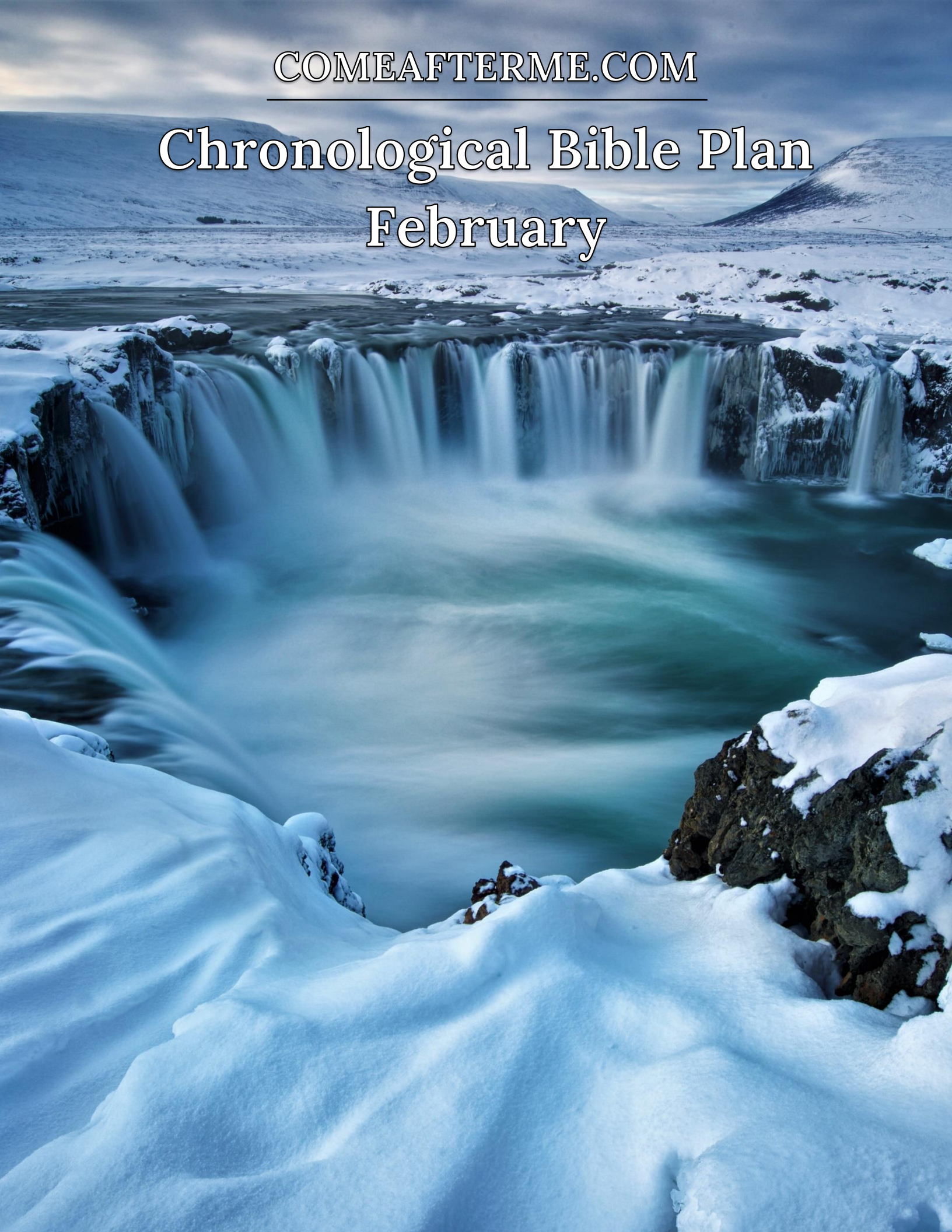


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Chronological Bible Plan February



FEBRUARY

**“Every day I will bless you and praise
your name forever and ever” (Ps 145:2)**

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February 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Bible Reading	<input type="checkbox"/> Prayer
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'He supposed that his brothers would understand...' (c. 1486)

Exodus 2:11–20

Moses Murders an Egyptian

11 And then in those days when Moses had grown up, he went out to his brothers, and he saw their forced labor, and he saw an Egyptian man striking a Hebrew man, *one of his brothers*.

12 And he turned here and there, and he saw no one, and he struck the Egyptian, and he hid him in the sand.

13 And he went out on the second day, and there were two Hebrew men fighting, and he said to the guilty *one*, "Why do you strike your neighbor?"

14a And he said, "Who appointed you as a commander and a judge over us? *Are you intending to kill me like you killed the Egyptian?*" [cf. [Acts 7:22–28](#); [Heb 11:24–26](#)]

Moses Flees to Midian

14b And Moses was afraid, and he said, "Surely the matter has become known." [cf. [Acts 7:29](#)]

15 And Pharaoh heard this matter, and he sought to kill Moses, and Moses fled from Pharaoh, and he lived in the land of Midian, and he lived at a certain well.

16 *Now* the priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came and drew water and filled the troughs to water their father's flock.

17 And the shepherds came and drove them away, but Moses stood up and came to their rescue and watered their flock.

18 And they came to Reuel, their father, and he said, "Why have you come so quickly today?"

19 And they said, "An Egyptian man delivered us from the hand of the shepherds, and he even drew *water* for us and watered the flock."

20 And he said to his daughters, "Where *is* he? Why then have you left the man? Call him so that he can eat some food."

A God Who Sees, Hears and Remembers (c. 1486 – 1447 BC)

Exodus 2:21–25

Moses' Family

21 And Moses agreed to stay with the man, and he gave Zipporah his daughter to Moses.

22 And she bore a son, and he called his name Gershom because he said, "I am an alien in a foreign land."

The Death of Thutmose III (c. 1450 BC)

23 And then during those many days, the king of Egypt died, and the Israelites groaned because of the work, and they cried out, and their cry for help because of the work went up to God.

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

25 and God saw the Israelites, and God took notice.

Encounter at Mount Sinai (1447 BC)

Exodus 3:1–4:17

The Burning Bush

3:1 And Moses was a shepherd with the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the west of the desert, and he came to the mountain of God, to Horeb.

2 And the angel of Yahweh appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush, and he looked, and there was the bush burning with fire, but the bush was not being consumed.

3 And Moses said, "Let me turn aside and see this great sight. Why does the bush not burn up?"

4 And Yahweh saw that he turned aside to see, and God called to him from the midst of the bush, and he said, "Moses, Moses." And he said, "Here I *am*."

5 And he said, "You must not come near to here. Take off your sandals from on your feet, because the place on which you *are* standing, it *is* holy ground."

6 And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." [[Matt 22:31–33](#)] And Moses hid his face because he was afraid of looking at God.

7 And Yahweh said, "Surely I have seen the misery of my people who *are* in Egypt, and I have heard their cry of distress because of their oppressors, for I know their sufferings.

8 And I have come down to deliver them from the hand of *the* Egyptians and to bring them up from this land to a good and wide land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.

9 And now, look, the cry of distress of the Israelites has come to me, and also I see the oppression *with* which *the* Egyptians *are* oppressing them.

10 And now come, and I will send you to Pharaoh, and *you must* bring my people, the Israelites, out from Egypt.” [cf. [Acts 7:30–35](#)]

“Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh?”

11 But Moses said to God, “Who *am* I that I should go to Pharaoh and that I should bring the Israelites out from Egypt?”

12 And he said, “Because I am with you, and this *will be* the sign for you that I myself have sent you: When you bring the people out from Egypt, you will serve God on this mountain.”

“Who should I say sent me?”

13 But Moses said to God, “Look, *if* I go to the Israelites and I say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What *is* his name?’ *then* what shall I say to them?”

14 And God said to Moses, “I am that I am.” And he said, “So you must say to the Israelites, ‘I am sent me to you.’”

15 And God said again to Moses, “So you must say to the Israelites, ‘Yahweh, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This *is* my name forever, and this *is* my remembrance from generation to generation.’

16 Go and gather the elders of Israel and say to them, ‘Yahweh, the God of your ancestors, appeared to me, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, ‘I have carefully attended to you and what has been done to you in Egypt.’

17 And I said, ‘I will bring you up from the misery of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, to a land flowing with milk and honey.’”

18 And they will listen to your voice, and you will go, you and the elders of Israel, to the king of Egypt, and you will say to him, ‘Yahweh, the God of the Hebrews has met with us, and now let us please go *on* a journey of three days into the desert, and let us sacrifice to Yahweh our God.’

19 But I myself know that the king of Egypt will not allow you to go unless compelled by a strong hand.

20 And I will stretch out my hand, and I will strike Egypt with all of my wonders that I will do in its midst, and afterward he will release you.

21 And I will give this people favor in the eyes of *the* Egyptians, and then when you go, you will not go empty-handed.

22 And a woman will ask from her neighbor and from the woman dwelling as an alien in her house *for* objects of silver and objects of gold and garments, and you will put *them* on your sons and on your daughters; and you will plunder Egypt.”

“But they will not believe me”

4:1 And Moses answered, and he said, “And if they do not believe me and they do not listen to my voice, but they say, ‘Yahweh did not appear to you?’”

2 And Yahweh said to him, “What *is* this in your hand?” And he said, “A staff.”

3 And he said, “Throw it onto the ground.” And he threw it onto the ground, and it became a snake, and Moses fled from it.

4 And Yahweh said to Moses, “Reach out your hand and grasp *it* by its tail” — (And he reached out his hand and grabbed it, and it became a staff in his palm.)—

5 “so that they may believe that Yahweh, the God of their ancestors, appeared to you, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.”

6 And Yahweh said to him again, “Put your hand into the fold of your garment.” And he put his hand into the fold of his garment, and he took it out, and, to his surprise, his hand *was* afflicted with a skin disease, like snow.

7 And he said, “Return your hand to the fold of your garment.” And he returned his hand to the fold of his garment, and he took it out from the fold of his garment, and, to his surprise, it was restored like the rest of his body.

8 “And if they do not believe you and they will not listen to the voice of the former sign, *then* they will believe the voice of the latter sign.

9 And if they also do not believe the second of these signs and they will not listen to your voice, *then* you must take water from the Nile and pour *it* onto the dry ground, and the water that you take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground.”

“But I am not eloquent”

10 And Moses said to Yahweh, “Please, Lord, I *am* not a man of words, neither recently nor in the past nor since your speaking to your servant, because I *am* heavy of mouth and of tongue.”

11 And Yahweh said to him, “Who gave a mouth to humankind, or who makes mute or deaf or sighted or blind? *Is it* not I, Yahweh?”

12 So then go, and I myself will be with your mouth, and I will teach you what you must speak.”

“Please send someone else!”

13 And he said, “Please, Lord, do send anyone else whom you wish to send.”

14 And Yahweh was angry with Moses and said, “*Is there* not Aaron your brother the Levite? I know that he certainly can speak, and also there he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you, he will rejoice in his heart.

15 And you will speak to him, and you will put words in his mouth, and I myself will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you must do.

16 And he will speak for you to the people, and then he will be to you as a mouth, and you will be to him as a god.
 17 And you must take this staff in your hand, with which you will do the signs.”

The Journey Back to Egypt (late 1447 BC)

Exodus 4:18–31

Moses Says Goodbye to Jethro

18 And Moses went, and he returned to Jethro his father-in-law, and he said to him, “Please let me go, and let me return to my brothers who *are* in Egypt, and let me see whether they *are* yet alive. And Jethro said to Moses, “Go in peace.”

Yahweh’s Final Instructions (Moses delayed his departure?)

19 And Yahweh said to Moses in Midian, “Go, return to Egypt because all the men have died who *were* seeking your life.”

20 And Moses took his wife and his sons and had them ride on the donkey, and he returned to the land of Egypt, and Moses took the staff of God in his hand.

21 And Yahweh said to Moses, “When you go to return to Egypt, see all of the wonders that I have put in your hand, and do them before Pharaoh, and I myself will harden his heart, and he will not release the people.

22 And you must say to Pharaoh, “Thus says Yahweh, “Israel *is* my son, my firstborn.”

23 And I said to you, “Release my son and let him serve me,” but you refused to release him. Look, I *am about* to kill your son, your firstborn.”

Zipporah Circumcises Her Son (Moses refused or was unable to do it himself?)

24 And on the way, at the place of overnight lodging, Yahweh encountered him and sought to kill him.

25 But Zipporah took a flint *knife*, and she cut off the foreskin of her son, and she touched his feet, and she said, “Yes, you *are* a bridegroom of blood to me.”

26 And he left him alone. At that time she said, “A bridegroom of blood,” because of the circumcision.

Aaron Meets Moses at Mount Sinai

27 And Yahweh said to Aaron, “Go to the desert to meet Moses.” And he went and encountered him at the mountain of God and kissed him.

28 And Moses told Aaron all the words of Yahweh, who had sent him—and all the signs that he had commanded him.

The Israelites Believe Moses and Aaron

29 And Moses and Aaron went, and they gathered all of the elders of the Israelites.

30 And Aaron spoke all the words that Yahweh had spoken to Moses, and he did the signs before the eyes of the people.

31 And the people believed when they heard that Yahweh had attended to the Israelites and that he had seen their misery, and they knelt down and they worshiped.

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Chronological Notes

1) The Pharaoh Who Sought to Kill Moses.¹

- A) Thutmose III was a minor when he came to power in 1504, and thus was younger than Moses. If, indeed, Moses had been reared as the foster son of Hatshepsut, there is every likelihood that he posed a real threat to the younger Thutmose, since Hatshepsut had no natural sons. That is, Moses may have been a candidate for pharaoh, with only his Semitic origins standing in the way. In any case, there appears to have been genuine animosity between Moses and the pharaoh. This is evident in the fact that Moses, having slain an Egyptian, was forced to flee Egypt for his life. That the pharaoh himself took note of what would otherwise have been a relatively minor issue suggests that this particular pharaoh had more than casual interest in ridding himself of Moses. Moses’s self-imposed exile took place in 1486, when he was forty years old (Acts 7:23). Thutmose III had been in power for eighteen years, and the aged Hatshepsut, who died three years later, was likely no longer able to interdict the will of her son-in-law/nephew.

¹ Sourced from Eugene Merrill, *Kingdom of Priests: A History of Old Testament Israel*, Second Edition, (Baker Publishing, 2008), 75–78.

- B) For forty long years Moses remained a fugitive from Egypt, having found a home among the Midianites of the Sinai and Arabia. One of the reasons for such a long exile was the fact that the pharaoh from whom Moses fled continued to live and reign—it was only after his death that Moses felt free to return to Egypt (Exod 2:23; 4:19). Thutmose III died in 1450 and was succeeded by his son Amenhotep II (1450–1425).
- (1) It is important to note that the biblical narrative requires a rule of almost forty years for the pharaoh who sought Moses's life, since the king who died at the end of Moses's sojourn in Midian was clearly the same one who had threatened him nearly forty years earlier. Of all the rulers of the Eighteenth Dynasty, only Thutmose III reigned long enough to qualify.

Moses and Aaron Confront Pharaoh (late 1447 BC)

Exodus 5:1–6:9

Moses and Aaron Go to Pharaoh

5:1 And afterward, Moses and Aaron went, and they said to Pharaoh, “Thus says Yahweh the God of Israel, ‘Release my people so that they may hold a festival for me in the desert.’”

2 And Pharaoh said, “Who is Yahweh that I should listen to his voice to release Israel? I do not know Yahweh, and also I will not release Israel.”

3 And they said, “The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Please let us go *on* a three-day journey into the desert, and let us sacrifice to Yahweh our God, lest he strike us with plague or with sword.”

4 And the king of Egypt said, “Why, Moses and Aaron, do you take the people from their work? Go to your forced labor!”

5 And Pharaoh said, “Look, the people of the land *are* now many, and you want to stop them from their forced labor.”

Pharaoh Responds By Making the Israelites Work Even Harder

6 And on that day Pharaoh commanded the slave drivers over the people and his foremen, saying,

7 “You must no longer give straw to the people to make the bricks like before. Let them go and gather straw for themselves.

8 But the quota of the bricks that they *were* making before you must require of them. You must not reduce from it, because they *are* lazy. Therefore they *are* crying out, saying, ‘Let us go and sacrifice to our God.’

9 Let the work be heavier on the men so that they will do it and not pay attention to words of deception.”

10 And the slave drivers of the people and their foremen went out, and they spoke to the people, saying, “Thus says Pharaoh, ‘*I am* not giving you straw.

11 You go, get straw for yourselves from whatever you find because not a thing is being reduced from your work.’”

12 And the people spread out in all the land of Egypt to gather stubble for the straw.

13 And the slave drivers *were* insisting, saying, “Finish your work for each day on its day, as when there was straw.”

14 And the foremen of the Israelites, whom Pharaoh’s slave drivers had appointed over them, were beaten *by men who were* saying, “Why have you not completed your portion of brickmaking as before, both yesterday and today?”

15 And the foremen of the Israelites came and cried out to Pharaoh, saying, “Why do you treat your servants like this?

16 Straw *is* not being given to your servants, but *they are* saying to us, ‘Make bricks!’ and, look, your servants *are* being beaten, but it is the fault of your people.”

17 And he said, “You *are* lazy, lazy! Therefore you *are* saying, ‘Let us go; let us sacrifice to Yahweh.’

18 And now go, work, but straw will not be given to you, and you must give the full quota of bricks.”

The Israelites Berate Moses

19 And the foremen of the Israelites saw they were in trouble with the saying, “You will not reduce from your bricks for each day on its day.”

20 And they met Moses and Aaron, *who were* waiting to meet them when they *were* going out from Pharaoh.

21 And they said to them, “May Yahweh look upon you and judge because you have caused our fragrance to stink in the eyes of Pharaoh and in the eyes of his servants *so as* to put a sword into their hand to kill us.”

Moses Complains to Yahweh

22 And Moses returned to Yahweh and said, “Lord, why have you brought trouble to this people? Why ever did you send me?

23 And from the time I came to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble to this people, and you have certainly not delivered your people.”

6:1 And Yahweh said to Moses, “Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh, because with a strong hand he will release them, and with a strong hand he will drive them out from his land.”

2 And God spoke to Moses, and he said to him, “*I am* Yahweh.

3 And I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob as God Shaddai, but by my name Yahweh I was not known to them.

4 And I not only established my covenant with them to give to them the land of Canaan, the land of their sojournings, in which they dwelt as aliens,

5 but also I myself heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom *the* Egyptians *are* making to work, and I remembered my covenant.

6 Therefore say to the Israelites, ‘*I am* Yahweh, and I will bring you out from under the forced labor of Egypt, and I will deliver you from their slavery, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great punishments.

7 And I will take you as my people, and I will be your God, and you will know that *I am* Yahweh your God, who brought you out from under the forced labor of Egypt.

8 And I will bring you to the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, and I will give it to you *as* a possession. *I am* Yahweh.”

9 And Moses spoke thus to the Israelites, but they did not listen to Moses, because of discouragement and because of hard work.

Israel's First Rebellion (late 1447 BC)

Ezekiel 20:5–9

5 And you must say to them, 'Thus says the Lord Yahweh: "On the day of my choosing Israel I swore to the offspring of the house of Jacob, and I made myself known to them in the land of Egypt, and I swore to them, saying, 'I *am* Yahweh your God.'

6 On that day I swore to them to bring them out from the land of Egypt to *the* land that I had searched out for them, flowing with milk and honey—it *is the most* beautiful of all of the lands.

7 Then I said to them, 'Let each *one* throw away the detestable things of his eyes, and you must not make yourselves unclean with the idols of Egypt! I *am* Yahweh your God.'

8 But they rebelled against me, and they were not willing to listen to me; each *one* did not throw away the detestable things of their eyes; and they did not abandon the idols of Egypt, and I decided to pour out my rage on them, to fully vent my anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.

9 "But I acted for the sake of my name to keep it from being profaned before the eyes of the nations among whom they lived, where I made known to them before their eyes, to bring them out from the land of Egypt.

A Renewed Call to Action (early 1446 BC)

Exodus 6:10–30

Yahweh Sends Moses and Aaron Back to Pharaoh

10 And Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,
 11 "Go, speak to Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, and let him release the Israelites from his land."
 12 And Moses spoke before Yahweh, saying, "Look, the Israelites do not listen to me, and how will Pharaoh listen to me, since I *am* a poor speaker?"

Excursus—Genealogy of Moses and Aaron

13 And Yahweh spoke to Moses and to Aaron, and he commanded them *to go* to the Israelites and to Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, to bring the Israelites out from the land of Egypt.
 14 These *are* the heads of their families. The sons of Reuben, the firstborn of Israel, *are* Enoch and Pallu, Hezron and Carmi. These *are* the clans of Reuben.
 15 And the sons of Simeon *are* Jemuel and Jamin and Ohad and Jakin and Zohar and Shaul the son of the Canaanitess. These *are* the clans of Simeon.
 16 And these *are* the names of the sons of Levi according to their genealogies: Gershon and Kohath and Merari, and the years of the life of Levi *were* one hundred and thirty-seven years.
 17 The sons of Gershon *are* Libni and Shimei according to their clans.
 18 And the sons of Kohath *are* Amram and Izhar and Hebron and Uzziel, and the years of the life of Kohath *were* one hundred and thirty-three years.
 19 And the sons of Merari *are* Mahli and Mushi. These *are* clans of the Levites according to their genealogies.
 20 And Amram took Jochebed his aunt for himself as a wife, and she bore for him Aaron and Moses, and the years of the life of Amram *were* one hundred and thirty-seven years.
 21 And the sons of Izhar *are* Korah and Nepheg and Zikri.
 22 And the sons of Uzziel *are* Mishael and Elzaphan and Sithri.
 23 And Aaron took Elisheba the daughter of Amminadab, the sister of Nahshon, for himself as a wife, and she bore for him Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.
 24 And the sons of Korah *are* Assir and Elkanah and Abiasaph. These *are* the clans of the Korahites.
 25 And Eleazar the son of Aaron took for himself *one* from the daughters of Putiel as a wife, and she bore for him Phinehas. These *are* the heads of the families of the Levites according to their clans.
 26 *It was* that Aaron and Moses to whom Yahweh said, "Bring the Israelites out from the land of Egypt according to their divisions."
 27 They *were* those who spoke to Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, in order to bring the Israelites out from Egypt. *It was* that Moses and Aaron.

Recapitulation of Command to Return

28 And so it was on a certain day Yahweh spoke to Moses in the land of Egypt.
 29 And Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying, "I *am* Yahweh. Speak to Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, all that I *am* speaking to you."
 30 And Moses said before Yahweh, "Look, I *am* a poor speaker. And how will Pharaoh listen to me?"

Moses' and Aaron's Second Confrontation With Pharaoh (early 1446 BC)

Exodus 7:1–13

- 1 And Yahweh said to Moses, “See, I have made you *as* a god to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother will be your prophet.
 2 You will speak all that I will command you, and Aaron your brother will speak to Pharaoh, and he will release the Israelites from his land.
 3 And I myself will harden the heart of Pharaoh, and I will make my signs and my wonders numerous in the land of Egypt.
 4 And Pharaoh will not listen to you, and I will put my hand into Egypt and bring out my divisions, my people, the Israelites, from the land of Egypt with great punishments.
 5 And *the* Egyptians will know that I *am* Yahweh when I stretch out my hand over Egypt and bring the Israelites out from their midst.”
 6 And Moses and Aaron did *it*; as Yahweh commanded them, so they did.
 7 (And Moses *was* eighty years old, and Aaron *was* eighty-three years old when they spoke to Pharaoh.)
 8 And Yahweh said to Moses and to Aaron, saying,
 9 “When Pharaoh speaks to you, saying, ‘Do a wonder for yourselves,’ you will say to Aaron, ‘Take your staff and throw it before Pharaoh, and it will become a snake.’”
 10 And Moses and Aaron came to Pharaoh, and they did so, as Yahweh had commanded. And Aaron threw his staff before Pharaoh and before his servants, and it became a snake.
 11 And Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers, and they also, the magicians of Egypt, did likewise with their secret arts. [[2 Tim 3:8](#)]
 12 Each threw down his staff, and they became snakes, and Aaron’s staff swallowed up their staffs.
 13 And Pharaoh’s heart was hard, and he did not listen to them, as Yahweh had said.

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Chronological Notes

- 1) The rebellion of Israel mentioned in Ezekiel 20:5–9¹ is presented here as part of the Exodus narrative. That this rebellion occurred in Egypt itself, prior to the crossing of the Red Sea, is seen in v. 8 where God was determined to “vent my anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt” (Ezek 20:8).² In light of this, it seems likely that the plagues were not meant for Pharaoh and the Egyptians alone—indeed, there is no indication that Goshen was spared from the first three plagues. It is only in the fourth plague that a distinction was made between the Israelites and the Egyptians (Exod 8:22–23). This distinction, although not explicitly referenced in the following narrative (it’s missing in the sixth and eighth plagues), seems to have continued throughout the remaining plagues.
- 2) The Pharaoh of the Exodus.³
 - A) When Moses returned to Egypt, he and Aaron spoke to the new king, Amenhotep II. This powerful and militaristic monarch conducted a major campaign in Canaan in his third year (ca. 1450) and another in his seventh (ca. 1446). His seventh year coincides with the traditional date of the exodus, 1446, and one cannot help but wonder if the decimation of Pharaoh’s army at the Sea of Reeds might not have followed this second campaign, and had such a demoralizing impact as to discourage further immediate adventurism, especially to the north.
 - B) Our identification of Amenhotep II as the pharaoh of the exodus is supported by two other considerations. First, although most of the kings of the Eighteenth Dynasty made their principal residence at Thebes, far to the south of the Israelites in the Delta, Amenhotep was at home in Memphis and apparently reigned from there much of the time. This placed him in close proximity to the land of Goshen and made him readily accessible to Moses and Aaron. Second, the best understanding suggests that Amenhotep’s power did not pass to his eldest son but rather to Thutmose IV, a younger son. This is at least implied in the so-called dream stela found at the base of the Great Sphinx near Memphis. This text, which records a dream

¹ Other references that mention Israel’s idolatry while in Egypt include: Leviticus 17:7; Ezekiel 23:3, 8, 19; Joshua 24:14.

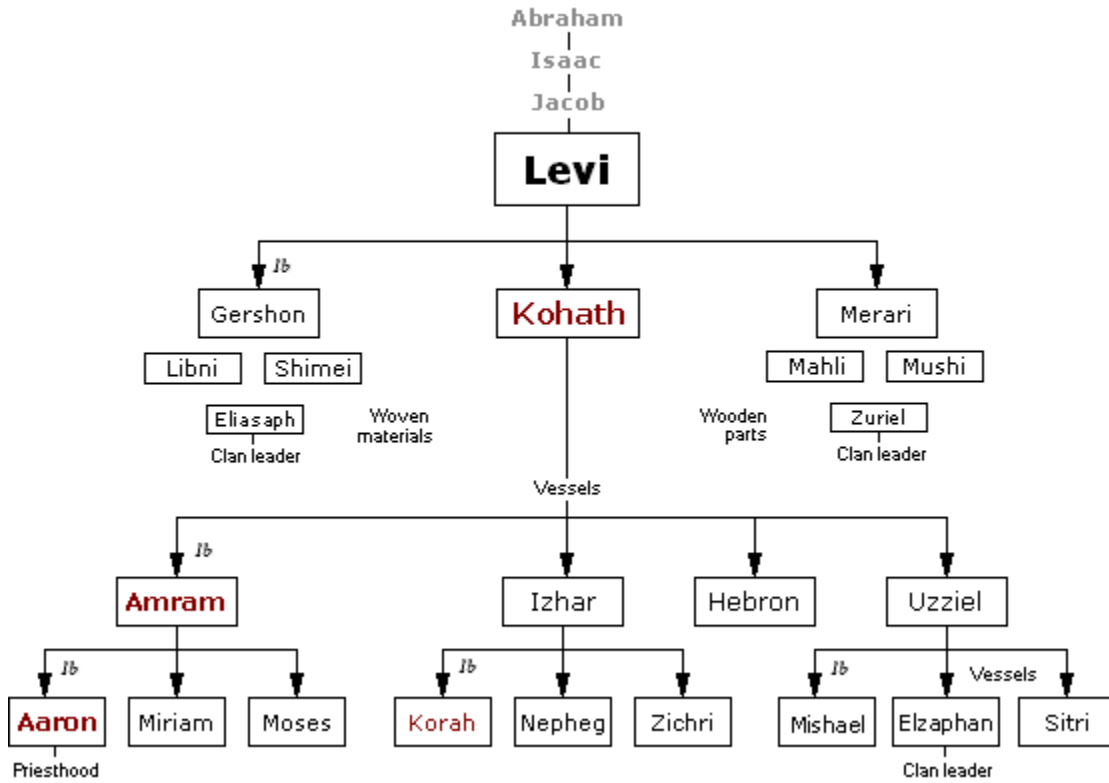
² Keil & Delitzsch comment: “It is true that there is nothing expressly stated in the Pentateuch as to the refusal of the Israelites to obey the command of God, or their unwillingness to give up idolatry in Egypt; but it may be inferred from the statements contained in Ex. 6:9 and 12...” (C. F. Keil and F. Delitzsch, “Ezekiel Daniel,” *Commentary on the Old Testament*, 154). See also Steven Tuell’s comments on Ezekiel 20:5–9 (Steven Tuell, “Ezekiel,” *UBCS*, 128).

³ Sourced from Eugene Merrill, *Kingdom of Priests: A History of Old Testament Israel*, Second Edition, (Baker Publishing, 2008), 80.

in which Thutmose IV was promised that he would one day be king, suggests, as one historian says, that his reign came about “through an unforeseen turn of fate, such as the premature death of an elder brother.” It is impossible to prove, but one cannot help but speculate as to whether this premature death was not caused by the judgment of Yahweh, who in the tenth plague struck dead all the firstborn of Egypt, who were unprotected by the blood of the Passover, “from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon” (Exod 12:29).

Textual Notes

1) Genealogy of Moses.



First Plague—Nile River Turns to Blood (c. February–March 1446 BC)

Exodus 7:14–25

14 And Yahweh said to Moses, “Pharaoh’s heart *is* insensitive; he refuses to release the people.
 15 Go to Pharaoh in the morning. Look, *he is* going out to the water, and you must wait to meet him on the bank of the Nile, and you must take in your hand the staff that was changed into a snake.
 16 And you must say to him, ‘Yahweh, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to you, saying, “Release my people that they may serve me in the desert, and, look, you have not listened until now.”
 17 Thus says Yahweh, “By this you will know that I *am* Yahweh. Look, I *am about* to strike with the staff that is in my hand the water that is in the Nile, and it will be changed to blood.
 18 And the fish that *are* in the Nile will die, and the Nile will stink, and *the* Egyptians will be unable to drink water from the Nile.” ”
 19 And Yahweh said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Take your staff and stretch your hand out over the waters of Egypt and over their rivers, over their canals, and over their pools and over all of their reservoirs of water, so that they become blood,’ and blood will be in all the land of Egypt and in *vessels of* wood and of stone.”
 20 And Moses and Aaron did so, as Yahweh had commanded, and he raised the staff and struck the water that was in the Nile before the eyes of Pharaoh and before the eyes of his servants, and all of the water that was in the Nile was changed to blood.
 21 And the fish that *were* in the Nile died, and the Nile stank, and *the* Egyptians were not able to drink water from the Nile, and the blood was in all the land of Egypt.
 22 And the magicians of Egypt did likewise with their secret arts, and Pharaoh’s heart was hard, and he did not listen to them, as Yahweh had spoken.
 23 And Pharaoh turned and went to his house, and he did not take also this to heart.
 24 And all of *the* Egyptians dug around the Nile *for* water to drink, because they were unable to drink from the water of the Nile.
 25 And seven days passed after Yahweh struck the Nile.

Second Plague—Frogs (c. February–March 1446 BC)

Exodus 8:1–15

1 And Yahweh said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh, and say to him, ‘Thus says Yahweh, “Release my people so that they may serve me.”
 2 And if you *are* refusing to release, look, I *am going* to plague all of your territory with frogs.
 3 And the Nile will swarm with frogs, and they will go up and come into your house and into your bedroom and onto your bed and into the house of your servants and among your people and into your ovens and into your kneading troughs.
 4 And the frogs will go up against you and against your people and against all of your servants.”
 5 And Yahweh said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your hand with your staff over the rivers, over the canals, and over the pools, and bring up the frogs on the land of Egypt.”
 6 And Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs went up and covered the land of Egypt.
 7 And the magicians did likewise with their secret arts, and they brought up frogs over the land of Egypt.
 8 And Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron and said, “Pray to Yahweh, and let him remove the frogs from me and from my people, and let me release the people so that they can sacrifice to Yahweh.”
 9 And Moses said to Pharaoh, “I leave to you the honor over me. When shall I pray for you and for your servants and for your people to cut off the frogs from you and from your houses? They will be left only in the Nile.”
 10 And he said, “Tomorrow.” And he said, “*Let it be* according to your word so that you will know that there is no one like Yahweh our God.
 11 And the frogs will depart from you and from your house and from your servants. They will be left only in the Nile.”
 12 And Moses and Aaron went out from Pharaoh, and Moses cried out to Yahweh over the matter of the frogs that he had brought on Pharaoh.
 13 And Yahweh did according to the word of Moses, and the frogs died from the houses, from the courtyards, and from the fields.
 14 And they piled them *in* countless heaps, and the land stank.
 15 And Pharaoh saw that there was relief, and he made his heart insensitive, and he did not listen to them, as Yahweh had spoken.

Third Plague—Gnats (c. February–March 1446 BC)

Exodus 8:16–19

16 And Yahweh said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the land, and it will become gnats in all the land of Egypt.”
 17 And he did so, and Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff, and he struck the dust of the land, and it became gnats on the humans and on the animals; all of the dust of the land became gnats in all the land of Egypt.
 18 And the magicians did so with their secret arts to bring out the gnats, but they were not able, and the gnats were on the humans and on the animals.

19 And the magicians said to Pharaoh, “It is the finger of God.” But the heart of Pharaoh was hard, and he did not listen to them, as Yahweh had spoken.

Fourth Plague—Flies (c. February–March 1446 BC)

Exodus 8:20–32

20 And Yahweh said to Moses, “Start early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh. Look, *he is* going out to the water, and you must say to him, ‘Thus says Yahweh, “Release my people so that they may serve me.”’

21 But if you are not *about to* release my people, look, I *am about* to send out flies among you and among your servants and among your people and in your houses; and the houses of Egypt will fill up with the flies and also the ground that they are on.

22 But on that day I will distinguish the land of Goshen, where my people are staying, by there not being flies there, so that you will know that I *am* Yahweh in the midst of the land.

23 And I will put a distinction between my people and your people; this sign will be tomorrow.”

24 And Yahweh did so, and a severe *swarm of* flies came to the house of Pharaoh and the house of his servants and in all the land of Egypt; the land was ruined because of the flies.

25 And Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron, and he said, “Go, sacrifice to your God in the land.”

26 And Moses said, “To do so *is* not right, because we will sacrifice to Yahweh our God a thing detestable to the Egyptians. Look, *if* we sacrifice before their eyes the thing detestable to the Egyptians, will they not stone us?

27 We will go a journey of three days into the desert, and we will sacrifice to Yahweh our God according to what he says to us.”

28 And Pharaoh said, “I myself will release you, and you will sacrifice to Yahweh your God in the desert. Only surely you must not go far. Pray for me.”

29 And Moses said, “Look, I *am* going out from you, and I will pray to Yahweh so that the flies depart from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people tomorrow. Only let not Pharaoh again deceive *us* by not releasing the people to sacrifice to Yahweh.”

30 And Moses went out from Pharaoh and prayed to Yahweh.

31 And Yahweh did according to the word of Moses and removed the flies from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people; not one was left.

32 And Pharaoh made his heart insensitive also this time, and he did not release the people.

Fifth Plague—Livestock Plague (c. February–March 1446 BC)

Exodus 9:1–7

1 And Yahweh said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘Thus says Yahweh, the God of the Hebrews, “Release my people so that they may serve me.”’

2 But if you *are* refusing to release and you still *are* keeping hold of them,

3 look, the hand of Yahweh *is* about to be *present with* a very severe plague on your livestock that are in the field, on the horses, on the donkeys, on the camels, on the cattle, and on the sheep and goats.

4 But Yahweh will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt, and not a thing will die from all *that belongs* to the Israelites.”

5 And Yahweh set an appointed time, saying, “Tomorrow Yahweh will do this thing in the land.”

6 And Yahweh did this thing the next day; all the livestock of Egypt died, but from the livestock of the Israelites not one died.

7 And Pharaoh sent *to check*, and it turned out not even one from the livestock of Israel had died, but Pharaoh’s heart was insensitive, and he did not release the people.

Sixth Plague—Boils (c. February–March 1446 BC)

Exodus 9:8–12

8 And Yahweh said to Moses and to Aaron, “Take for yourselves full handfuls of soot from a smelting furnace, and let Moses sprinkle it toward the heavens before the eyes of Pharaoh.

9 And it will become fine dust over all the land of Egypt, and it will become on humans and on animals a skin sore sprouting blisters in all the land of Egypt.”

10 And they took the soot of the smelting furnace, and they stood before Pharaoh, and Moses sprinkled it toward the heavens, and it became skin sores sprouting blisters on humans and on animals.

11 And the magicians were not able to stand before Moses because of the skin sores, for the skin sores were on the magicians and on all *the* Egyptians.

12 And Yahweh hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not listen to them, as Yahweh had spoken to Moses.

Seventh Plague—Hail (c. February–March 1446 BC)

Exodus 9:13–35

- 13 And Yahweh said to Moses, “Start early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh. Look, *he is* going out to the water, and you must say to him, ‘Thus says Yahweh, the God of the Hebrews, “Release my people so that they may serve me.
- 14 For at this time I *am* sending all of my plagues to you personally and among your servants and among your people so that you will know that there is no one like me in all the earth.
- 15 For now I could have stretched out my hand, and I could have struck you and your people with the plague, and you would have perished from the earth.
- 16 But for the sake of this I have caused you to stand—for the sake of showing you my strength and in order to proclaim my name in all the earth. [[Rom 9:17](#)]
- 17 Still you *are* behaving haughtily to my people by not releasing them.
- 18 Look, about *this* time tomorrow, I *am* going to cause very severe hail to rain, the like of which has not been in Egypt from the day it was founded until now.
- 19 And now send *word*; bring into safety your livestock and all that *belongs* to you in the field. The hail will come down on every human and animal that is found in the field and not gathered into the house, and they will die.” ”
- 20 Anyone from the servants of Pharaoh who feared the word of Yahweh caused his servants and livestock to flee to the houses.
- 21 But whoever did not give regard to the word of Yahweh abandoned his servants and his livestock in the field.
- 22 And Yahweh said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand to the heavens, and let there be hail in all the land of Egypt, on human and on animal and on all the vegetation of the field in the land of Egypt.”
- 23 And Moses stretched out his staff to the heavens, and Yahweh gave thunder and hail, and fire went *to the* earth, and Yahweh caused hail to rain on the land of Egypt.
- 24 And there was hail, and fire *was* flashing back and forth in the midst of the very severe hail, the like of which was not in all the land of Egypt since it had become a nation.
- 25 And the hail struck in all the land of Egypt all that *was* in the field, from human to animal, and the hail struck all the vegetation of the field and smashed every tree of the field.
- 26 Only in the land of Goshen, where the Israelites *were*, there was no hail.
- 27 And Pharaoh sent and called Moses and Aaron and said to them, “I have sinned this time. Yahweh *is* the righteous *one*, and I and my people *are* the wicked *ones*.
- 28 Pray to Yahweh. The thunder of God and hail are enough, and I will release you, and you will no longer have to stay.”
- 29 And Moses said to him, “At my leaving the city, I will spread out my hands to Yahweh. The thunder will stop, and the hail will be no more, so that you will know that the earth *belongs* to Yahweh.
- 30 But *as for* you and your servants, I know that you do not yet fear the presence of Yahweh God.”
- 31 And the flax and the barley were struck, because the barley *was in the* ear and the flax *was in* bud.
- 32 But the wheat and the spelt were not struck, because they *are* late-ripening.
- 33 And Moses went from Pharaoh out of the city, and he spread his hands to Yahweh, and the thunder and the hail stopped, and rain did not pour *on the* earth.
- 34 And Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunder stopped, and he again sinned and made his heart insensitive, he and his servants.
- 35 And Pharaoh’s heart was hard, and he did not release the Israelites, as Yahweh had said by the agency of Moses.

