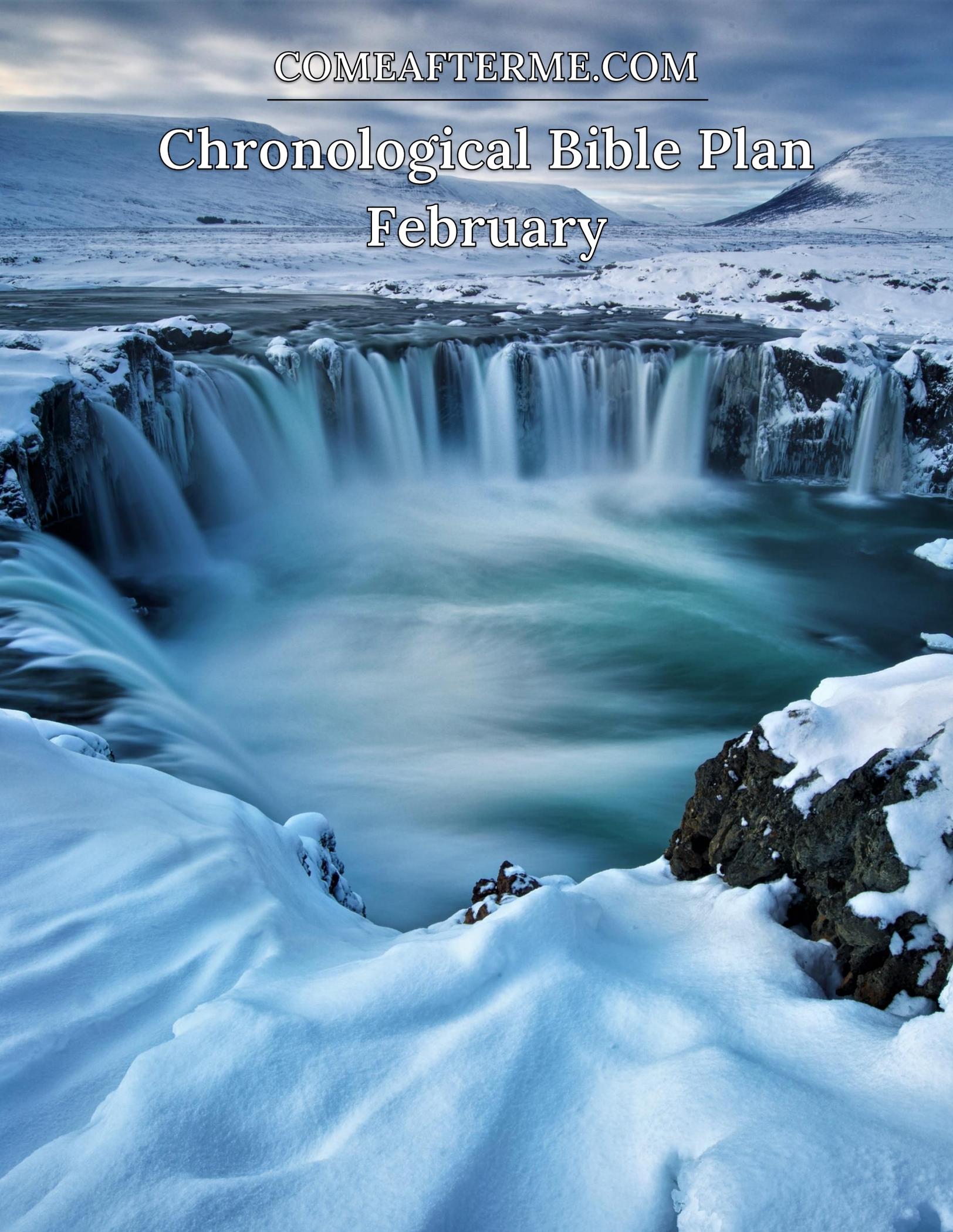


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# Chronological Bible Plan February



# FEBRUARY



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

February 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Bible Reading	<input type="checkbox"/> Prayer
February 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Bible Reading	<input type="checkbox"/> Prayer
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 In those days, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and observed their hard labor, and he saw an Egyptian man attacking a Hebrew man, one of his own people.

12 He looked this way and that and saw that no one was there, and then he attacked the Egyptian and concealed the body in the sand.

13 When he went out the next day, there were two Hebrew men fighting. So he said to the one who was in the wrong, "Why are you attacking your fellow Hebrew?"

14a The man replied, "Who made you a ruler and a judge over us? Are you planning to kill me like you killed that Egyptian?" [cf. [Acts 7:22–28](#); [Heb 11:24–26](#)]

**Moses Flees to Midian**

14b Then Moses was afraid, thinking, "Surely what I did has become known." [cf. [Acts 7:29](#)]

15 When Pharaoh heard about this event, he sought to kill Moses.

So Moses fled from Pharaoh and settled in the land of Midian, and he settled by a certain well.

