelites wheeled round towards Debir and attacked it. ³⁹They captured the city with its
king, and all its villages, put them to the sword and destroyed every living thing; they
left no survivor. They dealt with Debir and its king as they had dealt with Hebron and
with Libnah and its king.

⁴⁰So Joshua massacred the population of the whole region – the hill-country, the Negeb,
the Shephelah, the watersheds – and all their kings. He left no survivor, destroying
everything that drew breath, as the LORD the God of Israel had commanded. ⁴¹Joshua
carried the slaughter from Kadesh-barnea to Gaza, over the whole land of Goshen and
as far as Gibeon. ⁴²All these kings he captured at the same time, and their country with
them, for the LORD the God of Israel fought for Israel. ⁴³And Joshua returned with all
the Israelites to the camp at Gilgal.

11¹When Jabin king of Hazor heard of all this, he sent to Jobab king of Madon, to the kings of Shimron and Akshaph, ²to the northern kings in the hill-country, in the Arabah opposite Kinnereth, in the Shephelah, and in the district of Dor on the west, ³the Canaanites to the east and the west, the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, and Jebusites in the hill-country, and the Hivites below Hermon in the land of Mizpah. ⁴They took the field with all their forces, a great horde countless as the grains of sand on the sea-shore, among them a great number of horses and chariots. ⁵All these kings made common cause, and came and encamped at the waters of Merom to fight against Israel. ⁶The LORD said to Joshua, 'Do not be afraid of them, for at this time tomorrow I shall deliver them to Israel all dead men; you shall hamstring their horses and burn their chariots.'⁷So Joshua and his army surprised them by the waters of Merom and fell upon them. ⁸The LORD delivered them into the hands of Israel; they struck them down and pursued them as far as Greater Sidon, Misrephoth on the west, and the Vale of Mizpah on the east. They struck them down until not a man was left alive. ⁹Joshua dealt with them as the LORD had commanded: he hamstrung their horses and burnt their chariots.

¹⁰At this point Joshua turned his forces against Hazor, formerly the head of all these kingdoms. He captured the city and put its king to death with the sword. ¹¹They killed every living thing in it and wiped them all out; they spared nothing that drew breath, and Hazor itself they destroyed by fire. ¹²So Joshua captured these kings and their cities and put them to the sword, destroying them all, as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded. ¹³The cities whose ruined mounds are still standing were not burnt by the Israelites; it was Hazor alone that Joshua burnt. ¹⁴The Israelites plundered all these cities and kept for themselves the cattle and any other spoil they took; but they put every living soul to the sword until they had destroyed every one; they did not leave alive any one that drew breath. ¹⁵The LORD laid his commands on his servant Moses, and Moses laid these same commands on Joshua, and Joshua carried them out. Not one of the commands laid on Moses by the LORD did he leave unfulfilled.

¹⁶And so Joshua took the whole country, the hill-country, all the Negeb, all the land of Goshen, the Shephelah, the Arabah, and the Israelite hill-country with the adjoining lowlands. ¹⁷His conquests extended from the bare mountain which leads up to Seir as far as Baal-gad in the Vale of Lebanon under Mount Hermon. He took prisoner all their kings, struck them down and put them to death. ¹⁸It was a long war that he fought against all these kingdoms. ¹⁹Except for the Hivites who lived in Gibeon, not one of their cities came to terms with the Israelites; all were taken by storm. ²⁰It was the LORD's purpose that they should offer an obstinate resistance to the Israelites in battle, and that thus they should be annihilated without mercy and utterly destroyed [offer ... destroyed: *or* obstinately engage the Israelites in battle so that they should annihilate them without mercy, only that he might destroy them], as the LORD had commanded Moses.

²¹It was then that Joshua proceeded to wipe out the Anakim from the hill-country, from Hebron, Debir, Anab, all the hill-country of Judah and all the hill-country of Israel, destroying both them and their cities. ²²No Anakim were left in the land taken by the Israelites; they survived only in Gaza, Gath, and Ashdod.

²³Thus Joshua took the whole country, fulfilling all the commands that the LORD had laid on Moses; he assigned it as Israel's patrimony, allotting to each tribe its share; and the land was at peace.

12¹These are the names of the kings of the land whom the Israelites slew, and whose territory they occupied beyond the Jordan towards the sunrise from the gorge of the Arnon as far as Mount Hermon and all the Arabah on the east. ²Sihon the Amorite king who lived in Heshbon: his rule extended from Aroer, which is on the edge of the gorge of the Arnon, along the middle of the gorge and over half Gilead as far as the gorge of the Jabbok, the Ammonite frontier; ³along the Arabah as far as the eastern side of the Sea of Kinnereth and as far as the eastern side of the Sea of the Arabah, the Dead Sea, by the road to Beth-jeshimoth and from Teman under the watershed of Pisgah. ⁴Og king of Bashan, one of the survivors of the Rephaim, who lived in Ashtaroth and Edrei: ⁵he ruled over Mount Hermon, Salcah, all Bashan as far as the Geshurite and Maacathite borders, and half Gilead as far as the boundary of Sihon king of Heshbon. ⁶Moses the servant of the LORD put them to death, he and the Israelites, and he gave their land to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh, as their possession.

⁷These are the names of the kings whom Joshua and the Israelites put to death beyond the Jordan to the west, from Baal-gad in the Vale of Lebanon as far as the bare mountain that leads up to Seir. Joshua gave their land to the Israelite tribes to be their possession according to their allotted shares, ⁸in the hill-country, the Shephelah, the Arabah, the watersheds, the wilderness, and the Negeb; lands of the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites. ⁹The king of Jericho; the king of Ai which is beside Bethel; ¹⁰the king of Jerusalem; the king of Hebron; ¹¹the king of Jarmuth; the king of Lachish; ¹²the king of Eglon; the king of Gezer; ¹³the king of Debir; the king of Geder; ¹⁴the king of Hormah; the king of Arad; ¹⁵the king of Libnah; the king of Adullam; ¹⁶the king of Makkedah; the king of Bethel; ¹⁷the king of Tappuah; the king of Hopher; ¹⁸the king of Aphek; the king of Aphek [*of Aphek: prob. rdg, Heb omitted*] -in-Sharon; ¹⁹the king of Madon; the king of Hazor; ²⁰the king of Shimron-meron; the king of Akshaph; ²¹the king of Taanach; the king of Megiddo; ²²the king of Kedesh; the king of Jokneam-in-Carmel; ²³the king of Dor in the district of Dor; the king of Gaiam-in-Galilee; ²⁴the king of Tirzah: thirty-one kings in all, one of each town.