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Yahweh Prepares Israel for the Exodus (1 Nisan [March/April] 1446 BC)

Exodus 12:1–20, 43–49

Instructions Concerning the Passover

- 1 And Yahweh said to Moses and to Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying,
- 2 “This month *will be* the beginning of months; it *will be* for you the first of the months of the year.
- 3 Speak to all the community of Israel, saying, ‘On the tenth of this month, they will each take for themselves a lamb for the family, a lamb for the household.
- 4 And if the household is too small for a lamb, he and the neighbor nearest to his house will take *one* according to the number of persons; you will count out portions of the lamb according to how much each one can eat.
- 5 The lamb for you must be a male, without defect, in its first year; you will take *it* from the sheep or from the goats.
- 6 “You will keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, and all the assembly of the community of Israel will slaughter it at twilight.
- 7 And they will take *some* of the blood and put *it* on the two doorposts and on the lintel on the houses in which they eat it.
- 8 And they will eat the meat on this night; they will eat it fire-roasted and *with* unleavened bread on bitter herbs.
- 9 You must not eat any of it raw or boiled, boiled in the water, but rather roasted with fire, its head with its legs and with its inner parts.
- 10 And you must not leave any of it until morning; anything left from it until morning you must burn in the fire.
- 11 And this is how you will eat it—*with* your waists fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand, and you will eat it in haste. It *is* Yahweh’s Passover.
- 12 “And I will go through the land of Egypt during this night, and I will strike all of the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from human to animal, and I will do punishments among all of the gods of Egypt. I *am* Yahweh.
- 13 And the blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and I will see the blood, and I will pass over you, and there will not be a destructive plague among you when I strike the land of Egypt.

Instructions Concerning the Feast of Unleavened Bread

- 14 “And this day will become a memorial for you, and you will celebrate it as a religious feast for Yahweh throughout your generations; you will celebrate it as a lasting statute.
- 15 You will eat unleavened bread for seven days. Surely on the first day you shall remove yeast from your houses, because anyone *who* eats *food with* yeast from the first day until the seventh day—that person will be cut off from Israel.
- 16 It will be for you on the first day a holy assembly and on the seventh day a holy assembly; no work will be done on them; only what is eaten by every person, it alone will be prepared for you.
- 17 “And you will keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread, because on this very day I brought out your divisions from the land of Egypt, and you will keep this day for your generations as a lasting statute.
- 18 On the first *day*, on the fourteenth day of the month, in the evening, you will eat unleavened bread until the evening of the twenty-first day of the month.
- 19 For seven days yeast must not be found in your houses, because anyone eating food with yeast will be cut off from the community of Israel—*whether* an alien or a native of the land.
- 20 You will eat no *food with* yeast; in all of your dwellings you will eat unleavened bread.”

Additional Instructions Concerning Participation in the Passover

- 43 And Yahweh said to Moses and Aaron, “This *is* the statute of the Passover: No foreigner may eat it.
- 44 But any slave of a man, an acquisition by money, and you have circumcised him, then he may eat it.
- 45 A temporary resident and a hired worker may not eat it.
- 46 It will be eaten in one house; you will not bring part of the meat out from the house to the outside; and you will not break a bone of it. [cf. [John 19:36](#)]
- 47 All of the community of Israel will prepare it.
- 48 And when an alien dwells with you and he wants to prepare *the* Passover for Yahweh, every male belonging to him must be circumcised, and then he may come near to prepare it, and he will be as the native of the land, but any uncircumcised *man* may not eat it.
- 49 One law will be for the native and for the alien who is dwelling in your midst.”

Eighth Plague—Locusts (c. 2–7 Nisan [March/April] 1446 BC)

Exodus 10:1–20

- 1 And Yahweh said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh, for I have made his heart insensitive and the heart of his servants in order to put these signs of mine in his midst,
- 2 so that you will tell in the ears of your child and your grandchild that I dealt harshly with *the* Egyptians and *so that you will tell about* my signs that I have done among them, and so you will know that I *am* Yahweh.”
- 3 And Moses and Aaron came to Pharaoh, and they said to him, “Thus says Yahweh, the God of the Hebrews, ‘Until when will you

refuse to submit before me? Release my people so that they may serve me.

4 But if you *are* refusing to release my people, look, I *am* about to bring locusts into your territory tomorrow.

5 And they will cover the surface of the land, and no one will be able to see the land, and they will eat the remainder of what is left—what is left over for you from the hail—and they will eat every sprouting tree *belonging* to you from the field.

6 And your houses will be full, and the houses of all your servants and the houses of all Egypt, *something* that your fathers and your grandfathers never saw from the day they were on the earth until this day.” And he turned and went out from Pharaoh.

7 And the servants of Pharaoh said to him, “Until when will this be a snare for us? Release the men so that they may serve Yahweh their God. Do you not yet know that Egypt is destroyed?”

8 And Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh, and he said to them, “Serve Yahweh your God. Who are the ones going?

9 And Moses said, “With our young and with our old we will go; with our sons and with our daughters, with our sheep and goats and with our cattle we will go because *it is* the feast of Yahweh for us.”

10 And he said to them, “Let Yahweh be thus with you *as soon* as I release you and your dependents. See that evil is before your faces.

11 No indeed; *just* the men go and serve Yahweh, since this *is what you are* seeking.” And he drove them out from the presence of Pharaoh.

12 And Yahweh said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt with the locusts so that they may come up over the land of Egypt, and let them eat all the vegetation of the land, all that the hail left behind.”

13 And Moses stretched out his staff over the land of Egypt, and Yahweh drove an east wind into the land all that day and all night. The morning came, and the east wind had brought the locusts.

14 And the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt, and they settled in all the territory of Egypt, very severe. Before it there were not locusts like them, nor will there be after it.

15 And they covered the surface of all the land, and the land was dark *with them*, and they ate all the vegetation of the land and all the fruit of the trees that the hail had left, and no green was left in the trees nor in the vegetation of the field in all the land of Egypt.

16 And Pharaoh hurried to call Moses and Aaron, and he said, “I have sinned against Yahweh your God and against you.

17 And now forgive my sin surely this time, and pray to Yahweh your God so that he may only remove from me this death.”

18 And he went out from Pharaoh, and he prayed to Yahweh.

19 And Yahweh turned a very strong west wind and lifted up the locusts and thrust them into the Red Sea, and not one locust remained in all the territory of Egypt.

20 And Yahweh hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not release the Israelites.

Ninth Plague—Darkness (c. 8–10 Nisan [April] 1446 BC)

Exodus 10:21–23

21 And Yahweh said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward the heavens so that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt and so that *a person can* feel darkness.”

22 And Moses stretched out his hand toward the heavens, and there was darkness of night in all the land of Egypt *for* three days.

23 No one could see his brother, and because of it no one could move from where they were *for* three days, but there was light for the Israelites in their dwellings.

Moses Warns Pharaoh About the Final Plague (c. 11–13 Nisan [April] 1446 BC)

Exodus 10:24–29; 11:1–10

God Tells Moses About the Tenth and Final Plague (flashback)

11:1 And Yahweh said to Moses, “Still one plague I will bring upon Pharaoh and upon Egypt; afterward he will release you from here. At the moment of his releasing, he will certainly drive you completely out from here.

2 Speak in the ears of the people, and let them ask, a man from his neighbor and a woman from her neighbor, *for* objects of silver and objects of gold.”

3 And Yahweh gave the people favor in the eyes of Egypt. Also the man Moses *was* very great in the land of Egypt, in the eyes of the servants of Pharaoh and in the eyes of the people.

Pharaoh Bargains With Moses

10:24 And Pharaoh called Moses and said, “Go, serve Yahweh. Only your sheep and goats and your cattle must be left behind. Your dependents may also go with you.”

25 And Moses said, “Even *if* you yourself put into our hand sacrifices and burnt offerings and we offer *them* to Yahweh our God, 26 our livestock must also go with us. Not a hoof can be left because we must take from them to serve Yahweh our God. And we will not know *with* what we are to serve Yahweh until we come there.”

27 And Yahweh hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he was not willing to release them.

Moses Warns Pharaoh About the Tenth Plague (flashback)

11:4 And Moses said, “Thus says Yahweh, ‘About the middle of the night I *will* go out through the midst of Egypt, 5 and every firstborn in the land of Egypt will die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne to the firstborn of the slave woman who *is* behind the pair of millstones and every firstborn animal.

6 And there will be a great cry of distress in all the land of Egypt, the like of which has not been nor will be again.

7 But against all the Israelites, from a man to an animal, a dog will not *even* bark, so that you will know that Yahweh makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.’

8a And all of these your servants will come down to me and bow to me, saying, ‘Go out, you and all the people who *are* at your feet.’ And afterward I will go out.”

Pharaoh Refuses to Listen

10:28 And Pharaoh said to him, “Go from me. Be careful not to see my face again, because on the day of your seeing my face you will die.”

29 And Moses said, “That is right. I will not again see your face.”

11:8b And he went out from Pharaoh in great anger.

Summary Statement

11:9 And Yahweh said to Moses, “Pharaoh will not listen to you, so that my wonders may multiply in the land of Egypt.”

10 And Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh, and Yahweh hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not release the Israelites from his land.

Celebration of the First Passover (14 Nisan [April] 1446 BC)

Exodus 12:21–28, 50

21 And Moses called all the elders of Israel, and he said to them, “Select and take for yourselves sheep for your clans and slaughter the Passover sacrifice.

22 And take a bunch of hyssop and dip *it* into the blood that *is* in the basin and apply *some* of the blood that is in the basin to the lintel and the two doorposts. And you will not go out, anyone from the doorway of his house, until morning.

23 And Yahweh will go through to strike Egypt, and he will see the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, and Yahweh will pass over the doorway and will not allow the destroyer to come to your houses to strike *you*.

24 “And you will keep this event as a rule for you and for your children forever.

25 And when you come into the land that Yahweh will give to you, as he said, you will keep this religious custom.

26 And when your children say to you, ‘What *is* this religious custom for you?’

27 you will say, ‘It *is* a Passover sacrifice for Yahweh, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt when he struck Egypt; and he delivered our houses.’” And the people knelt down and they worshiped.

28 And the Israelites went, and they did as Yahweh had commanded Moses and Aaron; so they did.

50 And all the Israelites did as Yahweh had commanded Moses and Aaron; so they did. [[Heb 11:28](#)]

Tenth Plague - Death of Firstborn (15 Nisan [April] 1446 BC)

Exodus 12:29–36

29 And in the middle of the night, Yahweh struck all of the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh sitting on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who *was* in the prison house and every firstborn of an animal.

30 And Pharaoh got up *at* night, he and all his servants and all Egypt, and a great cry of distress was in Egypt because there was not a house where there was no one dead.

31 And he called Moses and Aaron *at* night, and he said, “Get up, go out from the midst of my people, both you as well as the Israelites, and go, serve Yahweh, as you have said.

32 Take both your sheep and goats as well as your cattle, and go, and bless also me.”

33 And *the* Egyptians urged the people *in order* to hurry their release from the land, because they said, “All of us *will* die!”

34 And the people lifted up their dough before it had yeast; their kneading troughs *were* wrapped up in their cloaks on their shoulder.

35 And the Israelites did according to the word of Moses, and they asked from *the* Egyptians *for* objects of silver and objects of gold and *for* clothing.

36 And Yahweh gave the people favor in the eyes of *the* Egyptians, and they granted *their* requests, and they plundered *the* Egyptians.

The Exodus of Israel from Egypt (15 Nisan [April] 1446 BC)

Exodus 12:37–42, 51	Numbers 33:1–5
<p>40 And the period of dwelling of the Israelites that they dwelled in Egypt <i>was</i> four hundred and thirty years.</p> <p>41 And at the end of four hundred and thirty years, on this exact day, all of Yahweh’s divisions went out from the land of Egypt.</p> <p>51 And it was on exactly this day Yahweh brought the Israelites out from the land of Egypt by their divisions.</p> <p>42 It <i>is</i> a night of vigils <i>belonging</i> to Yahweh for bringing them out from the land of Egypt; it <i>is</i> this night <i>belonging</i> to Yahweh <i>with</i> vigils for all of the Israelites throughout their generations.</p> <p>37 And the Israelites set out from Rameses to Succoth; the men <i>were</i> about six hundred thousand on foot, besides dependents.</p> <p>38 And also a mixed multitude went up with them and sheep and goats and cattle, very numerous livestock.</p> <p>39 And they baked the dough that they had brought out from Egypt <i>as</i> cakes, unleavened bread, because it had no yeast when they were driven out from Egypt, and they were not able to delay, and also they had not made provisions for themselves.</p>	<p>1 These <i>were</i> the journeys of the Israelites, who went out from the land of Egypt according to their divisions, by the hand of Moses and Aaron.</p> <p>2 Moses wrote down their movements according to their journeys on the command of Yahweh, and these <i>are</i> their journeys according to their movements.</p> <p>3 They set out from Rameses on the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the next day after the Passover the Israelites went out boldly in the sight of all the Egyptians</p> <p>4 while the Egyptians <i>were</i> burying all the firstborn among them whom Yahweh struck. Yahweh <i>also</i> executed punishments among their gods.</p> <p>5 Then the Israelites set out from Rameses, and they camped in Succoth.</p>

Instructions Concerning Consecration of Firstborn (15 Nisan [April] 1446 BC)

Exodus 13:1–16

1 And Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

2 “Consecrate to me every firstborn, the first offspring of every womb among the Israelites, among humans and among domestic animals; it belongs to me.” [\[Luke 2:22–24\]](#)

3 And Moses said to the people, “Remember this day when you went out from Egypt, from a house of slaves, because with strength of hand Yahweh brought you out from here, and *food with* yeast will not be eaten.

4 Today you are going out in the month of Abib.

5 And when Yahweh brings you to the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Hivites and the Jebusites—which he swore to your ancestors to give to you, a land flowing with milk and honey—you will perform this service in this month.

6 Seven days you will eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day *will be* a feast for Yahweh.

7 Unleavened bread will be eaten the seven days; *food with* yeast will not be seen for you; and yeast will not be seen for you in all your territory.

8 And you shall tell your son on that day, saying, ‘This *is* because of what Yahweh did for me when I came out from Egypt.’

9 And it will be as a sign on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes so that the law of Yahweh will be in your mouth, that with a strong hand Yahweh brought you out from Egypt.

10 And you will keep this statute at its appointed time from year to year.

11 “And when Yahweh brings you to the land of the Canaanite, as he swore to you and to your ancestors, and he gives it to you,

12 you will hand over every first offspring of a womb to Yahweh, and every first offspring dropped by a domestic animal that will belong to you, the males *will be* for Yahweh.

13 And every first offspring of a donkey you will redeem with small livestock, and if you will not redeem *it*, then you will break its neck, and every firstborn human among your sons you will redeem.

14 And when your son asks you in the future, saying, ‘What *is* this?’ you will say to him, ‘With strength of hand Yahweh brought us out from Egypt, from a house of slaves.

15 And when Pharaoh was stubborn to release us, Yahweh killed every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from firstborn human to firstborn domestic animal. Therefore I *am* sacrificing to Yahweh every first offspring of a womb, the males, and every firstborn of my

sons I redeem.’

16 And it will be as a sign on your hand and as symbolic ornaments between your eyes that with strength of hand Yahweh brought us out from Egypt.”

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Chronological Notes

- 1) The instructions concerning the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread are recorded after the fact in Exodus 12. Clearly, God had told the Israelites what to do at the beginning of the month so they had time to prepare (see the command to choose a lamb on 10 Nisan in Exodus 12:3). Exactly how many plagues had passed before Nisan (the first month of the Hebrew calendar) is not known—I place it after the 7th plague which seems reasonable given the time involved in the final plagues.
- 2) The verses of Exodus 11:1–10 are a flashback to earlier events. My arrangement follows the order suggested by Davis.¹
- 3) My chronology places the Exodus on 15 Nisan 1446 BC.² For a defense of this view, see the following sources:
 - Bruce K. Waltke, “Palestinian Artifactual Evidence Supporting the Early Date of the Exodus,” *Bibliotheca Sacra* 129 (Jan 1972): 33–47.
 - Charles H. Dyer, “The Date of the Exodus Reexamined,” *Bibliotheca Sacra* 140:559 (Jul 1983): 226–242.
 - William Shea, “Amenhotep II as Pharaoh of the Exodus,” *Bible and Spade* 16:2 (Spring 2003): 42–52.
 - Bryant G. Wood, “The Rise and Fall of the 13th-Century Exodus-Conquest Theory,” *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 48:3 (Sept 2005): 475–489.
 - Douglas Petrovich, “Amenhotep II and the Historicity of the Exodus-Pharaoh,” *The Master’s Seminary Journal* 17:1 (Spring 2006): 81–110.
 - Rodger Young, “The Talmud’s Two Jubilees and Their Relevance to the Date of the Exodus,” *Westminster Theological Journal* 68 (2006): 71–83.
 - Bryant G. Wood, “The Biblical Date for the Exodus is 1446 BC: A Response to James Hoffmeier,” *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 50:2 (June 2007): 249–258.
 - Bryant G. Wood, “Recent Research on the Date and Setting of the Exodus,” *Bible and Spade* 21:4 (Fall 2003): 98–108.
 - Eugene Merrill, *Kingdom of Priests: A History of Old Testament Israel, Second Edition*, (Baker Publishing, 2008), 83–92.
 - Andrew E. Steinmann, *From Abraham to Paul*, (Concordia Publishing House, 2011), 45–65.

¹ John J. Davis, *Moses and the Gods of Egypt, Second Edition*, (BHM Books, 1986), 139–40.

² The Jewish day was from sundown to sundown. The Passover was celebrated in the evening of 14 Nisan, just before sundown. At midnight, the early morning of 15 Nisan, the death angel struck (Exod 12:29). Thus Israel left Egypt on 15 Nisan, “the day after the Passover” (Num 33:3).

From Succoth to Etham (c. 16 Nisan [April] 1446 BC)

Exodus 13:17–22

Numbers 33:6

17 And when Pharaoh released the people, God did not lead them the way of the land of the Philistines, though it *was* nearer, because God said, “Lest the people change their mind when they see war and return to Egypt.”

18 So God led the people around *by* the way of the desert to the Red Sea, and the Israelites went up in battle array from the land of Egypt.

19 And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him because *Joseph* had made the Israelites solemnly swear an oath, saying, “God will surely attend to you, and you will take up my bones from here with you.”

20 And they set out from Succoth, and they encamped at Etham on the edge of the desert.

21 And Yahweh was going before them by day in a column of cloud to lead them *on* the way and *by* night in a column of fire to give light to them to go by day and night.

22 The column of cloud by day and the column of fire *by* night did not depart from before the people.

6 They journeyed from Succoth and camped in Etham, which *is* on the edge of the desert.

From Etham to Pi-hahiroth (c. 17 Nisan [April] 1446 BC)

Exodus 14:1–4; Numbers 33:7

Exod 14:1 And Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

2 “Speak to the Israelites so that they turn and encamp before Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea; before Baal Zephon, *which is* opposite it, you will camp by the sea.

3 And Pharaoh will say of the Israelites, ‘They are wandering around in the land. The desert has closed in on them.’

4 And I will harden the heart of Pharaoh, and he will chase after them, and I will be glorified through Pharaoh and through all his army, and *the* Egyptians will know that I *am* Yahweh.” And they did so.

Num 33:7 Then they set out from Etham and returned to Pi-Hahiroth, which faces Baal Zephon, and they camped before Migdol.

The Crossing of the Red Sea (April 1446 BC)

Exodus 14:5–15:21

God Hardens Pharaoh’s Heart to Pursue the Israelites

14:5 And it was told to the king of Egypt that the people fled, and the heart of Pharaoh was changed and *that of* his servants toward the people, and they said, “What *is* this we have done, that we have released Israel from serving us!”

6 And he harnessed his chariot and took with him his people.

7 And he took six hundred select chariots and all the chariots of Egypt and officers over all of them.

8 And Yahweh hardened the heart of Pharaoh the king of Egypt, and he chased after the Israelites. (Now the Israelites *were* going out boldly.)

9 And *the* Egyptians chased after them, and they overtook them encamped at the sea—all the horses of the chariots of Pharaoh and his charioteers and his army—at Pi-hahiroth before Baal Zephon.

The Israelites Panic (Tested God #1)

10 And Pharaoh approached, and the Israelites lifted their eyes, and there were the Egyptians traveling after them! And they were very afraid, and the Israelites cried out to Yahweh.

11 And they said to Moses, “Because there are no graves in Egypt? Is that why you have taken us to die in the desert? What *is* this you have done to us by bringing us out from Egypt!

12 Isn’t this the word we spoke to you in Egypt, saying, ‘Leave us alone *so that* we can serve Egypt!’ because serving Egypt is better for us than our dying in the desert.”

13 And Moses said to the people, “You must not be afraid. Stand *still* and see the salvation of Yahweh, which he will accomplish for you today, because *the* Egyptians whom you see today you will see never again.

14 Yahweh will fight for you, and you must be quiet.”

15 And Yahweh said to Moses, “Why do you cry out to me? Speak to the Israelites *so that* they set out.

16 And you, lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it *so that* the Israelites can go in the middle of the

sea on the dry land.

17 And as for me, look, I *am* about to harden the heart of *the* Egyptians *so that* they come after them, and I will display my glory through Pharaoh and through all of his army, through his chariots and through his charioteers.

18 And *the* Egyptians will know that I *am* Yahweh when I display my glory through Pharaoh, through his chariots, and through his charioteers.”

19 And the angel of God who was going before the camp of Israel set out and went behind them. And the column of cloud set out ahead of them, and it stood *still* behind them,

20 *so that* it came between the camp of Egypt and the camp of Israel. And it was a dark cloud, but it gave light *to* the night, *so that* neither approached the other all night.

The Crossing of the Red Sea

21 And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and Yahweh moved the sea with a strong east wind all night, and he made the sea *become* dry ground, and the waters were divided.

22 And the Israelites entered the middle of the sea on the dry land. The waters *were* a wall for them on their right and on their left. [[Heb 11:29](#)]

23 And *the* Egyptians gave chase and entered after them—all the horses of Pharaoh, his chariots, and his charioteers—into the middle of the sea.

24 And during the morning watch, Yahweh looked down to the Egyptian camp *from* in the column of fire and cloud, and he threw the Egyptian camp into a panic.

25 And he removed the wheels of their chariots *so that* they drove them with difficulty, and *the* Egyptians said, “We must flee away from Israel because Yahweh *is* fighting for them against Egypt.”

26 And Yahweh said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, and let the waters return over *the* Egyptians, over their chariots, and over their charioteers.”

27 And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned at daybreak to its normal level, and *the* Egyptians *were* fleeing because of it, and Yahweh swept *the* Egyptians into the middle of the sea.

28 And the waters returned and covered the chariots and the charioteers—all the army of Pharaoh coming after them into the sea. Not even one survived among them.

29 But the Israelites walked on the dry land in the middle of the sea. The waters *were* a wall for them on their right and on their left.

30 And Yahweh saved Israel on that day from the hand of Egypt, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the shore of the sea.

31 And Israel saw the great hand that Yahweh displayed against Egypt, and the people feared Yahweh, and they believed in Yahweh and in Moses his servant.

A Song of Praise by the Sea

15:1 Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to Yahweh, and they said,

“Let me sing to Yahweh because he is highly exalted;
the horse and its rider he hurled into the sea.

2 Yah *is* my strength and song, and he has become my salvation;
this *is* my God, and I will praise him—the God of my father—and I will exalt him.

3 Yahweh *is* a man of war; Yahweh *is* his name.

4 The chariots of Pharaoh and his army he cast into the sea,
and his choice adjutants were sunk in the Red Sea.

5 The deep waters covered them;
they went down into the depths like a stone.

6 Yahweh, your right hand *is* glorious in power;
Yahweh, your right hand destroyed *the* enemy.

7 And in the greatness of your majesty you overthrew those standing up *to* you;
you released your fierce anger, and it consumed them like stubble.

8 And by the breath of your nostrils waters were piled up;
waves stood like a heap;
deep waters in the middle of the sea congealed.

9 *The* enemy said, ‘I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide plunder,
my desire will be full *of* them, I will draw my sword, my hand will destroy them.’

10 You blew with your breath; the sea covered them;
they dropped like lead in the mighty waters.

11 Who is like you among the gods, Yahweh?

Who is like you—glorious in holiness, awesome *in* praiseworthy actions, doing wonders?

12 You stretched out your right hand;

- the earth swallowed them.
- 13 In your loyal love you led *the* people whom you redeemed;
in your strength you guided *them* to the abode of your holiness.
- 14 Peoples heard; they trembled;
anguish seized the inhabitants of Philistia.
- 15 Then the chiefs of Edom were horrified; great distress seized the leaders of Moab;
all of the inhabitants of Canaan melted away.
- 16 Terror and dread fell on them;
at the greatness of your arm they became silent like the stone,
until your people passed by, Yahweh,
until *the* people whom you bought passed by.
- 17 You brought them and planted them on the mountain of your inheritance,
a place you made for yourself to inhabit, Yahweh,
a sanctuary, Lord, *that* your hands established.
- 18 Yahweh will reign as king forever and ever.”

19 When the horses of Pharaoh came into the sea with his chariots and with his charioteers, Yahweh brought back upon them the waters of the sea, and the Israelites traveled on dry ground through the middle of the sea.

20 And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took her tambourine in her hand, and all of the women went out after her with tambourines and with dances.

21 And Miriam answered, “Sing to Yahweh because he is highly exalted; *the* horse and its rider he hurled into the sea.”

From the Red Sea to Marah (April 1446 BC)

Exodus 15:22–23

Numbers 33:8

22 And Moses caused Israel to set out from the Red Sea, and they went out into the desert of Shur, and they traveled three days in the desert, and they did not find water.
23 And they came to Marah, and they were not able to drink water from Marah because it was bitter. Therefore it was named Marah.

8 They set out from Pi-Hahiroth and went through the midst of the sea into the desert; and they went a journey of three days into the desert of Etham and camped at Marah.

The Israelites Complain About the Bitter Water (April 1446 BC)

Exodus 15:24–26

The People Complain (Tested God #2)

24 And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, “What shall we drink?”

25 And he cried out to Yahweh, and Yahweh showed him *a piece of* wood, and he threw *it* into the water, and the water became sweet. There he made a rule and regulation for them, and there he tested them.

26 And he said, “If you carefully listen to the voice of Yahweh your God and you do *what is* right in his eyes and give heed to his commands and you keep all his rules, *then* I will not bring about on you any of the diseases that I brought about on Egypt, because I *am* Yahweh your healer.

From Marah to Elim to the Red Sea to the Wilderness of Sin (15 Iyyar [May] 1446 BC)

Exodus 15:27–16:1

Numbers 33:9–11

15:27 And they came to Elim, and twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees were there, and they encamped there at the water.
16:1 And they set out from Elim,

and all the community of the Israelites came to the desert of Sin, which *is* between Elim and Sinai, in the fifteenth day of the second month of their going out from the land of Egypt.

9 They set out from Marah and came to Elim, and in Elim *there were* twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees, and they camped there.

10 They set out from Elim, and they camped at the Red Sea.

11 They set out from the Red Sea and camped at the desert of Sin.

The Israelites Complain About the Lack of Food (May 1446 BC)

Exodus 16:2–36

The Israelites Grumble Against Moses and Aaron (Tested God #3)

2 And all the community of the Israelites grumbled against Moses and against Aaron in the desert.

3 And the Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of Yahweh in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat, when we ate bread until we were full, because you have brought us out to this desert to kill all of this assembly with hunger.”

God Tells Moses Privately That He Intends to Test the People

4 And Yahweh said to Moses, “Look, I am going to rain down for you bread from the heavens, and the people will go out and gather enough for the day on its day; in that way I will test them: Will they go according to my law or not?”

5 And then on the sixth day, they will prepare what they bring, and it will be twice over what they will gather every *other* day.”

Grumbling Against God’s Man is Grumbling Against God

6 And Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “*In the evening*, you will know that Yahweh has brought you out from the land of Egypt,

7 and *in the morning*, you will see the glory of Yahweh, for he hears your grumblings against Yahweh, and what *are* we that you grumble against us?”

8 And Moses said, “When in the evening Yahweh gives you meat to eat and bread in the morning to fill up on, for he hears your grumblings that you grumble against him—and what *are* we? Your grumblings *are* not against us but against Yahweh.”

Yahweh Answers the People’s Complaint

9 And Moses said to Aaron, “Say to all the community of the Israelites, ‘Come near before Yahweh because he has heard your grumblings.’”

10 And at the moment of Aaron’s speaking to all the community of the Israelites, they turned to the desert, and just then the glory of Yahweh appeared in the cloud.

11 And Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

12 “I have heard the grumblings of the Israelites. Speak to them, saying, ‘At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be full *with* bread, and you will know that I *am* Yahweh your God.’”

God Provides Quail in the Evening and Manna in the Morning

13 And so it was, in the evening, the quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning, a layer of dew was all around the camp.

14 And the layer of dew came up, and there on the face of the desert was a fine granular substance, fine like frost on the ground.

15 And the Israelites saw, and they said to each other, “What *is* this?” because they did not know what it *was*. And Moses said to them, “That *is* the bread that Yahweh has given to you as food.

16 This *is* the word that Yahweh commanded, ‘Gather from it, each according to what he can eat, an omer per person *according to* the number of you. You each shall take *enough* for whoever *is* in his tent.’”

17 And the Israelites did so, and they gathered, some more and some less.

18 And *when* they measured with the omer, the one gathering more had no surplus, and the one gathering less had no lack; they gathered each according to what he could eat. [\[2 Cor 8:14–15\]](#)

The Israelites Disobey God’s Command (Tested God #4)

19 And Moses said to them, “Let no one leave any of it until morning.”

20 But they did not listen to Moses. Some people left *some* of it until morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them.

21 And they gathered it morning by morning, each according to what he could eat, and it melted *when* the sun was hot.

22 And when it was the sixth day, they gathered twice *as much* bread, two omers for one *person*, and all the leaders of the community came and told Moses.

23 And he said to them, “This is what Yahweh has said. Tomorrow *is* a rest period, a holy Sabbath for Yahweh. Bake what you *want to* bake, and boil what you *want to* boil. Put aside all the surplus for yourselves for safekeeping until the morning.”

24 And they put it aside until the morning, as Moses had commanded, and it did not make a stench, and not a maggot was in it.

The Israelites Again Disobey God’s Command (Tested God #5)

25 And Moses said, “Eat it today, because today is a Sabbath for Yahweh. Today you will not find it in the field.

26 Six days you will gather it, but on the seventh day, *the* Sabbath, it will not be *present* on it.”

27 And on the seventh day *some* of the people went out to gather, and they did not find *any*.

28 And Yahweh said to Moses, “How long do you refuse to keep my commands and my laws?”

29 See, because Yahweh has given to you the Sabbath, therefore he is giving to you on the sixth day bread for two days. Stay, each in

his location; let no one go from his place on the seventh day.”

30 And the people rested on the seventh day.

Manna

31 And the house of Israel called its name “manna.” And it *was* like coriander seed, white, and its taste *was* like a wafer with honey.

32 And Moses said, “This is the word that Yahweh has commanded. ‘A full omer of it *is* for safekeeping for your generations so that they will see the bread that I fed you in the desert when I brought you from the land of Egypt.’”

33 And Moses said to Aaron, “Take one jar and put there a full omer of manna. Leave it before Yahweh for safekeeping for your generations.”

34 As Yahweh had commanded Moses, so Aaron left it before the testimony for safekeeping.

35 And the Israelites ate the manna forty years, until their coming to an inhabited land; they ate the manna until their coming to the border of the land of Canaan.

36 (And an omer *is* a tenth of an ephah.)

From the Wilderness of Sin to Dophkah to Alush to Rephidim (late May 1446 BC)

Exodus 17:1

Numbers 33:12–14

1 And all the community of the Israelites set out from the desert of Sin for their journeys according to the command of Yahweh,

and they camped in Rephidim,

and there was no water for the people to drink.

12 They set out from the desert of Sin

and camped at Dophkah.

13 They set out from Dophkah and camped at Alush.

14 They set out from Alush

and encamped at Rephidim;

and it was there *that* the people had no water to drink.

The Israelites Complain About the Lack of Water (late May 1446 BC)

Exodus 17:2–7

The People Quarrel with Moses (Tested God #6)

2 And the people quarreled with Moses, and they said, “Give us water so that we can drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test Yahweh?”

3 And the people thirsted for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, “Why ever did you bring us up from Egypt to kill me and my sons and my cattle with thirst?”

4 And Moses cried out to Yahweh, saying, “What will I do with this people? A little longer and they will stone me.”

5 And Yahweh said to Moses, “Go on before the people and take with you *some* from the elders of Israel, and the staff with which you struck the Nile take in your hand, and go.

6 Look, I *will be* standing before you there on the rock in Horeb, and you will strike the rock, and water will come out from it, and the people will drink.” And Moses did so before the eyes of the elders of Israel.

7 And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah because of the quarrel of the Israelites and because of their testing Yahweh *by* saying, “Is Yahweh in our midst or not?”

Battle With the Amalekites (late May 1446 BC)

Exodus 17:8–16

8 And Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim.

9 And Moses said to Joshua, “Choose men for us, and go out, fight against Amalek tomorrow. I *will be* standing on the top of the hill, and the staff of God *will be* in my hand.”

10 And Joshua did as Moses had said to him to fight with Amalek. And Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up *to* the top of the hill.

11 And when Moses raised his hand, Israel would prevail, but when he rested his hand, Amalek would prevail.

12 But the hands of Moses *were* heavy, and they took a stone and placed it under him, and he sat on it; Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on each side, and his hands *were* steady until sundown.

13 And Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with *the* edge of the sword.

14 And Yahweh said to Moses, “Write this *as* a memorial in the scroll and recite it in the hearing of Joshua, because I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under the heavens.”

15 And Moses built an altar, and he called its name Yahweh *Is* My Banner.

16 And he said, “Because a hand *was* against the throne of Yah, a war *will be* for Yahweh with Amalek from generation *to*

generation.”

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Chronological Notes

- 1) Numbers 33 contains a record of the journeys of Israel prior to their entrance into Canaan. This record has been harmonized with the narratives of Exodus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. Note that the names for the camps can refer to the region (Wilderness of Sin), the actual place (Succoth) or to an event that occurred at that particular camp (Marah).¹

Order	Region Name	Place Name	Camp/Event Name	Exodus	Numbers	Deuteronomy
1	Land of Rameses	Rameses		12:37	33:5	
2		Succoth		12:37	33:5	
3	Wilderness of Etham/Shur	Etham		13:20	33:6	
4	Red Sea	Pi-hahiroth		14:2	33:7	
5	Wilderness of Etham/Shur		Marah	15:22–23	33:8	
6		Elim		15:27	33:9	
7	Red Sea				33:10	
8	Wilderness of Sin			16:1	33:11	
9		Dophkah			33:12	
10		Alush			33:13	
11		Rephidim	Massah/Meribah	17:1	33:14	
12	Wilderness of Sinai/Horeb	Mount Sinai		19:1–2	33:15	1:6, 19
13		Kibroth-hattaavah	Taberah		10:33–36; 11:3; 33:16	
14		Hazereth			11:35; 33:17	
15	Wilderness of Paran/Zin	Kadesh-barnea			10:12b; 12:16	1:19
16		Rithmah			33:18	
17		Rimmon-perez			33:19	
18		Libnah			33:20	
19		Rissah			33:21	
20		Kehelathah			33:22	
21		Mount Shepher			33:23	
22		Haradah			33:24	
23		Makheloth			33:25	
24		Tahath			33:26	
25		Terah			33:27	
26		Mithkah			33:28	
27		Hashmonah			33:29	
28		Moseroth			33:30	10:6?
29		Bene-jaakan			33:31	10:6?
30		Hor-haggidgad			33:32	10:7?
31		Jotbathah			33:33	10:7?
32		Abronah			33:34	

¹ Most of the information in the table is sourced from R. Dennis Cole, “Numbers,” *The New American Commentary*, (Broadman & Holman Publishing, 2000), 517–528.

Order	Region Name	Place Name	Camp/Event Name	Exodus	Numbers	Deuteronomy
33		Ezion-geber			33:35	
34	Wilderness of Paran/Zin	Kadesh-barnea	Meribah		20:1a, 13; 27:14; 33:36	
35	Edge of the Land of Edom	Mount Hor			20:22–23; 33:37–39	2:1–3
36		Zalmonah			33:41	
37		Punon			33:42	
38		Oboth			21:10; 33:43	
39	Desert facing Moab	Iye-abarim			21:11; 33:44	
40	Valley of Zered	Iyim			21:12; 33:45	2:13–14
41	Wilderness of Kedemoth	Arnon River Valley			21:13	2:24
			Beer?		21:16	
			Mattanah?		21:18	
			Nahaliel?		21:19	
			Bamoth?		21:19	
42		Dibon-gad			33:45	
43		Almon-diblathaim			33:46	
44	Abarim Mountains	Mount Nebo			33:47	
45	Plains of Moab	Beth-jeshimoth to Abel-shittim			22:1; 33:48–49	3:29

Moses' Father-in-law Jethro Visits the Camp (late May 1446 BC)

Exodus 18

Jethro Brings Moses' Family

1 And Jethro, the priest of Midian, the father-in-law of Moses, heard all that God had done for Moses and for Israel, his people, that Yahweh had brought Israel out from Egypt.

2 And Jethro, the father-in-law of Moses, took Zipporah the wife of Moses after her sending away,

3 and her two sons—the one whose name *was* Gershom, for he had said, “I have been an alien in a foreign land,”

4 and the one *whose* name *was* Eliezer, for “the God of my father *was* my help, and he delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh.”

5 And Jethro, the father-in-law of Moses, came and his sons and his wife to Moses, to the desert where he was camping there *at* the mountain of God.

6 And he said to Moses, “I, your father-in-law Jethro, *am* coming to you and your wife and her two sons with her.”

7 And Moses went out to meet his father-in-law, and he bowed, and he kissed him, and they each asked about the other's welfare, and they came into the tent.

Jethro Believes in Yahweh

8 And Moses told his father-in-law all that Yahweh had done to Pharaoh and to Egypt on account of Israel, all the hardship that had found them on the way, and *how* Yahweh delivered them.

9 And Jethro rejoiced over all the good that Yahweh had done for Israel when he delivered them from the hand of Egypt.

10 And Jethro said, “Blessed be Yahweh, who has delivered you from the hand of Egypt and from the hand of Pharaoh—who has delivered the people from under the hand of Egypt.

11 Now I know that Yahweh is greater than all the gods, even in the matter where they the Egyptians dealt arrogantly against the Israelites.”

12 And Jethro, the father-in-law of Moses, took a burnt offering and sacrifices for God, and Aaron and all the elders of Israel came to eat bread with the father-in-law of Moses before God.

Moses Judges the People

13 And the next day, Moses sat to judge the people, and the people stood before Moses from the morning until the evening.

14 And the father-in-law of Moses saw all that he was doing for the people, and he said, “What *is* this thing that you *are* doing for the people? Why *are* you sitting alone and all the people *are* standing by you from morning until evening?”

15 And Moses said to his father-in-law, “Because the people come to me to seek God.

16 When they have an issue, it comes to me, and I judge between a man and his neighbor, and I make known God's rule and his instructions.”

Jethro's Advice

17 And the father-in-law of Moses said to him, “The thing that you are doing is not good.

18 Surely you will wear out, both you and this people who *are* with you, because the thing *is too* difficult for you. You are not able to do it alone.

19 Now listen to my voice; I will advise you, and may God be with you. You be for the people before God, and you bring the issues to God.

20 And you warn them *of* the rules and the instructions, and you make known to them the way in which they must walk and the work that they must do.

21 And you will select from all the people men of ability, fearers of God, trustworthy men, haters of *dishonest* gain, and you will appoint *such men* over them *as* commanders of thousands, commanders of hundreds, commanders of fifties, and commanders of tens.

22 And let them judge the people all the time, and every major issue they will bring to you, and every minor issue they will judge themselves. And *so* lighten *it* for yourself, and they will bear *it* with you.

23 If you will do this thing and God will command you, *then* you will be able to endure, and also each of the people will go to his home in peace.”

24 And Moses listened to the voice of his father-in-law, and he did all that he had said.

25 And Moses chose men of ability from all Israel, and he appointed them *as* heads over the people, *as* commanders of thousands, commanders of hundreds, commanders of fifties, and commanders of tens.

26 And they judged the people all the time; the difficult issues they would bring to Moses, and every minor issue they would judge themselves.

27 And Moses let his father-in-law go, and he went to his land.

Arrival at Mount Sinai (1 Sivan [May/June] 1446 BC)

Exodus 19:1–2

Numbers 33:15

1 In the third month after the Israelites went out from the land of Egypt, on this day they came to the Sinai desert.
 2 They set out from Rephidim, and they came to the desert of Sinai, and they camped in the desert, and Israel camped there in front of the mountain.

15 They set out from Rephidim
 and camped in the desert of Sinai.

Preparations for Receiving Yahweh's Covenant (1–2 Sivan [May/June] 1446 BC)

Exodus 19:3–15

Yahweh's Opening Statement to Moses With Conditions

3 And Moses went up to God, and Yahweh called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you will say to the house of Jacob and you will tell the Israelites,
 4 'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt and *how* I bore you on eagles' wings and I brought you to me.
 5 And now if you will carefully listen to my voice and keep my covenant, you will be a treasured possession for me out of all the peoples, for all the earth is mine,
 6 but you, you will *belong* to me *as* a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you will speak to the Israelites." [cf. [1 Pet 2:9](#)]

Israel's Acceptance of Yahweh's Conditional Statement

7 And Moses came and called the elders of the people, and he placed before them all these words that Yahweh had commanded him.
 8 And all the people together answered and said, "All that Yahweh has spoken we will do." And Moses brought back the words of the people to Yahweh.