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

17 When some shepherds came and drove them away, Moses came up and defended them and then watered their flock.

18 So when they came home to their father Reuel, he asked, "Why have you come home so early today?"

19 They said, "An Egyptian man rescued us from the shepherds, and he actually drew water for us and watered the flock!"

20 He said to his daughters, "So where is he? Why in the world did you leave the man? Call him, so that he may eat a meal with us."

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

Exodus 2:21–25

**Moses' Family**

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

22 When she bore a son, Moses named him Gershom, for he said, "I have become a resident foreigner in a foreign land."

**The Death of Thutmose III (c. 1450 BC)**

23 During that long period of time the king of Egypt died, and the Israelites groaned because of the slave labor. They cried out, and their desperate cry because of their slave labor went up to God.

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

25 God saw the Israelites, and God understood....

**Encounter at Mount Sinai (1447 BC)**

Exodus 3:1–4:17

**The Burning Bush**

3:1 Now Moses was shepherding the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to the mountain of God, to Horeb.

2 The angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from within a bush. He looked—and the bush was ablaze with fire, but it was not being consumed!

3 So Moses thought, "I will turn aside to see this amazing sight. Why does the bush not burn up?"

4 When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to look, God called to him from within the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am."

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

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

7 The LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt. I have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows.

8 I have come down to deliver them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up from that land to a land that is both good and spacious, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the region of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites.

9 And now indeed the cry of the Israelites has come to me, and I have also seen how severely the Egyptians oppress them.

10 So now go, and I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." [cf. [Acts 7:30–35](#)]

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

11 Moses said to God, “Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, or that I should bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

12 He replied, “Surely I will be with you, and this will be the sign to you that I have sent you: When you bring the people out of Egypt, you and they will serve God on this mountain.”

**“Who should I say sent me?”**

13 Moses said to God, “If I go to the Israelites and tell them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’—what should I say to them?”

14 God said to Moses, “I AM that I AM.” And he said, “You must say this to the Israelites, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

15 God also said to Moses, “You must say this to the Israelites, ‘The LORD—the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you. This is my name forever, and this is my memorial from generation to generation.’”

16 “Go and bring together the elders of Israel and tell them, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers, appeared to me—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—saying, “I have attended carefully to you and to what has been done to you in Egypt,

17 and I have promised that I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, to a land flowing with milk and honey.”’

18 “The elders will listen to you, and then you and the elders of Israel must go to the king of Egypt and tell him, ‘The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. So now, let us go three days’ journey into the wilderness, so that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.’

19 But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go, not even under force.

20 So I will extend my hand and strike Egypt with all my wonders that I will do among them, and after that he will release you.

21 “I will grant this people favor with the Egyptians, so that when you depart you will not leave empty-handed.

22 Every woman will ask her neighbor and the one who happens to be staying in her house for items of silver and gold and for clothing. You will put these articles on your sons and daughters—thus you will plunder Egypt!”

**“But they will not believe me”**

4:1 Moses answered again, “And if they do not believe me or pay attention to me, but say, ‘The LORD has not appeared to you’?”

2 The LORD said to him, “What is that in your hand?” He said, “A staff.”

3 The LORD said, “Throw it to the ground.” So he threw it to the ground, and it became a snake, and Moses ran from it.

4 But the LORD said to Moses, “Put out your hand and grab it by the tail”—so he put out his hand and caught it, and it became a staff in his hand—

5 “that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.”

6 The LORD also said to him, “Put your hand into your robe.” So he put his hand into his robe, and when he brought it out—there was his hand, leprous like snow!

7 He said, “Put your hand back into your robe.” So he put his hand back into his robe, and when he brought it out from his robe—there it was, restored like the rest of his skin!

8 “If they do not believe you or pay attention to the former sign, then they may believe the latter sign.

9 And if they do not believe even these two signs or listen to you, then take some water from the Nile and pour it out on the dry ground. The water you take out of the Nile will become blood on the dry ground.”

**“But I am not eloquent”**

10 Then Moses said to the LORD, “O my Lord, I am not an eloquent man, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant, for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.”

11 The LORD said to him, “Who gave a mouth to man, or who makes a person mute or deaf or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?”

12 So now go, and I will be with your mouth and will teach you what you must say.”

**“Please send someone else!”**

13 But Moses said, “O my Lord, please send anyone else whom you wish to send!”

14 Then the LORD became angry with Moses, and he said, “What about your brother Aaron the Levite? I know that he can speak very well. Moreover, he is coming to meet you, and when he sees you he will be glad in his heart.