13¹BY THIS TIME JOSHUA HAD BECOME VERY OLD, and the LORD said to him, 'You are now a very old man, and much of the country remains to be occupied. ²The country which remains is this: all the districts of the Philistines and all the Geshurite country ³(this is reckoned as Canaanite territory from Shihor to the east of Egypt as far north as Ekron; and it belongs to the five lords of the Philistines, those of Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gath, and Ekron); all the districts of the Avvim ⁴on the south; all the Canaanite country from the low-lying land which belongs to the Sidonians as far as Aphek, the Amorite frontier; ⁵the land of the Gebalites and all the Lebanon to the east from Baal-gad under Mount Hermon as far as Lebo-hamath. ⁶I will drive out in favour of the Israelites all the inhabitants of the hill-country from the Lebanon as far as Misrephoth on the west, and all the Sidonians. In the mean time you are to allot all this to the Israelites for their patrimony, as I have commanded you. ⁷Distribute this land

now to the nine tribes and half the tribe of Manasseh for their patrimony.’⁸For half the tribe of Manasseh and [For half ... Manasseh and: *prob. rdg, Heb omitted*] with them the Reubenites and the Gadites had each taken their patrimony which Moses gave them east of the Jordan, as Moses the servant of the LORD had ordained.⁹It started from Aroer which is by the edge of the gorge of the Arnon, and the level land half-way along the gorge, and included all the tableland from Medeba as far as Dibon;¹⁰all the cities of Sihon, the Amorite king who ruled in Heshbon, as far as the Ammonite frontier;¹¹and it also included Gilead and the Geshurite and Maacathite territory, and all Mount Hermon and the whole of Bashan as far as Salcah,¹²all the kingdom of Og which he ruled from both Ashtaroth and Edrei in Bashan. He was a survivor of the remnant of the Rephaim, but Moses put them both to death and occupied their lands.¹³But the Israelites did not drive out the Geshurites and the Maacathites; the Geshurites and the Maacathites live among the Israelites to this day.¹⁴The tribe of Levi, however, received no patrimony; the LORD the God of Israel is their patrimony, as he promised them.

¹⁵So Moses allotted territory to the tribe of the Reubenites family by family.¹⁶Their territory started from Aroer which is by the edge of the gorge of the Arnon, and the level land half-way along the gorge, and included all the tableland as far as Medeba;¹⁷Heshbon and all its cities on the tableland, Dibon, Bamoth-baal, Beth-baal-meon,¹⁸Jahaz, Kedemoth, Mephaath,¹⁹Kiriathaim, Sibmah, Zereth-shahar on the hill in the Vale,²⁰Beth-peor, the watershed of Pisgah, and Beth-jeshimoth,²¹all the cities of the tableland, all the kingdom of Sihon the Amorite king who ruled in Heshbon, whom Moses put to death together with the princes of Midian, Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur, and Reba, the vassals of Sihon who dwelt in the country.²²Balaam son of Beor, who practised augury, was among those whom the Israelites put to the sword.²³The boundary of the Reubenites was the Jordan and the adjacent land: this is the patrimony of the Reubenites family by family, both the cities and their hamlets.

²⁴Moses allotted territory to the Gadites family by family.²⁵Their territory was Jazer, all the cities of Gilead and half the Ammonite country as far as Aroer which is east of Rabbah.²⁶It reached from Heshbon as far as Ramoth-mizpeh and Betonim, and from Mahanaim as far as the boundary of Lo-debar;²⁷it included in the valley Beth-haram, Beth-nimrah, Succoth, and Zaphon, the rest of the kingdom of Sihon king of Heshbon. The boundary was the Jordan and the adjacent land as far as the end of the Sea of Kinnereth east of the Jordan.²⁸This is the patrimony of the Gadites family by family, both the cities and their hamlets.

²⁹Moses allotted territory to the half tribe of Manasseh: it was for half the tribe of the Manassites family by family.³⁰Their territory ran from Mahanaim and included all Bashan, all the kingdom of Og king of Bashan and all Havvoth-jair in Bashan – sixty cities.³¹Half Gilead, and Ashtaroth and Edrei the royal cities of Og in Bashan, belong to the sons of Machir son of Manasseh on behalf of half the Machirites family by family.

³²These are the territories which Moses allotted to the tribes as their patrimonies in the lowlands of Moab east of the Jordan.³³But to the tribe of Levi he gave no patrimony: the LORD the God of Israel is their patrimony, as he promised them.

14¹Now follow the possessions which the Israelites acquired in the land of Canaan, as Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun, and the heads of the families of the Israelite tribes allotted them. ²They were assigned by lot, following the LORD's command given through Moses, to the nine and a half tribes. ³To two and a half tribes Moses had given patrimonies beyond the Jordan; but he gave none to the Levites as he did to the others. ⁴The tribe of Joseph formed the two tribes of Manasseh and Ephraim. The Levites were given no share in the land, only cities to dwell in, with their common land for flocks and herds. ⁵So the Israelites, following the LORD's command given to Moses, assigned the land.

⁶Now the tribe of Judah had come to Joshua in Gilgal, and Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, 'You remember what the LORD said to Moses the man of God concerning you and me at Kadesh-barnea. ⁷I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from there to explore the land, and I brought back an honest report. ⁸The others who went with me discouraged the people, but I loyally carried out the purpose of the LORD my God. ⁹Moses swore an oath that day and said, "The land on which you have set foot shall be your patrimony and your sons' after you as a possession for ever; for you have loyally carried out the purpose of the LORD my God." ¹⁰Well, the LORD has spared my life as he promised; it is now forty-five years since he made this promise to Moses, at the time when Israel was journeying in the wilderness. Today I am eighty-five years old. ¹¹I am still as strong as I was on the day when Moses sent me out; I am as fit now for war as I was then and am ready to take the field again. ¹²Give me today this hill-country which the LORD then promised me. You heard on that day that the Anakim were there and their cities were large and well fortified. Perhaps the LORD will be with me and I shall dispossess them as he promised.' ¹³Joshua blessed Caleb and gave him Hebron for his patrimony, ¹⁴and that is why Hebron remains to this day in the patrimony of Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite. It is because he loyally carried out the purpose of the LORD the God of Israel. ¹⁵Formerly the name of Hebron was Kiriath-arba. This Arba was the chief man of the Anakim. And the land was at peace.