Preparations for the Meeting Between Yahweh and Israel

9 And Yahweh said to Moses, "Look, I *am going to* come to you in a thick cloud in order that the people will hear when I speak with you and will also trust in you forever." And Moses told the words of the people to Yahweh.
 10 And Yahweh said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. They must wash their clothes,
 11 and they must be prepared for the third day, because on the third day, Yahweh will go down on Mount Sinai before the eyes of all the people.
 12 And you must set limits *for* the people all around, saying, 'Guard yourselves against going up to the mountain and touching its edge. Anyone touching the mountain will certainly be put to death. [[Heb 12:20](#)]
 13 Not a hand will touch it, because he will certainly be stoned or certainly be shot; whether an animal or a man, he will not live.' At the blowing of the ram's horn they may go up to the mountain."
 14 And Moses went down from the mountain to the people, and he consecrated the people, and they washed their clothes.
 15 And he said to the people, "Be ready for the third day. Do not go near to a woman."

Yahweh Descends on Mount Sinai (3 Sivan [May/June] 1446 BC)

Exodus 19:16–25

16 And on the third day, when it was morning, there was thunder and lightning, and a heavy cloud over the mountain and a very loud ram's horn sound, and all the people who *were* in the camp trembled.
 17 And Moses brought the people out from the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain.
 18 And Mount Sinai was all wrapped in smoke because Yahweh went down on it in the fire, and its smoke went up like the smoke of a smelting furnace, and the whole mountain trembled greatly.
 19 And the sound of the ram's horn became louder and louder, and Moses would speak, and God would answer him with a voice.
 20 And Yahweh went down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain, and Yahweh called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.
 21 And Yahweh said to Moses, "Go down, warn the people, lest they break through to Yahweh to see and many from them fall.
 22 And even the priests who come near Yahweh must consecrate themselves, lest Yahweh break out against them."
 23 And Moses said to Yahweh, "The people are not able to go up to Mount Sinai, because you yourself warned us, saying, 'Set limits *around* the mountain and consecrate it.'"
 24 And Yahweh said to him, "Go, go down, and come up, you and Aaron with you and the priests, but the people must not break through to go up to Yahweh, lest he break out against them."

25 And Moses went down to the people, and he told them.

The Ten Words (3 Sivan [May/June] 1446 BC)

Exodus 20:1–17

Deuteronomy 5:4–21

Preamble

1 And God spoke all these words,

saying,

2 “I *am* Yahweh, your God, who brought you out from the land of Egypt, from the house of slaves.

The Ten Commandments

3 “There shall be for you no other gods before me.

4 “You shall not make for yourself a divine image *with* any form that *is* in the heavens above or that *is* in the earth below or that *is* in the water below the earth.

5 You will not bow down to them, and you will not serve them, because I *am* Yahweh your God, a jealous God, punishing *the* guilt of *the* parents on the children on *the* third and on *the* fourth *generations* of those hating me,

6 and showing loyal love to thousands *of generations* of those loving me and of those keeping my commandments.

7 “You shall not misuse the name of Yahweh your God, because Yahweh will not leave unpunished *anyone* who misuses his name.

8 “Remember the day of the Sabbath, to consecrate it.

9 Six days you will work, and you will do all your work.

10 But the seventh day *is* a Sabbath for Yahweh your God; you will not do any work—you or your son or your daughter, your male slave or your female slave, or your animal, or your alien who *is* in your gates—

11 because *in* six days Yahweh made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that *is* in them, and on the seventh day he rested.

Therefore Yahweh blessed the seventh day and consecrated it. [cf. [Acts 4:24](#); [14:15](#)]

12 “Honor your father and your mother,

so that your days can be long on the land that Yahweh your God *is* giving you. [[Matt 15:4](#); [Eph 6:2](#)]

13 “You shall not murder. [[Matt 5:21](#); [James 2:11](#)]

14 “You shall not commit adultery.

15 “You shall not steal.

16 “You shall not testify against your neighbor *with* a false witness.

17 “You shall not covet the house of your neighbor;

you will not covet the wife of your neighbor

or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey

4 Face to face Yahweh spoke with you at the mountain from the midst of the fire.

5 I was standing between Yahweh and you at that time to report to you the word of Yahweh, for you were afraid because of the presence of the fire, and *so* you *did* not go up the mountain.

He said,

6 ‘I *am* Yahweh your God, who brought you out from the land of Egypt, from the house of slavery.

7 *There* shall not be for you other gods besides me.

8 ‘You shall not make for yourself a divine image of any *type* of form that *is* in the heaven above or that *is* on the earth beneath or that *is* in the water under the earth.

9 ‘You shall not bow down to them, and you shall not serve them, for I, Yahweh your God, *am* a jealous God, punishing the guilt of fathers upon *their* children and upon *the* third and upon *the* fourth generation of *those* hating me,

10 but showing loyal love to thousands *of those who* love me and of *those who* keep my commandments.

11 ‘You shall not take up the name of Yahweh your God for a worthless purpose, for Yahweh will not leave unpunished *anyone* who uses his name for a worthless purpose.

12 ‘Observe the Sabbath day to make it holy, *just* as Yahweh your God has commanded you.

13 Six days you shall work, and you shall do all *of* your work,

14 but the seventh day *is* a Sabbath unto Yahweh your God; you shall not do any work, or your son, or your daughter,

or your slave, or your slave woman, or your ox, or your donkey, or any of your domestic animals,

or your *resident* alien who *is* in your towns, so that your slave and your slave woman may rest as you *rest*.

15 And you shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and Yahweh your God brought you out with a strong hand and with an outstretched arm; therefore, Yahweh your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath.

16 ‘Honor your father and your mother,

as Yahweh your God commanded you,

so that it will be good for you in the land that Yahweh your God *is* giving to you.

17 ‘You shall not murder.

18 ‘And you shall not commit adultery.

19 ‘And you shall not steal.

20 ‘And you shall not falsely bear evidence against your neighbor.

21 ‘And you shall not covet the wife of your neighbor,

and you shall not crave the house of your neighbor,

his field or his slave or his slave woman or his ox and his donkey

or anything that *is* your neighbor's." [\[Rom 7:7; 13:9\]](#)

or anything that belongs to your neighbor.' [\[Matt 19:18\]](#)

Israel Asks Moses to Act as Intermediary (3 Sivan [May/June] 1446 BC)

Exodus 20:18–21

Deuteronomy 5:22a–33

18 And all the people *were* seeing the thunder and the lightning and the sound of the ram's horn and the mountain smoking, and the people saw, and they trembled, and they stood at a distance.

19 And they said to Moses,

"You speak with us, and we will listen, but let not God speak with us, lest we die." [\[Heb 12:19\]](#)

20 And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you so that his fear will be before you so that you do not sin."

21 And the people stood at a distance, and Moses approached the very thick cloud where God was.

22a "These words Yahweh spoke to your whole assembly at the mountain from the midst of the fire and the very thick cloud *with* a loud voice, and he did not add anything,

23 And then when you heard the voice from the midst of the darkness, and *as* the mountain *was* burning with fire, and all the heads of your tribes and your elders approached me,

24 you said, 'Look, Yahweh our God has shown us his glory and his greatness, and we have heard his voice from the midst of the fire; this day we have seen that God can speak with a human being, yet he remains alive.

25 And so then why shall we die, for this great fire will consume us if we continue to hear the voice of Yahweh our God *any* longer, and *so* we shall die?

26 For who *is there of* all flesh who has heard the voice of the living God speaking from the midst of the fire as we *have heard it* and remained alive?

27 *You* go near and hear everything that Yahweh our God will say; and *then* you tell us all that Yahweh our God tells you, and we will listen, and we will do *it*.'

28 "And Yahweh heard the sound of your words when you spoke to me, and Yahweh said to me, 'I have heard the sound of the words of this people that they have spoken to you; *they* are right *with respect to* all that they have spoken.

29 If only they had such a mind'; *that is*, to fear me and to keep all my commandments at all times, so that it will go well for them and for their children forever.

30 Go! Say to them, "Return to your tents."

31 But you stand here with me, and let me tell you all *of* the commandments and the rules and the regulations that you shall teach them, so that they may do *them* in the land that I *am* giving to them to take possession of it.'

32 "So you must be careful to do *just* as Yahweh your God commanded you; you shall not turn *to the right* or *to the left*.

33 In exactly the path that Yahweh your God has commanded, you must go, so that you may live and it will go well for you and you may live long in the land that you will take possession of."

The Covenant – Part 1 (3 Sivan [May/June] 1446 BC)

Exodus 20:22–22:20

Proper Worship of Yahweh

20:22 And Yahweh said to Moses, “Thus you will say to the Israelites, ‘You yourselves have seen that I have spoken to you from the heavens.

23 You will not make alongside me gods of silver, and gods of gold you will not make for yourselves.

24 An altar of earth you will make for me, and you will sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your fellowship offerings, your sheep and your cattle. In every place where I cause my name to be remembered, I will come to you, and I will bless you.

25 And if you make an altar of stones for me, you will not build them *as* hewn stone, because if you use your chisel on it, you have defiled it.

26 You will not go up with steps onto my altar, that your nakedness not be exposed on it.’ [cf. [Gen 3:21](#); [1 Tim 2:9–10](#)]

Treatment of Israelite Slaves

21:1 “And these are the regulations that you will set before them.

2 ‘If you buy a Hebrew slave, he will serve six years, and in the seventh he will go out as free for nothing.

3 If he comes in single, he will go out single. If he is the husband of a wife, his wife will go out with him.

4 If his master gives him a wife and she bears for him sons or daughters, the wife and her children will belong to her master, and *the slave* will go out single.

5 But if the slave explicitly says, “I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,”

6 his master will present him to God and bring him to the door or to the doorpost, and his master will pierce his ear with an awl, and he will serve him forever.

7 “ ‘And if a man sells his daughter as a slave woman, she will not go out as male slaves go out.

8 If she does not please her master who selected her, he will allow her to be redeemed; he has no authority to sell her to foreign people, since he has dealt treacherously with her.

9 And if he selects her for his son, he shall do for her according to the regulations for daughters.

10 If he takes for himself another, he will not reduce her food, her clothing, or her right of cohabitation.

11 And if he does not do for her these three, she shall go out for nothing; there will not be silver *paid for her*.

Capital Crimes—Murder, Kidnapping and Violence against Parents

12 “ ‘Whoever strikes someone and he dies will surely be put to death.

13 But if he did not lie in wait and it was an accident, I will appoint for you a place to which he may flee.

14 But if a man schemes against his neighbor to kill him by treachery, you will take him from my altar to die.

15 And whoever strikes his father or his mother will surely be put to death.

16 “ ‘And whoever kidnaps someone and sells him, or he is found in his possession, he will surely be put to death.

17 “ ‘And one who curses his father or his mother will surely be put to death. [[Matt 15:4](#); [Mark 7:10](#)]

Personal Injury by Humans

18 “ ‘And if men quarrel and a man strikes his neighbor with a stone or with a fist and he does not die, but he is confined to bed,

19 if he stands and walks about in the outside on his staff, the striker will be unpunished; he will only pay for his inactivity toward his full recovery.”

20 And if a man strikes his male slave or his female slave with the rod and he dies under his hand, he will surely be avenged.

21 Yet if he survives a day or two days, he will not be avenged, because he is his money.

22 “ ‘And if men fight and they injure a pregnant woman, and her children go out and there is not serious injury, he will surely be fined as the woman’s husband demands concerning him and as the judges determine.

23 And if there is serious injury, you will give life in place of life,

24 eye in place of eye, tooth in place of tooth, hand in place of hand, foot in place of foot, [[Matt 5:38–42](#)]

25 burn in place of burn, wound in place of wound, bruise in place of bruise.

26 “ ‘And if a man strikes the eye of his male slave or the eye of his female slave and destroys it, he shall release him as free in place of his eye.

27 And if he causes the tooth of his male slave or the tooth of his female slave to fall out, he will release him as free in place of his tooth.

Personal Injury by Animals

28 “ ‘And if an ox gores a man or a woman and he dies, the ox will surely be stoned, and its meat will not be eaten, and the owner of the ox *is* innocent.

29 But if it was a goring ox before and its owner was warned and did not restrain it and it kills a man or a woman, the ox will be stoned, and the owner also will be put to death.

30 If a ransom is set on him, he will pay the redemption money for his life according to all that is set on him.

31 If it gores a son or it gores a daughter, according to this regulation it shall be done to him.

32 If the ox gores a male slave or a female slave, he will give thirty shekels of silver to his master, and the ox will be stoned.

Damage or Destruction of Personal Property

33 “If a man opens a pit or if a man digs a pit and he does not cover it and an ox or a donkey falls into it,

34 the owner of the pit will pay restitution; he will pay silver to its owner, but the dead *animal* will be for him.

35 And if a man’s ox injures the ox of his neighbor and it dies, they will sell the living ox and divide the money, and they will also divide the dead *one*.

36 Or if it was known that it was a goring ox before and its owner did not restrain it, he will surely make restitution, an ox in place of the ox, and the dead *one* will be for him.

Theft, Accidental Property Damage & Restitution

22:1 “If a man steals an ox or small livestock and slaughters it or sells it, he will make restitution with five cattle in place of the ox and with four sheep or goats in place of the small livestock.

2 “If a thief is found in the act of breaking in and he is struck and he dies, there is not bloodguilt for him.

3 (If the sun has risen over him, *there is* bloodguilt for him. He will make full restitution. If he does not have enough, he will be sold for his theft.

4 If indeed the stolen item is found in his possession alive, from ox to donkey to small livestock, he will make double restitution.

5 “If a man grazes *his livestock* in a field or a vineyard and he releases his livestock and it grazes in the field of another, he will make restitution *from* the best of his field and the best of his vineyard.

6 “If a fire is started and finds thorn bushes and a stack of sheaves or the standing grain or the field is consumed, the one who started the fire will surely make restitution.

7 “If a man gives to his neighbor money or objects to watch over and it is stolen from the house of the man, if the thief is found, he will make double restitution.

8 If the thief is not found, the owner of the house will be brought to the sanctuary *to learn* whether or not he reached out his hand to his neighbor’s possession.

9 Concerning every account of transgression—concerning an ox, concerning a donkey, concerning small livestock, concerning clothing, concerning all lost property—where *someone* says, “This belongs to me,” the matter of the two of them will come to God; whomever God declares guilty will make double restitution to his neighbor.

10 “If a man gives to his neighbor a donkey or an ox or small livestock or any beast to watch over and it dies or is injured or is captured *when* there is no one who sees,

11 the oath of Yahweh will be between the two of them *concerning* whether or not he has reached out his hand to his neighbor’s possession, and its owner will accept *this*, and he will not make restitution.

12 But if indeed it was stolen from him, he will make restitution to its owner.

13 If indeed it was torn to pieces, he will bring it as evidence—the mangled carcass; he will not make restitution.

14 “If a man borrows from his neighbor and it is injured or dies *while* its owner is not with it, he will make restitution.

15 If its owner *was* with it, he will not make restitution; if it was hired, it came with its hiring fee.

16 “If a man seduces a virgin who is not engaged and he lies with her, he surely will give her bride price to have her as his wife.

17 If her father absolutely refuses to give her to him, he will weigh out money according to the bride price for the virgin.

Capital Crimes—Sorcery, Bestiality and Apostasy

18 “You will not let a witch live.

19 “Anyone lying with an animal will surely be put to death.

20 “Whoever sacrifices to the gods—not to Yahweh, to him alone—will be destroyed.

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The Covenant – Part 2 (3 Sivan [May/June] 1446 BC)

Exodus 22:21–23:33

Do Not Mistreat Others

22:21 “ You will not mistreat an alien, and you will not oppress him, because you were aliens in the land of Egypt.

22 “ You will not afflict any widow or orphan.

23 If you indeed afflict him, yes, if he cries out at all to me, I will certainly hear his cry of distress.

24 And I will become angry, and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives will be widows and your children orphans.

25 “ If you lend money *to* my people, *to* the needy with you, you will not be to him as a creditor; you will not charge him interest.

26 If indeed you require the cloak of your neighbor as a pledge, you will return it to him at sundown,

27 because it is his only garment; it is his cloak for his skin. In what will he sleep? And when he cries out to me, I will hear, because I *am* gracious.

28 “ You will not curse God, and you will not curse a leader among your people. [[Acts 23:1–5](#)]

Consecration of Firstborn

29 “ You will not delay the fullness of your harvest and the juice from your press; you will give me the firstborn of your sons.

30 You will do likewise for your ox and for your sheep and goats; seven days it will be with its mother; on the eighth, you will give it to me.

31 And you will be men of holiness for me; and you will not eat meat *from* a carcass mangled in the field; you will throw it to the dog.

Justice, Honesty and Love

23:1 “ You will not spread a false report. Do not lift your hand with *the* wicked to be a malicious witness.

2 You will not follow a majority for evil, and you will not testify concerning a legal dispute to turn aside after a majority to pervert *justice*.

3 You will not be partial to a powerless *person* in his legal dispute.

4 “ If you come upon the ox of your enemy or his donkey going astray, you will certainly bring it back to him.

5 If you see the donkey of your enemy lying down under its burden, you will refrain from abandoning him. You will surely arrange *it* with him.

6 “ You will not pervert the justice of your poor in his legal dispute.

7 You will stay far from a false charge, and do not kill *the* innocent and *the* righteous, because I will not declare *the* wicked righteous.

8 And you will not take a bribe, because the bribe makes *the* sighted blind and ruins *the* words of *the* righteous.

9 And you will not oppress an alien; you yourselves know the feelings of the alien, because you were aliens in the land of Egypt.

Rest for Land and People

10 “ And six years you will sow your land and gather its yield.

11 But the seventh you will let it rest and leave it fallow, and the poor of your people will eat, and their remainder the animals of the field will eat. You will do likewise for your vineyard and for your olive trees.

12 “ Six days you will do your work, but on the seventh day you will stop so that your ox and your donkey will rest and the son of your slave woman and the alien will be refreshed.

13 “ And you will be attentive to all that I have said to you, and you will not profess the name of other gods; it will not be heard in your mouth.

Annual Feasts

14 “ Three times in the year you will hold a festival for me.

15 You will keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread; for seven days you will eat unleavened bread, as I commanded you at *the* appointed time, the month of Abib, because in it you came out from Egypt, and no one will appear before me empty-handed.

16 And *you will keep* the Feast of Harvest, *with* the firstfruits of your work, what you sow in the field. And *you will keep* the Feast of Harvest Gathering when the year goes out, when you gather your work from the field.

17 Three times in the year all your men will appear before the Lord Yahweh.

18 “ You will not sacrifice the blood of my sacrifice together with *food with* yeast, and you will not leave the fat of my feast overnight until morning.

19 “ The best of the firstfruits of your land you will bring to the house of Yahweh your God. “ You will not boil a young goat in its mother’s milk.

Obey the Angel Yahweh Has Sent

20 “ Look, I *am about* to send an angel before you to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared.

21 Be attentive to him and listen to his voice; do not rebel against him, because he will not forgive your transgression, for my name is in him.

22 But if you listen attentively to his voice and do all that I say, I will be an enemy to your enemies and a foe to your foes.

Conquest of Canaan Promised

23 When my angel goes before you and brings you to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, I will wipe them out.

24 “You will not bow to their gods, and you will not serve them, and you will not act according to their actions, because you will utterly demolish them, and you will utterly break their stone pillars.

25 And you will serve Yahweh your God, and he will bless your bread and your water, and I will remove sickness from among you.

26 There will be no one suffering miscarriage or infertile in your land. I will make full the number of your days.

27 “I will release my terror before you, and I will throw into confusion all the people against whom you come, and I will make all your enemies turn their back to you.

28 And I will send the hornet before you, and it will drive out the Hivites, the Canaanites, and the Hittites from before you.

29 I will not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become a desolation and the wild animals multiply against you.

30 Little by little I will drive them out from before you until you are fruitful and take possession of the land.

31 “And I will set your boundary from the Red Sea and up to the sea of the Philistines and from *the* desert up to the river, because I will give the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you will drive them out from before you.

32 You will not make a covenant with them and with their gods.

33 They will not live in your land, lest they cause you to sin against me when you serve their gods, for it will be a snare to you.”

Israel Agrees to the Covenant (3 Sivan [May/June] 1446 BC)

Exodus 24:1–4a

Instructions for the Next Day's Covenant Meal

1 And to Moses he said, “Go up to Yahweh—you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy from the elders of Israel—and you will worship at a distance.

2 And Moses alone will come near to Yahweh, and they will not come near, and the people will not go up with him.”

The People Agree to Keep the Covenant

3 And Moses came, and he told the people all the words of Yahweh and all the regulations. And all the people answered with one voice, and they said, “All the words that Yahweh has spoken we will do.”

Moses Writes the ‘Book of the Covenant’

4a And Moses wrote all the words of Yahweh,

Inauguration of the Covenant (4 Sivan [May/June] 1446 BC)

Exodus 24:4b-11

The Covenant is Inaugurated with Blood

4b and he rose early in the morning, and he built an altar at the base of the mountain and *set up* twelve memorial stones for the twelve tribes of Israel.

5 And he sent young men from the Israelites, and they offered burnt offerings, and they sacrificed sacrifices *as* fellowship offerings to Yahweh *using* bulls.

6 And Moses took half of the blood, and he put *it* in bowls, and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar.

7 And he took the scroll of the covenant and read *it* in the hearing of the people, and they said, “All that Yahweh has spoken we will do, and we will listen.”

8 And Moses took the blood and sprinkled *it* on the people, and he said, “Look, the blood of the covenant that Yahweh has made with you in accordance with all these words.” [[Matt 26:26–28](#); [Luke 22:19–20](#); [Heb 9:18–21](#)]

A Covenant Meal on Mount Sinai

9 And Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy from the elders of Israel went up.

10 And they saw the God of Israel, and *what was* under his feet *was* like sapphire tile work and like the very heavens for clearness.

11 And toward the leaders of the Israelites he did not stretch out his hand, and they beheld God, and they ate, and they drank.

On the Mountain With God (c. early June – mid July 1446 BC)

Exodus 24:12–18

12 And Yahweh said to Moses, “Come up to me *on* the mountain, and be there, and I will give you the tablets of stone and the law and the commandments that I have written to instruct them.”

13 And Moses got up, and Joshua, his assistant, and Moses went up to the mountain of God.

14 And to the elders he said, “Wait for us here until we return to you. And look, Aaron and Hur are with you. Whoever has a dispute will bring *it* to you.”

15 And Moses went up to the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain.

16 And the glory of Yahweh settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it *for* six days, and he called to Moses on the seventh day from the midst of the cloud.

17 And the appearance of the glory of Yahweh *was* like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain to the eyes of the Israelites.

18 And Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and he went up the mountain, and Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

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Plans for the Tabernacle – Part 1 (c. early June – mid July 1446 BC)

Exodus 25–27

Contributions for the Tabernacle

25:1 And Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

2 “Speak to the Israelites, and let them bring to me a contribution. You will receive my contribution from every man whose heart prompts him.

3 And this is the contribution that you will receive from them—gold and silver and bronze,

4 blue, purple, and crimson *yarns*, and fine linen and goat hair,

5 and red-dyed ram skins, and fine leather, and acacia wood,

6 oil for the lamp, balsam oils for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense,

7 onyx stones and stones for mountings on the ephod and the breast piece.

8 And make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell in the midst of them,

9 according to all that I show you—the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its equipment—and so you will do.

The Ark of the Testimony

10 “And they will make an ark of acacia wood, two and a half cubits its length and a cubit and a half its width and a cubit and a half its height.

11 And you will overlay it with pure gold, inside and outside you will overlay it, and you will make on it a gold molding all around.

12 And you will cast for it four gold rings, and you will put *them* on its four feet, with two rings on its one side and two rings on its second side.

13 And you will make poles of acacia wood, and you will overlay them *with* gold.

14 And you will put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry the ark with them.

15 In the rings of the ark will be the poles; they will not be removed from it.

16 And you will put into the ark the testimony that I will give to you.

17 “And you will make an atonement cover of pure gold, two and a half cubits its length and a cubit and a half its width.

18 And you will make two cherubim of gold; you will make them of hammered work at the two ends of the atonement cover.

19 And make one cherub at one end and one cherub at the other end of the atonement cover; you will make the cherubim on its two ends.

20 And the cherubim will be *with* outspread wings above, covering with their wings over the atonement cover and facing each other; the faces of the cherubim will be toward the atonement cover.

21 And you will put the atonement cover above onto the ark, and into the ark you will put the testimony that I will give you.

22 And I will meet you there, and I will speak with you from over the atonement cover, from between the two cherubim that *are to be* on the ark of the testimony—all that I will command you to the Israelites.

The Table of the Bread of the Presence

23 “And you will make a table of acacia wood, two cubits its length and a cubit its width and a cubit and a half its height.

24 And you will overlay it *with* pure gold, and you will make for it a gold molding all around.

25 And you will make for it a handbreadth rim all around, and you will make a gold molding for its rim all around.

26 And you will make four gold rings for it, and you will put the rings on the four corners where its four legs *are*.

27 The rings will be near the rim as holders for poles to carry the table.

28 And you will make the poles of acacia wood and overlay them *with* gold, and the table will be carried with them.

29 And you will make its plates and its ladles and its pitchers and its bowls with which *libations* will be poured; of pure gold you will make them.

30 And you will put on the table *the* bread of presence *to be* before me continually.

The Golden Lampstand

31 “And you will make a lampstand of pure gold; the lampstand will be made of hammered work—its base and its branch, its cups, its buds, and its blossoms will be from it.

32 And six branches *will be* going out from its sides, three branches of the lampstand from its one side and three branches of the lampstand from its second side.

33 Three almond-flower cups *will be* on the one branch *with* a bud and a blossom, and three almond-flower cups *will be* on the one branch *with* a bud and a blossom—likewise for the six branches going out from the lampstand.

34 And on the lampstand *will be* four almond-flower cups, *with* its buds and its blossoms.

35 And a bud *will be* under the two branches *that come* from it, and a bud under the two branches from it, and a bud under the two branches from it, *likewise* for the six branches coming out from the lampstand.

36 Their buds and their branches will be from it, all of it one *piece* of pure gold hammered work.

37 And you will make its seven lamps, and its lamps will be set up, and it will give light in the space in front of it.

38 And its snuffers and its fire pans *will be* pure gold.

39 It will be made *from* a talent of pure gold, with all these *pieces of* equipment.

40 And see and make *all* according to their pattern, which you were shown in the mountain. [[Heb 8:4–6](#)]

The Tabernacle Curtains

26:1 “And the tabernacle you will make *with* ten curtains; you will make them of finely twisted linen and blue and purple and crimson *yarns*, *with* cherubim, the work of a skilled craftsman.

2 The length of the one curtain *will be* twenty-eight cubits, and the width *will be* four cubits *for* the one curtain; one measure *will be* for all the curtains.

3 Five curtains will be joined to one another, and five curtains joined to one another.

4 And you will make loops of blue on the edge of the one curtain, at the end in the set; and you will do so on the edge of the end curtain in the second set.

5 You will make fifty loops on the one curtain, and you will make fifty loops on the end of the curtain that *is* in the second set; the loops are to be opposite to one another.

6 And you will make fifty gold clasps and join the curtains to one another with the clasps, so that the tabernacle will be one.

7 “And you will make curtains of goat hair for a tent over the tabernacle; you will make them eleven curtains.

8 The length of the one curtain *will be* thirty cubits, and the width *will be* four cubits *for* the one curtain; one measure *will be* for the eleven curtains.

9 And you will join five curtains together and six curtains together, and you will fold double the sixth curtain at the front of the tent.

10 And you will make fifty loops on the edge of the one curtain at the end of the *first* set and fifty loops on the edge of the curtain *in* the second set.

11 And you will make fifty bronze clasps, and you will put the clasps in the loops and join the tent, so that it will be one.

12 “And the surplus in the curtains of the tent *will be* an overhang; the surplus half curtain will hang over the back of the tabernacle.

13 And a cubit from one side and a cubit from the other side in the surplus in the length of the curtains of the tent will be hung over the sides of the tabernacle equally to cover it.

14 “And you will make a covering for the tent of red-dyed ram skins and a covering of fine leather *to go* above.

The Tabernacle Framework

15 “And you will make the frames for the tabernacle of acacia wood *as* uprights.

16 The length of the frame *will be* ten cubits, and the width of the one frame *will be* one and a half cubits.

17 You will make two pegs for the one frame *for* joining each to another *and* likewise for all the frames of the tabernacle.

18 And you will make the frames for the tabernacle *with* twenty frames for the south side.

19 And you will make forty silver bases under the twenty frames, *with* two bases under the one frame for its two pegs and two bases under the next frame for its two pegs.

20 And for the second side of the tabernacle, the north side, *there will be* twenty frames

21 and their forty silver bases, *with* two bases under the one frame and two bases under the next frame.

22 “And for the rear of the tabernacle on the west you will make six frames.

23 And you will make two frames for the tabernacle corners at the rear.

24 They will be double at the bottom, and they will be completely together on its top to the one ring; it will be likewise for the two of them; they will be for the two corners.

25 And there will be eight frames and their silver bases, sixteen bases, with two bases under the one frame and two bases under the next frame.

26 “You will make five bars of acacia wood for the frames on the one side of the tabernacle,

27 and five bars for the frames on the second side of the tabernacle, and five bars for the frames on the side of the tabernacle at the rear on the west.

28 And the bar in the middle, in the midst of the frames *will* run from end to end.

29 And you will overlay the frames with gold, and you will make their rings of gold *as* holders for the bars, and you will overlay the bars with gold.

30 And you will erect the tabernacle according to its plan, which you have been shown on the mountain.

The Tabernacle Veil

31 “And you will make a curtain of blue and purple and crimson *yarns* and finely twisted linen, *the* work of a skilled craftsman; he will make it *with* cherubim.

32 And you will put it on four acacia pillars overlaid with gold *with* their gold hooks on four silver bases.

33 And you will put the curtain under the clasps, and you will bring the ark of the testimony there inside the curtain, and the curtain will separate for you between the holy and the most holy place.

34 And you will put the atonement cover on the ark of the testimony in the most holy place.

35 And you will place the table outside the curtain and the lampstand opposite the table on the south side of the tabernacle, and you will put the table on the north side.

The Tabernacle Screen

36 “And you will make for the entrance of the tent a screen of blue and purple and crimson *yarns* and finely twisted linen, *the* work of an embroiderer.

37 And you will make for the screen five acacia pillars, and you will overlay them with gold *with* their gold hooks, and you will cast for them five bronze bases.

The Altar of Burnt Offering

27:1 “And you will make the altar of acacia wood, five cubits long and five cubits wide; the altar will be square, and its height *will be* three cubits.

2 And you will make its horns on its four corners; its horns will be of one piece with it, and you will overlay it *with* bronze.

3 And you will make its pots for removing its fat-soaked ashes and its shovels and its sprinkling bowls and its forks and its fire pans; you will make all its equipment *with* bronze.

4 And you will make for it a grating, a work of bronze network, and you will make on the network four bronze rings on its four ends.

5 And you will put it under the ledge of the altar, below, and the network will be up to the middle of the altar.

6 And you will make poles for the altar, poles of acacia wood, and you will overlay them *with* bronze.

7 And the poles will be put into the rings, and the poles will be on the two sides of the altar when carrying it.

8 You will make it hollow with boards. As it was shown you on the mountain, so they will do.

The Tabernacle Courtyard

9 “You will make the courtyard of the tabernacle; for the south side *will be* hangings for the courtyard of finely twisted linen, one hundred cubits long for the one side.

10 And its twenty pillars and their twenty bases *will be* bronze; the hooks of the pillars and their bands *will be* silver.

11 And likewise for the north side along the length *will be* hangings one hundred cubits long; and its twenty pillars and their bases *will be* bronze; the hooks of the pillars and their bands *will be* silver.

12 And the width of the courtyard for the west side *will be* hangings of fifty cubits, their ten pillars and their ten bases.

13 And the width of the courtyard for the east side, toward sunrise, *will be* fifty cubits.

14 And hangings for the shoulder *will be* fifteen cubits *with* their three pillars and their three bases.

15 And fifteen cubits of hangings *will be* for the second shoulder *with* their three pillars and their three bases.

16 And for the gate of the courtyard *there will be* a screen of twenty cubits of blue and purple and crimson *yarns* and finely twisted linen, the work of an embroiderer; *with* their four pillars and their four bases.

17 “All the pillars of the courtyard all around will be banded *with* silver, *and* their hooks *will be* silver, and their bases *will be* bronze.

18 The length of the courtyard will be one hundred cubits and the width fifty *cubits* and the height five cubits, of finely twisted linen, *with* their bronze bases.

19 Bronze *will be* for all the equipment of the tabernacle in all its service and all its pegs and all the pegs of the courtyard.

Pure Olive Oil for Light for the Tabernacle

20 “And you will command the Israelites, and they will bring to you pure, beaten olive oil for the light, to cause a lamp to burn continually.

21 In the tent of assembly outside the curtain that *is* before the testimony, Aaron and his sons will arrange it, from evening until morning, before Yahweh *as* a lasting statute throughout their generations from the Israelites.

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Design of the Priestly Garments (c. early June – mid July 1446 BC)

Exodus 28

Priestly Garments for Aaron and His Sons

1 “And bring near to you Aaron, your brother, and his sons with him from the midst of the Israelites to serve as priests for me — Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, the sons of Aaron.

2 And you will make holy garments for Aaron, your brother, for glory and for splendor.

3 And you will speak to all *the* skilled of heart, whom I have given a gift of skill, and they will make the garments of Aaron to consecrate him for his serving as my priest.

4 And these are the garments that they will make: A breast piece and an ephod and a robe and a tunic of specially woven fabric, a turban and a sash. And they will make holy garments for Aaron your brother, and for his sons to serve as priests for me.

5 “And they will take the gold and the blue and the purple and the crimson *yarns* and the fine linen,

The Ephod

6 and they will make the ephod of gold, blue and purple, *and* crimson *yarns*, and finely twisted linen, the work of a skilled craftsman.

7 It will have two joining shoulder pieces at its two edges, so that it can be fastened.

8 And the waistband of his ephod, which is on it, will be of like work to it—gold, blue, and purple and crimson *yarns* and finely twisted linen.

9 “And you will take two onyx stones and engrave on them the names of the Israelites,

10 *with* six of their names on the one stone and the remaining six on the second, according to their genealogies.

11 *As the* work of a skilled stone craftsman, *with* seal engravings you will engrave on the two stones the names of the Israelites; you will make them mounted *in* gold filigree settings.

12 And you will set the two stones on the ephod’s shoulder pieces *as* stones of remembrance for the Israelites, and Aaron will bear their names before Yahweh on his two shoulder pieces for remembrance.

13 “And you will make gold filigree settings.

14 And you will make two braided chains of pure gold ornamental cord work, and you will put the chains of the ornamental cords on the filigree settings.

The Breastpiece

15 And you will make a breast piece of judgment, a work of a skilled craftsman; you will make it like the work of the ephod; you will make it of gold, blue and purple and crimson *yarns*, and finely twisted linen.

16 It will be squared, doubled, a span its length and a span its width.

17 And you will fill it *with* stone mounting, four rows *of* stone, a row of carnelian, topaz, and emerald *is* the first row;

18 and the second row *is* a malachite, a sapphire, and a moonstone;

19 and the third row *is* a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst;

20 and the fourth row *is* a turquoise and an onyx and a jasper. Their settings will be woven *with* gold.

21 The stones will be according to the names of the Israelites, twelve according to their names, *with* seal engravings, each according to its name they will be for *the* twelve tribes.

22 “And you will make on the breast piece braided chains, a work of pure gold ornamental cord.

23 And you will make on the breast piece two gold rings, and you will put the two rings on the two edges of the breast piece.

24 And you will put the two gold ornamental cords on the two rings on the edges of the breast piece.

25 And you will put the two ends of the two ornamental cords on the two filigree settings, and you will put *them* on the shoulder pieces of the ephod at the front of it.

26 And you will make two gold rings, and you will place them on the two ends of the breast piece, on its edge that *is* on the other side of the ephod, to the inside.

27 And you will make two rings and put them on the two shoulder pieces of the ephod below at its front near its seam above the waistband of the ephod.

28 And they will tie the breast piece by its rings to the rings of the ephod with a blue cord to be on the waistband of the ephod, and the breast piece will not come loose from the ephod.

29 And Aaron will bear the names of the Israelites in the breast piece of judgment on his heart, when he comes to the sanctuary, for a remembrance before Yahweh continually.

30 And you will put the Urim and the Thummim on the breast piece of judgment, and they will be on the heart of Aaron when he comes before Yahweh, and Aaron will bear the judgment of the Israelites on his heart before Yahweh continually.

The Robe

31 “And you will make the robe of the ephod totally of blue *yarn*.

32 And the opening for his head will be in the middle of it; its opening will have an edge all around, the work of a weaver; it will be like the opening of a sturdy garment for it, *so that* it will not be torn.

33 And you will make on its hem pomegranates of blue and purple and crimson *yarns* on its hem all around and bells of gold in the midst of them all around,

34 a gold bell and a pomegranate, a gold bell and a pomegranate, on the hem of the robe all around.

35 And it will be on Aaron for serving, and its sound will be heard at his coming into the sanctuary before Yahweh and at his going out, so that he will not die.

The Golden Diadem

36 “And you will make a pure gold rosette, and you will engrave on it with seal engravings: “A holy object for Yahweh.”

37 And you will place it on a blue cord, and it will be on the turban, at the front of the turban it will be.

38 And it will be on the forehead of Aaron, and Aaron will bear the guilt of the holy objects that the Israelites will consecrate for all their holy gifts, and it will be on his forehead continually for acceptance for them before Yahweh.

The Coat, Turban and Sash

39 “And you will weave the tunic of fine linen, and you will make a turban of fine linen, and you will make a sash, the work of an embroiderer.

40 And for the sons of Aaron you will make tunics, and you will make for them sashes and headdresses; you will make them for glory and for splendor.

41 And you will clothe them—Aaron, your brother, and his sons with him—and you will anoint them and ordain them and consecrate them, and they will serve as priests for me.

Undergarments for Modesty

42 And make for them undergarments of linen to cover naked flesh; they will be from loins to thigh.

43 And they will be on Aaron and on his sons when they come to the tent of assembly or when they approach the altar to serve in the sanctuary, so that they will not bear guilt and die. *It is* a lasting statute for him and for his offspring after him.

Instructions for the Priestly Ordination Ceremony (c. early June – mid July 1446 BC)

Exodus 29

Instructions for Consecration of Aaron and His Sons as Priests

1 “And this *is* the thing that you will do for them to consecrate them to serve as a priest for me: Take one young bull and two rams without defect

2 and unleavened bread and unleavened, ring-shaped bread cakes mixed with oil, and wafers of unleavened breads smeared with oil. You will make them *with* finely milled wheat flour,

3 and you will put them on one basket, and you will bring them on the basket and *bring* the bull and the two rams.

4 And you will bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance of the tent of assembly, and you will wash them with water.

5 And you will take the garments and clothe Aaron with the tunic and the robe of the ephod, and you will fasten to him the ephod and the breast piece with the waistband of the ephod.

6 And you will set the turban on his head, and you will put the holy diadem on the turban.

7 And you will take the anointing oil and pour it on his head and anoint him.

8 And you will bring his sons and clothe them with tunics.

9 And you will gird Aaron and his sons *with* sashes and wrap headdresses on them. And priesthood will be theirs as a lasting rule, and you will ordain Aaron and his sons.

A Bull as a Sin Offering

10 “And you will bring the bull before the tent of assembly, and Aaron and his sons will lay their hands on the head of the bull.

11 And you will slaughter the bull before Yahweh *at* the entrance of the tent of assembly.

12 And you will take *some* of the blood of the bull and with your finger put it on the horns of the altar, and you will pour out all the blood at the base of the altar.

13 And you will take and turn into smoke *on* the altar all the fat covering the inner parts and the lobe on the liver and the two kidneys and the fat that *is* on them.

14 And the flesh of the bull and its skin and its offal you will burn with fire outside the camp; *it is* a sin offering.

A Ram as a Whole Burnt Offering

15 “And you will take the one ram, and Aaron and his sons will lay their hands on the head of the ram.

16 And you will slaughter the ram and take its blood and sprinkle *it* on the altar all around.

17 And you will cut the ram into pieces and wash its inner parts, and you will put its legs with its pieces and with its head.

18 And you will turn into smoke *on* the altar all of the ram; *it is* a burnt offering for Yahweh; *it is* a smell of appeasement, an offering by fire for Yahweh.

A Second Ram's Blood—the Ram for Consecration

19 “And you will take the second ram, and Aaron and his sons will lay their hands on the head of the ram.