15 “So you are to speak to him and put the words in his mouth. And as for me, I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you both what you must do.

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

17 You will also take in your hand this staff, 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 So Moses went back to his father-in-law Jethro and said to him, “Let me go, so that I may return to my relatives in Egypt and see if they are still alive.” Jethro said to Moses, “Go in peace.”

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

19 The LORD said to Moses in Midian, “Go back to Egypt, because all the men who were seeking your life are dead.”

20 Then Moses took his wife and sons and put them on a donkey and headed back to the land of Egypt, and Moses took the staff of God in his hand.

21 The LORD said to Moses, “When you go back to Egypt, see that you do before Pharaoh all the wonders I have put under your control. But I will harden his heart and he will not let the people go.

22 You must say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the LORD, ‘Israel is my son, my firstborn,

23 and I said to you, ‘Let my son go that he may serve me,’ but since you have refused – to let him go, I will surely kill your son, your firstborn!’”

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

24 Now on the way, at a place where they stopped for the night, the LORD met [Moses] and sought to kill him.

25 But Zipporah took a flint knife, cut off the foreskin of her son and touched it to [Moses’] feet, and said, “Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me.”

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

### Aaron Meets Moses at Mount Sinai

27 The LORD said to Aaron, “Go to the wilderness to meet Moses. So he went and met him at the mountain of God and greeted him with a kiss.

28 Moses told Aaron all the words of the LORD who had sent him and all the signs that he had commanded him.

### The Israelites Believe Moses and Aaron

29 Then Moses and Aaron went and brought together all the Israelite elders.

30 Aaron spoke all the words that the LORD had spoken to Moses and did the signs in the sight of the people,

31 and the people believed. When they heard that the LORD had attended to the Israelites and that he had seen their affliction, they bowed down close to the ground.

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### Chronological Notes

#### 1) The Pharaoh Who Sought to Kill Moses.<sup>1</sup>

- 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.
- 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

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

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 Afterward Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘Release my people so that they may hold a pilgrim feast to me in the desert.’”  
 2 But Pharaoh said, “Who is the LORD that I should obey him by releasing Israel? I do not know the LORD, and I will not release Israel!”  
 3 And they said, “The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Let us go a three-day journey into the desert so that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God, so that he does not strike us with plague or the sword.”  
 4 The king of Egypt said to them, “Moses and Aaron, why do you cause the people to refrain from their work? Return to your labor!”  
 5 Pharaoh was thinking, “The people of the land are now many, and you are giving them rest from their labor.”

### Pharaoh Responds By Making the Israelites Work Even Harder

6 That same day Pharaoh commanded the slave masters and foremen who were over the people:  
 7 “You must no longer give straw to the people for making bricks as before. Let them go and collect straw for themselves.  
 8 But you must require of them the same quota of bricks that they were making before. Do not reduce it, for they are slackers. That is why they are crying, ‘Let us go sacrifice to our God.’  
 9 Make the work harder for the men so they will keep at it and pay no attention to lying words!”  
 10 So the slave masters of the people and their foremen went to the Israelites and said, “Thus says Pharaoh: ‘I am not giving you straw.  
 11 You go get straw for yourselves wherever you can find it, because there will be no reduction at all in your workload.’”  
 12 So the people spread out through all the land of Egypt to collect stubble for straw.  
 13 The slave masters were pressuring them, saying, “Complete your work for each day, just like when there was straw!”  
 14 The Israelite foremen whom Pharaoh’s slave masters had set over them were beaten and were asked, “Why did you not complete your requirement for brickmaking as in the past—both yesterday and today?”  
 15 The Israelite foremen went and cried out to Pharaoh, “Why are you treating your servants this way?  
 16 No straw is given to your servants, but we are told, ‘Make bricks!’ Your servants are even being beaten, but the fault is with your people.”  
 17 But Pharaoh replied, “You are slackers! Slackers! That is why you are saying, ‘Let us go sacrifice to the LORD.’  
 18 So now, get back to work! You will not be given straw, but you must still produce your quota of bricks!”

### The Israelites Berate Moses

19 The Israelite foremen saw that they were in trouble when they were told, “You must not reduce the daily quota of your bricks.”  
 20 When they went out from Pharaoh, they encountered Moses and Aaron standing there to meet them,  
 21 and they said to them, “May the LORD look on you and judge, because you have made us stink in the opinion of Pharaoh and his servants, so that you have given them an excuse to kill us!”