15¹This is the territory allotted to the tribe of the sons of Judah family by family. It started from the Edomite frontier at the wilderness of Zin and ran as far as the Negeb at its southern end, ²and it had a common border with the Negeb at the end of the Dead Sea, where an inlet of water bends towards the Negeb. ³It continued from the south by the ascent of Akrabbim, passed by Zin, went up from the south of Kadesh-barnea, passed by Hezron, went on to Addar and turned round to Karka. ⁴It then passed along to Azmon, reached the Torrent of Egypt, and its limit was the sea. This was their southern boundary.

⁵The eastern boundary is the Dead Sea as far as the mouth of the Jordan and the adjacent land northwards from the inlet of the sea, at the mouth of the Jordan. ⁶The boundary goes up to Beth-hoglah; it passes north of Beth-arabah and thence to the stone of Bohan son of Reuben, ⁷thence to Debir from the Vale of Achor, and then turns north to the districts [*prob. rdg, cp 18.17; Heb to Gilgal*] in front of the ascent of Adummim south of the gorge. The boundary then passes the waters of En-shemesh and the limit there is En-rogel. ⁸It then goes up by the Valley of Ben-hinnom to the southern

slope of the Jebusites (that is Jerusalem). Thence it goes up to the top of the hill which faces the Valley of Hinnom on the west; this is at the northern end of the Vale of Rephaim. ⁹The boundary then bends round from the top of the hill to the spring of the waters of Nephtoah, runs round to the cities of Mount Ephron and round to Baalah, that is Kiriath-jearim. ¹⁰It then continues westwards from Baalah to Mount Seir, passes on to the north side of the slope of Mount Jearim, that is Kesalon, down to Beth-shemesh and on to Timnah. ¹¹The boundary then goes north to the slope of Ekron, bends round to Shikkeron, crosses to Mount Baalah and reaches Jabneel; its limit is the sea. ¹²The western boundary is the Great Sea and the land adjacent. This is the whole circuit of the boundary of the tribe of Judah family by family.

¹³Caleb son of Jephunneh received his share of the land within the tribe of Judah as the LORD had said to Joshua. It was Kiriath-arba, that is Hebron. This Arba was the ancestor of the Anakim. ¹⁴Caleb drove out the three Anakim: these were Sheshai, Ahiman and Talmi, descendants of Anak. ¹⁵From there he attacked the inhabitants of Debir; the name of Debir was formerly Kiriath-sepher. ¹⁶Caleb announced that whoever should attack Kiriath-sepher and capture it would receive his daughter Achsah in marriage. ¹⁷Othniel, son of Caleb's brother Kenaz, captured it, and Caleb gave him his daughter Achsah. ¹⁸When she came to him, he incited her to ask her father for a piece of land. As she sat on the ass, she broke wind, and Caleb asked her, 'What did you mean by that?' ¹⁹She replied, 'I want a favour from you. You have put me in this dry Negeb; you must give me pools of water as well.' So Caleb gave her the upper pool and the lower pool.

²⁰This is the patrimony of the tribe of the sons of Judah family by family. ²¹These are the cities belonging to the tribe of Judah, the full count. By the Edomite frontier in the Negeb: Kabzeel, Eder, Jagur, ²²Kinah, Dimonah, Ararah [*prob. rdg, Heb Adadah*], ²³Kedesh, Hazor, Ithnan, ²⁴Ziph, Telem, Bealoth, ²⁵Hazor-hadattah, Keriath-hezron, ²⁶Amam, Shema, Moladah, ²⁷Hazar-gaddah, Heshmon, Beth-pelet, ²⁸Hazar-shual, Beersheba and its villages, ²⁹Baalath, Iyim, Ezem, ³⁰Eltolad, Kesil, Hormah, ³¹Ziklag, Madmannah, Sansannah, ³²Lebaoth, Shilhim, Ain, and Rimmon: in all, twenty-nine cities with their hamlets.

³³In the Shephelah: Eshtaol, Zorah, Ashnah, ³⁴Zanoah, En-gannim, Tappuah, Enam, ³⁵Jarmuth, Adullam, Socoh, Azekah, ³⁶Shaaraim, Adithaim, Gederah, namely both parts of Gederah: fourteen cities with their hamlets. ³⁷Zenan, Hadashah, Migdal-gad, ³⁸Dilan, Mizpeh, Joktheel, ³⁹Lachish, Bozkath, Eglon, ⁴⁰Cabbon, Lahmas, Kithlish, ⁴¹Gederath, Beth-dagon, Naamah, and Makkedah: sixteen cities with their hamlets. ⁴²Libnah, Ether, Ashan, ⁴³Jiptah, Ashnah, Nezib, ⁴⁴Keilah, Achzib, and Mareshah: nine cities with their hamlets. ⁴⁵Ekron, with its villages and hamlets, ⁴⁶and from Ekron westwards, all the cities near Ashdod and their hamlets. ⁴⁷Ashdod with its villages and hamlets, Gaza with its villages and hamlets as far as the Torrent of Egypt and the Great Sea and the land adjacent.

⁴⁸In the hill-country: Shamir, Jattir, Socoh, ⁴⁹Dannah, Kiriath-sannah, that is Debir, ⁵⁰Anab, Eshtemoah, Anim, ⁵¹Goshen, Holon, and Giloh: eleven cities in all with their

hamlets. ⁵²Arab, Dumah, Eshan, ⁵³Janim, Beth-tappuah, Aphek [*Or* Aphekah], ⁵⁴Humtah, Kiriath-arba, that is Hebron, and Zior: nine cities in all with their hamlets. ⁵⁵Maon, Carmel, Ziph, Juttah, ⁵⁶Jezreel, Jokdeam, Zanoah, ⁵⁷Cain, Gibeah, and Timnah: ten cities in all with their hamlets. ⁵⁸Halhul, Beth-zur, Gedor, ⁵⁹Maarath, Beth-anoth, and Eltekon: six cities in all with their hamlets. Tekoa, Ephrathah, that is Bethlehem, Peor, Etam, Culom, Tatam, Sores, Carem, Gallim, Baither, and Manach: eleven cities in all with their hamlets. ⁶⁰Kiriath-baal, that is Kiriath-jearim, and Rabbah: two cities with their hamlets.

⁶¹In the wilderness: Beth-arabah, Middin, Secacah, ⁶²Nibshan, Ir-melach, and En-gedi: six cities with their hamlets.