20 And you will slaughter the ram and take *some* of its blood and put *it* on Aaron's *right* earlobe and on the right earlobe of his sons and on the thumb of their right hand and on the big toe of their right foot, and you will sprinkle the blood at the base of the altar all around.

21 And you will take *some* of the blood that is on the altar and *some* of the anointing oil, and you will spatter *it* on Aaron and on his garments and on his sons and on his sons' garments with him, and he will be sacred, and his garments and his sons and his sons' garments with him.

Offering the Second Ram

22 And you will take from the ram the fat and the fat tail and the fat covering the inner parts and the lobe of the liver and the two kidneys and the fat that is on them and the right thigh, because it *is* the ram of ordination.

23 "And one loaf of bread and one ring-shaped bread cake of oiled bread and one wafer from the basket of unleavened bread that *is* before Yahweh—

24 you will put *them* all on the palms of Aaron and on the palms of his sons, and you will wave them as a wave offering before Yahweh.

25 And you will take them from their hand and turn *them* to smoke on the altar beside the burnt offering as a fragrance of appeasement before Yahweh; it is an offering made by fire before Yahweh.

26 "And you will take the breast section from the ram of ordination that *is* for Aaron, and you will wave it *as* a wave offering before Yahweh. It will be your portion.

27 And you will consecrate the wave offering breast section and the thigh of the contribution that was waved and that was presented from the ram of the ordination that *is* for Aaron and for his sons.

28 And it will be for Aaron and for his sons as a lasting rule from the Israelites, because it is a contribution, and it will be a contribution from the Israelites from their sacrifices of fellowship, their contribution to Yahweh.

29 "And the holy garments that *are* for Aaron will be for his sons after him in which to anoint them and to ordain them.

30 Seven days the priest who replaces him from among his sons will wear them, who comes to the tent of assembly to serve in the sanctuary.

Eating the Second Ram

31 And you will take the ram of ordination and boil its meat in a holy place.

32 And Aaron and his sons will eat the meat of the ram and the bread that *is* in the basket at the entrance of the tent of assembly.

33 And they will eat them—the *things* by which atonement was made for them to ordain them to consecrate them—and a stranger will not eat *them* because they are holy objects.

34 If any remains until morning from the ordination meat or from the bread, you will burn the remainder in fire; it will not be eaten, because it *is* a holy object.

Length of the Consecration Ceremony

35 And you will do so for Aaron and for his sons, according to all that I have commanded you; seven days you will ordain them.

36 "And you will offer a bull for a sin offering every day for the atonement; and you will offer a sin offering on the altar when you make atonement for it, and you will anoint it to consecrate it.

37 Seven days you will make atonement for the altar, and you will consecrate it, and the altar will be a most holy thing. Anyone who touches the altar will be holy.

The Daily Offerings

38 "And this is what you shall offer on the altar: Two one-year-old male lambs every day continually.

39 The first lamb you will offer in the morning, and the second lamb you will offer at twilight.

40 And a tenth of finely milled flour mixed with a fourth of a hin of beaten oil, and a fourth of a hin of wine as a libation with the first lamb.

41 And the second lamb you will offer at twilight; you will offer a grain offering and its libation like that of the morning for a fragrance of appeasement, an offering made by fire for Yahweh.

42 *It will be* a burnt offering of continuity throughout your generations *at* the entrance of the tent of assembly before Yahweh, where I will meet with you to speak to you there.

43 "And I will meet with the Israelites there, and it will be consecrated by my glory.

44 And I will consecrate the tent of assembly and the altar, and Aaron and his sons I will consecrate to serve as priests for me.

45 And I will dwell in the midst of the Israelites, and I will be their God.

46 And they will know that I *am* Yahweh, their God, who brought them out from the land of Egypt in order to dwell in their midst. I *am* Yahweh their God.

Plans for the Tabernacle – Part 2 (c. early June – mid July 1446 BC)

Exodus 30

The Altar of Incense

- 1 “And you will make an altar *for* burning incense; you will make it of acacia wood,
2 a cubit its length and a cubit its width—it will be square—and two cubits its height, its horns of one piece with it.
3 And you will overlay it with pure gold, its top and its sides all around and its horns, and you will make for it a gold molding all around.
4 And you will make two gold rings for it; under its molding on two opposite sides you will make *them* as holders for poles to carry it with them.
5 You will make the poles of acacia wood, and you will overlay them *with* gold.
6 And you will put it before the curtain that *is* upon the ark of the testimony, before the atonement cover, which *is* on the testimony, there where I will meet with you.
7 “And on it Aaron will turn fragrant incense into smoke; each morning when he tends the lamps, he will turn it into smoke.
8 And when Aaron sets up the lamps at twilight, he will turn it into smoke—incense of continuity—before Yahweh throughout your generations.
9 You will not offer on it strange incense or a burnt offering or a grain offering, and you will not pour a libation on it.
10 And Aaron will make atonement on its horns one time in the year from the blood of the sin offering of the atonement; one time in the year he will make atonement on it throughout your generations; it is a most holy thing for Yahweh.”

Census Tax

- 11 And Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,
12 “When you take a census of the Israelites to count them, they will each give the ransom of his life for Yahweh when counting them, and a plague will not be among them when counting them. [cf. [2 Sam 24](#)]
13 This they will give, everyone who is counted, the half shekel, according to the sanctuary shekel, *which is* twenty gerahs per shekel. The half shekel *is* a contribution for Yahweh.
14 Everyone who is counted from twenty years old and above will give the contribution of Yahweh.
15 The rich will not give more, and the poor will not give less than the half shekel to give the contribution of Yahweh to make atonement for their lives.
16 And you will take the atonement money from the Israelites and give it to the service of the tent of assembly, and it will be as a memorial for the Israelites before Yahweh to make atonement for your lives.”

The Washbasin

- 17 And Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,
18 “And you will make a basin of bronze and its bronze stand for washing, and you will put it between the tent of assembly and the altar, and you will put water there.
19 And Aaron and his sons will wash their hands and their feet with it.
20 When they come to the tent of assembly, they will wash with water so that they do not die, or when they approach the altar to serve by turning to smoke an offering made by fire to Yahweh.
21 And they will wash their hands and their feet so that they do not die, and it will be a lasting rule for them—to him and to his offspring throughout their generations.

Recipe for the Anointing Oil

- 22 And Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,
23 “And take for yourself top quality balsam oils, five hundred *shekels of* flowing myrrh, half *as much*—two hundred and fifty *shekels of* fragrant cinnamon, and two hundred and fifty *shekels of* fragrant reed,
24 and five hundred *shekels of* cassia, according to the sanctuary shekel, and a hin of olive oil.
25 And you will make it *into* holy anointing oil, a spice blend of a fragrant ointment *the* work of a perfumer; it will be holy anointing oil.
26 And you will anoint with it the tent of assembly and the ark of the testimony,
27 and the table and all its equipment and the lampstand and its equipment and the incense altar,
28 and the altar of burnt offering and all its equipment and the basin and its stand.
29 And you will consecrate them, and they will be most holy things; anyone who touches them will be holy.
30 And you will anoint Aaron and his sons, and you will consecrate them to serve as priests for me.
31 “And you will speak to the Israelites, saying, ‘This will be my holy anointing oil throughout your generations.
32 It will not be poured on human flesh, and with its measurements you will not make *any* like it; it is holy; it will be holy to you.
33 Anyone who compounds perfume like it and who puts it on a stranger will be cut off from his people.’”

Recipe for the Incense

34 And Yahweh said to Moses, “Take for yourself fragrant perfumes—stacte resin and onycha and galbanum—fragrant perfumes and pure frankincense, an equal part of each,
 35 and make it into a compound of incense, the work of a perfumer, salted, pure, holy.
 36 And you will grind part of it to powder, and you will put part of it before the testimony in the tent of assembly where I will meet with you; it will be a most holy thing to you.
 37 And the incense that you will make with its measurements you will not make for yourselves; it will be holy to you for Yahweh.
 38 Anyone who makes *any* like it to smell it will be cut off from his people.”

Appointment of Craftsmen (c. early June – mid July 1446 BC)

Exodus 31:1–17

Yahweh Appoints Bezalel and Oholiab as Craftsmen

1 And Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,
 2 “See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri the son of Hur, from the tribe of Judah.
 3 And I have filled him *with* the Spirit of God, with wisdom and with skill and with knowledge and with every *kind of* craftsmanship,
 4 to devise designs, to work with gold and with silver and with bronze,
 5 and in stonecutting for setting and in cutting wood, for doing every *kind of* craftsmanship.
 6 And, look, I have given with him Oholiab the son of Ahisamach, from the tribe of Dan, and I have put skill in the heart of all *the* skilled of heart, and they will make all that I have commanded you—
 7 the tent of assembly and the ark of the testimony and the atonement cover that *is* on it and all the equipment of the tent,
 8 and the table and all its equipment, and the pure *gold* lampstand and all its equipment, and the incense altar,
 9 and the altar of burnt offering and all its equipment, and the basin and its stand,
 10 and the garments of woven material, and the garments of the sanctuary for Aaron the priest and the garments of his sons to serve as priests,
 11 and the anointing oil and the fragrant incense for the sanctuary. According to all that I have commanded you, they will make *it*.

Work on the Tabernacle Does Not Trump the Sabbath

12 And Yahweh spoke to Moses *and* said,
 13 “And you, speak to the Israelites, saying, ‘Surely you must keep my Sabbaths, because it *is* a sign between me and you throughout your generations, *in order* to know that I *am* Yahweh, who consecrates you.
 14 And you must keep the Sabbath, because it is holy for you; defilers of it will surely be put to death, because anyone who does work on it—that person will be cut off from among his people.
 15 *On* six days work can be done, and on the seventh is a Sabbath of complete rest, a holy day for Yahweh; anyone doing work on the Sabbath day will surely be put to death.
 16 The Israelites will pay attention to the Sabbath *in order* to fulfill the Sabbath throughout their generations *as* a lasting covenant.
 17 It *is* a sign between me and the Israelites forever, because *in* six days Yahweh made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh he ceased and recovered.”

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Israel Breaks the Covenant (c. mid July 1446 BC)

Exodus 31:18–32:35

The Tablets of Testimony

31:18 And when he finished speaking with him on Mount Sinai, he gave to Moses the two tablets of the testimony, stone tablets, written with the finger of God.

The Golden Calf

32:1 And the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, and the people gathered opposite Aaron, and they said to him, “Come, make for us gods who will go before us, because this Moses, the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.” [\[Acts 7:39–41\]](#)

2 And Aaron said to them, “Take off the rings of gold that *are* on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring it to me.”

3 And all the people took off the rings of gold that *were* on their ears and brought *it* to Aaron.

4 And he took from their hand, and he shaped it with a tool, and he made it a cast-image bull calf, and they said, “These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt.”

5 And Aaron saw, and he built an altar before it, and Aaron called, and he said, “A feast for Yahweh tomorrow.”

6 And they started early the next day, and they offered burnt offerings, and they presented fellowship offerings, and the people sat to eat and drink, and they rose up to revel. [\[1 Cor 10:7\]](#)

Yahweh’s Anger and Moses’ Intercession

7 And Yahweh spoke to Moses, “Go, go down because your people behave corruptly, whom you brought up from the land of Egypt.

8 They have turned aside quickly from the way that I commanded them; they have made for themselves a cast-image bull calf, and they bowed to it, and they sacrificed to it, and they said, ‘These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt.’”

9 And Yahweh said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and, indeed, they *are* a stiff-necked people.

10 And now leave me *alone* so that my anger may blaze against them, and let me destroy them, and I will make you into a great nation.”

11 And Moses implored Yahweh his God, and he said, “Why, Yahweh, should your anger blaze against your people whom you brought up from the land of Egypt with great power and with a strong hand?

12 Why should *the* Egyptians say, ‘With evil *intent* he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and wipe them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce anger and relent concerning the disaster for your people.

13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, to whom you swore by yourself, and you told them, ‘I will multiply your offspring like the stars of the heavens, and all this land that I promised I will give to your offspring, and they will inherit *it* forever.’”

14 And Yahweh relented concerning the disaster that he had threatened to do to his people.

Moses Breaks the Tablets of Testimony

15 And Moses turned and went down from the mountain, and the two tablets of the testimony *were* in his hand, tablets written on their two sides; on the front and on the back they were written.

16 And the tablets, they *were* the work of God; and the writing, it *was* the writing of God engraved on the tablets.

17 And Joshua heard the sound of the people in their shouting, and he said to Moses, “A sound of war *is* in the camp.”

18 But he said, “There is not a sound of shouting of victory, and there is not a sound of shouting of defeat. I hear a sound of singing.”

19 And as he came near to the camp, he saw the bull calf and dancing, and Moses became angry, and he threw the tablets from his hand, and he broke them under the mountain.

20 And he took the bull calf that they had made, and he burned *it* with the fire, and he crushed *it* until it became fine, and he scattered *it* on the surface of the water, and he made the Israelites drink.

Moses Confronts Aaron

21 And Moses said to Aaron, “What did this people do to you that you brought on them *such* a great sin?”

22 And Aaron said, “Let not my lord become angry. You yourself know the people, that they are intent on evil.

23 And they said to me, ‘Make for us gods who will go before us, because this Moses, the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’

24 And I said to them, ‘Whoever *has* gold, take *it* off.’ And they gave *it* to me, and I threw it in the fire, and out came this bull calf.”

The Levites Kill the Ringleaders

25 And Moses saw the people, that they *were* running wild because Aaron had allowed them to run wild, for a laughingstock among their enemies.

26 And Moses stood at the entrance of the camp, and he said, “Whoever *is* for Yahweh, to me.” And all the sons of Levi were gathered to him.

27 And he said to them, “Thus says Yahweh, the God of Israel, ‘Put each his sword on his side. Go back and forth from gate to gate in

the camp, and kill, each his brother and each his friend and each his close relative.”

28 And the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses, and from the people on that day about three thousand persons fell.

29 And Moses said, “You are ordained today for Yahweh, because each *has been* against his son and against his brother and so bringing on you today a blessing.”

Yahweh’s Punishment

30 And the next day Moses said to the people, “You have sinned a great sin. And now I will go up to Yahweh. Perhaps I can make atonement for your sin.”

31 And Moses returned to Yahweh, and he said, “Alas, this people has sinned a great sin and made for themselves gods of gold.

32 And now if you will forgive their sin—and if not, please blot me from your scroll that you have written.”

33 And Yahweh said to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against me I will blot him from my scroll.

34 And now go, lead the people to where I spoke to you. Look, my angel will go before you, and on the day *when* I punish I will punish them *for* their sin.”

35 And Yahweh afflicted the people because they had made the bull calf that Aaron had made.

Moses Entreats Yahweh to Go With Israel (c. mid July 1446 BC)

Exodus 33:1–17

Yahweh Refuses to Personally Accompany Israel to Canaan

1 And Yahweh spoke to Moses, “Go, go up from here, you and the people whom you have brought up from the land of Egypt, to the land that I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your offspring.’

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

3 *Go* to a land flowing with milk and honey, but I will not go up among you, because you *are* a stiff-necked people, lest I destroy you on the way.”

The People Obey Yahweh and Mourn in Genuine Repentance

4 And the people heard this troubling word, and they mourned, and they each did not put their ornaments on themselves.

5 And Yahweh said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘You *are* a stiff-necked people; *if* one moment I were to go up among you, I would destroy you. And now take down your ornaments from on you, and I will decide what I will do to you.”

6 And the Israelites stripped themselves of their ornaments from Mount Horeb *onward*.

The Temporary Tabernacle—“Tent of Meeting”

7 And Moses took the tent and pitched it outside the camp far from the camp, and he called it the tent of assembly, and all seeking Yahweh would go out to the tent of assembly, which *was* outside the camp.

8 And at the going out of Moses to the tent, all the people would rise and stand, each at the opening of his tent, and gaze after Moses until his entering the tent.

9 And at the entering of Moses *into* the tent the column of cloud would descend and stand *at* the opening of the tent, and he would speak with Moses.

10 And all the people would see the column of cloud standing *at* the opening of the tent, and all the people would rise and bow in worship, each *at* the opening of his tent.

11 And Yahweh would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his neighbor. And he would return to the camp, and his assistant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not leave the middle of the tent.

Moses Entreats Yahweh to Personally Accompany Israel and Yahweh Agrees

12 And Moses said to Yahweh, “See, you *are* saying to me, ‘Take this people up.’ But you have not let me know whom you will send with me, and you yourself have said, ‘I know you by name, and you also have found favor in my eyes.’

13 And now if I have found favor in your eyes, make known *to* me, please, your way, and so I may know you so that I can find favor in your eyes. And see that this nation is your people.”

14 And he said, “My presence will go, and I will give you rest.”

15 And he said to him, “If your presence *is* not going, do not bring us up from here.

16 And by what will it be known then that I have found favor in your eyes, I and your people? Is it not by your going with us? And so we will be distinguished, I and your people, from all the people who *are* on the face of the ground.”

17 And Yahweh said to Moses, “Also I will do this thing that you have spoken, because you have found favor in my eyes and I have known you by name.”

Yahweh Renews the Covenant (c. late July - August 1446 BC)

Exodus 33:18–34:35

Moses Asks To See Yahweh's Glory

33:18 And he said, "Please show me your glory."

19 And he said, "I myself will cause all my goodness to pass over before you, and I will proclaim the name of Yahweh before you, and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will show compassion to whom I will show compassion." [\[Rom 9:14–15\]](#)

20 But he said, "You are not able to see my face, because a human will not see me and live."

21 And Yahweh said, "There is a place with me, and you will stand on the rock.

22 And when my glory passes over, I will put you in the rock's crevice, and I will cover you *with* my hand until I pass over.

23 And I will remove my hand, and you will see my back, but my face will not be visible."

Yahweh Takes the Initiative to Renew the Covenant

34:1 And Yahweh said to Moses, "Cut for yourself two stone tablets like the first ones, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke.

2 And be ready for the morning, and go up in the morning to Mount Sinai and present yourself to me there on the top of the mountain.

3 And no one will go up with you, and neither let anyone be seen on all the mountain, nor let the sheep and goats and the cattle graze opposite that mountain."

4 And Moses cut two stone tablets like the first ones, and he started early in the morning, and he went up to Mount Sinai, as Yahweh had commanded him, and he took in his hand the two stone tablets.

Yahweh Passes Before Moses

5 And Yahweh descended in the cloud, and he stood with him there, and he proclaimed the name of Yahweh.

6 And Yahweh passed over before him, and he proclaimed, "Yahweh, Yahweh, God, *who is* compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding with loyal love and faithfulness,

7 keeping loyal love to the thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and he does not leave utterly unpunished, punishing *the* guilt of fathers on sons and on sons of sons on third and fourth *generations*."

Moses Worships and Repeats His Request for Yahweh's Presence

8 And Moses hurried and knelt down to the earth and worshiped.

9 And he said, "Please, if I have found favor in your eyes, Lord, let my Lord, please, go among us—indeed it is a stiff-necked people—and forgive our iniquity and our sin and take us as your possession."

The Renewal of the Covenant

10 And he said, "Look, I *am about to* make a covenant. In front of all your people I will do wonders that have not been created on all the earth and among all the nations, and all the people among whom you *are* will see Yahweh's work, because what I *am about to* do with you *will be* awesome.

11 "Keep for yourself what I myself have commanded you today. Look, I *am about to* drive from before you the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.

12 Be careful for yourself, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land to which you are going, lest it be a snare among you.

13 Rather, you will tear down their altars, and you will break their stone pillars, and you will cut off their Asherah poles.

14 For you will not bow in worship to another god, for 'Yahweh *Is Jealous*' is his name, he *is* a jealous God,

15 lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they prostitute *themselves* after their gods, and they sacrifice to their gods, and they invite you, and you eat their sacrifice,

16 and you take from their daughters for your sons, and their daughters prostitute *themselves* after their gods, and they cause your sons to prostitute *themselves* after their gods.

17 You will not make gods of cast metal for yourself.

18 "You will keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Seven days you will eat unleavened bread, which I commanded you, at the appointed time of the month of Abib, for in the month of Abib you came out from Egypt.

19 Every first offspring of a womb *is* for me—all of your male livestock, *the* first offspring of cattle and small livestock.

20 But the first offspring of a donkey you will redeem with small livestock, and if you will not redeem *it*, you will break its neck. Every firstborn of your sons you will redeem, and you will not appear before me empty-handed.

21 Six days you will work, and on the seventh day you will rest; in the *time of* plowing and in the *time of* harvest you will rest.

22 And you yourself will observe the Feast of Weeks—the firstfruits of the wheat harvest—and the Feast of Harvest Gathering at the turn of the year.

23 Three times in the year all your males will appear before the Lord, Yahweh, the God of Israel,

24 because I will evict nations before you, and I will enlarge your territory, and no one will covet your land when you go up to appear

before Yahweh your God three times in the year.

25 “You will not slaughter the blood of my sacrifice on *food with yeast*, and the sacrifice of the Feast of the Passover will not stay overnight to the morning.

26 The beginning of the firstfruits of your land you will bring to the house of Yahweh your God. You will not boil a young goat in its mother’s milk.”

The Covenant in Writing

27 And Yahweh said to Moses, “Write for yourself these words, because according to these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel.”

28 And he was there with Yahweh forty days and forty nights. He ate no food and drank no water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the ten words.

Moses’ Shining Face

29 And when Moses came down from Mount Sinai, the two tablets of the testimony *were* in the hand of Moses at his coming down from the mountain; and Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because of his speaking with him.

30 And Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, and, to their amazement, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid of coming near to him.

31 And Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the community returned to him, and Moses spoke to them.

32 And afterward all the Israelites came near, and he commanded them all that Yahweh had spoken with him on Mount Sinai.

33 And Moses finished speaking with them, and he put a veil on his face.

34 And when Moses came before Yahweh to speak with him, he would remove the veil until he went out, and he would go out and would speak to the Israelites what he had been commanded. [cf. [2 Cor 3:7–18](#)]

35 And the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of the face of Moses shone, and Moses would put back the veil on his face until his coming to speak with him.

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Tabernacle Construction (c. September 1446–March 1445 BC)

Exodus 35–38

Work on the Tabernacle Does Not Trump the Sabbath

35:1 And Moses assembled all the community of the Israelites, and he said to them, “These are the words that Yahweh has commanded *for us* to do them.

2 *On* six days work can be done, and on the seventh there will be for you a holy *day*, a Sabbath of complete rest, for Yahweh; anyone doing work on it will be put to death.

3 You will not kindle a fire in any of your dwellings on the day of the Sabbath.”

A Call for Contributions

4 And Moses said to all the community of the Israelites, saying, “This is the word that Yahweh has commanded, saying,

5 ‘Take from among you a contribution for Yahweh, anyone willing of heart, let him bring Yahweh’s contribution—gold and silver and bronze,

6 and blue and purple and crimson *yarns*, and fine linen and goat hair,

7 and red-dyed ram skins, and fine leather, and acacia wood,

8 and oil for the lamp, balsam oils for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense,

9 onyx stones and stones for mountings on the ephod and the breast piece.

10 “And let all *the* skilled of heart among you come and make all that Yahweh has commanded:

11 The tabernacle, its tent, and its covering; its clasps and its frames; its bars, its pillars, and its bases;

12 the ark and its poles; the atonement cover and the curtain of the screen;

13 the table and its poles and all its equipment; and the bread of the presence;

14 and lampstand of the light and its equipment and its lamps and the oil for the light;

15 and the altar of incense and its poles; and the anointing oil and the fragrant incense and the entrance curtain for the entrance of the tabernacle;

16 the altar of the burnt offering and the bronze grating that *is* for it, its poles and all its equipment; the basin and its stand;

17 the hangings of the courtyard, its pillars, and its bases, and the screen for the courtyard gate;

18 the pegs of the tabernacle and the pegs of the courtyard and their cords;

19 the woven garments for serving in the sanctuary—the holy garments for Aaron the priest and the garments of his sons to serve as priests.”

20 And all the community of the Israelites went out from before Moses.

Men and Women Give Generously

21 And they came—every man whose heart lifted him and every man whose spirit impelled him—they brought Yahweh’s contribution for the work of the tent of assembly and for all its service and for the holy garments.

22 And they came, the men in addition to the women, all *who were* willing of heart; they brought brooches and jewelry rings and signet rings and ornaments—every *variety* of gold object—every man who waved a wave offering of gold for Yahweh,

23 and every man with whom was found blue and purple and crimson *yarns* and fine linen and goat hair and red-dyed ram skins and fine leather brought *it*.

24 All *who were* presenting a contribution of silver and bronze brought Yahweh’s contribution, and all with whom was found acacia wood for all the work of service brought *it*.

25 And every woman *who was* skilled of heart with her hands they spun, and they brought yarn—the blue and the purple, the crimson and the fine linen.

26 And all the women whose heart lifted them with skill spun the goat hair.

27 And the leaders brought the onyx stones and stones for mountings for the ephod and for the breast piece

28 and the balsam oils and the oil for light and for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense.

29 Every man and woman whose heart impelled them to bring for all the work to be done that Yahweh had commanded by the agency of Moses—the Israelites brought freely to Yahweh.

Moses Appoints Bezalel, Oholiab and Other Craftsmen

30 And Moses said to the Israelites, “See, Yahweh has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri the son of Hur, from the tribe of Judah.

31 And he has filled him *with* the Spirit of God, with wisdom and with skill and with knowledge and with every *kind of* craftsmanship,

32 and to devise designs, to work with the gold and with the silver and with the bronze,

33 and in stonecutting for setting and in cutting wood, for doing every *kind of* design craftsmanship.

34 And he has put *it* in his heart to teach—he and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach, from the tribe of Dan.

35 He has filled them *with* skill of heart to do every work of a craftsman and a designer and an embroiderer with the blue and with the purple, with the crimson *yarns* and with the fine linen and a weaver; *they are* doers of every *kind of* craftsmanship and devisers of designs.

36:1 And Bezalel and Oholiab and everyone *who is* skilled of heart in whom Yahweh has put wisdom and skill to know and to do all

the work for the service of the sanctuary—*they will do it*, according to all that Yahweh has commanded.”

Generosity That Must Be Restrained

2 And Moses called Bezalel and Oholiab and everyone skilled of heart, in whose heart Yahweh had put skill, all whose heart lifted him to come near to the work in order to do it.

3 And they took from Moses all the contributions that the Israelites had brought for the work of the service for the sanctuary in order to do it, and they still brought to him voluntary offerings every morning.

4 And all the skilled *workers who were* doing all the work for the sanctuary came, each from his work that they were doing.

5 And they said to Moses, saying, “The people are bringing more than enough for the service of the work that Yahweh has commanded to be done.”

6 And Moses commanded, and they proclaimed the message in the camp, saying, “Let no man or woman again make anything for the sanctuary contribution.” And so the people were restrained from bringing.

7 And the material was enough for doing all the work, and it was left over.

Crafting the Curtains

8 And all who were skilled of heart among the doers of the work made the tabernacle *with* ten curtains of finely twisted linen and blue and purple and crimson *yarns*, *with* cherubim; he made them, the work of a skilled craftsman.

9 The length of the one curtain *was* twenty-eight cubits, and the width *was* four cubits *for* the one curtain; one measurement *was* for all the curtains.

10 And he joined five of the curtains one to another, and five curtains he joined one to another.

11 And he made loops of blue on the edge of the one curtain, at the end in the set; so he did on the edge of the end curtain in the second set.

12 He made fifty loops on the one curtain, and he made fifty loops on the end of the curtain that *was* in the second set; the loops were opposite one to another.

13 And he made fifty gold clasps and joined the curtains one to another with the clasps, so that the tabernacle was one.

14 And he made curtains of goat hair for a tent over the tabernacle; he made them eleven curtains.

15 The length of the one curtain *was* thirty cubits, and the width *was* four cubits *for* the one curtain; one measure *was* for *the* eleven curtains.

16 And he joined five curtains together and six curtains together.

17 And he made fifty loops on the edge of the end curtain in the set, and he made fifty loops on the edge of the curtain *in* the second set.

18 And he made fifty bronze clasps for joining the tent to become one.

19 And he made a covering for the tent of red-dyed ram skin and a covering of fine leather *to go* above.

Crafting the Framing

20 And he made the frames for the tabernacle of acacia wood *as* uprights.

21 The length of the frame *was* ten cubits, and the width of the one frame *was* one and a half cubits.

22 He made two pegs for the one frame *for* joining one to another *and* likewise for all the frames of the tabernacle.

23 And he made the frames for the tabernacle *with* twenty frames for the south side.

24 And he made forty silver bases under the twenty frames, *with* two bases under the one frame for its two pegs and two bases under the next frame for its two pegs.

25 And for the second side of the tabernacle, the north side, he made twenty frames

26 and their forty silver bases, *with* two bases under the one frame and two bases under the next frame.

27 And for the rear of the tabernacle on the west he made six frames.

28 And he made two frames for the tabernacle corners at the rear.

29 And they were double at the bottom, and they were completely together on its top to the one ring; he did likewise for the two of them, for the two corners.

30 And there were eight frames and their sixteen silver bases, two bases, two bases under the one frame.

31 And he made five bars of acacia wood for the frames on the one side of the tabernacle,

32 and five bars for the frames on the second side of the tabernacle, and five bars for the frames at the rear on the west.

33 And he made the middle bar to run in the midst of the frames from end to end.

34 And he overlaid the frames with gold, and he made their rings of gold *as* holders for the bars, and he overlaid the bars with gold.

Crafting the Veil and the Screen

35 And he made the curtain of blue and purple and crimson *yarns* and finely twisted linen, *the* work of a craftsman; he made it *with* cherubim.

36 And he made for it four acacia pillars, and he overlaid them with gold, *with* their gold hooks, and he cast for them four silver bases.

37 And he made for the entrance of the tent a screen of blue and purple and crimson *yarns* and finely twisted linen, *the work* of an embroiderer,

38 and the five pillars and their hooks, and he overlaid their tops and their connections *with gold*, and their five bases *were* bronze.

Crafting the Ark of the Testimony

37:1 And Bezalel made the ark of acacia wood, two and a half cubits its length and a cubit and a half its width and a cubit and a half its height.

2 And he overlaid it *with pure gold* inside and outside, and he made for it a gold molding all around.

3 And he cast for it four gold rings on its four feet; and two rings were on its one side, and two rings were on its second side.

4 And he made poles of acacia wood, and he overlaid them *with gold*.

5 And he put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry the ark.

Crafting the Cover of the Ark

6 And he made an atonement cover of pure gold, two and a half cubits its length and a cubit and a half its width.

7 And he made two cherubim of gold; he made them of hammered work at the two ends of the atonement cover.

8 One cherub *was* at one end, and one cherub *was* at the other end of the atonement cover; he made the cherubim at its two ends.

9 And the cherubim were *with* outspread wings above, covering with their wings over the atonement cover and facing each other; the faces of the cherubim were toward the atonement cover.

Crafting the Table of the Bread of the Presence

10 And he made the table of acacia wood, two cubits its length and a cubit its width and a cubit and a half its height.

11 And he overlaid it *with pure gold*, and he made for it a gold molding all around.

12 And he made for it a handbreadth rim all around, and he made a gold molding for its rim all around.

13 And he cast for it four gold rings, and he put the rings on the four corners where its four legs *were*.

14 The rings were near the rim as holders for the poles to carry the table.

15 And he made the poles of acacia wood, and he overlaid them *with gold* to carry the table.

16 And he made the vessels that *were* on the table—its plates and its ladles, and its bowls and its pitchers with which *libations* were poured—*of pure gold*.

Crafting the Golden Lampstand

17 And he made the lampstand of pure gold; he made the lampstand of hammered work—its base and its branch, its cups, its buds, and its blossoms were all part of it.

18 And six branches *were* going out from its sides, three branches of the lampstand from its one side and three branches of the lampstand from its second side.

19 Three almond-flower cups *were* on the one branch *with* a bud and a blossom, and three almond-flower cups *were* on the one branch *with* a bud and a blossom—likewise for the six branches going out from the lampstand.

20 And on the lampstand *were* four almond-flower cups, *with* its buds and its blossoms.

21 And a bud *was* under the two branches *that came* from it, and a bud under the two branches from it, and a bud under the two branches from it, *likewise* for the six branches coming out from the lampstand.

22 Their buds and their branches were from it, all of it one *piece* of pure gold, hammered work.

23 And he made its seven lamps and its snuffers and its fire pans of pure gold.

24 He made it *from* a talent of pure gold and all its *pieces* of equipment.

Crafting the Altar of Incense

25 And he made the incense altar of acacia wood, a cubit its length and a cubit its width—a square—and two cubits its height; its horns were of one piece with it.

26 And he overlaid it *with pure gold*—its top and its sides all around and its horns—and he made for it a gold molding all around.

27 And he made for it two gold rings under its molding on two opposite sides as holders for poles to carry it with them.

28 And he made the poles of acacia wood, and he overlaid them with gold.

Crafting the Oil and Incense

29 And he made the holy anointing oil and the pure fragrant incense—work of a perfumer.

Crafting the Altar of Burnt Offering

38:1 And he made the burnt-offering altar of acacia wood; its length *was* five cubits, and its width *was* five cubits—*it was square*—and its height *was* three cubits.

2 And he made its horns on its four corners; its horns were of one piece with it; and he overlaid it *with bronze*.

3 And he made all the equipment of the altar—the pots and the shovels and the sprinkling bowls and the forks and the fire pans—all

its equipment he made *with* bronze.

4 And he made for the altar a grating, a work of bronze network under its ledge, below, up to its middle.

5 And he cast four rings on the four ends of the bronze grating *as* holders for the poles.

6 And he made the poles of acacia wood, and he overlaid them *with* bronze.

7 And he put the poles into the rings on the sides of the altar to carry it with them. He made it hollow with boards.

Crafting the Washbasin

8 And he made the basin of bronze and its stand of bronze from the mirrors of the serving women who served *at* the entrance of the tent of assembly.

Crafting the Courtyard and Its Curtains

9 And he made the courtyard; for the south side *were* the hangings of the court of finely twisted linen, one hundred cubits,

10 *with* their twenty pillars and their twenty bases of bronze *and with* the hooks of the pillars and their bands of silver.

11 And for the north side *the hangings were* one hundred cubits *with* their twenty pillars and their twenty bases of bronze *and with* the hooks of the pillars and their bands of silver.

12 And for the west side fifty cubits *of* hangings *with* their ten pillars and their ten bases *and with* the hooks of the pillars and their bands of silver.

13 And for the eastward side, toward sunrise, fifty cubits;

14 fifteen cubits of hangings *were* to the shoulder, *with* their three pillars and their three bases,

15 and for the second shoulder on each side of the gate of the courtyard *were* fifteen cubits of hangings, *with* their three pillars and their three bases.

16 All the hangings of the courtyard all around *were* finely twisted linen,

17 and the bases for the pillars *were* bronze, the hooks of the pillars and their bands *were* silver, and the overlay of their tops *was* silver, and all the pillars of the courtyard *were* banded *with* silver.

18 And the screen of the gate of the courtyard *was* the work of an embroiderer, *with* blue and purple and crimson *yarns* and finely twisted linen; *it was* twenty cubits long and five cubits high, like the hangings of the courtyard,

19 and *with* their four pillars and their four bases of bronze, *with* their silver hooks and *with* their tops and their bands of silver.

20 And all the pegs for the tabernacle and for the courtyard all around *were* bronze.

Summary of Craftsmen and Materials Used

21 These are the records of the tabernacle, the tabernacle of the testimony, which *were* recorded at the command of Moses, the work of the Levites, in the hand of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.

22 And Bezalel the son of Uri the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, did all that Yahweh commanded Moses.

23 And with him *was* Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan, a skilled craftsman and a designer and an embroiderer with the blue and with the purple and with the crimson *yarns* and with the linen.

24 And all the gold used for the work, in the work of the sanctuary, it was the gold of the wave offering—twenty-nine talents and seven hundred and thirty shekels, according to the sanctuary shekel.

25 And the silver recorded from the community *was* a hundred talents and a thousand seven hundred and seventy-five shekels, according to the sanctuary shekel.

26 *It was* a beka for the individual, the half shekel according to the sanctuary shekel, for everyone who was counted, from twenty years old and above, for six hundred and three thousand five hundred and fifty.

27 And it was one hundred talents of the silver to cast the bases of the sanctuary and the bases of the curtain—one hundred bases for one hundred talents of silver, a talent for *each* base.

28 And *from* the thousand seven hundred and seventy-five *shekels* he made hooks for the pillars, and he overlaid their tops, and he made bands *for* them.

29 And the bronze of the wave offering *was* seventy talents and two thousand four hundred shekels.

30 And he made with it the bases of the entrance of the tent of assembly and the bronze altar and the bronze grating that belonged to it and all the equipment of the altar

31 and the bases of the courtyard all around and the bases of the gate of the courtyard and all the pegs of the tabernacle and all the pegs of the courtyard all around.

Crafting the Priestly Garments (c. September 1446–March 1445 BC)

Exodus 39:1–31

Crafting the Priestly Garments

1 And from the blue and the purple and the crimson *yarns* they made woven garments for serving in the sanctuary, and they made the holy garments that were for Aaron, as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

Crafting the Ephod

2 And he made the ephod *of* gold, blue, and purple and crimson *yarns*, and finely twisted linen.

3 And he hammered out the leaves of gold, and he cut off cords to weave in the midst of the blue and in the midst of the purple and in the midst of the crimson and in the midst of the linen—*the* work of a skilled craftsman.

4 They made joined shoulder pieces for it; it was joined on its two edges.

5 And the waistband of his ephod, which was of one piece with it, *was of* like work, gold, blue, and purple and crimson *yarns*, and finely twisted linen, as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

6 And they made onyx stones mounted *in* gold filigree settings, engraved *with* seal engravings according to the names of the Israelites.

7 And he set them on the ephod's shoulder pieces *as* stones of remembrance for the Israelites, as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

Crafting the Breastpiece

8 And he made the breast piece, *the* work of a skilled craftsman, like *the* work of *the* ephod, *of* gold, blue, and purple and crimson *yarns*, and finely twisted linen.

9 It was squared; they made the breast piece doubled; its length *was* a span, and its width *was* a span *when* doubled.

10 And they filled it *with* four rows of stone; a row of carnelian, topaz, and emerald *was* the first row;

11 and the second row *was* a malachite, a sapphire, and a moonstone;

12 and the third row *was* a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst;

13 and the fourth row *was* a turquoise, an onyx, and a jasper. *They were* set *with* gold filigree settings in their mountings.

14 And the stones *were* according to the names of the Israelites; they *were* twelve according to their names, *with* seal engravings, each according to its name for *the* twelve tribes.

15 And they made on the breast piece braided chains, a work of pure gold ornamental cord.

16 And they made two gold filigree settings and two gold rings, and they put the two rings on the two edges of the breast piece.

17 And they put the two gold ornamental cords on the two rings on the edges of the breast piece.

18 And they put the two ends of the two ornamental cords on the two filigree settings, and they put them on the shoulder pieces of the ephod at the front of it.

19 And they made two gold rings, and they placed *them* on the two edges of the breast piece, on its lip that *is* on the other side of the ephod, to the inside.

20 And they made two gold rings and put them on the ephod's two shoulder pieces below, at its front near its seam above the waistband of the ephod.

21 And they tied the breast piece by its rings to the rings of the ephod with a blue cord *so that* the breast piece *would* be on the waistband of the ephod and not come loose from the ephod, as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

Crafting the Ephod's Robe

22 And he made the robe of the ephod, weaver's work, totally of blue *yarn*.

23 And the opening of the robe in the middle of it was like the opening of a sturdy garment, *with* an edge for its opening all around so that it would not be torn.

24 And they made on the hem of the robe pomegranates of finely twisted blue and purple and crimson.

25 And they made pure gold bells and put the bells in the midst of the pomegranates on the hem of the robe all around in the midst of the pomegranates,

26 a bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate on the hem of the robe all around for serving, as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

Crafting the Coat, Sash, Turban and Undergarments

27 And they made the tunics of fine linen, a weaver's work, for Aaron and for his sons,

28 and the turban of fine linen and the headdresses of the headbands of fine linen and undergarments of the linen cloth, finely twisted,

29 and the sash of finely twisted linen and blue and purple and crimson *yarns*, the work of an embroiderer, as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

30 And they made the rosette of the holy diadem *of* pure gold, and they wrote on it *with the* writing of seal engravings: "A holy object for Yahweh."

31 And they put a blue cord on it to put it above on the turban, as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

The Tabernacle is Completed (c. September 1446–March 1445 BC)

Exodus 39:32–40:15

Moses Inspects the Work and Blesses The People For Their Exacting Obedience

39:32 And all the work of the tabernacle of the tent of assembly was finished, and the Israelites had done according to all that Yahweh had commanded Moses; so they did.