⁶³At Jerusalem, the men of Judah were unable to drive out the Jebusites who lived there, and to this day Jebusites and men of Judah live together in Jerusalem.

16¹This is the lot that fell to the sons of Joseph: the boundary runs from the Jordan at Jericho, east of the waters of Jericho by the wilderness, and goes up from Jericho into the hill-country to Bethel. ²It runs on from Bethel to Luz and crosses the Archite border at Ataroth [*Ataroth-addar in 16.5; 18.13*]. ³Westwards it descends to the boundary of the Japhletites as far as the boundary of Lower Beth-horon and Gezer; its limit is the sea. ⁴Here Manasseh and Ephraim the sons of Joseph received their patrimony.

⁵This was the boundary of the Ephraimites family by family: their eastern boundary ran from Ataroth-addar up to Upper Beth-horon. ⁶It continued westwards to Michmethath on the north, going round by the east of Taanath-shiloh and passing by it on the east of Janoah. ⁷It descends from Janoah to Ataroth and Naarath, touches Jericho and continues to the Jordan, ⁸and from Tappuah it goes westwards by the gorge of Kanah; and its limit is the sea. This is the patrimony of the tribe of Ephraim family by family. ⁹There were also cities reserved for the Ephraimites within the patrimony of the Manassites, each of these cities with its hamlets. ¹⁰They did not however drive out the Canaanites who dwelt in Gezer; the Canaanites have lived among the Ephraimites to the present day but have been subject to forced labour in perpetuity.

17¹This is the territory allotted to the tribe of Manasseh, Joseph's eldest son. Machir was Manasseh's eldest son and father of Gilead, a fighting man; Gilead and Bashan were allotted to him.

²The rest of the Manassites family by family were the sons of Abiezer, the sons of Helek, the sons of Asriel, the sons of Shechem, the sons of Hopher, and the sons of Shemida, these were the male offspring of Manasseh son of Joseph family by family.

³Zelophehad son of Hopher, son of Gilead, son of Machir, son of Manasseh, had no sons but only daughters: their names were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah and Tirzah. ⁴They presented themselves before Eleazar the priest and Joshua son of Nun, and before the chiefs, and they said, 'The LORD commanded Moses to allow us to inherit on the same footing as our kinsmen.' They were therefore given a patrimony on the same footing as their father's brothers according to the commandment of the LORD.

⁵There fell to Manasseh's lot ten shares, apart from the country of Gilead and Bashan beyond the Jordan, ⁶because Manasseh's daughters had received a patrimony on the same footing as his sons. The country of Gilead belonged to the rest of Manasseh's sons. ⁷The boundary of Manasseh reached from Asher as far as Michmethath, which is to the east of Shechem, and thence southwards towards Jashub by [Jashub by: *prob. rdg, Heb the inhabitants of*] En-tappuah. ⁸The territory of Tappuah belonged to Manasseh, but Tappuah itself was on the border of Manasseh and belonged to Ephraim. ⁹The boundary then followed the gorge of Kanah to the south of the gorge (these cities [these cities: *prob. rdg, Heb obscure*] belong to Ephraim, although they lie among the cities of Manasseh), the boundary of Manasseh being on the north of the gorge; its limit was the sea. ¹⁰The southern side belonged to Ephraim and the northern to Manasseh, and their boundary was the sea. They marched with Asher on the north and Issachar on the east. ¹¹But in Issachar and Asher, Manasseh possessed Beth-shean and its villages, Ibleam and its villages, the inhabitants of Dor and its villages, the inhabitants of En-dor and its villages, the inhabitants of Taanach and its villages, and the inhabitants of Megiddo and its villages. (The third is the district of Dor [The third ... Dor: *prob. rdg, Heb The three districts*].) ¹²The Manassites were unable to occupy these cities; the Canaanites maintained their hold on that part of the country. ¹³When the Israelites grew stronger, they put the Canaanites to forced labour, but they did not drive them out.

¹⁴The sons of Joseph appealed to Joshua and said, 'Why have you given us only one lot and one share as our patrimony? We are a numerous people; so far the LORD has blessed us.' ¹⁵Joshua replied, 'If you are so numerous, go up into the forest in the territory of the Perizzites and the Rephaim and clear it for yourselves. You are their near neighbours [You are ... neighbours: *prob. rdg, Heb obscure*] in the hill-country of Ephraim.' ¹⁶The sons of Joseph said, 'The hill-country is not enough for us; besides, all the Canaanites have chariots of iron, those who inhabit the valley beside Beth-shean and its villages and also those in the Vale of Jezreel.' ¹⁷Joshua replied to the tribes of Joseph, that is Ephraim and Manasseh: 'You are a numerous people with great resources. You shall not have one lot only. ¹⁸The hill-country is yours. It is forest land; clear it and it shall be yours to its furthest limits. The Canaanites may be powerful and equipped with chariots of iron, but you will be able to drive them out.'

18¹THE WHOLE COMMUNITY OF THE ISRAELITES met together at Shiloh and established the Tent of the Presence there. The country now lay subdued at their feet, ²but there remained seven tribes among the Israelites who had not yet taken possession of the patrimonies which would fall to them. ³Joshua therefore said to them, 'How much longer will you neglect to take possession of the land which the LORD the God of your fathers has given you? ⁴Appoint three men from each tribe whom I may send out to travel through the whole country. They shall make a register showing the patrimony suitable for each tribe, and come back to me, ⁵and then it can be shared out among you in seven portions. Judah shall retain his boundary in the south, and the house of Joseph their boundary in the north. ⁶You shall register the land in seven portions, bring the lists here, and I will cast lots for you in the presence of the LORD our God. ⁷Levi has no share among you, because his share is the priesthood of the LORD; and Gad, Reuben, and the half tribe of Manasseh have each taken possession of their

patrimony east of the Jordan, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave them.’⁸ So the men set out on their journeys. Joshua ordered the emissaries to survey the country: ‘Go through the whole country,’ he said, ‘survey it and return to me, and I will cast lots for you here before the LORD in Shiloh.’⁹ So the men went and passed through the country; they registered it on a scroll, city by city, in seven portions, and came to Joshua in the camp at Shiloh. ¹⁰Joshua cast lots for them in Shiloh before the LORD, and distributed the land there to the Israelites in their proper shares.