33 And they brought the tabernacle to Moses, the tent and all its equipment, its hooks, its frames, its bars, and its pillars and its bases;

34 and the covering of the red-dyed ram skins and the covering of fine leather and the curtain of the screen;

35 the ark of the testimony and its poles and the atonement cover;

36 the table, all its equipment, and the bread of the presence;

37 the pure *gold* lampstand, its lamps—the lamps of the row—and all its equipment and the oil of the light;

38 the gold altar, the anointing oil, the fragrant incense, and the screen of the entrance of the tent;

39 the bronze altar, and the bronze grating that *is* for it, its poles, and all its equipment, the basin and its stand,

40 the hangings of the courtyard, its pillars, and its bases; and the screen for the courtyard gate, its tent cords and its pegs; and all the equipment of the service of the tabernacle for the tent of assembly,

41 the woven garments for serving in the sanctuary—the holy garments for Aaron the priest and the garments for his sons to serve as priests.

42 According to all that Yahweh had commanded Moses, so the Israelites did all the work.

43 And Moses saw all the work, and, indeed, they had done it as Yahweh had commanded; so they did, and Moses blessed them.

Yahweh Gives Instructions for Erecting the Tabernacle

40:1 And Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

2 “On the first day of the month, you will set up the tabernacle of the tent of assembly.

3 And you will put there the ark of the testimony, and you will cover over the ark *with* the curtain.

4 And you will bring the table, and you will arrange its setting, and you will bring the lampstand, and you will set up its lamps.

5 And you will put the gold altar for incense before the ark of the testimony, and you will set up the entrance screen for the tabernacle.

6 And you will put the altar of the burnt offering before the entrance of the tabernacle of the tent of assembly.

7 And you will put the basin between the tent of assembly and the altar, and you will put water in it.

8 And you will set up the courtyard all around, and you will put up the screen of the gate of the courtyard.

9 “And you will take the anointing oil, and you will anoint the tabernacle and all that *is* in it, and you will consecrate all of its equipment, and it will be holy.

10 And you will anoint the altar of the burnt offering and all of its equipment, and you will consecrate the altar, and the altar will be a most holy thing.

11 And you will anoint the basin and its stand, and you will consecrate it.

12 And you will bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance of the tent of assembly, and you will wash them with the water.

13 And you will clothe Aaron with the holy garments, and you will anoint him, and you will consecrate him, and he will serve as a priest for me.

14 And you will bring his sons, and you will clothe them *with* tunics.

15 And you will anoint them as you anointed their father, and they will serve as priests for me. And their anointing will be for them to be a lasting priesthood throughout their generations.”

The Tabernacle is Erected (1 Nisan [March/April] 1445 BC)

Exodus 40:1–33

16 And Moses did according to all that Yahweh had commanded him; so he did.

17 In the first month of the second year, on *the* first of the month, the tabernacle was set up.

18 And Moses raised the tabernacle, and he placed its bases, and he set up its frames, and he placed its bars, and he raised its pillars.

19 And he spread the tent over the tabernacle; he placed the covering of the tent over it, above *it*, as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

20 And he took and he put the testimony into the ark, and he placed the poles on the ark, and he put the atonement cover on the ark, above *it*.

21 And he brought the ark into the tabernacle, and he set up the curtain of the screening, and he shielded the ark of the testimony, as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

22 And he put the table in the tent of assembly on the north side of the tabernacle outside the curtain.

23 And he arranged on it an arrangement of bread before Yahweh, as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

24 And he placed the lampstand in the tent of assembly opposite the table on the south side of the tabernacle.
 25 And he set up the lamps before Yahweh, as Yahweh had commanded Moses.
 26 And he placed the gold altar in the tent of assembly before the curtain.
 27 And he turned fragrant incense into smoke on it, as Yahweh had commanded Moses.
 28 And he set up the entrance screen for the tabernacle.
 29 And the altar of burnt offering he placed *at* the entrance of the tabernacle of the tent of assembly, and he offered on it the burnt offering and the grain offering, as Yahweh had commanded Moses.
 30 And he placed the basin between the tent of assembly and the altar, and he put there water for washing.
 31 And Moses and Aaron and his sons washed their hands and their feet from it.
 32 At their going into the tent of assembly and at their approaching the altar, they washed, as Yahweh had commanded Moses.
 33 And he set up the courtyard all around the tabernacle and the altar, and he put up the screen of the gate of the courtyard, and Moses completed the work.

Yahweh's Glory Fills the Tabernacle (1 Nisan [March/April] 1445 BC)

Exodus 40:34–35, 38	Numbers 9:15–16
<p>34 And the cloud covered the tent of assembly, and the glory of Yahweh filled the tabernacle. 35 And Moses was unable to go into the tent of assembly because the cloud settled on it and the glory of Yahweh filled the tabernacle.</p> <p>38 For the cloud of Yahweh <i>was</i> on the tabernacle by day, and fire was on it <i>by</i> night before the eyes of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.</p>	<p>15 And on a day setting up the tabernacle, the cloud covered the tent of the tabernacle, the tent of the testimony;</p> <p>in the evening it was on the tabernacle as an appearance of fire until morning.</p> <p>16 So it was continually; the cloud would cover it and the appearance of fire <i>by</i> night.</p>

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Chronological Notes

1) Early Tabernacle Chronology.¹

- A) The tabernacle was erected on the first day of the first month of the second year (1 Nisan 1445 BC; Exod 40:1), and the cloud lifted from the tabernacle on the twentieth day of the second month of the second year (20 Iyyar 1445 BC; Num 10:11). Those 50 days marked the beginning of the era of tabernacle worship, and the events that took place during that time period are recorded in Exodus 40:16–38, Leviticus 1–27 and Numbers 1:1–10:10.
- B) Leviticus and Numbers record the events of this period in chronological order with the exception of Numbers 7–9 (these chapters record “other less important events that fell within that same period, and constitute a digression whose beginning and end are marked by the inclusion, *on the day when Moses had finished setting up the tabernacle*”; Num 7:1; 9:15). My chronology will follow the basic outline given by Wenham.² There is, of course, uncertainty as to the exact day on which certain portions of Leviticus were given by Yahweh to Moses and/or Aaron.

¹ The most thorough analysis of the temporal aspects of Leviticus that I have found is Andreas Ruwe’s “The Structure of the Book of Leviticus in the Narrative Outline of the Priestly Sinai Story (Exod 19:1–Num 10:10)” in *The Book of Leviticus: Composition and Reception*, ed. Rolf Rendtorff & Robert A. Kugler, (Leiden: Brill, 2003), 55–78. Ruwe argues that Leviticus is a narrative text and that the twenty-seven chapters of Leviticus form a narrative context (with all events “assigned to the first month of the second year”). Ruwe insists that Leviticus is not an independent narrative, but is part of the priestly narrative context of the Sinai pericope, Exodus 19:1–Numbers 10:10.

² Gordon J. Wenham, “Numbers: An Introduction and Commentary,” *Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries* (Inter-Varsity Press, 2008), 104. Wenham’s outline is also followed by R. Dennis Cole, “Numbers,” *The New American Commentary* (Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2000), 136 and Ronald B. Allen, “Numbers,” *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary Vol. 2* (Zondervan, 1990), 756–757.

- (1) Day 1 (1 Nisan [March/April] 1445).
 - (a) The erection of the tabernacle (Exod 40).
 - (b) Yahweh explains the sacrificial system (Lev 1–7).
 - (c) Ordination of Aaron and his sons (Lev 8).
 - (d) The first tabernacle offering is given by the tribe of Judah (Num 7:1–17).
- (2) Days 2–7 (2–7 Nisan [March/April] 1445).
 - (a) Tabernacle offerings are given by the tribes of Issachar, Zebulun, Reuben, Simeon, Gad and Ephraim (Num 7:18–53).
- (3) Day 8 (8 Nisan [April] 1445).
 - (a) Yahweh confirms the ministry of the Aaronic priesthood (Lev 9).
 - (b) Nadab and Abihu are killed by Yahweh (Lev 10).
 - (c) A tabernacle offering is given by the tribe of Manasseh (Num 7:54–59).
- (4) Days 8–11 (8–11 Nisan [April] 1445).
 - (a) The Laws of Purity (Lev 11–15).³
 - (b) The Day of Atonement (Lev 16).
 - (c) The Laws of Holiness (Lev 17–27).
 - (d) Tabernacle offerings are given by the tribes of Benjamin, Dan and Asher (Num 7:60–77).
- (5) Day 12 (12 Nisan [April] 1445).
 - (a) The last tabernacle offering is given by the tribe of Naphtali (Num 7:78–83).
 - (b) All offerings are inventoried and accounted for (Num 7:84–89).
 - (c) Clarification on the use of the lamps (Num 8:1–4).⁴
 - (d) The Levites are appointed for service (Num 8:5–26).
- (6) Day 14 (14 Nisan [April] 1445).
 - (a) The second Passover is celebrated (Num 9:1–14).
- (7) Day 31 - c. Day 48 (1 - c. 18 Iyyar [April/May] 1445).
 - (a) The first census is taken (Num 1–6).
- (8) c. Day 48 (18 Iyyar [May] 1445).
 - (a) Preparation for the departure from Sinai (Num 10:1–10).
- (9) Day 50 (20 Iyyar [May] 1445).
 - (a) The cloud lifts from the tabernacle and Israel begins the journey to Canaan (Num 10:11).

³ My assumption that the events of Leviticus are recorded in chronological order, and the close connection between Leviticus 10:10 and Leviticus 11:2, has led me to place Leviticus 11–15 after the deaths of Nadab and Abihu. At the least, Leviticus 16:1–2 confirms that the events of Leviticus 16–27 took place after this unnecessary tragedy.

⁴ It is difficult to know where to place Numbers 8 chronologically (it does not have a temporal marker as in Num 7:1 and 9:1). The context implies that the events in the chapter took place on or after the last day of the tabernacle offerings (cf. Num 7:78–89). The earliest 8:1–4 could have occurred is the “eighth day” (Aaron was not able to enter the tabernacle until that time; cf. Lev 9:23). As far as 8:5–26 is concerned, the question is—were the Levites dedicated before or after the census of Numbers 3:5–10? For now, I have left it in the reading after 8:1–4, but I’m open to being convinced to place it after Numbers 3.

The Burnt Offering (1 Nisan [March/April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 1; 6:8–13; 7:8

From the Herd

- 1:1 Then Yahweh called to Moses and spoke to him from the tent of assembly, saying,
 2 “Speak to the Israelites, and say to them, ‘When a person from you presents an offering to Yahweh, you shall present your offering from domestic animals, from the cattle or from the flock.
 3 If his offering *is* a burnt offering from the cattle, *then* he must present an unblemished male; he must present it at the door of the tent of assembly for his acceptance before Yahweh. [cf. [Rom 12:1](#)]
 4 “ ‘He must lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering and it will be accepted for him *in order* to make atonement for him.
 5 He must slaughter the young bull before Yahweh, then Aaron’s sons, the priests, will present the blood and sprinkle the blood all around the altar that *is at* the door of the tent of assembly.
 6 Then he must remove *the* skin *of* the burnt offering and cut it into its pieces.
 7 The sons of Aaron the priest will put fire on the altar and arrange the wood on the fire.
 8 Then Aaron’s sons, the priests, will arrange the pieces *of* meat, the head, and the suet on the wood that *is* on the fire that *is* on the altar.
 9 Then he must wash its inner parts and its lower leg bones with water, and the priest will turn into smoke the whole *animal* on the altar *as* a burnt offering *by* fire, *as* an appeasing fragrance for Yahweh.

From the Flock

- 10 “ ‘But if his offering *is* from the flock, from the sheep or from the goats for a burnt offering, he must present an unblemished male.
 11 He must slaughter it on the north side of the altar before Yahweh; then Aaron’s sons, the priests, will sprinkle its blood all around the altar.
 12 Then he must cut it into pieces *along* with its head and its suet; and the priest will arrange them on the wood that *is* on the fire that *is* on the altar.
 13 Then he must wash the inner parts and the lower leg bones with water and the priest shall present the whole *animal* and will turn *it* into smoke on the altar; *it is* a burnt offering *by* fire *as* an appeasing fragrance for Yahweh.

From the Birds

- 14 “ ‘But if his offering for Yahweh is a burnt offering from the birds, *then* he must present his offering from the turtledoves or from the young doves.
 15 The priest will present it at the altar and must wring off its head and turn *it* into smoke on the altar, and its blood will be drained out on the wall of the altar.
 16 He must remove its crop with its plumage and throw it to the east beside the altar on the place of the fatty ashes.
 17 Then he must tear it apart by its wings *but* must not sever *it*; then the priest will turn it into smoke on the altar. *It is* a burnt offering *by* fire *as* an appeasing fragrance for Yahweh.”

Disposal of the Offering

- 6:8 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,
 9 “Command Aaron and his sons, saying, ‘This *is* the regulation of the burnt offering: The burnt offering must remain on the hearth on the altar all night until the morning, and the altar’s fire must be kept burning on it.
 10 And the priest shall put on his linen robe, and he must put his linen undergarments on his body, and he shall take away the fatty ashes *of* the burnt offering that the fire has consumed on the altar, and he shall place them beside the altar.
 11 And he shall take off his garments and put on other garments, and he shall bring out the fatty ashes outside the camp to a ceremonially clean place,
 12 but the fire on the altar must be kept burning on it; it must not be quenched. And the priest must burn wood every morning on it, and he shall arrange the burnt offering on it, and he shall turn into smoke the fat portions of the fellowship offerings on it.
 13 A perpetual fire must be kept burning on the altar; it must not be quenched.

Priestly Portion

- 7:8 “ ‘And the priest who presents a person’s burnt offering, to that priest belongs the skin of the burnt offering that he presented.

The Grain Offering (1 Nisan [March/April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 2; 6:14–18; 7:9–10

Uncooked Grain Offerings

- 2:1 “ ‘When a person brings a grain offering to Yahweh, his offering must be finely milled flour, and he must pour out oil on it and place frankincense on it.

2 And he shall bring it to the sons of Aaron, the priests, and he shall take his handful from its finely milled flour and from its oil in addition to all its frankincense. The priest shall turn its token portion into smoke on the altar *as* an offering made *by* fire, *as* an appeasing fragrance for Yahweh.

3 The remainder of the grain *offering* belongs to Aaron and to his sons—it is a most holy thing from the offerings made by fire for Yahweh.

Cooked Grain Offerings

4 “ ‘But if you bring a grain offering of something oven-baked, *it must be of* finely milled flour *as* ring-shaped unleavened bread *mixed* with oil or wafers of unleavened bread smeared with oil.

5 If your offering *is a grain offering baked* on a flat baking pan, it must be finely milled flour, unleavened bread mixed with oil;

6 break it into pieces and pour out oil on it; *it is a grain offering*.

7 “ ‘If your offering *is a grain offering prepared in* a cooking pan, it must be *with* finely milled flour in oil.

8 And you shall bring the grain *offering* that is made from these things to Yahweh, and *the offerer* shall bring it to the priest, and he shall bring it to the altar.

9 And the priest shall take away from the grain *offering* its token portion, and he shall turn *it* into smoke on the altar *as* an offering made *by* fire, *as* an appeasing fragrance for Yahweh.

10 And the remainder of the grain *offering* belongs to Aaron and to his sons—it is a most holy thing from the offerings made by fire for Yahweh.

Additional Instructions

11 “ ‘Every grain *offering* you bring to Yahweh must not be made of yeasted food, because you must not turn into smoke any yeast or any honey from an offering made by fire for Yahweh.

12 *As* an offering of *the* choicest portion, you may bring them to Yahweh, but they must not be offered on the altar *as* an appeasing fragrance.

13 Also all of your grain offerings you must season with salt; you must not omit the salt of your God’s covenant from your offering.

14 “ ‘And if you bring to Yahweh a grain *offering* of firstfruits, you must bring an ear of new grain roasted by fire, coarsely crushed ripe grain, *as the grain offering* of your firstfruits.

15 And you shall put oil on it and place frankincense on it; *it is a grain offering*.

16 The priest shall turn into smoke its token portion from its coarsely crushed grain together with all of its frankincense—*it is an offering made by fire for Yahweh.*”

Disposal of the Offering

6:14 “ ‘And this *is* the regulation of the grain offering. Aaron’s sons shall present it before Yahweh in front of the altar, 15 and he in his fist shall take away from it some of the grain offering’s finely milled flour, and some of its oil and all of the frankincense that *is* on the grain offering, and he shall turn into smoke its token portion on the altar *as* an appeasing fragrance to Yahweh.

16 And Aaron and his sons must eat the remainder of it; they must eat it *as* unleavened bread in a holy place—in the tent of assembly’s courtyard they must eat it.

17 It must not be baked *with* yeast. I have given it *as* their share from my offerings made by fire. *It is* a most holy thing, like the sin offering and like the guilt offering.

18 Every male among Aaron’s sons may eat it *as a* lasting rule among your generations from the offerings made by fire belonging to Yahweh. Anything that touches them will become holy.”

Priestly Portion

7:9 And every grain offering that is baked in the oven and all that is prepared in a cooking pan or on a flat baking pan belongs to the priest who presented it.

10 And every grain offering, *whether* mixed with oil or dry, shall be for all of Aaron’s sons equally.

Daily Grain Offering of the High Priest (1 Nisan [March/April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 6:19–23

19 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

20 “This is the offering of Aaron and his sons that they shall present to Yahweh on the day of his being anointed: a tenth of an ephah of finely milled flour *as* a perpetual grain offering, half of it in the morning and half of it in the evening.

21 It must be made in oil on a flat baking pan; you must bring it well-mixed; you must present pieces of a grain offering’s baked goods *as* an appeasing fragrance to Yahweh.

22 And the anointed priest *taking* his place from *among* his sons must do it. *As a* lasting rule, it must be turned into smoke totally for Yahweh.

23 And every grain offering of a priest must be a whole burnt offering; it must not be eaten.”

The Peace Offering (1 Nisan [March/April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 3; 7:11–21, 28–36

From the Herd

3:1 “ Now if his offering *is* a sacrifice of fellowship offering, if he brings it from the cattle, whether male or female, he must bring it without defect before Yahweh.

2 He must lay his hand on the head of his offering and slaughter it at the entrance of the tent of assembly, and Aaron’s sons shall sprinkle the blood on the altar all around.

3 He shall present from the sacrifice of the fellowship offering an offering made by fire for Yahweh *consisting of* the fat covering the inner parts and all the fat that *is* on the inner parts,

4 the two kidneys, and the fat that *is* on them, which *is* on the loins, and he must remove the lobe on the liver in addition to the kidneys.

5 Aaron’s sons shall turn it to smoke on the altar in addition to the burnt offering that *is* on the wood, which *is* on the fire; it *is* an offering made by fire *as* an appeasing fragrance for Yahweh.

From the Flock

6 “ But if his offering for a sacrifice of fellowship offering for Yahweh *is* from the flock, he must bring a male or a female without defect.

7 If he brings a sheep *as* his offering, then he shall present it before Yahweh,

8 and he shall lay his hand on the head of his offering, and he shall slaughter it before the tent of assembly, and Aaron’s sons shall sprinkle its blood on the altar all around.

9 He shall present from the sacrifice of the fellowship offering an offering made by fire for Yahweh: he must remove its fat, the entire fat tail near the tailbone, and the fat covering the inner parts and all the fat that *is* on the inner parts,

10 the two kidneys, and the fat that *is* on them, which *is* on the loins, and he must remove the lobe on the liver in addition to the kidneys.

11 The priest shall turn it into smoke on the altar *as* a food offering made by fire for Yahweh.

12 “ And if his offering is a goat, then he shall bring it before Yahweh,

13 and he shall lay his hand on the head of his offering, and he shall slaughter it before the tent of assembly, and Aaron’s sons shall sprinkle its blood on the altar all around.

14 He shall present his offering from it *as* an offering made by fire for Yahweh: the fat covering the inner parts and all the fat that *is* on the inner parts,

15 the two kidneys, and the fat that *is* on them, which *is* on the loins, and he must remove the lobe on the liver in addition to the kidneys.

16 The priest shall turn them into smoke on the altar *as* a food offering; all the fat *is* an offering made by fire *as* an appeasing fragrance for Yahweh.

17 *This is* a lasting statute for your generations in all your dwellings: you must not eat any fat or any blood.”

Disposal of the Offering

7:11 “ And this *is* the regulation of the fellowship offerings that he must present to Yahweh:

12 If he presents it for thanksgiving, in addition to the thanksgiving sacrifice he shall present ring-shaped unleavened bread mixed with oil and unleavened bread wafers smeared with oil and well-mixed ring-shaped bread cakes of finely milled flour mixed with oil.

13 In addition to ring-shaped cakes of bread *with* yeast, he must present his *grain* offering together with his sacrifice of thanksgiving peace offerings.

14 And he shall present one of each kind of *grain* offering *as* a contribution for Yahweh; it belongs to the priest who sprinkles the fellowship offerings’ blood.

15 And the meat of the sacrifice of his thanksgiving fellowship offerings must be eaten on the day of his offering; he must not leave it until morning.

16 “ But if his sacrifice *is for* a vow or *as* a freewill offering, it must be eaten on the day of his presenting his sacrifice, and on the next day the remainder from it may be eaten,

17 but the remainder from the sacrifice’s meat must be burned up in the fire on the third day.

18 And if indeed some of the meat of his fellowship offerings’ sacrifice is eaten on the third day, it will not be accepted; it will not be considered *of benefit* for the one who presented it—it shall be unclean *meat*, and the person who eats it shall bear his guilt.

19 And the meat that touches anything unclean must not be eaten; it must be burned with fire, and as for the *clean* meat, anyone who is clean may eat the meat.

20 And the person who eats meat from the fellowship offerings’ sacrifice, which *is* for Yahweh, and whose uncleanness *is* upon him—that person shall be cut off from his people.

21 And when a person touches anything unclean, *whether* human uncleanness or an unclean animal or any unclean detestable thing, and he eats from the meat of the fellowship offerings' sacrifice, which *is* for Yahweh, then that person shall be cut off from his people."

Priestly Portion

7:28 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

29 "Speak to the Israelites, saying, 'The one who presents his fellowship offerings' sacrifice for Yahweh shall bring his offering to Yahweh from his fellowship offerings' sacrifice.

30 His *own* hands must bring Yahweh's offerings made by fire. He must bring the fat in addition to the breast section to wave the breast section *as* a wave offering before Yahweh,

31 and the priest shall turn the fat into smoke on the altar, and the breast section shall be for Aaron and his sons.

32 And the right upper thigh you must give *as* a contribution for the priest from your fellowship offerings' sacrifice.

33 *As for* the one from Aaron's sons who presents the blood of the fellowship offerings and the fat, the right upper thigh shall belong to him *as* his share,

34 because I have taken the wave offering's breast section and the contribution *offering's* upper thigh from the Israelites out of their fellowship offerings' sacrifices, and I have given them to Aaron the priest and his sons from the Israelites *as* a lasting rule."

35 This *is* Aaron's allotted portion and his sons' allotted portion from Yahweh's offerings made by fire when he brought them forward to serve as priests for Yahweh.

36 This is what Yahweh commanded to give them from the Israelites on the day of his anointing them; *it is* a lasting statute for their generations.

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The Purification (Sin) Offering (1 Nisan [March/April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 4:1–5:13; 6:24–30

Unintentional Sin by the High Priest (brings personal and corporate guilt)

4:1 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

2 “Speak to the Israelites, saying, ‘If a person sins by an unintentional wrong from any of Yahweh’s commands that should not be violated, and he violates any of them—

3 if the anointed priest sins, bringing guilt on the people, then, concerning the sin that he has committed, he shall bring a young bull without defect for Yahweh as a sin offering.

4 He shall bring the bull to *the* tent of assembly’s entrance before Yahweh, place his hand on the bull’s head, and slaughter the bull before Yahweh.

5 The anointed priest shall take some of the bull’s blood and shall bring it to *the* tent of assembly,

6 and the priest shall dip his finger in the blood and shall spatter some of the blood seven times before Yahweh in front of the sanctuary’s curtain.

7 The priest shall put some of the blood on the horns of the altar of fragrant incense before Yahweh, which *is* in *the* tent of assembly, and all *the rest* of the bull’s blood he must pour out on the base of the altar of the burnt offering, which *is* at *the* entrance of *the* tent of assembly.

8 “ ‘He must remove all the fat from the bull of the sin offering: the fat that covers the inner parts and all of the fat that *is* on the inner parts,

9 the two kidneys and the fat that *is* on them, and the liver’s lobe *that* he must remove in addition to the kidneys—

10 just as it is removed from the ox of the fellowship offerings’ sacrifice—and the priest shall turn them into smoke on the altar of the burnt offering.

11 But the bull’s skin and its meat, in addition to its head, its lower leg bones, its inner parts, and its offal—

12 he shall carry all of the bull outside the camp to a ceremonially clean place, to the fatty ashes’ dump, and he shall burn it on wood in the fire; it must be burned up on the fatty ashes’ dump.

Unintentional Sin by the Congregation (corporate guilt)

13 “ ‘If Israel’s whole assembly did wrong unintentionally and the matter was concealed from the assembly’s eyes, and they acted *against* any of Yahweh’s commands that should not be violated, so that they incur guilt,

14 when the sin that they have committed against *that command* becomes known, the assembly shall present a young bull as a sin offering, and they shall bring it before *the* tent of assembly.

15 And the elders of the community shall place their hands on the bull’s head before Yahweh, and he shall slaughter the bull before Yahweh.

16 Then the anointed priest shall bring some of the bull’s blood to *the* tent of assembly,

17 and the priest shall dip his finger in the blood and shall spatter it seven times before Yahweh in front of the curtain.

18 He must put some of the blood on the altar’s horns before Yahweh in the tent of assembly, and all *the rest* of the blood he must pour out on the base of the altar of the burnt offering, which *is* at *the* tent of assembly’s entrance.

19 He must remove all its fat from it, and he shall turn *it* into smoke on the altar.

20 He shall do to the bull just as he did to the sin offering’s bull, so he must do to it. The priest shall make atonement for them, and they will be forgiven.

21 He shall bring *the rest* of the bull outside the camp, and he shall burn it just as he burned the first bull; *it is* the sin offering for the assembly.

Unintentional Sin by a Ruler (personal guilt)

22 “ ‘When a leader sins and commits an unintentional wrong *against* any of the commands of Yahweh his God that should not be violated, so that he incurs guilt,

23 or his sin he has committed is made known to him, he shall bring a male goat without defect *as* his offering.

24 He shall place his hand on the he-goat’s head and slaughter it in the place where he slaughtered the burnt offering before Yahweh; *it is* a sin offering.

25 The priest shall take some of the sin offering’s blood with his finger, and he shall put *it* on the horns of the altar of the burnt offering, and he must pour out *the rest* of its blood on the base of the altar of the burnt offering.

26 He must turn all of its fat into smoke on the altar like the fat of the fellowship offerings’ sacrifice, and the priest shall make atonement for him because of his sin, and he will be forgiven.

Unintentional Sin by the Common Individual (personal guilt)

27 “ ‘If anyone of the people of the land sins by an unintentional wrong by violating one of Yahweh’s commands that should not be violated, so that he incurs guilt,

28 or his sin he has committed is made known to him, he shall bring *as* his offering a female goat without defect *as* his offering for his sin that he committed.

29 He shall place his hand on the sin offering's head and slaughter the sin offering in the place of the burnt offering.

30 The priest shall take some of its blood with his finger, and he shall put *it* on the horns of the altar of the burnt offering, and he must pour out all *the rest of* its blood on the altar's base.

31 He must remove all of its fat just as *the* fat was removed from the fellowship offerings' sacrifice, and the priest shall turn *it* into smoke on the altar as an appeasing fragrance for Yahweh. The priest shall make atonement for him, and he will be forgiven.

32 " 'But if he brings a lamb *as* his offering for a sin offering, he must bring a female without defect.

33 He shall place his hand on the sin offering's head, and he shall slaughter it as a sin offering in the place where he slaughtered the burnt offering.

34 The priest shall take some of the sin offering's blood with his finger, and he shall put *it* on the horns of the altar of the burnt offering, and he must pour out all *the rest of* its blood on the altar's base.

35 He must remove all of its fat just as the lamb's fat from the fellowship offerings' sacrifice was removed, and the priest shall turn them into smoke on the altar upon Yahweh's offerings made by fire; and the priest shall make atonement for him because of his sin that he committed, and he will be forgiven."

Intentional Sin of Omission (5:1) / Unintentional Sin Committed, Forgotten, then Remembered (5:2–4)

5:1 " 'When a person sins in that he hears *the* utterance of a curse and he *is* a witness or he sees or he knows, if he does not make *it* known, then he shall bear his guilt.

2 Or if a person touches anything unclean, whether an unclean *wild* animal's dead body or an unclean domestic animal's dead body or an unclean swarmer's dead body, but he is unaware of it, he *is* unclean and he is guilty.

3 Or when he touches human uncleanness, namely any uncleanness of his by which he might become unclean, but he is unaware of it, and he himself finds out, then he will be guilty.

4 Or when a person swears, speaking thoughtlessly with *his* lips, to do evil or to do good with regard to anything that the person in a sworn oath speaks thoughtlessly, but he is unaware of it, he will be guilty in any of these.

5 When he becomes guilty in any of these, he shall confess what he has sinned regarding it,

6 and he shall bring his guilt offering to Yahweh for his sin that he has committed: a female from the flock, a ewe-lamb or a she-goat, as a sin offering, and the priest shall make atonement for him for his sin.

Alternatives for the Poor

7 " 'If he cannot afford a sheep, he shall bring *as* his guilt offering *for* what he sinned two turtledoves or two young doves for Yahweh, one for a sin offering and one for a burnt offering.

8 He shall bring them to the priest, and he shall present that which *is* for the sin offering first, and *the priest* shall wring its head off at the back of its neck, but he must not sever *it*,

9 and he shall spatter some of the sin offering's blood on the altar's side, and the leftover blood must be drained out on the altar's base; *it is* a sin offering.

10 The second *bird* he must prepare *as* a burnt offering according to the regulation, and the priest shall make atonement for him for his sin that he has committed, and he shall be forgiven.

11 " 'But if he cannot afford two turtledoves or two young doves, then, because he has sinned, he shall bring *as* his offering a tenth of an ephah *of* finely milled flour as a sin offering. He must not put oil on it, nor should he put frankincense on it, because *it is* a sin offering.

12 He shall bring it to the priest, and the priest shall take a handful of it *for* its token portion, and he shall turn it to smoke on the altar in addition to the offerings made by fire *to* Yahweh; *it is* a sin offering.

13 Thus the priest shall make atonement for him because of the sin that he has committed in any of these, and he shall be forgiven. It shall be for the priest, like the grain offering."

Disposal of the Offering

6:24 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

25 "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the regulation of the sin offering: In *the* place where the sin offering is slaughtered, the sin offering must be slaughtered before Yahweh; *it is* a most holy thing.

26 The priest who offers the sin offering must eat it in a holy place—in the tent of assembly's courtyard.

27 Anything that touches its flesh will become holy, and *when* some of its blood spatters on a garment, what was spattered on it you shall wash in a holy place.

28 And a clay vessel in which it was boiled must be broken, but if it was boiled in a bronze vessel, then it shall be thoroughly scoured and rinsed with water.

Priestly Portion

29 Any male among the priests may eat it; *it is* a most holy thing.

30 But any sin offering *from* which some of its blood is brought to the tent of assembly to make atonement in the sanctuary must not be eaten; it must be burned in the fire."

The Reparation (Guilt) Offering (1 Nisan [March/April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 5:14–6:7; 7:1–7

Unintentional Sin Involving the Lord's Holy Things

5:14 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

15 “When a person displays infidelity and he sins in an unintentional wrong in any of Yahweh’s holy things, then he shall bring his guilt offering to Yahweh: a ram without defect from the flock as a guilt offering by your valuation *in* silver shekels according to the sanctuary shekel.

16 And he shall make restitution *for* what he sinned because of a holy thing and shall add one-fifth of its value onto it and shall give it to the priest. The priest shall make atonement for him with the ram of the guilt offering, and he will be forgiven.

17 “If a person when he sins violates one from all of Yahweh’s commands that should not be violated, but he did not know, then he is guilty and he shall bear his guilt.

18 He shall bring to the priest a ram without defect from the flock as a guilt offering by your valuation, and the priest shall make atonement for him because of his unintentional wrong (although he himself did not know), and he will be forgiven.

19 It is a guilt offering; he certainly was guilty before Yahweh.”

Intentional Sin Involving the Private Property of a Neighbor

6:1 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

2 “When a person displays infidelity against Yahweh and he deceives his fellow citizen regarding something entrusted or a pledge or stealing or he exploits his fellow citizen,

3 or he finds lost property and lies about it and swears falsely in regard to any one of these things by which a person might commit sin,

4 and when he sins and is guilty, then he shall bring back the things he had stolen or what he had extorted or something with which he had been entrusted or the lost property that he had found,

5 or regarding anything about which he has sworn falsely, then he shall repay it according to its value and shall add one-fifth of its value to it—he must give it to whom it belongs on the day of his guilt offering.

6 And he must bring as his guilt offering to Yahweh a ram without defect from the flock by your valuation as a guilt offering to the priest,

7 and the priest shall make atonement for him before Yahweh, and he shall be forgiven anything from all that he might do by which he might incur guilt.”

Disposal of the Offering

7:1 “ ‘And this *is* the regulation of the guilt offering; it *is* a most holy thing.

2 In the place where they slaughter the burnt offering, they must slaughter the guilt offering, and he must sprinkle its blood upon the altar all around.

3 And he must present all of its fat: the fat tail and the fat that covers the inner parts,

4 and the two kidneys, and the fat that *is* on them, which *is* on the loins, and he must remove the lobe on the liver in addition to the kidneys.

5 And the priest shall turn it into smoke it on the altar *as* a food offering made by fire for Yahweh; it *is* a guilt offering.

Priestly Portion

6 Every male among the priests may eat it; it must be eaten in a holy place; it *is* a most holy thing.

7 *The instruction is* the same for the guilt offering as for the sin offering; it belongs to the priest, who makes atonement with it.

Eating of Fat and Blood (1 Nisan [March/April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 7:22–27

22 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

23 “Speak to the Israelites, saying, ‘You must not eat any fat of ox, or sheep, or goat;

24 and a dead body’s fat or mangled carcass’s fat may be used for any purpose, but you certainly must not eat it.

25 When anyone eats fat from the domestic animal from which he presented an offering made by fire for Yahweh, then that person who ate shall be cut off from his people.

26 And in any of your dwellings, you must not eat any blood belonging to birds or domestic animals.

27 Any person who eats any blood, that person shall be cut off from his people.”

Offering Summary (1 Nisan [March/April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 7:37–38

37 This *is* the regulation for the burnt offering, for the grain offering and for the sin offering and for the guilt offering and for the consecration *offering* and for the fellowship offerings' sacrifice,
38 which Yahweh commanded Moses on Mount Sinai on the day of his commanding the Israelites to present their offerings to Yahweh in the desert of Sinai.

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Ordination of Aaron and His Sons (1 Nisan [March/April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 8

Preparations for Ordination

1 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

2 “Take Aaron and his sons with him, and the garments and the anointing oil and the bull of the sin offering and the two rams and the basket of the unleavened bread,

3 and summon all of the community to the entrance to the tent of assembly.”

4 So Moses did *just* as Yahweh commanded him, and the community gathered by the entrance to the tent of assembly.

5 Then Moses said to the community, “This *is* the word that Yahweh has commanded to be done.”

6 So Moses brought Aaron and his sons near, and he washed them with water.

7 Then he put the tunic on him and tied the sash *around* him; then he clothed him with the robe and put the ephod on him; then he tied the ephod’s waistband *around* him and fastened *the ephod* to him with it.

8 Then he placed the breastpiece on him and put the Urim and the Thummim into the breastpiece;

9 and he placed the turban on his head, and on the front of the turban he placed the gold rosette, the holy diadem, *just* as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

Anointing of Tabernacle and Aaron

10 Then Moses took the anointing oil and anointed the tabernacle and all that *was* in it, and he consecrated them.

11 And he spattered part of it on the altar seven times—thus he anointed the altar and all of its utensils, and the basin and its stand, to consecrate them.

12 Then he poured out part of the anointing oil on Aaron’s head—thus he anointed him *in order* to consecrate him.

13 Then Moses brought Aaron’s sons near and clothed them *with* tunics and tied a sash *around* each one, and he bound headbands on them, *just* as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

Sin Offering (see Exodus 29:10–14)

14 Then he brought forth the bull of the sin offering, and Aaron and his sons placed their hands on the head of the bull of the sin offering,

15 and he slaughtered *it*, and Moses took the blood and put *it* with his finger on the altar’s horns all around and purified the altar; then he poured the blood out on the altar’s base—thus he consecrated it *in order* to make atonement for it.

16 Then he took all the fat that *was* on the inner parts and the lobe on the liver and the two kidneys and their fat, and Moses turned *them* into smoke on the altar,

17 but he burned the bull and its skin and its meat and its offal in the fire outside the camp, *just* as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

Burnt Offering (see Exodus 29:15–18)

18 Then he brought the ram of the burnt offering near, and Aaron and his sons placed their hands on the ram’s head,

19 and he slaughtered *it*. Then Moses sprinkled the blood on the altar all around.

20 Then he cut the ram into pieces, and Moses turned into smoke the head and the pieces and the suet,

21 but he washed the inner parts and the lower leg bones with water, and Moses turned into smoke all of the ram on the altar; it *was* a burnt offering as an appeasing fragrance, an offering made by fire for Yahweh, *just* as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

Ram of Ordination (see Exodus 29:19–30)

22 Then he brought the second ram near, the ram of the consecration, and Aaron and his sons placed their hands on the ram’s head, 23 and he slaughtered *it*. Then Moses took some of its blood and put *it* on Aaron’s right ear lobe and on his right hand’s thumb and on his right foot’s big toe.

24 Then he brought Aaron’s sons near, and Moses put some of the blood on their right ear lobe and on their right hand’s thumb and on their right foot’s big toe, and Moses sprinkled the blood on the altar all around.

25 Then he took the fat and the fat tail and all of the fat that *was* on the inner parts and the lobe of the liver and the two kidneys and their fat and the right upper thigh;

26 and from the basket of the unleavened bread that *was* before Yahweh he took one ring-shaped unleavened bread and one ring-shaped bread with oil and one wafer, and he placed *them* on the fat parts and on the right upper thigh.

27 Then he put all of these on Aaron’s palms and on his sons’ palms, and he waved them *as a wave offering* before Yahweh.

28 Then Moses took them from upon their palms, and he turned *them* into smoke upon the burnt offering on the altar; they *were* a consecration offering as an appeasing fragrance—it *was* an offering made by fire for Yahweh.

29 Then Moses took the breast section, and he waved it *as a wave offering* before Yahweh from the ram of the consecration offering; it *was* Moses’ share, *just* as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

30 Then Moses took some of the anointing oil and some of the blood that *was* on the altar, and he spattered *them* on Aaron, on his garments, and on Aaron’s sons and on his sons’ garments with him—thus he consecrated Aaron, his garments, and his sons and his sons’ garments with him.

Seven Day Ordination Period (see Exodus 29:31–37)

31 Then Moses said to Aaron and to his sons, “Boil the meat in *the* entrance to *the* tent of assembly, and there you must eat it and the bread that *is* in the basket of the consecration offering, *just* as I have commanded, saying, ‘Aaron and his sons must eat it,’
 32 but the remainder of the meat and the bread you must burn in the fire.
 33 And you must not go out from the entrance to *the* tent of assembly *for* seven days, until *the* day of fulfilling the days of your consecration, because it will take seven days to ordain you.
 34 *Just* as was done on this day, Yahweh commanded to be done *in order* to make atonement for you.
 35 And you must stay *at the* entrance to *the* tent of assembly day and night *for* seven days, and you shall keep the obligation from Yahweh, so you might not die, for thus I have been commanded.”
 36 So Aaron and his sons did all the things that Yahweh had commanded through Moses.

Offerings from the Twelve Tribes of Israel – Part 1 (1–7 Nisan [March/April] 1445 BC)

Numbers 7:1–53

Timing of Offerings

7:1 On the day Moses finished setting up the tabernacle and appointed and consecrated it and all its vessels, and the altar and its vessels, and he appointed them and consecrated them,
 2 the leaders of Israel, the heads of the families, presented an offering; they *were* the leaders of the tribes and *were* the ones in charge of the counting.
 3 They brought their offering before the presence of Yahweh, six covered utility carts and twelve cattle, a utility cart for two of the leaders, and a bull for each; and they presented them before the tabernacle.
 4 Yahweh said to Moses, saying,
 5 “Take them, and they will be *used* to do the work of the tent of the assembly; and you will give them to the Levites, each according to his required service.”
 6 So Moses took the utility carts and the cattle, and he gave them to the Levites.
 7 Two utility carts and four cattle he gave to the descendants of Gershon according to their required service;
 8 and four utility carts and eight cattle he gave to the descendants of Merari according to their required service, under the authority of Ithamar son of Aaron the priest.
 9 But to the descendants of Kohath he did not give *anything* because the work of the sanctuary they carried upon them on their shoulders.
 10 The leaders presented offerings for the dedication of the altar on *the* day of its anointing, and the leaders presented their offerings before the altar.
 11 Yahweh said to Moses, “One leader for each day will present their offering for the dedication of the altar.”