¹¹This is the lot which fell to the tribe of the Benjamites family by family. The territory allotted to them lay between the territory of Judah and Joseph. ¹²Their boundary at its northern corner starts from the Jordan; it goes up the slope on the north side of Jericho, continuing westwards into the hill-country, and its limit there is the wilderness of Beth-aven. ¹³From there it runs on to Luz, to the southern slope of Luz, that is Bethel, and down to Ataroth-addar over the hill-country south of Lower Beth-horon. ¹⁴The boundary then bends round at the west corner southwards from the hill-country above Beth-horon, and its limit is Kiriath-baal, that is Kiriath-jearim, a city of Judah. This is the western side. ¹⁵The southern side starts from the edge of Kiriath-jearim and ends [*prob. rdg, Heb adds westwards and ends*] at the spring of the waters of Nephtoah. ¹⁶It goes down to the edge of the hill to the east of the Valley of Ben-hinnom, north of the Vale of Rephaim, down the Valley of Hinnom, to the southern slope of the Jebusites and so to En-rogel. ¹⁷It then bends round north and comes out at En-shemesh, goes on to the districts in front of the ascent of Adummim and thence down to the Stone of Bohan son of Reuben. ¹⁸It passes to the northern side of the slope facing the Arabah and goes down to the Arabah, ¹⁹passing the northern slope of Beth-hoglah, and its limit is the northern inlet of the Dead Sea, at the southern mouth of the Jordan. This forms the southern boundary. ²⁰The Jordan is the boundary on the east side. This is the patrimony of the Benjamites, the complete circuit of their boundaries family by family.

²¹The cities belonging to the tribe of the Benjamites family by family are: Jericho, Beth-hoglah, Emek-keziz, ²²Beth-arabah, Zemaraim, Bethel, ²³Avvim, Parah, Ophrah, ²⁴Kephar-ammoni, Ophni, and Geba: twelve cities in all with their hamlets. ²⁵Gibeon, Ramah, Beeroth, ²⁶Mizpah, Kephirah, Mozah, ²⁷Rekem, Irpeel, Taralah, ²⁸Zela, Eleph, Jebus, that is Jerusalem, Gibeah, and Kiriath-jearim: fourteen cities in all with their hamlets. This is the patrimony of the Benjamites family by family.

19¹The second lot cast was for Simeon, the tribe of the Simeonites family by family. ²Their patrimony was included in that of Judah. For their patrimony they had Beersheba [*prob. rdg, cp 1Chr 4.28; Heb adds and Sheba*], Moladah, ³Hazar-shual, Balah, Ezem, ⁴Eltolad, Bethul, Hormah, ⁵Ziklag, Beth-marcaboth, Hazar-susah, ⁶Beth-lebaoth, and Sharuhem: in all, thirteen cities and their hamlets.’ ⁷They had Ain, Rimmon, Ether, and Ashan: four cities and their hamlets, ⁸all the hamlets round these cities as far as Baalath-beer, Ramath-negeb. This was the patrimony of the tribe of Simeon family by family. ⁹The patrimony of the Simeonites was part of the land allotted to the men of Judah, because their share was larger than they needed. The Simeonites therefore had their patrimony within the territory of Judah.

¹⁰The third lot fell to the Zebulunites family by family. The boundary of their patrimony

extended to Shadud [*prob. rdg, Heb Sarid (similarly in v12)*]. ¹¹Their boundary went up westwards as far as Maralah and touched Dabbesheth and the gorge east of Jokneam. ¹²It turned back from Shadud eastwards towards the sunrise up to the border of Kisloth-tabor, on to Daberath and up to Japhia. ¹³From there it crossed eastwards towards the sunrise to Gath-hepher, to Ittah-kazin, out to Rimmon, and bent round [*and bent round: prob. rdg, Heb which stretched*] to Neah. ¹⁴The northern boundary went round to Hannathon, and its limits were the Valley of Jiphtah-el, ¹⁵Kattath, Nahalal, Shimron, Idalah, and Bethlehem: twelve cities in all with their hamlets. ¹⁶These cities and their hamlets were the patrimony of Zebulun family by family.

¹⁷The fourth lot cast was for the sons of Issachar family by family. ¹⁸Their boundary included Jezreel, Kesulloth, Shunem, ¹⁹Hapharaim, Shion, Anaharath, ²⁰Rabbith, Kishion, Ebez, ²¹Remeth, En-gannim, En-haddah, and Beth-pazzez. ²²The boundary touched Tabor, Shahazumah, and Beth-shemesh, and its limit was the Jordan: sixteen cities with their hamlets. ²³This was the patrimony of the tribe of the sons of Issachar family by family, both cities and hamlets.

²⁴The fifth lot cast was for the tribe of the Asherites family by family. ²⁵Their boundary included Helkath, Hali, Beten, Akshaph, ²⁶Alammelech, Amad, and Mishal; it touched Carmel on the west and the swamp of Libnath. ²⁷It then turned back towards the east to Beth-dagon, touched Zebulun and the Valley of Jiphtah-el on the north at Beth-emek and Neiel, and reached Cabul on its northern side, ²⁸and Abdon, Rehob, Hammon, and Kanah as far as Greater Sidon. ²⁹The boundary turned at Ramah, going as far as the fortress city of Tyre, and then back again to Hosah, and its limits to the west were Mehalbeh, Achzib, ³⁰Acco [*Mehalbeh ... Acco: prob. rdg, Heb from the district of Achzib and Ummah*], Aphek, and Rehob: twenty-two cities in all with their hamlets. ³¹This was the patrimony of the tribe of Asher family by family, these cities and their hamlets.

³²The sixth lot cast was for the sons of Naphtali family by family. ³³Their boundary started from Heleph and from Elon-bezaananim and ran past Adami-nekeb and Jabneel as far as Lakkum, and its limit was the Jordan. ³⁴The boundary turned back westwards to Aznoth-tabor and from there on to Hukok. It touched Zebulun on the south, Asher on the west, and the low-lying land by the Jordan on the east. ³⁵Their fortified cities were Ziddim, Zer, Hammath, Rakkath, Kinnereth, ³⁶Adamah, Ramah, Hazor, ³⁷Kedesh, Edrei, En-hazor, ³⁸Iron, Migdal-el, Horem, Beth-anath, and Beth-shemesh: nineteen cities with their hamlets. ³⁹This was the patrimony of the tribe of Naphtali family by family, both cities and hamlets.