First Day Offering—Judah

12 And it happened, the one who presented his offering on the first day *was* Nahshon son of Amminadab from the tribe of Judah.
 13 His offering *was* one plate of silver—its weight was one hundred and thirty shekels—*and* one silver bowl *weighing* seventy shekels according to the sanctuary shekel, both of them filled *with* finely milled flour mixed with oil as a grain offering;
 14 one golden dish weighing ten shekels filled *with* incense;
 15 one young bull, one ram, one male lamb in its first year as a burnt offering;
 16 one he-goat as a sin offering;
 17 and as a sacrifice of the fellowship offering, two cattle, five rams, five he-goats, and five male lambs a year old. This *was* the offering of Nahshon son of Amminadab.

Second Day Offering—Issachar

18 On the second day Nethanel son of Zuar, leader of Issachar, presented an offering.
 19 He presented *as* his offering one silver plate—its weight one hundred and thirty *shekels*—*and* one silver bowl for drinking wine *weighing* seventy shekels according to the sanctuary shekel, both of them filled *with* finely milled flour mixed with oil as a grain offering.
 20 One dish weighing ten shekels filled *with* incense;
 21 one young bull, one ram, a male lamb in its first year as a burnt offering;
 22 one he-goat as a sin offering;
 23 and for the sacrifice of the fellowship offering, two cattle, five rams, five he-goats, *and* five male lambs in their first year. This *was* the offering of Nethanel son of Zuar.

Third Day Offering—Zebulun

24 On the third day Eliab son of Helon, leader of the descendants of Zebulun:
 25 his offering *was* one silver plate—its weight one hundred and thirty *shekels*—*and* one silver bowl for drinking wine *weighing*

seventy shekels according to the sanctuary shekel, both of them filled *with* finely milled flour mixed with oil as a grain offering;
26 one golden dish weighing ten shekels filled *with* incense;
27 one young bull, one ram, a male lamb in its first year as a burnt offering;
28 one he-goat as a sin offering;
29 and for the sacrifice of the fellowship offering, two cattle, five rams, five he-goats, *and* five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Eliab son of Helon.

Fourth Day Offering—Reuben

30 On the fourth day Elizur son of Shedeur, leader of the descendants of Reuben:
31 his offering *was* one silver plate—its weight one hundred and thirty *shekels*—*and* one silver bowl for drinking *weighing* seventy shekels according to the sanctuary shekel, both of them filled *with* finely milled flour mixed with oil as a grain offering;
32 one golden dish weighing ten shekels filled *with* incense;
33 one young bull, one ram, a male lamb in its first year as a burnt offering;
34 one he-goat as a sin offering;
35 and for the sacrifice of the fellowship offering, two cattle, five rams, five he-goats, *and* five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Elizur son of Shedeur.

Fifth Day Offering—Simeon

36 On the fifth day Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai, leader of the descendants of Simeon:
37 his offering *was* one silver plate—its weight one hundred and thirty *shekels*—*and* one silver bowl for drinking *weighing* seventy shekels according to the sanctuary shekel, both of them filled *with* finely milled flour mixed with oil as a grain offering;
38 one golden dish weighing ten shekels filled *with* incense;
39 one young bull, one ram, a male lamb in its first year as a burnt offering;
40 one he-goat as a sin offering;
41 and for the sacrifice of the fellowship offering, two cattle, five rams, five he-goats, *and* five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai.

Sixth Day Offering—Gad

42 On the sixth day Eliasaph son of Deuel, leader of the descendants of Gad:
43 his offering *was* one silver plate—its weight one hundred and thirty *shekels*—*and* one silver bowl for drinking *weighing* seventy shekels according to the sanctuary shekel, both of them filled *with* finely milled flour mixed with oil as a grain offering;
44 one golden dish weighing ten shekels filled *with* incense;
45 one young bull, one ram, a male lamb in its first year as a burnt offering;
46 one he-goat as a sin offering;
47 and for the sacrifice of the fellowship offering, two cattle, five rams, five he-goats, *and* five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Eliasaph son of Deuel.

Seventh Day Offering—Ephraim

48 On the seventh day Elishama son of Ammihud, leader of the descendants of Ephraim:
49 his offering *was* one silver plate—its weight one hundred and thirty *shekels*—*and* one silver bowl for drinking *weighing* seventy shekels according to the sanctuary shekel, both of them filled *with* finely milled flour mixed with oil as a grain offering;
50 one golden dish weighing ten shekels filled *with* incense;
51 one young bull, one ram, a male lamb in its first year as a burnt offering;
52 one he-goat as a sin offering;
53 and for the sacrifice of the fellowship offering, two cattle, five rams, five he-goats, *and* five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Elishama son of Ammihud.

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Aaronic Priesthood Begins its Ministry (8 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 9

Instructions for Ministry

- 1 Then on the eighth day Moses summoned Aaron and his sons and Israel's elders,
- 2 and he said to Aaron, "Take for yourself a bull calf as a sin offering and a ram as a burnt offering, without defect, and present *them* before Yahweh.
- 3 Then you must speak to the Israelites, saying, 'Take a he-goat as a sin offering and a bull calf and a male sheep, yearlings without defect, as a burnt offering,
- 4 and an ox and a ram as fellowship offerings to sacrifice before Yahweh, and a grain offering mixed with oil, because today Yahweh will appear to you.'
- 5 So they took what Moses had commanded to *the* front of *the* tent of assembly, and the whole community presented *themselves*, and they stood before Yahweh.
- 6 Then Moses said, "This *is* the word that Yahweh commanded you to do so that the glory of Yahweh might appear to you."
- 7 Then Moses said to Aaron, "Approach the altar and sacrifice your sin offering and your burnt offering, and make atonement for yourself and for the people. And sacrifice the people's offering and make atonement for them, *just* as Yahweh has commanded."

Sin and Burnt Offering for Aaron

- 8 Then Aaron approached the altar, and he slaughtered the bull calf of the sin offering, which was for himself.
- 9 Then Aaron's sons presented the blood to him, and he dipped his finger in the blood, and he put *it* on the altar's horns, and he poured out the blood on the altar's base.
- 10 And the fat and the kidneys and the lobe from the sin offering's liver he turned into smoke on the altar, *just* as Yahweh had commanded Moses,
- 11 but the meat and the skin he burned with fire outside the camp.
- 12 Then he slaughtered the burnt offering, and Aaron's sons brought the blood to him, and he sprinkled it on the altar all around;
- 13 and they brought the burnt offering to him by its pieces, as well as the head, and he turned *them* into smoke on the altar;
- 14 and he washed the inner parts and the lower leg bones, then he turned *them* into smoke upon the burnt offering on the altar.

Sin, Burnt, Grain and Peace Offering for the People

- 15 Then he presented the people's offering, and he took the goat of the sin offering, which *was* for the people, and he slaughtered it and offered it *as* a sin offering like the first one.
- 16 Then he presented the burnt offering, and he sacrificed it according to the regulation.
- 17 Then he presented the grain offering, and he filled his palm with some of it, and he turned it into smoke on the altar besides the morning's burnt offering.
- 18 Then he slaughtered the ox and the ram, the fellowship offerings that *are* for the people, and Aaron's sons brought the blood to him, and he sprinkled it on the altar all around.
- 19 And *as for* the fat portions from the ox and from the ram (the fat tail and the layer of fat and the kidneys and the lobe of the liver),
- 20 they placed the fat portions on the breast sections, and he turned the fat portions into smoke on the altar.
- 21 Then Aaron waved the breast sections and the right upper thigh *as* a wave offering before Yahweh, *just* as Moses had commanded.

Yahweh Confirms the Priests' Ministry

- 22 Then Aaron lifted his hand toward the people, and he blessed them, and he came down after sacrificing the sin offering and the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings.
- 23 Then Moses and Aaron entered *the* tent of assembly. When they came out, they blessed the people, and Yahweh's glory appeared to all the people.
- 24 Then a fire went out from before Yahweh, and it consumed the burnt offering and the fat portions on the altar. And all the people saw *it*, so they shouted *for joy*, and they fell on their faces.

The Sin of Nadab and Abihu (8 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 10

Nadab and Abihu Sin Against Yahweh

- 1 And Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu each took his censer, and they put fire in them and placed incense on it; then they presented before Yahweh illegitimate fire, which he had not commanded them.
- 2 So fire went out from before Yahweh, and it consumed them so that they died before Yahweh.
- 3 Therefore Moses said to Aaron, "This *is* what Yahweh spoke, saying, 'Among those who are close to me I will show myself holy, and in the presence of all the people I will display my glory.'" So Aaron was silent.

The Aftermath

4 Then Moses summoned Mishael and Elzaphan the sons of Uzziel, Aaron's uncle, and he said to them, "Come forward. Carry your brothers from the front of the sanctuary to outside the camp."

5 So they came forward, and they carried them outside the camp in their tunics, just as Moses had ordered.

6 Then Moses said to Aaron and to his sons Eleazar and Ithamar, "You must not let your hair hang loosely, and you must not tear your garments, so that you will not die and he will be angry with all the community. But your brothers, all the house of Israel, may weep *because of* the burning that Yahweh caused,

7 but you must not go out from *the* entrance to *the* tent of assembly lest you die, because Yahweh's anointing oil *is* on you." So they did according to Moses' word.

Yahweh's Instructions to Aaron

8 Then Yahweh spoke to Aaron, saying,

9 "You and your sons with you may not drink wine or strong drink when you come to *the* tent of assembly, so that you will not die—*it is* a lasting statute for your generations—

10 and to distinguish between the holy and the unholy, as well as between the unclean and the clean,

11 and to teach the Israelites all the rules that Yahweh has spoken to them through Moses."

Disposal of Offerings

12 Then Moses spoke to Aaron and to his sons Eleazar and Ithamar, "*As for* the remaining *parts*, take the remainder *of* the grain offering from Yahweh's offerings made by fire and eat it, *the* unleavened bread, beside the altar, because *it is* a most holy thing.

13 And you shall eat it in a holy place, because *it is* your allotted portion and the allotted portion of your sons from Yahweh's offerings made by fire, for so I have been commanded.

14 And the wave offering's breast section and the upper thigh of the contribution *offering* you must eat in a clean place, you and your sons and your daughters with you, because they are given *as* your allotted portion and your sons' allotted portion from the sacrifices of the Israelites' fellowship offerings.

15 They must bring the thigh of the contribution *offering* and the breast section of the wave offering in addition to the offerings made by fire, *consisting* of the fat portions, to wave as a wave offering before Yahweh; and it will be for you and for your sons with you as a lasting rule, *just* as Yahweh had commanded."

16 Then Moses sought all over *for* the goat of the sin offering and behold, it was burned up. So he was angry with Aaron's remaining sons Eleazar and Ithamar, saying,

17 "Why did you not eat the sin offering on the sanctuary's site, because *it is* a most holy thing? And he gave it to you to remove the community's guilt, to make atonement for them before Yahweh.

18 Look, its blood was not brought inside the sanctuary. Certainly you should have eaten it in the sanctuary, as I commanded."

19 So Aaron said to Moses, "Look, today they presented their sin offering and their burnt offering before Yahweh, and *things* such as these have happened to me, and *if* I were to eat a sin offering today, would it have been good in Yahweh's eyes?"

20 When Moses heard, it was good in his eyes.

Offerings from the Twelve Tribes of Israel – Part 2 (8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Numbers 7:54–77

Eighth Day Offering—Manasseh

54 On the eighth day Gamaliel son of Pedahzur, leader of the descendants of Manasseh:

55 his offering *was* one silver plate—its weight one hundred and thirty *shekels*—*and* one silver bowl for drinking *weighing* seventy shekels according to the sanctuary shekel, both of them filled *with* finely milled flour mixed with oil as a grain offering;

56 one golden dish weighing ten shekels filled *with* incense;

57 one young bull, one ram, a male lamb in its first year as a burnt offering;

58 one he-goat as a sin offering;

59 and for the sacrifice of the fellowship offering, two cattle, five rams, five he-goats, *and* five male lambs in their first year. This *was* the offering of Gamaliel son of Pedahzur.

Ninth Day Offering—Benjamin

60 On the ninth day Abidan son of Gideoni, leader of the descendants of Benjamin:

61 his offering *was* one silver plate—its weight one hundred and thirty *shekels*—*and* one silver bowl for drinking *weighing* seventy shekels according to the sanctuary shekel, both of them filled *with* finely milled flour mixed with oil as a grain offering;

62 one golden dish weighing ten shekels filled *with* incense;

63 one young bull, one ram, a male lamb in its first year as a burnt offering;

64 one he-goat as a sin offering;

65 and for the sacrifice of the fellowship offering, two cattle, five rams, five he-goats, *and* five male lambs in their first year. This *was*

the offering of Abidan son of Gideoni.

Tenth Day Offering—Dan

66 On the tenth day Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai, leader of the descendants of Dan:

67 his offering *was* one silver plate—its weight one hundred and thirty *shekels*—*and* one silver bowl for drinking *weighing* seventy shekels according to the sanctuary shekel, both of them filled *with* finely milled flour mixed with oil as a grain offering;

68 one golden dish weighing ten shekels filled *with* incense;

69 one young bull, one ram, a male lamb in its first year as a burnt offering;

70 one he-goat as a sin offering;

71 and for the sacrifice of the fellowship offering, two cattle, five rams, five he-goats, *and* five male lambs in their first year. This *was* the offering of Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai.

Eleventh Day Offering—Asher

72 On the eleventh day Pagiel son of Ocran, leader of the descendants of Asher:

73 his offering *was* one silver plate—its weight one hundred and thirty *shekels*—*and* one silver bowl for drinking *weighing* seventy shekels according to the sanctuary shekel, both of them filled *with* finely milled flour mixed with oil as a grain offering;

74 one golden dish weighing ten shekels filled *with* incense;

75 one young bull, one ram, a male lamb in its first year as a burnt offering;

76 one he-goat as a sin offering;

77 and for the sacrifice of the fellowship offering, two cattle, five rams, five he-goats, *and* five male lambs in their first year. This *was* the offering of Pagiel son of Ocran.

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Clean and Unclean Animals (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 11

Clean and Unclean Land Animals

- 1 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying to them,
2 “Speak to the Israelites, saying, ‘These *are* the animals that you may eat from all the animals that *are* on the land:
3 Any among the animals that has a divided hoof and has a split cleft in *the* hoof, such you may eat.
4 However, these you may not eat from those that chew the cud and from those that have a divided hoof: the camel, because it *is* a chewer of cud but it does not have a hoof that is divided—it *is* unclean for you;
5 and the coney, because it *is* a chewer of cud but it does not have a hoof that is divided—it *is* unclean for you;
6 and the hare, because it *is* a chewer of cud but it does not have a hoof that is divided—it *is* unclean for you;
7 and the pig, because it has a divided hoof and has a split cleft in the hoof but it does not chew cud—it *is* unclean for you.
8 You must not eat from their meat, and you must not touch their dead body—they are unclean for you.

Clean and Unclean Aquatic Animals

- 9 “ ‘These you may eat from all that *are* in the water: any in the water that has a fin and scales, *whether* in the seas or in the streams—such you may eat.
10 But any that does not have a fin and scales, *whether* in the seas or in the streams, among all the water’s swarmer among all the living creatures that *are* in the water—they *are* a detestable thing to you.
11 And they shall be detestable to you; you must not eat from their meat, and you must detest their dead body.
12 Any that does not have a fin and scales in the water—it *is* a detestable thing to you.

Unclean Birds

- 13 “ ‘And these you must detest from the birds; they must not be eaten—they *are* detestable: the eagle and the vulture and the short-toed eagle,
14 and the red kite and the black kite according to its kind,
15 every crow according to its kind,
16 and the ostrich and the short-eared owl and the seagull and the hawk according to its kind,
17 and the little owl and the cormorant and the great owl,
18 and the barn owl and the desert owl and the carrion vulture,
19 and the stork, the heron according to its kind and the hoopoe and the bat.

Clean and Unclean Winged Insects

- 20 “ ‘Any winged insect that walks on *all* fours *is* detestable to you.
21 Only this may you eat from any of the winged insects that walk on *all* fours—that which has jointed legs above its feet for leaping upon the land.
22 From these you may eat the locust according to its kind and the bald locust according to its kind and the cricket according to its kind and the grasshopper according to its kind.
23 But any *other* winged insect that has four legs *is* detestable to you.

Purification After Touching Dead Animals

- 24 And by these you shall become unclean—anyone who touches their dead body shall become unclean until the evening,
25 and anyone who carries their dead body must wash his garments, and he shall be unclean until the evening.
26 “ ‘*With regard* to any animal that has a divided hoof but does not split the hoof, or does not have a cud *for* chewing—they *are* unclean for you; anyone who touches them shall become unclean.
27 And anything that walks upon its paws among any of the animals that walks on *all* fours—they *are* unclean for you; anyone who touches their dead body shall become unclean until the evening,
28 and the one who carries their dead body must wash his garments, and he shall be unclean until the evening—they *are* unclean for you.
29 “ ‘And these *are* the unclean for you among the swarmer that swarm on the land: the weasel and the mouse and the thorn-tailed lizard according to its kind,
30 and the gecko and the land crocodile and the lizard and the sand lizard and the chameleon.
31 These *are* the unclean for you among all the swarmer; anyone who touches them at their death shall become unclean until the evening.
32 And anything on which one of them falls at their death shall become unclean: any object of wood or garment or skin or sackcloth—any object that has performed work—must be placed in water, and it shall be unclean until the evening, and *then* it shall be clean.
33 And any clay vessel into which it falls shall become unclean, and you must break it.
34 Any of the food that could be eaten on which water *from such a vessel* comes shall become unclean, and any liquid that could be

drunk in any *such* vessel shall become unclean.

35 And anything on which one of their dead bodies falls shall become unclean: an oven or a stove must be broken—they *are* unclean and shall be unclean for you.

36 Surely a spring or a cistern collecting water shall be clean, but that which touches their dead body shall become unclean.

37 And when one of their dead bodies falls on any seed for sowing, it *is* clean.

38 But when water is put on *the* seed and one of their dead bodies falls on it, it *is* unclean for you.

39 “ ‘And when one of the animals dies that is for you to eat, the one who touches its dead body shall become unclean until the evening.

40 And the one who eats some of its dead body must wash his garments, and he shall be unclean until the evening; and the one who carries its dead body must wash his garments, and he shall be unclean until the evening.

Unclean Swarming Animals

41 “ ‘And any swarmer that swarms on the land *is* detestable; it must not be eaten.

42 You must not eat anything that moves upon its belly or that walks on *all* fours, even any *with* numerous feet *belonging* to any swarmer that swarms on the land, because they *are* detestable.

43 You must not defile yourselves with any swarmer that swarms, and you must not make yourselves unclean by them and *so* be made unclean by them,

Rationale for the Law

44 because I *am* Yahweh your God, and you must keep yourselves sanctified, so that you shall be holy, because I *am* holy. And you must not make yourselves unclean with any swarmer that moves along on the land,

45 because I *am* Yahweh, who brought you up from the land of Egypt to be for you as God. Thus you shall be holy, because I *am* holy. [[1 Pet 1:16](#)]

Summary Statement

46 “ ‘This is the regulation of the animals and the birds and all living creatures that move along in the water and concerning all the creatures that swarm on the land,

47 to distinguish between the unclean and the clean and between the animal that is to be eaten and the animal that must not be eaten.’”

Purification After Childbirth (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 12

Birth of a Son

1 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

2 “ ‘Speak to the Israelites, saying, ‘When a woman becomes pregnant and she gives birth to a male, then she shall be unclean seven days—as *in* the time of her menstrual bleeding, she shall become unclean.

3 And on the eighth day his foreskin’s flesh shall be circumcised.

4 And *for* thirty-three days she shall stay in the blood of *her* cleansing; she must not touch any holy *object*, and she may not come to the sanctuary until the fulfilling of the days of her cleansing.

Birth of a Daughter

5 But if she gives birth to a female, then she shall be unclean *for* two weeks as *in* her menstruation, and *for* sixty-six days she shall stay through the blood of *her* cleansing.

Offering for Bearing Children

6 And at the fulfilling of the days of her cleansing, *whether* for a son or for a daughter, she must bring to the priest at the tent of assembly’s entrance a yearling male lamb as a burnt offering and young dove or a turtledove as a sin offering.

7 And *the* priest shall present it before Yahweh, and he shall make atonement for her, so that she shall be clean from the flow of her blood. This *is* the regulation of childbearing for the male or for the female.

8 And if she cannot afford a sheep, then she shall take two turtledoves or two young doves—one as a burnt offering and one as a sin offering—and the priest shall make atonement for her, so that she shall be clean.’” [cf. [Luke 2:22–24](#)]

Skin Infections and Mildew (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 13–14

Diagnosis of Symptoms

13:1 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying,

2 “When a person has on his body’s skin a swelling or an epidermal eruption or a spot and it becomes an infectious skin disease on his body’s skin, then he shall be brought to Aaron the priest or to one of his sons the priests.

3 And the priest shall examine the infection on his body’s skin, and *if the* hair in the infection turns white and the appearance of the infection *is* deeper than his body’s skin, it *is* an infectious skin disease, and the priest shall examine it, and he shall declare him unclean.

4 But if a spot *is* white on his body’s skin and its appearance is not deeper than the skin and its hair does not turn white, then the priest shall confine the afflicted person *for* seven days.

5 And the priest shall examine it on the seventh day, and if, in his eyes, the infection has stayed *unchanged*, the infection has not spread on the skin, then the priest shall confine him *for* seven days *a second time*.

6 And the priest shall examine him on the seventh day *for a second time*, and if the infection has faded and the infection has not spread on the skin, then the priest shall declare him clean—it *is* an epidermal eruption; and he shall wash his garments, and so he shall be clean.

7 But if the epidermal eruption spreads further on the skin after showing himself to the priest for his cleansing, then he shall appear *a second time* to the priest.

8 And the priest shall examine *it*, and if the epidermal eruption has spread on the skin, then the priest shall declare him unclean—it is an infectious skin disease.

Diagnosis of Chronic Ailments

9 “When an infectious skin disease is on a person and he is brought to the priest,

10 the priest shall examine *it*, and if a white swelling *is* on the skin and it turns *the* hair white and raw flesh *is* in the swelling,

11 it *is* a chronic infectious skin disease on his body’s skin, and the priest shall declare him unclean; he shall not confine him, because he *is* unclean.

12 And if the infectious skin disease breaks out all over on the skin and the infectious skin disease covers all of the afflicted person’s skin from his head to his feet, so far as the priest can see,

13 then the priest shall examine *it*, and if the infectious skin disease covers his whole body, then he shall pronounce the afflicted person clean—all of it has turned white; he is clean.

14 But whenever raw flesh appears on him, he shall become unclean.

15 And the priest shall examine the raw flesh, and he shall pronounce him unclean—the raw flesh *is* unclean; it *is* an infectious skin disease.

16 Or, when the raw flesh returns and it has changed to white, then he shall come to the priest,

17 and the priest shall examine him, and if the infection has changed to white, then the priest shall pronounce the afflicted person clean—he is clean.

Dealing With Complications—Boils

18 “And when *someone’s* body has a skin sore on his skin and it is healed

19 and a white swelling or a pinkish spot appears in the skin sore’s place, then he shall show himself to the priest.

20 And the priest shall examine *it*, and if its appearance *is* deeper than the skin and its hair has changed to white, then the priest shall declare him unclean—it is an infectious skin disease; it has broken out in the skin sore.

21 And if the priest examines it and if there is no white hair in it and it is not deeper than the skin and it *is* faded, then the priest shall confine him *for* seven days.

22 But if it has spread further on the skin, then the priest shall declare him unclean—it *is* an infection.

23 But if the spot has stayed *unchanged*, it has not spread, it *is* the skin sore’s scar, so the priest shall declare him clean.

Dealing With Complications—Burns

24 “Or when a body has a burn-spot from fire on its skin and the raw flesh of the burn-spot *is* pinkish or white,

25 then the priest shall examine it, and if the hair turns white in the spot and its appearance *is* deeper than the skin, it *is* an infectious skin disease—it has broken out in the burn-spot; so the priest shall declare him unclean—it *is* an infectious skin disease.

26 But if the priest examines it and if there is not white hair in the spot and it is not deeper than the skin and it *is* faded, then the priest shall confine him *for* seven days.

27 And the priest shall examine him on the seventh day; if it has spread further on the skin, then the priest shall declare him unclean—it *is* an infectious skin disease.

28 But if it the spot has stayed *unchanged* in its place, it has not spread on the skin and it *is* faded, *then* it is the burn-spot’s swelling, so the priest shall declare him clean, because it *is* the burn-spot’s scar.

Dealing With Complications—Sores

29 “And when a man or a woman has an infection on *the* head or in *the* beard,

30 then the priest shall examine the infection, and if its appearance *is* deeper than the skin and in it *is* thin bright red hair, then the priest shall declare it unclean—it *is* a diseased area of skin; it *is* an infectious skin disease of the head or the beard.

31 But if the priest examines the diseased area of the skin’s infection and if its appearance is not deeper than the skin and there is no black hair in it, then the priest shall confine the afflicted person *with* the diseased area of skin *for* seven days.

32 And the priest shall examine the infection on the seventh day, and if the diseased area of skin has not spread and it does not have bright red hair in it and the diseased area of the skin’s appearance is not deeper than the skin,

33 then he shall shave himself, but he shall not shave the diseased area of skin, and the priest shall confine *the person with* the diseased area of skin *a second time for* seven days.

34 And the priest shall examine the diseased area of skin on the seventh day, and if the diseased area has not spread on the skin and its appearance is not deeper than the skin, then the priest shall pronounce him clean, and he shall wash his garments, and he shall be clean.

35 But if the diseased area of skin has not spread further on the skin after his cleansing,

36 then the priest shall examine him, and if the diseased area of skin has spread on the skin, the priest shall not inspect *for* bright red hair—he is unclean.

37 But if, in his eyes, the diseased area of skin has stayed *unchanged* and black hair has grown in it, the diseased area of skin is healed—he is clean, and the priest shall pronounce him clean.

Dealing With Complications—Spots

38 “And when a man or a woman has spots on their body’s skin, white spots,

39 then the priest shall examine *them*, and if *the* spots on their body’s skin *are* a faded white, it *is* a skin rash; it has broken out on the skin—it *is* clean.

Dealing With Complications—Baldness

40 “And if a man becomes bald, his head *is* bald, he *is* clean.

41 And if he becomes bald from his forehead, his head *is* bald, he *is* clean.

42 But if a pinkish infection occurs on the bald spot or on the bald forehead, it *is* an infectious skin disease that sprouts on his bald spot or on his bald forehead.

43 So the priest shall examine him, and if the infection’s swelling *is* pinkish on his bald spot or on his bald forehead, like *the* appearance of an infectious skin disease *on* the body,

44 he *is* a man afflicted with a skin disease—he *is* unclean; the priest certainly shall declare him unclean—his infection *is* on his head.

Rules for Living with an Infectious Skin Disease

45 “As for the person who is afflicted with a skin disease, his garments must be torn and his hair must *be allowed to* hang loosely, and he must cover *his* upper lip, and he must call out, ‘Unclean! Unclean!’

46 *For all the days during* which the infection *is* on him, he shall be unclean; he must live alone; his dwelling *must be* outside the camp.”

Mildew in Fabrics and Leather

13:47 “And when the garment has an infectious skin disease on it, on a wool garment or on a linen garment,

48 or on woven material or on a linen fabric, or on wool or on leather or on any work of leather,

49 and *if* the infection is yellowish green or reddish on the garment or on the leather or on the woven material or on the fabric or on any leather object, it *is* an infectious skin disease and it shall be shown *to* the priest.

50 And the priest shall examine the infection, and he shall confine the infected article *for* seven days.

51 And he shall examine the infection on the seventh day; if the infection has spread on the garment or on the woven material or on the fabric or on the leather, for any work for which the leather is used, the infection *is* a destructive skin disease—it *is* unclean.

52 And he shall burn the garment or the woven material or the fabric, whether wool or linen, or any leather object that has the infection, because it *is* an infectious skin disease, *which is* destructive—it must be burned in the fire.

53 “But if the priest examines *it* and if the infection has not spread on the garment or on the woven material or on the fabric or on any leather object,

54 then the priest shall command, and someone shall wash that on which the infection *is*, and he shall confine it *a second time for* seven days.

55 And the priest shall examine *it* after the infection has been washed off, and if the infection has not changed its outward appearance and the infection has not spread, it *is* unclean; he must burn it in the fire; it *is* a fungus on its back or on its front.

56 But if the priest examines *it* and if the infection *is* faded after it has been washed off, then he shall tear it from the garment or from the leather or from the woven material or from the fabric.

57 And if it appears again on the garment or on the woven material or on the fabric or on any leather object, it *is* spreading; you

must burn in the fire that which *has* the infection in it.

58 And the garment or the woven material or the fabric or any leather object that he might wash and the infection is removed from them then shall be washed *a second time*, and it shall be clean.”

59 This *is* the regulation of the infectious skin disease in the wool garment or the linen or the woven material or the fabric or any leather object to declare it clean or to declare it unclean.

Laws for Cleansing from Skin Infections—Admission Into the Camp

14:1 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

2 “This is the regulation of the person afflicted with a skin disease at the time of his cleansing. And he shall be brought to the priest, 3 and the priest shall go outside the camp, and the priest shall examine *him*, and if the skin disease’s infection is healed on the afflicted person,

4 then the priest shall command, and he shall take two living, clean birds and cedar wood and a crimson thread and hyssop for the one who presents himself for cleansing.

5 Then the priest shall command *someone* to slaughter one bird over fresh water in a clay vessel.

6 He must take the living bird and the cedar wood and the crimson thread and the hyssop, and he shall dip them and the living bird in the bird’s blood slaughtered over the fresh water.

7 And he shall spatter *the blood* seven times on the one who presents himself for cleansing from the infectious skin disease, and he shall declare him clean, and he shall send the living bird into the open field.

8 Then the one who presents himself for cleansing shall wash his garments, and he shall shave off all his hair, and he shall wash himself in the water; thus he shall be clean, and afterward he shall enter the camp, but he shall stay outside his tent *for* seven days.

9 And then on the seventh day he must shave off all his hair—he must shave his head and his beard and his eyebrows and all *the rest* of his hair—and he shall wash his garments, and he shall wash his body in the water; thus he shall be clean.

Laws for Cleansing from Skin Infections—Purification Offering

10 “And on the eighth day he must take two male lambs without defect and one ewe-lamb in its first year without defect and three-tenths *of an ephah* of finely milled flour mixed with oil *as a grain offering* and one log of oil.

11 And the priest who cleanses *him* shall present the man who presents himself for cleansing and these things before the tent of assembly’s entrance.

12 Then the priest shall take the one male lamb, and he shall present it as a guilt offering, and the log of oil, and he shall wave them *as a wave offering* before Yahweh.

13 And he shall slaughter the male lamb in the place where he slaughters the sin offering and the burnt offering in the sanctuary’s space, because as the sin offering belongs to the priest, so *also* the guilt offering—it is a most holy thing.

14 And the priest shall take some of the guilt offering’s blood, and the priest shall put *it* on the right ear’s lobe of the one who presents himself for cleansing and on his right hand’s thumb and on his right foot’s big toe.

15 And the priest shall take some of the log of oil, and he shall pour *it* on his left palm;

16 and the priest shall dip his right finger in the oil that *is* on his left palm, and he shall spatter some of the oil with his finger seven times before Yahweh.

17 Then the priest shall put some of the remaining oil, which *is* on his palm, on the right ear’s lobe of the one to be cleansed and on his right hand’s thumb and on his right foot’s big toe, on *top of* the guilt offering’s blood.

18 And the remaining oil that *is* on the priest’s palm he shall put on the head of the one who presents himself for cleansing, and the priest shall make atonement for him before Yahweh.

19 Thus the priest shall sacrifice the sin offering, and he shall make atonement for the one who presents himself for cleansing from his uncleanness, and afterward he shall slaughter the burnt offering.

20 Then the priest shall offer the burnt offering and the grain offering on the altar, and the priest shall make atonement for him, and so he shall be clean.

Laws for Cleansing from Skin Infections—Purification Offering for the Poor

21 “But if he *is* poor and he cannot afford *it*, then he shall take one male lamb *for a* guilt offering as a wave offering to make atonement for himself and one-tenth *of an ephah* of finely milled flour mixed with oil for a grain offering, and a log of oil,

22 and two turtledoves or two young doves that he can afford, and one shall be a sin offering and the other a burnt offering.

23 And he shall bring them to the priest at the tent of assembly’s entrance before Yahweh on the eighth day for his cleansing.

24 And the priest shall take the male lamb *for* the guilt offering and the log of oil, and the priest shall wave them *as a wave offering* before Yahweh;

25 and he shall slaughter the male lamb of the guilt offering, and the priest shall take some of the guilt offering’s blood, and he shall put *it* on the right ear’s lobe of the one who presents himself for cleansing and on his right hand’s thumb and on his right foot’s big toe.

26 Then the priest shall pour out some of the oil on his own left palm,

27 and with his right finger the priest shall spatter some of the oil that *is* on his left palm seven times before Yahweh.

28 Then the priest shall put some of the oil that *is* on his palm on the right ear's lobe of the one who presents himself for cleansing and on his right hand's thumb and on his right foot's big toe on the place of the guilt offering's blood.

29 And the remaining oil that *is* on the priest's palm he shall put on the head of the one who presents himself for cleansing to make atonement for him before Yahweh.

30 And he shall sacrifice one of the turtledoves or the young doves that he can afford,

31 *even* what he can afford, the one *as* a sin offering and the other *as* a burnt offering in addition to the grain offering, and the priest shall make atonement for the one who presents himself for cleansing before Yahweh.

32 This *is* the regulation of *the one* on whom *is* an infectious skin disease who cannot afford *the cost* for his cleansing."

Mildew in the Home—Diagnosis and Repair

33 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying,

34 "When you come into the land of Canaan, which I *am about* to give to you *as your* possession, and I put mildew in a house *in* the land of your possession,

35 then the one who owns the house shall come and tell the priest, saying, 'It appears to me *that* an infection *is* in the house.'

36 And the priest shall *issue a* command, and they shall clear out the house before the priest comes to examine the infection, so that all that *is* in the house might not become unclean; and afterward the priest shall go to examine the house.

37 And he shall examine the infection, and if the infection on the house's wall *has* yellowish-green or reddish spots and its appearance *is* deeper than *the surface of* the wall,

38 then the priest shall go out from the house to the house's entrance, and he shall confine the house *for* seven days.

39 And the priest shall return on the seventh day, and he shall examine *the infection*, and if the infection has spread on the house's wall,

40 the priest shall *issue a* command and they shall remove the stones on which *is* the infection, and they shall throw them outside the city on an unclean place.

41 Then they shall scrape off *the plaster* from all around the house, and they shall pour out the plaster, which they scraped off, outside the city on an unclean place.

42 And they shall take other stones, and they shall put *them* in place of *those* stones, and they shall take other plaster, and they shall replaster the house.

Mildew in the Home—Provision for Reoccurrence

43 "But if the infection should return and it breaks out in the house after they have removed the stones and after scraping off *the plaster* of the house and after it has been replastered,

44 then the priest shall come, and he shall examine *the infection*, and if the infection has spread in the house, it *is* a destructive mildew in the house—it *is* unclean.

45 So he shall break down the house, its stones and its wood and all of the house's plaster, and he shall bring *it all* outside the city to an unclean place.

46 And the person who enters into the house *during all the days that* he confined it shall become unclean until the evening.

47 And the person who sleeps in the house must wash his garments, and the person who eats in the house shall wash his garments.

Mildew in the Home—Purification Offering

48 "And if the priest comes again and examines *the house* and if the infection has not spread in the house after being replastered, then the priest shall pronounce the house clean, because the infection is healed.

49 And he shall take two birds and cedar wood and a crimson thread and hyssop to cleanse the house;

50 and he shall slaughter the first bird over fresh water on a clay vessel.

51 Then he shall take the cedar wood and the hyssop and the crimson thread and the living bird, and he shall dip them in the slaughtered bird's blood and in the fresh water, and he shall spatter *them* on the house seven times.

52 Thus he shall purify the house with the bird's blood and with the fresh water and with the living bird and with the cedar wood and with the hyssop and with the crimson thread.

53 And he shall send the living bird outside the city into the open field; and so he shall make atonement for the house, and it shall be clean.

Summary Statement

54 "This *is* the instruction for any infectious skin disease and for the diseased area of skin,

55 and for a mildew of the garment and for the house,

56 and for the swelling and for the epidermal eruption and for the spot,

57 to teach when something is unclean and when something is clean. This *is* the regulation of the infectious skin disease."

Bodily Discharges (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 15

Abnormal Male Discharges

1 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying,

2 “Speak to the Israelites, and you shall say to them, ‘Any man when a fluid discharge occurs from his body, his fluid discharge *is* unclean.

3 And this becomes his uncleanness in his fluid discharge: *whether* his body secretes his fluid discharge or his body blocks his fluid discharge, it *is* his uncleanness.

4 Any bed upon which the person who discharges lies down becomes unclean, and any object upon which he sits becomes unclean.

5 And anyone who touches his bed must wash his garments and shall wash *himself* with water, and he shall be unclean until evening.

6 And the person who sits on the object upon which the person who discharges has sat must wash his garments, and he shall wash *himself* with water, and he shall be unclean until the evening.

7 And the person who touches the body of the person who discharges must wash his garments, and he shall wash *himself* with water, and he shall be unclean until the evening.

8 And if the person who discharges spits on *one who is* clean, then that one shall wash his garments, and he shall wash *himself* with water, and he shall be unclean until the evening.

9 And any saddle upon which the person who discharges rides becomes unclean.

10 And any person who touches anything that happened to be under him becomes unclean until the evening, and the person who carries them must wash his garments, and he shall wash *himself* with water, and he shall be unclean until the evening.

11 And anyone whom the person who discharges might touch without rinsing off his hands with water shall wash his garments, and he shall wash *himself* with water, and he shall be unclean until the evening.

12 But a clay vessel that the person who discharges touches must be broken, and any wood object must be rinsed with water.

13 “ ‘And when the person who discharges becomes clean from his body fluid discharge, he shall count for himself seven days for his cleansing; then he shall wash his garments, and he shall wash his body with fresh water, and he shall be clean.

14 Then on the eighth day he shall take for himself two turtledoves or two young doves, and he shall come before Yahweh at *the* tent of assembly’s entrance, and he shall give them to the priest.

15 And the priest shall sacrifice one *as* a sin offering and the other *as* a burnt offering, and so the priest shall make atonement for him before Yahweh from his body fluid discharge.

Normal Male Discharges

16 “ ‘And if an emission of semen goes out from anyone, then he shall wash all of his body with water, and he shall be unclean until the evening.

17 And any garment and anything leather on which is an emission of semen shall be washed with water, and it shall be unclean until the evening.

18 If *there is* a woman with whom a man lies down *and there is* an emission of semen, then they shall wash *themselves* with water, and they shall be unclean until the evening.

Normal Female Discharges

19 “ ‘And when a woman is menstruating, her body fluid discharge occurs in her body; for seven days she shall be in her menstruation, and any person who touches her shall become unclean until the evening.

20 And anything upon which she lies down during her menstruation shall become unclean, and anything upon which she sits shall become unclean.

21 And any person who touches her bed must wash his garments, and he shall wash *himself* with water, and he shall be unclean until the evening.

22 And any person who touches any object on which she sat must wash his garments, and he shall wash *himself* with water, and he shall be unclean until the evening.

23 And if it *is* on the bed or on the object on which she sits, at his touching it he becomes unclean until the evening.

24 And if a man indeed lies with her and her menstruation occurs on him, then he shall be unclean *for* seven days, and any bed on which he lies down becomes unclean.

Abnormal Female Discharges

25 “ ‘And when a woman discharges a body fluid *consisting* of her blood *for* many days, *but* not *at* the time of her menstruation, or when she discharges in addition to her menstruation, all the days of her unclean body fluid discharge she shall become unclean *as in* the days of her menstruation.

26 Any bed on which she lies *during* all the days of her body fluid discharge shall become for her as her bed of menstruation, and any object on which she sits becomes unclean as her menstruation’s uncleanness.

27 And any person who touches them becomes unclean, and he shall wash his garments, and he shall wash *himself* with water, and he shall be unclean until the evening.

28 “And if she is clean from her body fluid discharge, then she shall count for herself seven days, and afterward she becomes clean.
29 And on the eighth day she shall take for herself two turtledoves or two young doves, and she shall bring them to the priest at *the* tent of assembly’s entrance.

30 And the priest shall sacrifice the one *as* a sin offering and the other *as* a burnt offering, and so the priest shall make atonement for her before Yahweh from her unclean body fluid discharge.’