⁴⁰The seventh lot cast was for the tribe of the sons of Dan family by family. ⁴¹The boundary of their patrimony was Zorah, Eshtaol, Ir-shemesh, ⁴²Shaalabbin, Aijalon, Jithlah, ⁴³Elon, Timnah, Ekron, ⁴⁴Eltekeh, Gibbethon, Baalath, ⁴⁵Jehud, Bene-berak, Gath-rimmon; ⁴⁶and on the west Jarkon was the boundary opposite Joppa. ⁴⁷But the Danites, when they lost this territory, marched against Leshem, attacked it and captured it. They put its people to the sword, occupied it and settled in it; and they renamed the place Dan after their ancestor Dan. ⁴⁸This was the patrimony of the tribe of the sons of Dan family by family, these cities and their hamlets.

⁴⁹So the Israelites finished allocating the land and marking out its frontiers; and they gave Joshua son of Nun a patrimony within their territory. ⁵⁰They followed the commands of the LORD and gave him the city for which he asked, Timnath-serah in the hill-country of Ephraim, and he rebuilt the city and settled in it.

⁵¹These are the patrimonies which Eleazar the priest and Joshua son of Nun and the heads of families assigned by lot to the Israelite tribes at Shiloh before the LORD at the entrance of the Tent of the Presence. Thus they completed the distribution of the land.

20¹THE LORD SPOKE TO JOSHUA ²and commanded him to say this to the Israelites: 'You must now appoint your cities of refuge, of which I spoke to you through Moses. ³They are to be places where the homicide, the man who kills another inadvertently without intent, may take sanctuary. You shall single them out as cities of refuge from the vengeance of the dead man's next-of-kin. ⁴When a man takes sanctuary in one of these cities, he shall halt at the entrance of the city gate and state his case in the hearing of the elders of that city; if they admit him into the city, they shall grant him a place where he may live as one of themselves. ⁵When the next-of-kin comes in pursuit, they shall not surrender him: he struck down his fellow without intent and had not previously been at enmity with him. ⁶The homicide may stay in that city until he stands trial before the community. On the death of the ruling high priest, he may return to the city and home from which he has fled.' ⁷They dedicated Kedesh in Galilee in the hill-country of Naphtali, Shechem in the hill-country of Ephraim, and Kiriath-arba, that is Hebron, in the hill-country of Judah. ⁸Across the Jordan eastwards from Jericho they appointed these cities: from the tribe of Reuben, Bezer-in-the-wilderness on the tableland, from the tribe of Gad, Ramoth in Gilead, and from the tribe of Manasseh, Golan in Bashan. ⁹These were the appointed cities where any Israelite or any alien residing among them might take sanctuary. They were intended for any man who killed another inadvertently, to ensure that no one should die at the hand of the next-of-kin until he had stood his trial before the community.

21¹The heads of the Levite families approached Eleazar the priest and Joshua son of Nun and the heads of the families of the tribes of Israel. ²They came before them at Shiloh in the land of Canaan and said, 'The LORD gave his command through Moses that we were to receive cities to live in, together with the common land belonging to them for our cattle.' ³The Israelites therefore gave part of their patrimony to the Levites, the following cities with their common land, according to the command of the LORD.

⁴This is the territory allotted to the Kohathite family: those Levites who were descended from Aaron the priest received thirteen cities chosen by lot from the tribes of Judah, Simeon, and Benjamin; ⁵the rest of the Kohathites were allotted family by family [family by family: *prob. rdg, Heb* from the families (*similarly in v6*)] ten cities from the tribes of Ephraim, Dan, and half Manasseh.

⁶The Gershonites were allotted family by family thirteen cities from the tribes of Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, and the half tribe of Manasseh in Bashan.

⁷The Merarites were allotted family by family twelve cities from the tribes of Reuben,

Gad, and Zebulun.

⁸So the Israelites gave the Levites these cities with their common land, allocating them by lot as the LORD had commanded through Moses.

⁹The Israelites designated the following cities out of the tribes of Judah and Simeon ¹⁰for those sons of Aaron who were of the Kohathite families of the Levites, because their lot came out first. ¹¹They gave them Kiriath-arba (Arba was the father of Anak), that is Hebron, in the hill-country of Judah, and the common land round it, ¹²but they gave the open country near the city, and its hamlets, to Caleb son of Jephunneh as his patrimony.

¹³[vv13-39: cp 1Chr 6.57-81]To the sons of Aaron the priest they gave Hebron, a city of refuge for the homicide, Libnah, ¹⁴Jattir, Eshtemoa, ¹⁵Holon, Debir, ¹⁶Ashan [*prob. rdg, cp 1Chr 6.59; Heb Ain*], Juttah, and Beth-shemesh, each with its common land: nine cities from these two tribes. ¹⁷They also gave cities from the tribe of Benjamin, Gibeon, Geba, ¹⁸Anathoth, and Almon, each with its common land: four cities. ¹⁹The number of the cities with their common land given to the sons of Aaron the priest was thirteen.

²⁰The cities which the rest of the Kohathite families of the Levites received by lot were from the tribe of Ephraim. ²¹They gave them Shechem, a city of refuge for the homicide, in the hill-country of Ephraim, Gezer, ²²Kibzaim, and Beth-horon, each with its common land: four cities. ²³From the tribe of Dan, they gave them Eltekeh, Gibbethon, ²⁴Aijalon, and Gath-rimmon, each with its common land: four cities. ²⁵From the half tribe of Manasseh, they gave them Taanach and Gath-rimmon, each with its common land: two cities. ²⁶The number of the cities belonging to the rest of the Kohathite families with their common land was ten.

²⁷The Gershonite families of the Levites received, out of the share of the half tribe of Manasseh, Golan in Bashan, a city of refuge for the homicide, and Be-ashtaroth [*prob. rdg, Heb Be-ashtarah*], each with its common land: two cities. ²⁸From the tribe of Issachar they received Kishon, Daberah, ²⁹Jarmuth, and En-gannim, each with its common land: four cities. ³⁰From the tribe of Asher they received Mishal, Abdon, ³¹Helkath, and Rehob, each with its common land: four cities. ³²From the tribe of Naphtali they received Kedesh in Galilee, a city of refuge for the homicide, Hammoth-dor, and Kartan, each with its common land: three cities. ³³The number of the cities of the Gershonite families with their common land was thirteen.

³⁴From the tribe of Zebulun the rest of the Merarite families of the Levites received Jokneam, Kartah, ³⁵Rimmon [*prob. rdg, cp 19.I3; 1Chr. 6.77; Heb Dimnah*], and Nahalal, each with its common land: four cities. East of the Jordan at Jericho, ³⁶from the tribe of Reuben they were given Bezer-in-the-wilderness on the tableland, a city of refuge for the homicide, Jahaz, ³⁷Kedemoth, and Mephaath, each with its common land: four cities. ³⁸From the tribe of Gad they received Ramoth in Gilead, a city of refuge for the homicide, Mahanaim, ³⁹Heshbon, and Jazer, each with its common land: four cities

in all. ⁴⁰Twelve cities in all fell by lot to the rest of the Merarite families of the Levites.

⁴¹The cities of the Levites within the Israelite patrimonies numbered forty-eight in all, with their common land. ⁴²Each city had its common land round it, and it was the same for all of them.

⁴³Thus the LORD gave Israel all the land which he had sworn to give to their forefathers; they occupied it and settled in it. ⁴⁴The LORD gave them security on every side as he had sworn to their forefathers. Of all their enemies not a man could withstand them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hands. ⁴⁵Not a word of the LORD's promises to the house of Israel went unfulfilled; they all came true.

22¹AT THAT TIME JOSHUA SUMMONED THE REUBENITES, the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh, ²and said to them, 'You have observed all the commands of Moses the servant of the LORD, and you have obeyed me in all the commands that I too have laid upon you. ³All this time you have not deserted your brothers; up to this day you have diligently observed the charge laid on you by the LORD your God. ⁴And now that the LORD your God has given your brothers security as he promised them, you may turn now and go to your homes in your own land, the land which Moses the servant of the LORD gave you east of the Jordan. ⁵But take good care to keep the commands and the law which Moses the servant of the LORD gave you: to love the LORD your God; to conform to his ways; to observe his commandments; to hold fast to him; to serve him with your whole heart and soul.' ⁶Joshua blessed them and dismissed them; and they went to their homes. ⁷⁻⁸He sent them home with his blessing, and with these words: 'Go to your homes richly laden, with great herds, with silver and gold, copper and iron, and with large stores of clothing. See that you share with your kinsmen the spoil you have taken from your enemies.'

Moses had given territory to one half of the tribe of Manasseh in Bashan, and Joshua gave territory to the other half west of the Jordan among their kinsmen.

⁹So the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh left the rest of the Israelites and went from Shiloh in Canaan on their way into Gilead, the land which belonged to them according to the decree of the LORD given through Moses. ¹⁰When these tribes came to Geliloth by the Jordan [*prob. rdg, Heb adds which was in Canaan*], they built a great altar there by the river for all to see. ¹¹The Israelites heard that the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh had built the altar facing the land of Canaan, at Geliloth by the Jordan opposite the Israelite side. ¹²When the news reached them, all the community of the Israelites assembled at Shiloh to advance against them with a display of force. ¹³At the same time the Israelites sent Phinehas son of Eleazar the priest into the land of Gilead, to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh, ¹⁴and ten leading men with him, one from each of the tribes of Israel, each of them the head of a household among the clans of Israel. ¹⁵They came to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh in the land of Gilead, and remonstrated with them in these words: ¹⁶'We speak for the whole community of the LORD. What is this treachery you have committed against the God of Israel? Are you ceasing to follow the LORD and building your own altar this day in defiance of the LORD?

¹⁷Remember our offence at Peor, for which a plague fell upon the community of the LORD; to this day we have not been purified from it. ¹⁸Was that offence so slight that you dare cease to follow the LORD today? If you defy the LORD today, then tomorrow he will be angry with the whole community of Israel. ¹⁹If the land you have taken is unclean, then cross over to the LORD's own land, where the Tabernacle of the LORD now rests, and take a share of it with us; but do not defy the LORD and involve us in your defiance by building an altar of your own apart from the altar of the LORD our God. ²⁰Remember the treachery of Achan son of Zerah, who defied the ban and the whole community of Israel suffered for it. He was not the only one who paid for that sin with his life.'

²¹Then the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh remonstrated with the heads of the clans of Israel: ²²The LORD the God of gods, the LORD the God of gods, he knows, and Israel must know: if this had been an act of defiance or treachery against the LORD, you could not save us today. ²³If we had built ourselves an altar meaning to forsake the LORD, or had offered whole-offerings and grain-offerings upon it, or had presented shared-offerings, the LORD himself would exact punishment. ²⁴The truth is that we have done this for fear that the day may come when your sons will say to ours, "What have you to do with the LORD, the God of Israel?" ²⁵The LORD put the Jordan as a boundary between our sons and your sons. You have no share in the LORD, you men of Reuben and Gad." Thus your sons will prevent our sons from going in awe of the LORD. ²⁶So we resolved to set ourselves to build an altar, not for whole-offerings and sacrifices, ²⁷but as a witness between us and you, and between our descendants after us. Thus we shall be able to do service before the LORD, as we do now, with our whole-offerings, our sacrifices, and our shared-offerings; and your sons will never be able to say to our sons that they have no share in the LORD. ²⁸And we thought, if ever they do say this to us and our descendants, we will point to this copy of the altar of the LORD which we have made, not for whole-offerings and not for sacrifices, but as a witness between us and you. ²⁹God forbid that we should defy the LORD and forsake him this day by building another altar for whole-offerings, grain-offerings, and sacrifices, in addition to the altar of the LORD our God which stands in front of his Tabernacle.'

³⁰When Phinehas the priest and the leaders of the community, the heads of the Israelite clans, who were with him, heard what the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the Manassites said, they were satisfied. ³¹Phinehas son of Eleazar the priest said to the Reubenites, Gadites, and Manassites, 'We know now that the LORD is in our midst today; you have not acted treacherously against the LORD, and thus you have preserved all Israel from punishment at his hand.' ³²Then Phinehas son of Eleazar the priest and the leaders left the Reubenites and the Gadites in Gilead and reported to the Israelites in Canaan. ³³The Israelites were satisfied, and they blessed God and thought no more of attacking Reuben and Gad and ravaging their land. ³⁴The Reubenites and Gadites said, 'The altar is a witness between us that the LORD is God', and they named it 'Witness'.