Summary

31 “And you shall keep the Israelites separate from their uncleanness so that they might not die because of their uncleanness by their making my tabernacle, which *is* in their midst, unclean.

32 “This *is* the regulation of *the one* with the body fluid discharge and *the one* from whom an emission of semen goes out so that he becomes unclean by it

33 and concerning the menstruating *woman* in her bleeding and the person who discharges his body fluid, for the male and for the female and for a man who lies with an unclean woman.”

The Day of Atonement (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 16

General Instructions

1 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses after the death of Aaron’s two sons, when they had come near before Yahweh and they died.

2 And Yahweh said to Moses, “Tell your brother Aaron *that* he should not enter at any time into the sanctuary behind the curtain in front of the atonement cover that *is* on the ark, so that he might not die, because I appear in the cloud over the atonement cover.

3 “Aaron must enter the sanctuary with this: a young bull as a sin offering and a ram as a burnt offering.

4 He must put on a holy linen tunic, and linen undergarments must be on his body, and he must fasten *himself* with a linen sash, and he must wrap a linen turban around *his head*—they *are* holy garments, and he shall wash his body with water, then he shall put them on.

5 And he must take from the Israelites’ community two he-goats as a sin offering and one ram as a burnt offering.

6 “And Aaron shall present the sin offering’s bull, which *is* for himself, and so he shall make atonement for himself and for his family.

7 And he shall take the two goats, and he shall present them before Yahweh *at the* tent of assembly’s entrance.

8 Then Aaron shall cast lots for the two goats: one lot for Yahweh and one for Azazel.

9 And Aaron shall present the goat on which the lot for Yahweh fell, and he shall sacrifice it *as* a sin offering.

10 But he must present alive before Yahweh the goat on which the lot for Azazel fell to make atonement for himself, to send it away into the desert to Azazel.

Offerings of the High Priest in the Most Holy Place

11 “And Aaron shall present the sin offering’s bull, which *is* for himself, and so he shall make atonement for himself and for his family; then he shall slaughter the sin offering’s bull, which *is* for himself.

12 And he shall take a censer full of burning charcoal from upon the altar from before Yahweh and two handfuls of incense of powdered fragrant perfumes, and he shall bring *it* from behind the curtain,

13 and he shall put the incense on the fire before Yahweh so that the cloud of incense might cover the atonement cover, which *is* on the covenant text, so that he might not die.

14 And he shall take some of the bull’s blood, and he shall spatter *it* with his finger on the atonement cover’s surface on the eastern *side*, and before the atonement cover he shall spatter some of the blood with his finger seven times. [[Heb 9:7–10](#)]

Purification for the Tabernacle

15 “And he shall slaughter the sin offering’s goat, which *is* for the people, and he shall bring its blood from behind the curtain, and he shall do with its blood as that which he did with the bull’s blood, and he shall spatter it on the atonement cover and before the atonement cover.

16 Thus he shall make atonement for the sanctuary from the Israelites’ impurities and from their transgressions for all their sins; and so he must do for *the* tent of assembly, which dwells with them in the midst of their impurities.

17 And no person shall be in *the* tent of assembly when he enters to make atonement in the sanctuary until he comes out, and so he shall make atonement for himself and for his family and for all of Israel’s assembly.

18 “Then he shall go out to the altar that *is* before Yahweh, and he shall make atonement for it; and he shall take some of the bull’s blood and some of the goat’s blood, and he shall put *it* all around on the altar’s horns.

19 And he shall spatter some of the blood on it seven times with his finger, and he shall cleanse it and consecrate it from the Israelites’ impurities. [[Heb 9:22–24](#)]

The Scapegoat

20 “And he shall finish making atonement *for* the sanctuary and *the* tent of assembly and the altar; then he shall present the living

goat.

21 And Aaron shall place his two hands on the living goat's head, and he shall confess over it all the Israelites' iniquities and all their transgressions for all their sins, and he shall put them on the goat's head, and he shall send *it* away into the desert with a man *standing* ready.

22 Thus the goat shall bear on it to a barren region all their guilt, and he shall send the goat away into the desert. [[Heb 13:12–13](#)]

The Burnt Offering

23 "And Aaron shall enter *the* tent of assembly, and he shall take off the linen garments that he put on at his coming to the sanctuary, and he shall leave them there.

24 And he shall wash his body with water in a holy place, and he shall put on his garments and go out and sacrifice his burnt offering and the people's burnt offering, and so he shall make atonement for himself and for people.

25 And he must turn into smoke the sin offering's fat on the altar.

26 "And the person who sends out the goat for Azazel shall wash his garments, and he shall wash his body with water, and afterward he shall come to the camp.

Disposal of the Offerings

27 And the sin offering's bull and the sin offering's goat, whose blood was brought to make atonement in the sanctuary, shall be brought outside the camp, and they shall burn their hide and their flesh and their offal in the fire. [[Heb 13:11](#)]

28 And the person who burns them shall wash his garments, and he shall wash his body with water, and afterward he must come to the camp.

Day of Atonement is a Permanent Statute

29 "And this shall be a lasting statute for you: in the seventh month, on the tenth of the month, you must deny yourselves and you must not do any work, *whether* the native or the alien who is dwelling in your midst,

30 because on this day he shall make atonement for you to cleanse you; you must be clean from all your sins before Yahweh.

31 *It is* a Sabbath of complete rest for you, and you shall deny yourselves—*it is* a lasting statute.

32 And the priest who is anointed and who is ordained to serve as a priest in place of his father shall make atonement; thus he shall put on the linen garments, the holy garments,

33 and he shall make atonement for the sanctuary's holy place, and he shall make atonement for *the* tent of assembly and the altar, and he shall make atonement for the priests and for all of the assembly's people.

34 And this shall be a lasting statute for you to make atonement for the Israelites one time in a year from all their sins." [[Heb 10:1–4](#)]

Playing the Harlot with Goats (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 17

All Sacrifices Must Be Brought to the Tabernacle

1 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

2 "Speak to Aaron and to his sons and to all the Israelites, and you shall say to them, 'This is the word that Yahweh has commanded, saying,

3 "Any man from the house of Israel who slaughters an ox or a sheep or a goat in the camp or who slaughters *it* outside the camp

4 and he does not bring it to the tent of assembly's entrance to present an offering to Yahweh before Yahweh's tabernacle, then that man shall be accounted bloodguilty—he has poured out blood, and that man shall be cut off from the midst of his people.

5 *This is* so that the Israelites may bring their sacrifices that they are sacrificing in the open field and bring them for Yahweh to *the* tent of assembly's entrance to the priest, and they shall sacrifice fellowship offerings for Yahweh with them.

6 And the priest shall sprinkle the blood on Yahweh's altar *at the* tent of assembly's entrance, and he shall burn the fat as an appeasing fragrance for Yahweh.

7 And they may no longer sacrifice their sacrifices to the goat-idols after which they were prostituting. This is a lasting statute for them throughout their generations."

8 "And you shall say to them, '*if there is* anyone from the house of Israel or from the alien who dwells in their midst who offers a burnt offering or a sacrifice

9 and he does not bring it to *the* tent of assembly's entrance to sacrifice it for Yahweh, then that man shall be cut off from his people.

Eating of Blood Prohibited

10 And *if there is* anyone from the house of Israel or from the alien who is dwelling in their midst who eats any blood, then I will set my face against the person who eats the blood, and I will cut him off from among his people.

11 Indeed the flesh's life *is* in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your lives, because *it is* the blood with the life that makes atonement.

12 Therefore I said to the Israelites, ‘None of you may eat blood, nor may the alien who is dwelling in your midst eat blood.’

13 “And *if there is* anyone from the Israelites or from the alien who is dwelling in their midst who hunts a wild game animal or a bird that may be eaten, then he shall pour out its blood, and he shall cover it with the soil.

14 Indeed, *the* life of all flesh, its blood, *is* in its life, so I said to the Israelites, ‘You may not eat *the* blood of any flesh, because *the* life of all flesh *is* its blood; anyone who eats it must be cut off.’

Carcasses and Contamination

15 “And *if there is* any person who eats a dead body or a mangled carcass, *whether* among the native or among the alien, then he shall wash his garments, and he shall wash *himself* with water, and he shall be unclean until the evening, and he shall be clean.

16 But if he does not wash *his garments* and he does not wash his body, then he shall bear his guilt.”

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Sexual Prohibitions (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 18

A Call to be Different than the World

- 1 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,
 2 “Speak to the Israelites, and say to them, ‘I *am* Yahweh your God.
 3 You must not carry out the practices of the land of Egypt, in which you lived, and you must not carry out the practices of the land of Canaan, to which I am bringing you; and you must not follow their statutes.
 4 You must carry out my regulations, and you must observe my statutes by following them; I *am* Yahweh your God.
 5 And you shall observe my statutes and my regulations by which the person doing them shall live; I *am* Yahweh. [[Luke 10:28](#); [Rom 10:5](#); [Gal 3:12](#)]

God’s Boundaries for Sex

- 6 “None *of* you shall approach anyone *who is* his close relative to expose nakedness; I *am* Yahweh.
 7 You must not expose your father’s nakedness or your mother’s nakedness—she *is* your mother; you must not expose her nakedness.
 8 You must not expose the nakedness of your father’s wife—it is your father’s nakedness.
 9 *As for* your sister’s nakedness, *whether* your father’s daughter or your mother’s daughter, *whether* born at home or born abroad, you must not expose their nakedness.
 10 *As for* the nakedness of your son’s daughter or your daughter’s daughter, you must not expose their nakedness, because they *are* your nakedness.
 11 *As for* the nakedness of the daughter of your father’s wife, she *is* your sister, a relative of your father; you must not expose her nakedness.
 12 You must not expose the nakedness of your father’s sister; she *is* your father’s close relative.
 13 You must not expose the nakedness of your mother’s sister, because she *is* your mother’s close relative.
 14 You must not expose the nakedness of your father’s brother; you must not have sex with his wife—she *is* your aunt.
 15 You must not expose your daughter-in-law’s nakedness; she *is* your son’s wife; you must not expose her nakedness.
 16 You must not expose the nakedness of your brother’s wife; she *is* your brother’s nakedness.
 17 You must not expose the nakedness of a woman and her daughter, or her son’s daughter, or her daughter’s daughter; you must not take *her as wife* to expose her nakedness; they *are* close relatives—that *is* wickedness.
 18 And you must not take *as wife* a woman with her sister, to be a rival-wife, to expose her nakedness before her during her life.
 19 “And you must not have sex with a woman to expose her nakedness during her menstrual uncleanness.
 20 And you must not have sex with your fellow citizen’s wife, becoming unclean with her.
 21 “And you shall not give any of your offspring in order to sacrifice *them* to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God; I *am* Yahweh.
 22 And you shall not lie with a male as lying with a woman; that *is* a detestable thing.
 23 And you shall not have sexual relations with any animal, becoming unclean with it; and a woman shall not stand before an animal to copulate with it—that *is* a perversion.

Sexual Perversion Defiles the Land

- 24 “You must not make yourself unclean in any of these *things*, because the nations whom I am driving out from your presence were made unclean by all of these.
 25 So the land became unclean, and I have brought the punishment of its guilt upon it, and the land has vomited out its inhabitants.
 26 But you (*neither* the native nor the alien who is dwelling in your midst) shall keep my statutes and my regulations, and you shall not practice any of these detestable things
 27 (because the people of the land, who *were* before you, did all these detestable things, so the land became unclean),
 28 so that the land will not vomit you out when you make it unclean *just* as it vomited out the nation that *was* before you.
 29 Indeed, anyone who does any of these detestable things, even those persons who do so shall be cut off from the midst of their people.
 30 Thus you shall keep my obligation to not do any of the statutes regarding the detestable things that they did before you, so that you will not make yourselves unclean by them; I *am* Yahweh your God.”

A Call to Holiness (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 19

God’s Call to Emulate His Holiness

- 1 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,
 2 “Speak to all the community of the Israelites, and say to them, ‘You must be holy, because I, Yahweh your God, *am*

holy. [[1 Pet 1:14–16](#)]

Being Holy Means...Keeping the Ten Commandments

3 Each *of you* must revere your mother and your father, and you must keep my Sabbaths; I *am* Yahweh your God.

4 You must not turn to idols, and you must not make for yourselves gods of cast metal; I *am* Yahweh your God.

Being Holy Means...Obeying God's Ritual Requirements (baptism today)

5 “ ‘And when you sacrifice a sacrifice of fellowship offerings to Yahweh, you must sacrifice it for your acceptance.

6 It must be eaten on the day of your sacrifice and the next day; but the remainder must be burned up in the fire by the third day.

7 And if it is indeed eaten on the third day, it *is* unclean meat; it shall not be regarded as accepted.

8 And the one who eats it shall bear his guilt, because he has profaned Yahweh's holiness, and that person shall be cut off from his people.

Being Holy Means...Loving Your Neighbor

9 “ ‘And at your reaping the harvest of your land you must not finish reaping the edge of your field, and you must not glean the remnants of your harvest.

10 And you must not glean your vineyard, and you must not gather your vineyard's fallen grapes; you must leave them behind for the needy and for the alien; I *am* Yahweh your God.

11 “ ‘You shall not steal, and you shall not deceive, and you shall not lie to one another;

12 and you shall not swear falsely in my name, and so *one of you* profane the name of your God; I *am* Yahweh.

13 “ ‘You shall not exploit your neighbor, and you shall not rob *him*; a hired worker's wage you shall not withhold overnight until morning.

14 You shall not curse *the* deaf, and you shall not put a stumbling block before a blind person, but you shall revere your God; I *am* Yahweh.

15 “ ‘You shall not do injustice in judgment; you shall not show partiality to the powerless; you shall not give preference to the powerful; you shall judge your fellow citizen with justice.

16 You shall not go *about with* slander among your people; you shall not endanger your neighbor's life; I *am* Yahweh.

Being Holy Means...Forgiving Your Neighbor

17 “ ‘You shall not hate your brother in your heart; you shall surely rebuke your fellow citizen, so that you do not incur sin along with him. [[Luke 17:3–4](#); [Matt 18:15](#)]

18 You shall not seek vengeance, and you shall not harbor a grudge *against* your fellow citizens; and you shall love your neighbor like yourself; I *am* Yahweh. [[Matt 19:19](#); [22:39](#); [Mark 12:31](#); [Rom 13:8–10](#); [Gal 5:14](#); [Jam 2:8](#)]

Being Holy Means...Keeping Separate What God Says Should Not be Mixed

19 “ ‘You must keep my statutes: *as for* your domestic animals, you shall not cause two differing kinds to breed; *as for* your field, you shall not sow two differing kinds of seed; and, a garment of two differing kinds *of* woven material should not be worn on you.

Being Holy Means...Keeping Sex Within God's Boundaries

20 “ ‘And when a man lies with a woman *and there is* an emission of semen and she *is* a female slave promised to a man, but she indeed has not been ransomed or freedom has not be given to her, *there* shall be an obligation to compensate; they shall not be put to death, because she has not been freed.

21 And he shall bring his guilt offering to Yahweh at the tent of assembly's entrance: a ram *for* a guilt offering.

22 And the priest shall make atonement for him before Yahweh with the ram of the guilt offering for his sin that he committed, and so his sin that he committed shall be forgiven him.

Being Holy Means...Acknowledging God's Ownership of All Things

23 “ ‘And when you have come into the land and you plant any tree for food, you shall regard its fruit as unharvestable; *for* three years it shall be forbidden for you; it shall not be eaten.

24 But in the fourth year all its fruit shall be holy, offerings of praise for Yahweh.

25 And in the fifth year you shall eat its fruit to increase its yield for you; I *am* Yahweh your God.

Being Holy Means...Shunning Pagan Practices

26 “ ‘You must not eat *anything* with the blood; you shall not practice divination, nor shall you interpret signs.

27 You shall not round off the corner *hair* of your head, and you shall not trim the corner of your beard.

28 And you shall not make a slash in your body for a dead person, nor shall you make on yourselves a tattoo's mark; I *am* Yahweh.

Being Holy Means...Worshiping God as He Requires

29 “You shall not profane your daughter by making her a prostitute, lest the land be prostituted and the land fill up with depravity.

30 You shall keep my Sabbaths, and you shall revere my sanctuary; I *am* Yahweh.

31 “You shall not turn to the mediums and to the soothsayers; you shall not seek *them* to become unclean with them; I *am* Yahweh your God.

Being Holy Means...Respecting the Elderly

32 “Before old age you shall get up, and you shall show respect for an old person; and you shall revere your God; I *am* Yahweh.

Being Holy Means...Treating Outsiders With Love

33 “And when an alien dwells with you in your land, you shall not oppress him.

34 The alien who is dwelling with you shall be like a native among you, and you shall love him like yourself, because you were aliens in the land of Egypt; I *am* Yahweh your God.

Being Holy Means...Dealing Honestly With Others

35 “You shall not commit injustice in regulation, in measurement, in weight, or volume.

36 You must have honest balances, honest weights, an honest ephah, and an honest hin; I *am* Yahweh your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt.

Concluding Call to Holiness

37 “*Thus* you shall keep all my statutes and all my regulations, and you shall do them; I *am* Yahweh.”

Punishment for Perversion (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 20

Punishment for the Worship of Molech

1 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

2 “And to the Israelites you shall say, ‘*If there is* anyone from the Israelites or from the alien who is dwelling in Israel, who gives any of his offspring to Molech, he must surely be put to death; the people of the land must stone him with stones.

3 And I myself will set my face against that man, and I will cut him off from the midst of his people, because he has given some of his offspring to Molech, so that he makes my sanctuary unclean and profanes my holy name.

4 And if the people of the land ever shut their eyes from that man at his giving some of his offspring to Molech, not putting him to death,

5 then I myself will set my face against that man and against his clan, and I will cut him off and all those from the midst of their people who prostitute after Molech.

Punishment for Sorcery and Divination

6 As for the person who turns to the mediums and the soothsayers to prostitute after them, I will set my face against that person, and I will cut him off from the midst of his people.

7 “And you shall consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy, because I *am* Yahweh your God.

8 And you shall keep my statutes, and you shall do them; I *am* Yahweh who consecrates you.

Punishment for Cursing Parents

9 “*If there is* anyone who curses his father or his mother, he shall surely be put to death; he has cursed his father and his mother—his blood *is* upon him. [[Mark 7:9–13](#); [Matt 15:3–6](#)]

Punishment for Sexual Sins

10 “As for a man who commits adultery with a man’s wife, who commits adultery with his neighbor’s wife, *both* the man who commits adultery and the woman who commits adultery shall surely be put to death.

11 As for a man who lies with his father’s wife, he has exposed his father’s nakedness; both of them shall be put to death—their blood *is* on them.

12 As for a man who lies with his daughter-in-law, both of them shall be put to death; they have committed a perversion—their blood *is* on them.

13 “As for the man who lies with a male *as lying with* a woman, they have committed a detestable thing; they shall surely be put to death—their blood *is* on them.

14 “As for a man who marries a woman and her mother, that *is* depravity; they shall burn him and them, so that it shall not become depravity in the midst of you *all*.

15 “As for a man who has sexual relations with an animal, he shall surely be put to death, and you must kill the animal.

16 As for a woman who approaches any animal to copulate with it, you shall kill the woman and the animal; they shall surely be put to death—their blood *is* on them.

17 “As for a man who takes his sister, his father’s daughter or his mother’s daughter, and he sees her nakedness and she herself sees his nakedness, it *is* a disgrace, and they shall be cut off before the eyes of their people; he has exposed his sister’s nakedness—he must bear his guilt.

18 As for a man who lies with a menstruating woman, he exposes her nakedness—her source he exposes and she herself reveals her blood’s source—both of them shall be cut off from the midst of their people.

19 And you shall not expose the nakedness of your mother’s sister, and you shall not expose your father’s sister, because such a person has dishonored his close relative—they must bear their guilt.

20 As for a man who lies with his aunt, he has exposed his uncle’s nakedness—they shall bear their sin; they shall die childless.

21 As for a man who marries his brother’s wife, it *is* an abomination; he has exposed his brother’s nakedness—they shall be childless.

The Essence of Holiness—Separation from the World to God

22 “And you shall keep all my statutes and all my regulations, and you shall do them, so that the land, to which I am bringing you to inhabit it, shall not vomit you out.

23 And you shall not follow the statutes of the nation that I am driving out from before you, because they did all these things, and I detested them.

24 So I said to you, “You yourselves shall take possession of their land, and I myself shall give it to you to possess it—a land flowing with milk and honey”; I *am* Yahweh your God, who has set you apart from the nations.

25 And you shall distinguish between the clean and the unclean animal and between the unclean and the clean bird; and you shall not defile yourselves with the animal or with the bird or with anything that moves along the ground that I have set apart for you as unclean.

26 And you shall be holy for me, because I, Yahweh, *am* holy, and I have singled you out from the nations to be mine.

Punishment for Possessing a Spirit

27 “And a man or a woman, if a spirit of the dead or a spirit of divination is in them, they shall surely be put to death; they shall stone them with stones—their blood *is* on them.”

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Regulations for the Priests (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 21–22

Restrictions on Mourning and Marriage for Ordinary Priests

21:1 Then Yahweh said to Moses, “Speak to the priests, Aaron’s sons, and say to them, ‘One must not make himself unclean for a dead person among his *own* people,

2 except for his direct relative closest to him: his mother and his father, and his son and his daughter, and his brother,

3 and for his sister, a virgin, *who is* closest to him, who has not had a husband—for her he may defile himself.

4 He must not make himself unclean *as* a kinsman by marriage, defiling himself.

5 “ ‘And they shall not shave bald patches on their head, and they shall not shave off the corner of their beard, and they shall not make a cut in their body.

6 They shall be holy to their God, and they shall not profane the name of their God, because they are bringing near the offerings made by fire to Yahweh—their God’s food—and they shall be holy.

7 “ ‘They shall not marry a woman *who is* a prostitute and defiled, nor shall they marry a woman divorced from her husband, because each priest *is* holy for his God.

8 And you shall consecrate him, because he is bringing near your God’s food; he shall be holy to you, since I, Yahweh, who consecrates you, *am* holy.

9 “ ‘As for the daughter of any priest, if she is defiled by prostituting, she is disgracing her father—she shall be burned in the fire.

Restrictions on Mourning and Marriage for the High Priest

10 “ ‘As for the priest *who is* higher than his brothers, on whose head the oil of anointment is poured and he was ordained to wear the garments, he shall not dishevel his head, and he shall not tear his garments.

11 And he shall not go near any dead person, nor shall he make himself unclean for his father or for his mother.

12 And he shall not go out from the sanctuary, and he shall not profane his God’s sanctuary, because the dedication of his God’s oil of anointment *is* on him; I *am* Yahweh.

13 “ ‘And he himself must take a wife in her virginity.

14 A widow or a divorced woman or a defiled *woman*, a prostitute—these he must not take; he shall take only a virgin from his people *as* wife.

15 And he shall not profane his offspring among his people, because I *am* Yahweh, who consecrates him.”

Restrictions for Priests With Physical Defects

16 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

17 “Speak to Aaron, saying, ‘A man from your offspring throughout their generations, in whom is a physical defect, shall not come near to present your God’s food.

18 Indeed, any man in whom is a physical defect shall not come near: a blind man or lame or disfigured or deformed,

19 or a man in whom is a broken foot or a broken hand,

20 or a hunchback or a dwarf, or a spot in his eye or a skin disorder or a skin eruption or a crushed testicle.

21 Any man from Aaron the priest’s offspring in whom is a physical defect shall not come near to present offerings made by fire to Yahweh; a physical defect *is* in him; he shall not come near to present his God’s food.

22 He may eat his God’s food, from the most holy things and from the holy things.

23 But he must not enter the curtain, and he must not come near to the altar, because a physical defect *is* in him, and he must not profane my sanctuary, because I *am* Yahweh, who consecrates them.”

24 Thus Moses spoke to Aaron and to his sons and to all the Israelites.

Restrictions on Eating Priestly Food

22:1 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

2 “Tell Aaron and his sons that they must deal respectfully with the Israelites’ votive offerings, and they must not profane my holy name, which they are consecrating to me; I *am* Yahweh.

3 “Say to them, ‘Throughout your generations, any man from any of your offspring who comes near the votive offerings that the Israelites consecrate to Yahweh with his uncleanness on him, that person shall be cut off from before me; I *am* Yahweh.

4 “ ‘Anyone from Aaron’s offspring, if he *is* afflicted with a skin disease or a fluid discharge, shall not eat in the sanctuary until he is clean; and the one who touches any unclean person or a man from whom an emission of semen goes out,

5 or a man who touches any swarmer that is unclean for him or *who touches* a person who is unclean for him due to whatever his uncleanness,

6 a person who touches such a thing shall be unclean until the evening, and he shall not eat from the votive offerings, except *when* he washes his body with water

7 and the sun sets, and he shall be clean; then afterward he may eat from the votive offerings, because it *is* his food.

8 He shall not eat a *naturally* dead body or a mangled carcass, so that he becomes unclean by it; I *am* Yahweh.

9 “ ‘And they shall keep my obligation, and they shall not incur guilt because of it, so that they die through it, because they have

profaned it; I *am* Yahweh who consecrates them.

Relatives' Rights to Priestly Food

10 “No stranger shall eat *the* votive offering; nor shall a temporary resident with a priest or a hired worker eat *the* votive offering.

11 But a priest, if *with* his money he buys a person *as* his possession, that one may eat it, and the descendants of his house themselves may eat his food.

12 And a priest's daughter, when she marries a layman, she herself may not eat the votive offering.

13 But a priest's daughter, when she becomes a widow or divorced or there is no offspring for her, and she returns to her father's house *as in* her childhood, she may eat from her father's food, but no layman may eat it.

14 And if a man eats *the* votive offering unintentionally, then he shall add to it a fifth of it, and he shall give the votive offering to the priest.

15 And they shall not profane the Israelites' votive offerings that they present to Yahweh,

16 and so cause them, by their eating their votive offerings, to bear guilt requiring a guilt offering, because I *am* Yahweh, who consecrates them.”

Laws Concerning Acceptable Sacrificial Animals

17 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

18 “Speak to Aaron and to his sons and to all the Israelites, and say to them, ‘Anyone from the house of Israel or from the alien in Israel who presents his offering for any of their vows or for any of their freewill offerings that they present to Yahweh as a burnt offering,

19 *it must be* without defect to be acceptable for you: a male among the cattle, among the sheep, or among the goats.

20 You shall not present any *animal* in which *is* a physical defect, because it shall not be acceptable for you.

21 And if anyone brings a sacrifice of fellowship offerings for Yahweh to fulfill a vow or as a freewill offering from the cattle or from the flock, it must be without defect to be acceptable; there must not be any physical defect in it.

22 *The blind or the injured or the maimed or the seeping or one with a skin disorder or one with a skin eruption*—these you shall not present to Yahweh, nor shall you give from them an offering made by fire on the altar for Yahweh.

23 As for an ox or sheep that is deformed or that is stunted, you may present it *as* a freewill offering, but for a vow it will not be accepted.

24 And you shall not present *anything* for Yahweh *with* bruised or shattered or torn or cut-off *testicles*, and you shall not sacrifice *such* in your land.

25 And you shall not present your God's food from any of these by the hand of a foreigner, because their deformity *is* in them; a physical defect *is* in them; they shall not be accepted for you.”

26 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

27 “When an ox or a sheep or a goat is born, then it shall be under its mother *for* seven days, and from the eighth day and beyond it is acceptable as an offering made by fire for Yahweh.

28 And you shall not slaughter an ox or a sheep and its young on the same day.

29 And when you sacrifice a sacrifice of thanksgiving to Yahweh, you must sacrifice *it* to be acceptable for you.

30 It must be eaten on that day; you must not leave over *anything* from it until morning; I *am* Yahweh.

31 “Thus you shall keep my commands, and you shall do them; I *am* Yahweh.

32 “And you shall not profane my holy name, so that I may be consecrated in the midst of the Israelites; I *am* Yahweh, who consecrates you,

33 the one who brought you out from the land of Egypt to be as God for you; I *am* Yahweh.”

The Seven Annual Feasts (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 23

Introduction—The Sabbath

1 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

2 “Speak to the Israelites, and say to them, ‘The festivals of Yahweh that you shall proclaim *are* holy assemblies; these *are* my appointed times.

3 “*For* six days work is to be done, and on the seventh day *shall be* a Sabbath of complete rest, a holy assembly; you shall not do any work; it *shall be* a Sabbath for Yahweh in all your dwellings.

4 “*These are* Yahweh's appointed times, holy assemblies, which you shall proclaim at their appointed time.

Spring Feast—The Passover (14th of First Month: Nisan)—Good Friday

5 In the first month, on the fourteenth of the month at the evening *is* Yahweh's Passover.

Spring Feast—The Feast of Unleavened Bread (15th–22nd of First Month: Nisan)—Easter

6 And on the fifteenth day of this month *is* Yahweh's Feast of Unleavened Bread; *for* seven days you shall eat unleavened bread.

7 On the first day *there* shall be a holy assembly for you; you shall not do any regular work.

8 And you shall present an offering for Yahweh made by fire *for* seven days; on the seventh day *there shall be* a holy assembly; you shall not do any regular work.”

Spring Feast—The Feasts of Firstfruits

9 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

10 “Speak to the Israelites, and say to them, ‘When you come to the land that I *am about* to give to you and you reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruit of your harvest to the priest.

11 And he shall wave the sheaf before Yahweh for your acceptance; the priest shall wave it on the day after the Sabbath.

12 And on the day of your waving the sheaf you shall offer a yearling male lamb without defect as a burnt offering to Yahweh.

13 And its grain offering *shall be* two-tenths of an *ephah* of finely milled flour mixed with oil, an offering made by fire for Yahweh, an appeasing fragrance; and its libation *shall be* a fourth of a hin of wine.

14 And you shall not eat bread or roasted grain or ripe grain until this very same day, until you present your God's offering. *This must be* a lasting statute for your generations in all your dwellings.

Spring Feast—The Feasts of Weeks—Pentecost

15 “ ‘And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day of your bringing the wave offering's sheaf—*there* shall be seven full weeks.

16 Until the day after the seventh Sabbath you shall count fifty days; then you shall present a new grain offering for Yahweh.

17 You shall bring from your dwellings for a wave offering two *loaves* of bread made with two-tenths of an *ephah* of finely milled flour; they must be baked with leaven—the firstfruits belonging to Yahweh.

18 And, in addition to the bread, you shall present seven yearling male lambs without defects and one young bull and two rams—they shall be a burnt offering for Yahweh with their grain offering and their libations, an offering made by fire, an appeasing fragrance for Yahweh.

19 And you shall offer one he-goat as a sin offering and two yearling male lambs as a sacrifice of fellowship offerings.

20 And the priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits *as* a wave offering before Yahweh; in addition to *the* two male lambs, they shall be holy for Yahweh for the priest.

21 And you shall make a proclamation on this very same day; it shall be a holy assembly for you; you shall not do any regular work; *this is* a lasting statute in all your dwellings throughout your generations.

22 And when you reap the harvest of your land, you must not finish the edge of your field at your reaping, and you must not glean the remnants of your harvest—you shall leave them behind for the needy and for the alien; I *am* Yahweh your God.”

Fall Feast—The Feast of Trumpets (1st of Seventh Month: Tishri)

23 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

24 “Speak to the Israelites, saying, ‘In the seventh month, on *the* first *day* of the month, you must have a rest period, a remembrance of *the* trumpet blast, a holy assembly.

25 You must not do any regular work, and you shall present an offering made by fire to Yahweh.”

Fall Feast—The Day of Atonement (10th of Seventh Month: Tishri)

26 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

27 “Surely the Day of Atonement *is* on the tenth *day* of the seventh month; it shall be a holy assembly for you, and you shall deny yourselves, and you shall present an offering made by fire to Yahweh.

28 And you must not do any regular work on this very same day, because it *is* the Day of Atonement to make atonement for you before Yahweh your God.

29 If *there is* any person who does not deny *himself* on this very same day, then he shall be cut off from his people.

30 As for any person who does any work on this very same day, I will exterminate that person from the midst of his people.

31 You must not do any work; *it is* a lasting statute throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

32 It *is* a Sabbath of complete rest for you, and you shall deny yourselves on the ninth *day* of the month in the evening—from evening to evening you must observe your *extraordinary* Sabbath.”

Fall Feast—The Feast of Tabernacles/Booths (15th–22nd of Seventh Month: Tishri)

33 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

34 “Speak to the Israelites, saying, ‘On the fifteenth day of the seventh month, this *shall be* the Feast of Booths *for* seven days for Yahweh.

35 On the first day *there shall be* a holy assembly; you must not do any regular work.

36 *For* seven days you must present an offering made by fire to Yahweh. On the eighth day it shall be a holy assembly for you, and

you shall present an offering made by fire to Yahweh; it *is* a celebration; you must not do any regular work.

37 “These *are* Yahweh’s festivals, which you must proclaim, holy assemblies to present an offering made by fire to Yahweh—burnt offering and grain offering, sacrifice and libations, each on its proper day—

38 besides Yahweh’s Sabbaths and besides your gifts and besides your vows and besides all your freewill offerings that you give to Yahweh.

39 “Surely on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, at your gathering the land’s produce, you shall hold Yahweh’s festival for seven days; on the first day *there shall be* a rest period and on the eighth day a rest period.

40 And on the first day you shall take for yourselves the first fruit of majestic trees, branches of palm trees and branches of a leafy tree and of a brook’s poplar trees, and you shall rejoice before Yahweh your God *for* seven days.

41 And you must hold it *as* a festival for Yahweh *for* seven days in the year; *it shall be* a lasting statute throughout your generations; in the seventh month you must hold it.

42 You must live in the booths *for* seven days; all the natives in Israel must live in the booths,

43 so that your generations shall know that I made the Israelites live in booths when I brought them from the land of Egypt; I *am* Yahweh your God.”

Concluding Summary

44 Thus Moses announced to the Israelites Yahweh’s appointed times.

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Instructions for the Lampstand and Bread Table (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 24:1–9

- 1 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,
- 2 “Command the Israelites that they should bring pure olive oil *from* beaten *olives* for the light to present a lamp continually.
- 3 Aaron shall arrange for it outside the curtain of the testimony in *the* tent of assembly from evening until morning before Yahweh continually; *it shall be* a lasting statute throughout your generations.
- 4 On the pure *golden* lampstand he shall arrange for the lamps before Yahweh continually.
- 5 “And you shall take finely milled flour, and you shall bake *with* it twelve ring-shaped bread cakes: each one *shall be* two-tenths of an *ephah*.
- 6 And you shall place them *in* two rows, *six to the* row, on the pure *gold* table before Yahweh.
- 7 And you shall put pure frankincense on each row so that it shall be for the bread as a memorial offering, an offering made by fire for Yahweh.
- 8 On every Sabbath he shall arrange it in rows before Yahweh continually; *they are* from the Israelites *as* an everlasting covenant.
- 9 And it shall be for Aaron and for his sons, and they shall eat it in a holy place, because it *is* a most holy thing for him from Yahweh’s offerings made by fire—a lasting rule.”

Laws Apply Equally for Foreigners and Native-born Israelites (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 24:10–23

- 10 And an Israelite woman’s son, and he *was* an Egyptian man’s son, went out in the midst of the Israelites; and the Israelite woman’s son and an Israelite man fought in the camp.
- 11 Then the Israelite woman’s son blasphemed the name, and he cursed, so they brought him to Moses—and the name of his mother *was* Shelomith the daughter of Dibri, of the tribe of Dan.
- 12 Then they put him in custody so that *the matter* might be made clear to them in accordance with the mouth of Yahweh.
- 13 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,
- 14 “Bring the curser outside the camp, and all the hearers shall place their hands on his head, and the whole community shall stone him.
- 15 And you shall speak to the Israelites, saying, ‘Any man when he curses his God shall bear his sin.
- 16 And he who blasphemes Yahweh’s name certainly shall be put to death; the whole community certainly shall stone him. As the alien, so the native shall be put to death at blaspheming his name.
- 17 “ ‘And when a man kills any human being, he certainly shall be put to death.
- 18 And he who kills a domestic animal must repay *for* it life in place of life.
- 19 And when a man causes a physical defect in his fellow citizen according to what he has done, so it shall be done to him:
- 20 fracture in place of fracture, eye in place of eye, tooth in place of tooth—according to *the* physical defect he causes to the person, likewise it shall be caused to him. [[Exod 21:22–25](#); [Deut 19:21](#); [Matt 5:38–39](#)]
- 21 And a killer of a domestic animal must repay *for* it, and a killer of a human shall be put to death.
- 22 You must have one norm; as *for* the alien, so it must be *for* the native, because I *am* Yahweh your God.”
- 23 Thus Moses spoke to the Israelites, and they brought the curser outside the camp, and they stoned him *with* stones, and the Israelites did *just* as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

The Year of Jubilee (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 25

A Sabbath for the Land (every seventh year)

- 1 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying,
- 2 “Speak to the Israelites, and say to them, ‘When you come into the land that I *am about to* give to you, then the land shall observe a Sabbath for Yahweh.
- 3 Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and you shall gather its yield.
- 4 But in the seventh year it shall be a Sabbath of complete rest for the land—a Sabbath for Yahweh; you must not sow your field, and you must not prune your vineyard.
- 5 You must not reap your harvest’s aftergrowth, and you must not harvest the grapes of your unpruned vines—it shall be a year of complete rest for the land.
- 6 And a Sabbath of the land shall be for food for you: for you and for your slave and for your slave woman and for your hired worker and for your temporary residents who are dwelling as aliens with you;
- 7 and all its yield shall be for your domestic animal and for the wild animal, which *are* in your land to eat.

The Year of Jubilee (every fiftieth year)

8 “ ‘And you shall count for yourself seven Sabbaths of years, seven times seven years, and they shall be for you time periods of years: forty-nine years.

9 And you shall cause a loud horn blast to be heard on the seventh month on the tenth of the month; on the Day of Atonement you shall cause a ram’s horn to be heard in all your land.

10 And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and you shall proclaim a release in the land for all its inhabitants. It *is* a Jubilee; it shall be for you, and you shall return. You must return—everyone to his property and everyone to his clan.

11 You shall have the fiftieth year as a Jubilee; you must not reap its aftergrowth, and you must not harvest its unpruned vines.

12 Because it is a Jubilee, it shall be holy to you. You must eat its produce from the field.

Proper Payment Methodology (land is only leased, not sold, and the price is based on crop yield)

13 “ ‘In this Year of Jubilee each of you shall return to his property.

14 And when you sell something to your fellow citizen or *you* buy from your neighbor’s hand, you must not oppress one another.

15 You must buy from your fellow citizen according to *the* number of years after the Jubilee; he must sell to you according to *the* number of years of yield.

16 You must increase its price according to a greater number of years, but you must decrease its price according to a lesser number of years, because he is selling *its* yields to you.

17 And you must not oppress one another, but you shall revere your God, because I *am* Yahweh, your God.

Obedience Brings Blessing

18 “ ‘And you shall do my statutes, and you must keep my regulations, and you shall do them, so that you shall live securely on the land.

19 And the land shall give its fruit, and you shall eat your fill, and you shall live securely on it.

20 And if you should say, “What shall we eat in the seventh year, if we do not sow and we do not gather its yield?”

21 then I will command my blessing for you in the sixth year, so that it will make the yield for three years.

22 And you will sow *in* the eighth year, and you shall eat from the old yield; until the ninth year, until the coming of its yield, you shall eat *the* old *yield*.

Redemption and Release of Land (to prevent the land from ending up in the hands of a few wealthy families)

23 “ ‘But the land must not be sold in perpetuity, because the land *is* mine, because you *are* aliens and temporary residents with me.

24 And in all your property’s land you must provide redemption for the land.

25 “ ‘When your brother becomes poor and he sells part of his property, then his nearest redeemer shall come, and he shall redeem the thing sold by his brother.

26 But if a man does not have a redeemer, then he prospers and he finds enough for his redemption,

27 then he shall calculate the years of its selling, and he shall refund the balance to the man to whom he sold *it*, and he shall return to his property.

28 But if his hand does not find enough to refund to him, then what he has sold shall be in the buyer’s hand until the Year of Jubilee; and it shall go out *of the buyer’s hand* in the Jubilee, and he shall return to his property.

Redemption of City Homes

29 “ ‘And if a man sells a residential house in a walled city, then it shall be his redemption until completing a year after his selling; its redemption shall last a year.

30 But if it is not redeemed before a full year has passed, then the house that *is* in the walled city shall belong to the buyer in perpetuity throughout his generations; it shall not go out *of the buyer’s hand* in the Jubilee.

Redemption and Release of Village Homes

31 However, village houses that have no surrounding wall shall be considered open country; *there* is redemption for it, and in the Jubilee it shall go out *of the buyer’s hand*.

Levitical Homes and Land Exempted

32 “ ‘As for the cities of the Levites, *that is*, the houses in their property’s cities, it shall be a lasting redemption for the Levites.

33 And whatever *anyone* redeems from the Levites then must go out *of the buyer’s hand* in the Jubilee, *including* a house’s selling in his city’s property, because the houses in the cities of the Levites *are* their property in the midst of the Israelites.