Joshua's farewell and death

23¹A LONG TIME HAD PASSED since the LORD had given Israel security from all the enemies who surrounded them, and Joshua was now a very old man. ²He summoned all

Israel, their elders and heads of families, their judges and officers, and said to them, 'I have become a very old man. ³You have seen for yourselves all that the LORD our God has done to these peoples for your sake; it was the LORD God himself who fought for you. ⁴I have allotted you your patrimony tribe by tribe, the land of all the peoples that I have wiped out and of all these that remain between the Jordan and the Great Sea which lies towards the setting sun. ⁵The LORD your God himself drove them out for your sake; he drove them out to make room for you, and you occupied their land, as the LORD your God had promised you. ⁶Be resolute therefore: observe and perform everything written in the book of the law of Moses, without swerving to right or to left. ⁷You must not associate with the peoples that are left among you; you must not call upon their gods by name, nor [you must not call ... nor: *or* the name of their gods shall not be your boast, nor must you ...] swear by them nor prostrate yourselves in worship before them. ⁸You must hold fast to the LORD your God as you have done down to this day. ⁹For your sake the LORD has driven out great and mighty nations; to this day not a man of them has withstood you. ¹⁰One of you can put to flight a thousand, because the LORD your God fights for you, as he promised. ¹¹Be on your guard then, love the LORD your God, ¹²for [Be on ... for: *or* Take very good care to love the LORD your God, but ...] if you do turn away and attach yourselves to the peoples that still remain among you, and intermarry with them and associate with them and they with you, ¹³then be sure that the LORD will not continue to drive those peoples out to make room for you. They will be snares to entrap you, whips for your backs and barbed hooks in your eyes, until you vanish from the good land which the LORD your God has given you. ¹⁴And now I am going the way of all mankind. You know in your heart of hearts that nothing that the LORD your God has promised you has failed to come true, every word of it. ¹⁵But the same LORD God who has kept his word to you to such good effect can equally bring every kind of evil on you, until he has rooted you out from this good land which he has given you. ¹⁶If you break the covenant which the LORD your God has prescribed and prostrate yourselves in worship before other gods, then the LORD will be angry with you and you will quickly vanish from the good land he has given you.'

24¹Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders of Israel, the heads of families, the judges and officers; and they presented themselves before God. ²Joshua then said this to all the people: 'This is the word of the LORD the God of Israel: "Long ago your forefathers, Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor, lived beside the Euphrates, and they worshipped other gods. ³I took your father Abraham from beside the Euphrates and led him through the length and breadth of Canaan. I gave him many descendants: I gave him Isaac, ⁴and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. I put Esau in possession of the hill-country of Seir, but Jacob and his sons went down to Egypt. ⁵I sent Moses and Aaron, and I struck the Egyptians with plagues – you know well what I did among them – and after that I brought you out; ⁶I brought your fathers out of Egypt and you came to the Red Sea. The Egyptians sent their chariots and cavalry to pursue your fathers to the sea. ⁷But when they appealed to the LORD, he put a screen of darkness between you and the Egyptians, and brought the sea down on them and it covered them; you saw for yourselves what I did to Egypt. For a long time you lived in the wilderness. ⁸Then I brought you into the land of the Amorites who lived east of the Jordan; they fought against you, but I delivered them into your hands; you took possession of their country and I destroyed them for your sake. ⁹The king of Moab,

Balak son of Zippor, took the field against Israel. He sent for Balaam son of Beor to lay a curse on you, ¹⁰but I would not listen to him. Instead of that he blessed you; and so I saved you from the power of Balak. ¹¹Then you crossed the Jordan and came to Jericho. The citizens of Jericho fought against you [*prob. rdg, Heb adds Amorites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hittites, Girgashites, Hivites, and Jebusites*], but I delivered them into your hands. ¹²I spread panic before you, and it was this, not your sword or your bow, that drove out the two kings of the Amorites. ¹³I gave you land on which you had not laboured, cities which you had never built; you have lived in those cities and you eat the produce of vineyards and olive-groves which you did not plant.”

¹⁴Hold the LORD in awe then, and worship him in loyalty and truth. Banish the gods whom your fathers worshipped beside the Euphrates and in Egypt, and worship the LORD. ¹⁵But if it does not please you to worship the LORD, choose here and now whom you will worship: the gods whom your forefathers worshipped beside the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living. But I and my family, we will worship the LORD.’ ¹⁶The people answered, ‘God forbid that we should forsake the LORD to worship other gods, ¹⁷for it was the LORD our God who brought us and our fathers up from Egypt, that land of slavery; it was he who displayed those great signs before our eyes and guarded us on all our wanderings among the many peoples through whose lands we passed. ¹⁸The LORD drove out before us the Amorites and all the peoples who lived in that country. We too will worship the LORD; he is our God.’ ¹⁹Joshua answered the people, ‘You cannot worship the LORD. He is a holy god, a jealous god, and he will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. ²⁰If you forsake the LORD and worship foreign gods, he will turn and bring adversity upon you and, although he once brought you prosperity, he will make an end of you.’ ²¹The people said to Joshua, ‘No; we will worship the LORD.’ ²²He said to them, ‘You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD and will worship him.’ ‘Yes,’ they answered, ‘we are witnesses.’ ²³He said to them, ‘Then here and now banish the foreign gods that are among you, and turn your hearts to the LORD the God of Israel.’ ²⁴The people said to Joshua, ‘The LORD our God we will worship and his voice we will obey.’ ²⁵So Joshua made a covenant that day with [*Or for*] the people; he drew up a statute and an ordinance for them in Shechem ²⁶and wrote its terms in the book of the law of God. He took a great stone and set it up there under the terebinth [*Or pole*] in the sanctuary of the LORD, ²⁷and said to all the people, ‘This stone is a witness against us; for it has heard all the words which the LORD has spoken to us. If you renounce your God, it shall be a witness against you.’ ²⁸Then Joshua dismissed the people, each man to his patrimony.

²⁹After these things, Joshua son of Nun the servant of the LORD died; he was a hundred and ten years old. ³⁰They buried him within the border of his own patrimony in Timnath-serah in the hill-country of Ephraim to the north of Mount Gaash. ³¹Israel served the LORD during the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who well knew all that the LORD had done for Israel.

³²The bones of Joseph, which the Israelites had brought up from Egypt, were buried in Shechem, in the plot of land which Jacob had bought from the sons of Hamor father of Shechem for a hundred sheep [*Or pieces of money (cp Gen. 33.19; Job 42.11)*]; and

they passed into the patrimony of the house of Joseph. ³³Eleazar son of Aaron died and was buried in the hill which had been given to Phinehas his son in the hill-country of Ephraim.