34 But a field of their cities’ pastureland must not be sold, because it is their property for all time.

Proper Treatment of the Poor

35 “ ‘And if your countryman becomes poor and if he becomes dependent on you, then you shall support him *like* an alien and *like* a temporary resident, and he shall live with you.

36 You must not take interest or usury from him, but you shall revere your God, and your countryman shall live with you.

37 You must not give your money to him with interest or give your food for profit.

38 I *am* Yahweh your God, who brought you out from the land of Egypt to give you the land of Canaan, to be as God for you.

Release of Indentured Israelites

39 “ ‘And if your countryman *who is* with you becomes poor, and he is sold to you, you shall not treat him as a slave.

40 He shall be with you like a hired worker, like a temporary resident; he shall work with you until the Year of Jubilee.

41 And he and his sons with him shall go out from you, and he shall return to his clan, and to the property of his ancestors he shall return.

42 Because they *are* my servants whom I brought out from the land of Egypt, they shall not be sold as a slave.

43 You shall not rule over him with ruthlessness, but you shall revere your God.

Ownership of Non-Israelite Slaves

44 “ ‘As for your slave and your slave woman who are yours, from the nations that *are* all around you, from them you may buy a slave or a slave woman.

45 And you may buy also from the children of the temporary residents who are dwelling with you as aliens and from their clan who are with you, who have children in your land; indeed, they may be as property for you.

46 And you may pass them on as an inheritance to your sons after you to take possession of as property for all time—you may let them work. But *as for* your countrymen, the Israelites, you shall not rule with ruthlessness over one another.

Redemption of Indentured Israelites from Non-Israelites

47 “ ‘And if *the* alien or *the* temporary resident *who are* with you prosper, but your countryman *who is* with him becomes poor and he is sold to an alien, a temporary resident *who is* with you, or to a descendant of an alien’s clan,

48 after he is sold redemption shall be for him; one of his brothers may redeem him,

49 or his uncle or his uncle’s son may redeem him, or one of his close relatives from his clan may redeem him; or *if* he prospers, he may redeem himself.

50 And he shall calculate with his buyer from the year of his selling himself until the Jubilee; and the value of his selling shall be according to the number of years—it shall be with him like a hired worker’s days.

51 If *there are* still many years, in keeping with them he shall restore his redemption in proportion to his purchase price.

52 And if *there are* a few years left until the Year of Jubilee, then he shall calculate for himself; he shall restore his redemption according to the number of his years.

Treatment and Eventual Release of Indentured Israelites from Non-Israelites

53 He shall be with him as a yearly hired worker; he shall not rule over him with ruthlessness in your sight.

54 And if he is not redeemed by *any of these ways*, then he and his sons with him shall go out in the Year of Jubilee.

55 Indeed, the Israelites *are* servants for me; they *are* my servants whom I brought out from the land of Egypt. I *am* Yahweh your God.”

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Blessings for Obedience and Curses for Disobedience (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 26

Fundamentals of the Law

- 1 “ You shall not make for yourselves idols and divine images, and you shall not raise up stone pillars for yourselves, and you shall not put a sculptured stone in your land in order to worship before it, because I *am* Yahweh your God.
- 2 “ You shall keep my Sabbaths, and you shall revere my sanctuary; I *am* Yahweh.

Promised Blessings for Obedience

- 3 “ If you walk in my statutes and you keep my commands and you do them,
- 4 then I will give you rains in their time, and the land shall give its produce, and the trees of the field shall give their fruit.
- 5 And for you *the* threshing season shall overtake *the* grape harvest, and the grape harvest shall overtake *the* sowing, and you shall eat your food to your fill and you shall live securely in your land.
- 6 And I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and there shall not be anybody who makes you afraid, and I will remove harmful animals from the land, and no sword shall pass through your land.
- 7 And you shall pursue your enemies, and they shall fall by the sword before you.
- 8 And five of you shall pursue a hundred, and a hundred of you shall pursue a myriad; and your enemies shall fall by the sword before you.
- 9 And I will turn to you, and I will make you fruitful, and I will make you numerous; and I will keep my covenant with you.
- 10 And you shall eat old grain, and you shall clear away the old before the new.
- 11 And I will put my dwelling place in your midst, and my inner self shall not abhor you.
- 12 And I will walk about in your midst, and I shall be your God, and you shall be my people. [\[2 Cor 6:16\]](#)
- 13 I *am* Yahweh, your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, from being their slaves; and I broke the bars of your yoke, and I caused you to walk erectly.

Promised Curses for Disobedience

- 14 “ But if you do not listen to me and you do not carry out all these commands,
- 15 and if you reject my statutes and if your inner self abhors my regulations, to not carry out all my commands *by* your breaking my covenant,
- 16 I in turn will do this to you: then I will summon onto you horror, the wasting disease, and the fever that wastes eyes and that drains away life; and you shall sow your seed in vain, and your enemies shall eat it.
- 17 And I will set my face against you, and you shall be defeated before your enemies; and your haters shall rule over you, and you shall flee away, but there shall not be anybody who is pursuing you.
- 18 “ And if in spite of these *things* you do not listen to me, then I will continue to discipline you seven times for your sins.
- 19 And I will break the pride of your strength; and I will make your heaven like iron and your land like copper.
- 20 And your strength shall be consumed in vain; and your land shall not give its produce, and the land’s trees shall not give their fruit.
- 21 “ And if you go against me *in* hostility and you are not willing to listen to me, then I will add a plague onto you seven times according to your sins.
- 22 And I will send wild animals out among you, and they shall make you childless, and they shall cut down your domestic animals, and they shall make you fewer; and your roads shall be desolate.
- 23 “ And if you do not accept correction from me through these *things*, but you go against me *in* hostility,
- 24 then I myself will also go against you in hostility, and I myself also will strike you seven times for your sins.
- 25 And I will bring upon you a sword that seeks vengeance *for* the covenant, and you shall be gathered to your cities; and I will send a plague in your midst, and you shall be given into *the* hand of an enemy.
- 26 At my breaking *the* supply of bread for you, then ten women shall bake your bread in one oven, and they shall return your bread by weight; and you shall eat *it*, and you shall not be satisfied.
- 27 “ And if through this you do not listen to me and you go against me in hostility,
- 28 then I will go against you in hostile anger, and also I myself will discipline you seven times for your sins.
- 29 And you shall eat the flesh of your sons; and the flesh of your daughters you shall eat.
- 30 And I will destroy your high places, and I will cut down your incense altars, and I will place your corpses on your idols’ corpses; and my inner self shall abhor you.
- 31 And I will lay your cities *in* ruins, and I will lay waste your sanctuaries; and I shall not smell your *sacrifices’* appeasing fragrance.
- 32 And I myself will lay waste the land, and your enemies who are living in it shall be appalled over it.
- 33 And I will scatter you among the nations, and I will draw a sword behind you; and your land shall be a desolation, and your cities shall be a ruin.
- 34 Then the land shall enjoy its Sabbaths all the days of its lying desolate, and you *shall be* in the land of your enemies; then the land shall rest, and it shall enjoy its Sabbaths. [\[2 Chr 36:15–21; Jer 29:8–14\]](#)
- 35 All the days of its lying desolate it shall rest *for the time* that it had not rested during your Sabbaths while you were living on it.

36 As for the ones who remain among you, I will bring fearfulness in their hearts in the land of their enemies; and a sound of a windblown leaf shall pursue them, and they shall flee *like* flight before a sword, and they shall fall, but there shall not be a pursuer.
 37 And they shall stumble over one another as from before a sword, but there shall not be a pursuer; and you shall have no resistance before your enemies.
 38 And you shall perish among the nations, and the land of your enemies shall eat you.
 39 And because of their guilt, the ones among you who remain shall decay in the land of their enemies; and also because of the iniquities of their ancestors, they shall decay with them.

Promised Restoration for Repentance—A Way Back from Apostasy

40 “But when they confess their guilt and the guilt of their ancestors in their infidelity that they displayed against me, and moreover that they went against me in hostility—
 41 I myself also went against them in hostility, and I brought them into the land of their enemies—or *if* then their uncircumcised heart is humbled and then they pay for their guilt,
 42 I will remember my covenant *with* Jacob; and I will remember also my covenant *with* Isaac and also my covenant *with* Abraham, and I will remember the land.
 43 And the land shall be deserted by them, and it shall enjoy its Sabbaths in its being desolate from them, and they themselves must pay for their guilt, simply because they rejected my regulations, and their inner self abhorred my statutes.
 44 And in spite of this, when they are in the land of their enemies I will not reject them, and I will not abhor them to destroy them, to break my covenant with them, because I *am* Yahweh their God.
 45 And I will remember *the* first covenant for them—whom I brought out from the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations to be their God. I *am* Yahweh.”

Summary

46 These are the rules and the regulations and the laws that Yahweh gave between himself and the Israelites on Mount Sinai through Moses.

Vows (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 27

Vows Involving People and Animals

1 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,
 2 “Speak to the Israelites, and say to them, ‘When a man makes a vow according to your proper value *of* persons to Yahweh,
 3 if your proper value is *for* a male from twenty years of age up to sixty years of age, then your proper value shall be fifty shekels *of* money according to the sanctuary’s shekel.
 4 But if it *is for* a female, then your proper value shall be thirty shekels.
 5 And if from five years of age up to twenty years of age, then your proper value shall be twenty shekels *for* the male and ten shekels for the female.
 6 And if from a month of age up to five years of age, then your proper value shall be five shekels *of* money *for* the male, and your proper value for the female *shall be* three shekels *of* money.
 7 And if from sixty years of age and above: if a male, then your proper value shall be fifteen shekels; and for the female, ten shekels.
 8 But if he *is* poorer than your proper value, then he shall present himself before the priest, and the priest shall set a value *on* him; the priest shall value him according to what the person who made a vow can afford.
 9 “ ‘And if *it is* a domestic animal from which they present an offering for Yahweh, all that he gives from it for Yahweh shall be a holy object.
 10 He shall not replace it, nor shall he exchange it, *either* good with bad or bad with good; and if he indeed exchanges a domestic animal with a domestic animal, then it and its substitution shall be a holy object.
 11 But if *it is* any unclean animal from which they may not present an offering for Yahweh, then he shall present the animal before the priest.
 12 And the priest shall set a value on it, either good or bad; as the priest *sets* your proper value, so it shall be.
 13 And if he indeed wants to redeem it, then he shall add a fifth of it onto your proper value.

Dedication of Houses and Land

14 “ ‘And if a man consecrates his house *as* a holy object for Yahweh, then the priest shall set a value on it, either good or bad; *just* as the priest sets a value on it, so it shall remain.
 15 But if the one who consecrates *it* wants to redeem his house, then he shall add a fifth of your proper value’s money onto it, and it shall be his.
 16 “ ‘And if a man consecrates some of his property’s fields for Yahweh, then your proper value shall be in accordance with its seed requirements: a homer of barley seed for fifty shekels of money.

17 If he consecrates his field from the Year of Jubilee, it shall stand as your proper value.

18 But if he consecrates his field after the Jubilee, then the priest shall calculate the money for him according to the number of years that are left over until the Year of Jubilee; and it shall be deducted from your proper value.

19 And if he indeed redeems the field that is consecrated, then he shall add a fifth of your proper value's money onto it, and it shall stand for him.

20 And if he does not redeem the field and if he sells the field to another man, it may not be redeemed again,

21 and the field shall be a holy object for Yahweh when it goes out in the Jubilee, like a devoted field; it shall be the priest's property.

22 " 'And if he consecrates for Yahweh his acquired field that *is* not the field of his *inherited* possession,

23 then the priest shall calculate for him the amount of your proper value until the year of the Jubilee, and he shall give your proper value on that day *as* a holy object for Yahweh.

24 In the Year of the Jubilee the field shall return to the one who bought it from him, to the one whose property the land *is*.

Miscellaneous Regulations about Vows

25 And every proper value of yours shall be in the sanctuary's shekel—the shekel shall be twenty gerahs.

26 " 'However, a man shall not consecrate a firstborn among livestock, which belongs as firstborn to Yahweh; whether an ox or small livestock, it is for Yahweh.

27 And if *it is* among the unclean animals, then he shall ransom *it* according to your proper value, and he shall add a fifth of its *value* onto it; and if it is not redeemed, then it shall be sold according to your proper value.

28 However, anything devoted that a man has devoted to Yahweh from all that he has, from human or animal, or from the field of his property, may not be sold, and it may not be redeemed; anything devoted *is* a most holy thing for Yahweh.

29 Anyone devoted who is devoted [to destruction] from human beings cannot be ransomed—he shall surely be put to death. [cf. [Num 21:2–3](#); [Josh 6:16–19](#); [1 Sam 15](#)]

30 " 'And any tithe of the land from the land's seed *or* from the fruit of the trees *is* for Yahweh; it *is* a holy object for Yahweh.

31 And if a man indeed redeems from his tithe, he shall add a fifth of its *value* onto it.

32 As for every tithe of cattle or of the flock, all which crosses under the rod, the tenth shall be a holy object for Yahweh.

33 He shall not inspect between *the* good and *the* bad, and he shall not exchange it; but if he indeed exchanges it, then it and its substitution shall be a holy object—it shall not be redeemed."

Conclusion

34 These *are* the commands that Yahweh commanded Moses for the Israelites on Mount Sinai.

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Offerings from the Twelve Tribes of Israel – Part 5 (12 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Numbers 7:78–89

Twelfth Day Offering—Naphtali

78 On the twelfth day Ahira son of Enan, leader of the descendants of Naphtali:

79 his offering *was* one silver plate—its weight one hundred and thirty *shekels*—*and* one silver bowl for drinking *weighing* seventy shekels according to the sanctuary shekel, both of them filled *with* finely milled flour mixed with oil as a grain offering;

80 one golden dish weighing ten shekels filled *with* incense;

81 one young bull, one ram, a male lamb in its first year as a burnt offering;

82 one he-goat as a sin offering;

83 and for the sacrifice of the fellowship offering, two cattle, five rams, five he-goats, *and* five male lambs in their first year. This *was* the offering of Ahira son of Enan.

Summary

84 This *was* the dedication of the altar on *the* day of anointing it, from the leaders of Israel: twelve silver plates, twelve silver bowls for drinking wine, twelve golden dishes;

85 each plate of silver *weighed* one hundred and thirty *shekels*, and each bowl for drinking seventy, all the silver of the vessels two thousand four hundred *shekels*, according to the sanctuary shekel;

86 the twelve golden dishes filled *with* incense, each dish *weighing* ten shekels according to the sanctuary shekel, all the gold of the dishes one hundred and twenty;

87 all the cattle for the burnt offering twelve bulls, twelve rams, twelve male lambs in their first year, and their grain offering; and twelve he-goats as a sin offering;

88 and all the cattle of the sacrifice of the fellowship offering twenty-four bulls, sixty rams, sixty he-goats, sixty male lambs in their first year. These *were* the dedication of the altar after its anointing.

God Now Speaks from the Mercy Seat

89 And when Moses came to the tent of assembly to speak with him, he would hear the voice speaking to him from the atonement cover, which *is* on the ark of the testimony, from between the two cherubim, and he would speak to him.

Clarification on the Direction of the Lamps (c. 12 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Numbers 8:1–4

1 Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

2 “Speak to Aaron, and say to him: ‘When you are setting up the lamps, the seven lamps will give light in front of the face of the lampstand.’”

3 And Aaron did so; he set up the lampstand in front of the face of its lamps, just as Yahweh commanded Moses.

4 And this *is* how the lampstand was made, a hammered-work of gold; from its base up to its blossom, it *was* hammered-work according to the pattern that Yahweh showed Moses; so he made the lampstand.

Appointment of the Levites for Service (c. 12 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Numbers 8:5–26

Instructions for Consecration Ceremony

5 Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

6 “Take the Levites from the midst of the Israelites and purify them.

7 So you will do to them, to purify them: sprinkle on them waters of purification, and they will shave their whole body and wash their garments.

8 And they will take a young bull and its grain offering of finely milled flour mixed with oil, and you will take a second young bull as a sin offering.

9 You will bring the Levites before the tent of assembly, and you will summon the entire community of the Israelites.

10 And you will bring the Levites before Yahweh, and the Israelites will lay their hands on the Levites,

11 and Aaron will offer the Levites *as* a wave offering before Yahweh from the Israelites, and they will do the work of Yahweh.

12 And the Levites will lay their hands on the head of the one bull and offer *it* as a sin offering and the other one as a burnt offering to Yahweh, to make atonement for the Levites.

13 And you will present the Levites before Aaron and before his sons, and he will offer them *as* a wave offering to Yahweh.

14 “And you will separate the Levites from the midst of the Israelites, and the Levites will be for me.

Substitutionary Role of the Levites

15 And after this the Levites will come to serve *at* the tent of assembly, and you will purify them, and you will offer them *as* a wave

offering.

16 For they *are* given to me exclusively from the midst of the Israelites. I have taken them for myself in place of *the* firstborn of every womb, every firstborn from the Israelites.

17 For every firstborn among the Israelites *is* mine, both humankind and animal. On the day I destroyed every firstborn in the land of Egypt I consecrated them to me,

18 and I have taken the Levites in the place of every firstborn among the Israelites.

19 And I have given the Levites; they are given to Aaron and his sons from the midst of the Israelites to do the work of the Israelites in the tent of the assembly and to make atonement for the Israelites, so a plague will not be among the Israelites when the Israelites come near the sanctuary.”

Consecration of the Levites

20 And Moses and Aaron and the entire community of the Israelites did to the Levites; everything that Yahweh commanded Moses concerning the Levites, the Israelites did to them.

21 And the Levites purified themselves, and they washed their garments, and Aaron offered them *as* a wave offering before Yahweh; and Aaron made atonement for them to purify them.

22 After this the Levites came to do their work in the tent of assembly before Aaron and his sons. Just as Yahweh commanded Moses concerning the Levites, so they did to them.

Service and Retirement Ages

23 Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

24 “This *is* what is for the Levites: those twenty-five years old and above will come to help *with the* service in the work of the tent of assembly;

25 and those fifty years old will return from the service of the work and will serve no longer.

26 They can attend their brothers in the tent of assembly to keep *their* responsibilities, but they will not do work. This is what you will do concerning the Levites and their responsibilities.”

The Second Passover (14 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Numbers 9:1–14

Israel's Second Passover

1 Yahweh spoke to Moses in the desert of Sinai, in the second year after they came out from the land of Egypt, in the first month, saying,

2 “Let the Israelites observe the Passover at its appointed time.

3 On the fourteenth day of this month at twilight you will perform it at its appointed time according to all its decrees; and according to all its stipulations you will observe it.”

4 So Moses spoke to the Israelites to observe the Passover.

5 And they observed the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight in the desert of Sinai. According to all that Yahweh commanded Moses, thus the Israelites did.

Provision for Being Unclean at Passover (celebrate on the 14th of the 2nd month)

6 And it happened, men who were unclean by a dead person were not able to perform the Passover on that day. And they came before Moses and Aaron on that day.

7 And those men said to him, “*Although we are* unclean by a dead person, why are we hindered from presenting the offering of Yahweh at its appointed time in the midst of the Israelites?”

8 Moses said to them, “Stay. I will hear what Yahweh commands to you.”

9 And Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

10 “Speak to the Israelites, saying, ‘Each man that is unclean by a dead person or *is* on a far journey, you or your descendants, he will observe the Passover of Yahweh.

11 On the second month on the fourteenth day at twilight they will observe it; they will eat it with unleavened bread and bitter plants.

12 They will leave none of it until morning, and they will not break a bone in it; they will observe it according to every decree of the Passover.

13 But the man who *is* clean and not on a journey, and he fails to observe the Passover, that person will be cut off from the people because he did not present the offering of Yahweh on its appointed time. That man will bear his guilt.

14 If an alien dwells with you he will observe the Passover of Yahweh according to the decree of the Passover and according to its stipulation; thus you will have one decree for you, for the alien and for the native of the land.”

First Census of the Twelve Tribes (1 Iyyar [April/May] 1445 BC)

Numbers 1

Historical/Chronological Setting

1 Yahweh spoke to Moses in the desert of Sinai, in the tent of assembly, on *the* first of the month, in the second year after they came out of the land of Egypt, saying,

Instructions for the Military Conscription Census

2 “Take a census of the entire community of the Israelites according to their clans and their families, according to *the* number of names, every male individually

3 from twenty years old and above, everyone in Israel who *is able* to go to war. You and Aaron must muster them for their wars.

4 A man from each tribe will be with you, each man the head of his family.

5 And these *are* the names of the men who will assist you: from Reuben, Elizur son of Shedeur;

6 from Simeon, Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai;

7 from Judah, Nahshon son of Amminadab;

8 from Issachar, Nethanel son of Zuar;

9 from Zebulun, Eliab son of Helon.

10 From the descendants of Joseph: from Ephraim, Elishama son of Ammihud; from Manasseh, Gamaliel son of Pedahzur.

11 From Benjamin, Abidan son of Gideon;

12 from Dan, Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai;

13 from Asher, Pagiel son of Ocran;

14 from Gad, Eliasaph son of Deuel;

15 *and* from Naphtali, Ahira son of Enan.”

16 These *are* the ones summoned from the community, the leaders of their ancestors’ tribes; they *are* the heads of Israel’s clans.

Moses Directs the Census

17 So Moses and Aaron took these men who had been designated by name,

18 and they summoned the entire community on *the* first day of the second month. And they registered themselves among their clans according to their families, according to *the* number of names from those twenty years old and above individually,

19 just as Yahweh commanded Moses. And he counted them in the desert of Sinai.

Census Results by Tribe (excluding Levi)

20 The descendants of Reuben, the firstborn of Israel, their genealogies according to their clans, according to their families, according to *the* number of names, every male individually from twenty years old and above, everyone who *is able* to go to war:

21 those who were counted from the tribe of Reuben were forty-six thousand five hundred.

22 From the descendants of Simeon, their genealogies according to their clans, according to their families, those who were counted according to *the* number of their names, every individual male from twenty years old and above, everyone who *is able* to go to war:

23 those who were counted from the tribe of Simeon were fifty-nine thousand three hundred.

24 From the descendants of Gad, their genealogies according to their clans, according to their families, according to *the* number of names, from those twenty years old and above, everyone who *is able* to go to war:

25 those who were counted from the tribe of Gad were forty-five thousand six hundred and fifty.

26 From the descendants of Judah, their genealogies according to their clans, according to their families, according to *the* number of names, from those twenty years old and above, everyone who *is able* to go to war:

27 those who were counted from the tribe of Judah were seventy-four thousand six hundred.

28 From the descendants of Issachar, their genealogies according to their clans, according to their families, according to *the* number of names, from those twenty years old and above, everyone who *is able* to go to war:

29 those who were counted from the tribe of Issachar were fifty-four thousand four hundred.

30 From the descendants of Zebulun, their genealogies according to their clans, according to their families, according to *the* number of names, from those twenty years old and above, everyone who *is able* to go to war:

31 those who were counted from the tribe of Zebulun were fifty-seven thousand four hundred.

32 From the descendants of Joseph: from the descendants of Ephraim, their genealogies according to their clans, according to their families, according to *the* number of names, from those twenty years old and above, everyone who *is able* to go to war:

33 those who were counted from the tribe of Ephraim were forty thousand five hundred.

34 From the descendants of Manasseh, their genealogies according to their clans, according to their families, according to *the* number of names, from those twenty years old and above, everyone who *is able* to go to war:

35 those who were counted from the tribe of Manasseh were thirty-two thousand two hundred.

36 From the descendants of Benjamin, their genealogies according to their clans, according to their families, according to *the* number of names, from those twenty years old and above, everyone who *is able* to go to war:

37 those who were counted from the tribe of Benjamin were thirty-five thousand four hundred.

38 From the descendants of Dan, their genealogies according to their clans, according to their families, according to *the* number of names, from those twenty years old and above, everyone who *is able* to go to war:

39 those who were counted from the tribe of Dan were sixty-two thousand seven hundred.

40 From the descendants of Asher, their genealogies according to their clans, according to their families, according to *the* number of names, from those twenty years old and above, everyone who *is able* to go to war:

41 those who were counted from the tribe of Asher were forty-one thousand five hundred.

42 From the descendants of Naphtali, their genealogies according to their clans, according to their families, according to *the* number of names, from those twenty years old and above, everyone who *is able* to go to war:

43 those who were counted from the tribe of Naphtali were fifty-three thousand four hundred.

Census Summary and Total

44 These *are* the ones counted whom Moses and Aaron mustered, with the twelve leaders of Israel, each one from his family.

45 So all those who were counted from the Israelites according to their families, from those twenty years old and above, everyone in Israel who *is able* to go to war.

46 All of the ones counted were six hundred and three thousand, five hundred and fifty.

Uncounted Levites Dedicated to Tabernacle Service

47 The Levites from their ancestors' tribe were not mustered in their midst.

48 And Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

49 "You will not muster the tribe of Levi, and you will not take a census of them in the midst of the Israelites.

50 You will appoint them over the tabernacle of the testimony, over all its vessels, and over all that belongs to it. They will carry the tabernacle and all its vessels, and they will care for it; and they will camp around the tabernacle.

51 And when the tabernacle is set out, the Levites will take it down, and when encamping the tabernacle the Levites will set it up; the stranger that approaches *it* will be put to death.

52 The Israelites will encamp, each in their own camp, and each by their own banner according to their divisions.

53 But the Levites will encamp around the tabernacle of the testimony, and there will not be wrath on the community of the Israelites; and the Levites will keep the requirements of the tabernacle of the testimony."

Census Conclusion: Faithful Obedience

54 And the Israelites did thus; they did everything that Yahweh commanded Moses.

Organization of the Camp (c. 1 Iyyar [April/May] 1445 BC)

Numbers 2

Introduction

1 Yahweh spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying,

2 "The Israelites will encamp each with his standard, with a banner according to their families; they will encamp around the tent of assembly.

East Side—Judah, Issachar, Zebulun

3 The ones who encamp on the eastern side, toward the sunrise, *will be* of the standard of the camp of Judah according to their divisions; and the leader of the descendants of Judah *will be* Nahshon son of Amminadab,

4 and his division and the ones counted *are* seventy-four thousand six hundred.

5 And the ones who encamp next to him *will be* the tribe of Issachar. And the leader of the descendants of Issachar *will be* Nethanel son of Zuar,

6 and his division *are* fifty-four thousand four hundred.

7 For the tribe of Zebulun: the leader of the descendants of Zebulun *will be* Eliab son of Helon,

8 and his division and the ones counted *are* fifty-seven thousand four hundred.

9 All those counted from the camp of Judah *are* one hundred and eighty-six thousand four hundred. They will set out first according to their divisions.

South Side—Reuben, Simeon, Gad

10 "The standard of the camp of Reuben *will be* to the south according to their divisions. The leader of the descendants *will be* Elizur son of Shedeur.

11 And his division and the ones counted *are* forty-six thousand five hundred.

12 Those encamped next to him *will be* the tribe of Simeon. The leader of the descendants of Simeon *will be* Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai.

13 And his division and the ones counted *are* fifty-nine thousand three hundred.

14 For the tribe of Gad: the leader of the descendants of Gad *will be* Eliasaph son of Reuel.

15 And his division and the ones counted *are* forty-five thousand six hundred and fifty.

16 All those counted from the camp of Reuben *are* one hundred and fifty-one thousand four hundred and fifty. They will set out second according to their divisions.

The Tabernacle

17 “The tent of assembly the camp of the Levites will set out in the midst of the camps; they will set out just as they encamped, each according to their standards.

West Side—Ephraim, Manasseh, Benjamin

18 “The standard of the camp of Ephraim according to their divisions *will be* to the west. The leader of the descendants of Ephraim *will be* Elishama son of Ammihud.

19 And his division and the ones counted *are* forty thousand five hundred.

20 The tribe of Manasseh *will be* next to him. The leader of the descendants of the tribe of Manasseh *will be* Camaliel son of Pedahzur.

21 And his division and the ones counted *are* thirty-two thousand two hundred.

22 For the tribe of Benjamin: the leader of the descendants of Benjamin *will be* Abidan son of Gideoni.

23 And his division and the ones counted *are* thirty-five thousand four hundred.

24 All those counted from the camp of Ephraim *are* one hundred and eighty thousand one hundred. They will set out third according to their divisions.

North Side—Dan, Asher, Naphtali

25 “The standard of the camp of Dan according to their divisions *will be* to the west. The leader of the descendants of Dan *will be* Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai.

26 And his division and the ones counted *are* sixty-two thousand seven hundred.

27 Those encamped next to him *will be* the tribe of Asher. The leader of the descendants of Asher *will be* Pagiel son of Ocran.

28 And his division and the ones counted *are* forty-one thousand five hundred.

29 For the tribe of Naphtali: the leader of the descendants of Naphtali *will be* Ahira son of Enan.

30 And his division and the ones counted *are* fifty-three thousand four hundred.

31 All the ones counted from the camp of Dan *are* one hundred and fifty-seven thousand six hundred. They will set out last according to their divisions.”

Summary and Total

32 These *were* the ones counted of the Israelites according to their families; all those counted from the camps according to their divisions *were* six hundred and three thousand five hundred.

33 The Levites were not counted in the midst of the Israelites, just as Yahweh commanded Moses.

Conclusion: Faithful Obedience

34 And the Israelites did everything that Yahweh commanded Moses. They encamped according to their standards, and they set out each one according to their clans among their families.

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Census and Duties of Levite Clans (c. 2 Iyyar [April/May] 1445 BC)

Numbers 3–4

Introduction—The Aaronic Priesthood

- 3:1 These *are* the genealogies of Aaron and Moses at the time when Yahweh spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai.
 2 These *are* the names of the descendants of Aaron: Nadab the firstborn, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.
 3 These *are* the names of the descendants of Aaron, the priests, the anointed ones whom he consecrated as priests.
 4 Nadab and Abihu died before Yahweh when they presented a strange fire before Yahweh in the desert of Sinai, and they had no children. Eleazar and Ithamar served as priest during the presence of Aaron their father.

The Levites are Given in Service to the Priesthood

- 5 Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,
 6 “Bring near the tribe of Levi, and set the tribe before Aaron the priest, and they will minister to him.
 7 They shall observe his duties and the duties of the entire community before the tent of assembly, to do the work of the tabernacle.
 8 And they will keep all the vessels of the tent of assembly and the responsibilities of the Israelites, to do the work of the tabernacle.
 9 You will give the Levites to Aaron and to his descendants; they *are* surely assigned to him from among the Israelites.
 10 But you will count Aaron and his descendants; they will keep their priesthood, and the stranger who approaches will be put to death.”

The Purpose Behind the Levitical Census

- 11 Yahweh spoke to Moses saying,
 12 “I *myself* receive the Levites from the midst of the Israelites in the place of all *the* firstborn of *the* offspring of the womb from the Israelites. The Levites will be mine
 13 because all *the* firstborn *are* mine; on the day of my killing all *the* firstborn in the land of Egypt, I consecrated for myself all *the* firstborn in Israel, both humankind and animal; they will be mine. I am Yahweh.”

Levitical Census for Firstborn Redemption

- 14 Yahweh spoke to Moses in the desert of Sinai, saying,
 15 “Muster the descendants of Levi according to their families, according to their clans. You will count every male from one month and above.”
 16 So Moses mustered them according to the command of Yahweh, just as he commanded.
 17 These were the sons of Levi according to their names: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.
 18 And these *are* the names of the sons of Gershon according to their clans: Libni and Shimei.
 19 And the sons of Kohath according to their clans: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel.
 20 The sons of Merari according to their tribes: Mahli and Mushi. These *are* the clans of the Levites according to their families.

Clan of Gershon

- 21 To Gershon belonged the clan of the Libnites and the clan of the Shimeites; these *are* the clans of the Gershonites.
 22 The ones counted according to the number of every male from one month and above *were* seven thousand five hundred.
 23 The clans of the Gershonites will camp behind the tabernacle to the west,
 24 and the leader of the family of the Gershonites is Eliasaph son of Lael.
 25 And the responsibility of the descendants of Gershon in the tent of assembly *is* the tabernacle, and the tent covering it and the curtain of the doorway of the tent of the assembly,
 26 and the hangings of the courtyard and the curtain of the doorway of the courtyard that *is* around the tabernacle and the altar, and its ten cords, all of its use.

Clan of Kohath

- 27 To Kohath belonged the clan of Amramites, the clan of the Izharites, the clan of the Hebronites, and the clan *of* the Uzzielites; these *were* the clans of the Kohathites.
 28 According to *the* number of every male from one month and above *there were* eight thousand six hundred keeping the responsibility of the sanctuary.
 29 The clan of the descendants of Kohath will encamp on the side of the tabernacle to the south.
 30 The leader of his family according to the clans of the Kohathites *is* Elizaphan the son of Uzziel.
 31 Their responsibility *was* the ark, the table, the lampstand, the altar, and the vessels of the sanctuary, with which they ministered, and the curtain, and all of its use.
 32 The chief of the leaders of the Levites was Eleazar son of Aaron the priest *who had* oversight of those keeping the responsibility of the sanctuary.

Clan of Merari

33 To Merari belonged the clan of Mahlites and the clan of the Mushites: these *are* the clans of Merari.

34 The ones counted according to the number of every male from one month and above *were* six thousand two hundred.

35 *The* leader of the family according to the clans of Merari *is* Zuriel son of Abihail; they will encamp of the side of the tabernacle to the north.

36 The responsibility of the sons of Merari *was* the supervision of the frames of the tabernacle, its bars, pillars, bases, and all its vessels and all its service,

37 and the pillars around the courtyard, and their bases, pegs, and cords.

38 Those encamped before the tabernacle to the east—before the tent of assembly to the east—*were* Moses and Aaron and his sons; they will keep the responsibility of the sanctuary for the Israelites; and the stranger who approaches will be put to death.

Census Total

39 All those counted from the Levites whom Moses and Aaron mustered according to the word of Yahweh, according to their clans, every male from one month and above *were* twenty-two thousand.

Firstborn Israelites Redeemed With Levites

40 And Yahweh said to Moses, “Muster every firstborn male from the Israelites from one month and above and count their names.

41 And you will receive the Levites for me—I *am* Yahweh—in the place of all *the* firstborn among the Israelites, and the animals of the Levites in the place of all *the* firstborn among the animals among the Israelites.”

42 So Moses mustered all the firstborn among the Israelites just as Yahweh commanded him.

43 And all *the* firstborn males among the number of names from one month and above, the ones counted, *were* twenty-two thousand two hundred and seventy-three.

44 Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

45 “Receive the Levites in the place of all *the* firstborn among the Israelites, and the animals of the Levites in the place of their animals; the Levites will be mine. I *am* Yahweh.

Excess Israelites Redeemed With Money

46 And the ransom of the two hundred and seventy-three of the firstborn of the Israelites who are excessive over the Levites,

47 you will receive five shekels a person, in the sanctuary shekel; you will collect twenty *gerahs per* shekel.

48 You will give the money to Aaron, and to his sons the ransom of the ones who are excessive among them.”

49 And Moses received the money of the redemption from the ones who were excessive from those redeemed of the Levites.

50 From the firstborn of the Israelites he took the money, one thousand three hundred and sixty-five shekels, in the sanctuary shekel.

51 And Moses gave the money of the ransom to Aaron and to his sons according to the word of Yahweh just as Yahweh commanded Moses.

Census and Duties of Kohath Clan

4:1 Yahweh spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying,

2 “Take a census of the descendants of Kohath from the midst of the descendants of Levi, according to their clans and their families,

3 from thirty years old and above, up to fifty years old, everyone who comes to the service to do the work in the tent of assembly.

4 This *is* the work of the descendants of Kohath in the tent of assembly, concerning the holiness of the sanctuary:

5 When setting out the camp, Aaron and his sons will go and lower the curtain of the covering and cover with it the ark of the testimony.

6 They will put on it a covering of fine leather, and they will spread a cloth of perfect blue over it, and they will place its poles.

7 And over the table of the presence they will spread *out* a blue cloth and put on it the plates, dishes, and libation bowls, and the pitchers of the libation; and the bread of continuity will be on it.

8 They will spread over it a scarlet cloth, and they will cover it with a covering of fine leather, and they will place its poles.

9 They will take a blue cloth and cover the lampstand for the light source, its lamps, a pair of its tongs, its small pans, and all the vessels of its oil with which they attend to it.

10 They will put it and all its vessels inside a covering of fine leather and put it on the carrying frame.

11 Over the altar of gold they will spread a blue cloth, and they will cover it with a covering of fine leather and place its poles.

12 They will take all the vessels of the cultic service with which they serve in the sanctuary and put *them* on a blue cloth, and they will cover them with a covering of fine leather; and they will put *them* on the carrying frame.

13 They will remove the fat-soaked ashes from the altar and spread a purple cloth over it;

14 they will put on it all the vessels with which they serve, the fire pans, forks, shovels, and bowls—all the vessels of the altar. They will spread on it a covering of fine leather; and they will place its poles.

15 And when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the vessels of the sanctuary when the camp sets out, the descendants of Kohath will come after to carry *these*, but they must not touch the sanctuary, or they will die. These *are* the load

of the descendants of Kohath in the tent of assembly.

16 “Eleazar son of Aaron the priest is to supervise the oil of the light source, the incense, the regular grain offering, the oil of anointment, the supervision of all the tabernacle and all that *is* in it, in the sanctuary and in its vessels.”

17 Yahweh spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying,

18 “You must not cut off the tribe of the clan of the Kohathites from the midst of the Levites.

19 Do this to them and they will live and not die when they come near the most holy things. Aaron and his sons will go and appoint them, each one to his task and burden.

20 But they must not go and look for a moment at the holy objects.”

Census and Duties of Gershon Clan

21 Yahweh spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying,

22 “Take a census of the descendants of Gershon also, according to their families and clans,

23 from those twenty years old and above until fifty years old; you will muster them, all who come to help to do the work of the tent of assembly.

24 This *is* the work of the clans of the Gershonites: to serve and to carry.

25 They will carry the curtains of the tabernacle and the tent of assembly *and* its covering and the covering of fine leather, which is on top of it, and the curtain of the doorway of the tent of assembly,

26 and the curtains of the courtyard, and the covering for the doorway of the gate of the courtyard, which *is* all around on the tabernacle and altar, and their cords and all the vessels of their work; and all that is done to them they will do.

27 And all the work of the descendants of the Gershonites will be at the command of Aaron and his sons, for all they *are to* carry and for all their work, and you will appoint to them responsibility for all they *are to* carry.

28 This *is* the work of the clan of the descendants of the Gershonites in the tent of assembly, and their responsibility *lies* under the direction of Ithamar son of Aaron the priest.

Census and Duties of Merari Clan

29 “*For* the descendants of Merari according to their clans, according to their families, you will muster them;

30 from those thirty years old and above until fifty years old; you will muster them, all who come to do the work of the tent of assembly.

31 And this *is* the responsibility of those who are to carry, all their work in the tent of assembly: the frames of the tabernacle and its bars, pillars, and bases,

32 and the pillars of the courtyard all around, and their bases, pegs, and cords, with all their vessels and for all their work. You will appoint by name the vessels that they *are* responsible to carry.

33 This *is* the work of the clan of the descendants of Merari, for all their work in the tent of assembly under the direction of Ithamar son of Aaron the priest.”

Census Totals—Kohathites

34 And Moses and Aaron mustered the leaders of the community according to the house of their families,

35 from those thirty years old and above until fifty years old; everyone who comes to the service to work in the tent of assembly,

36 the ones counted were two thousand seven hundred and fifty.

37 These *were* those counted of the clans of the Kohathites, everyone who served in the tent of assembly whom Moses and Aaron mustered according to the command of Yahweh by the hand of Moses.

Census Totals—Gershonites

38 And the descendants of Gershon counted according to their clans and according to their families,

39 from those thirty years old and above until fifty years old, everyone who comes to the service to work in the tent of assembly;

40 the ones counted, according to their clans, according to their families, were two thousand six hundred and thirty.

41 These *were* those counted of the clans of the descendants of Gershon, everyone who serves in the tent of assembly whom Moses and Aaron mustered according to the command of Yahweh.

Census Totals—Merarites

42 Those counted of the clans of the descendants of Merari according to their clans, according to their families,

43 from those thirty years old and above until fifty years old, everyone who comes to the service to work in the tent of assembly,

44 the ones counted, according to their clans, were three thousand two hundred.

45 These *were* those counted of the clans of the descendants of Merari, whom Moses and Aaron mustered according to the command of Yahweh by the hand of Moses.

Summary

46 All those counted of the Levites whom Moses and Aaron and all the leaders of Israel mustered according to their clans, according

to their families,

47 from those thirty years old and above until fifty years old, everyone who comes to the service to do *the* work of the service carrying in the tent of assembly,

48 the ones counted were eighty thousand five hundred and eighty.

49 According to the command of Yahweh by the hand of Moses they were mustered, each man according to his service and according to their service and according to their burden; and so they were counted by him just as Yahweh commanded Moses.

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