### Moses Complains to Yahweh

22 Moses returned to the LORD, and said, “Lord, why have you caused trouble for this people? Why did you ever send me?  
 23 From the time I went to speak to Pharaoh in your name, he has caused trouble for this people, and you have certainly not rescued them!”  
 6:1 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh, for compelled by my strong hand he will release them, and by my strong hand he will drive them out of his land.”  
 2 God spoke to Moses and said to him, “I am the LORD.  
 3 I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name ‘the LORD’ I was not known to them.  
 4 I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, where they were living as resident foreigners.  
 5 I have also heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are enslaving, and I have remembered my covenant.  
 6 Therefore, tell the Israelites, ‘I am the LORD. I will bring you out from your enslavement to the Egyptians, I will rescue you from the hard labor they impose, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.  
 7 I will take you to myself for a people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from your enslavement to the Egyptians.  
 8 I will bring you to the land I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob—and I will give it to you as a possession. I am the LORD!’”  
 9 Moses told this to the Israelites, but they did not listen to him because of their discouragement and hard labor.

**Israel's First Rebellion (late 1447 BC)**

Ezekiel 20:5–9

5 and say to them: “This is what the sovereign LORD says: On the day I chose Israel I swore to the descendants of the house of Jacob and made myself known to them in the land of Egypt. I swore to them, “I am the LORD your God.”

6 On that day I swore to bring them out of the land of Egypt to a land which I had picked out for them, a land flowing with milk and honey, the most beautiful of all lands.

7 I said to them, “Each of you must get rid of the detestable idols you keep before you, and do not defile yourselves with the idols of Egypt; I am the LORD your God.”

8 But they rebelled against me, and refused to listen to me; no one got rid of their detestable idols, nor did they abandon the idols of Egypt. Then I decided to pour out my rage on them and fully vent my anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.

9 I acted for the sake of my reputation, so that I would not be profaned before the nations among whom they lived, before whom I revealed myself by bringing them out of 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 Then the LORD said to Moses,

11 “Go, tell Pharaoh king of Egypt that he must release the Israelites from his land.”

12 But Moses replied to the LORD, “If the Israelites did not listen to me, then how will Pharaoh listen to me, since I speak with difficulty?”

**Excursus—Genealogy of Moses and Aaron**

13 The LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron and gave them a charge for the Israelites and Pharaoh king of Egypt to bring the Israelites out of the land of Egypt.

14 These are the heads of their fathers’ households: The sons of Reuben, the firstborn son of Israel, were Hanoch and Pallu, Hezron and Carmi. These were the clans of Reuben.

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

16 Now these are the names of the sons of Levi, according to their records: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. (The length of Levi’s life was 137 years.)

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

18 The sons of Kohath were Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel. (The length of Kohath’s life was 133 years.)

19 The sons of Merari were Mahli and Mushi. These were the clans of Levi, according to their records.

20 Amram married his father’s sister Jochebed, and she bore him Aaron and Moses. (The length of Amram’s life was 137 years.)

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

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

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

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

25 Now Eleazar son of Aaron married one of the daughters of Putiel and she bore him Phinehas. These are the heads of the fathers’ households of Levi according to their clans.

26 It was the same Aaron and Moses to whom the LORD said, “Bring the Israelites out of the land of Egypt by their regiments.”

27 They were the men who were speaking to Pharaoh king of Egypt, in order to bring the Israelites out of Egypt. It was the same Moses and Aaron.

**Recapitulation of Command to Return**

28 When the LORD spoke to Moses in the land of Egypt,

29 he said to him, “I am the LORD. Tell Pharaoh king of Egypt all that I am telling you.”

30 But Moses said before the LORD, “Since I speak with difficulty, why should Pharaoh listen to me?”

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

Exodus 7:1–13

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

2 You are to speak everything I command you, and your brother Aaron is to tell Pharaoh that he must release the Israelites from his land.

3 But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and although I will multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt,  
 4 Pharaoh will not listen to you. I will reach into Egypt and bring out my regiments, my people the Israelites, from the land of Egypt with great acts of judgment.  
 5 Then the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD, when I extend my hand over Egypt and bring the Israelites out from among them.  
 6 And Moses and Aaron did so; they did just as the LORD commanded them.  
 7 Now Moses was eighty years old and Aaron was eighty-three years old when they spoke to Pharaoh.  
 8 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron,  
 9 "When Pharaoh says to you, 'Do a miracle,' and you say to Aaron, 'Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh,' it will become a snake."  
 10 When Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh, they did so, just as the LORD had commanded them—Aaron threw down his staff before Pharaoh and his servants and it became a snake.  
 11 Then Pharaoh also summoned wise men and sorcerers, and the magicians of Egypt by their secret arts did the same thing. [2 Tim 3:8]  
 12 Each man threw down his staff, and the staffs became snakes. But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs.  
 13 Yet Pharaoh's heart became hard, and he did not listen to them, just as the LORD had predicted.

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### **Chronological Notes**

- 1) The rebellion of Israel mentioned in Ezekiel 20:5–9<sup>1</sup> 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).<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>
  - 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 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).

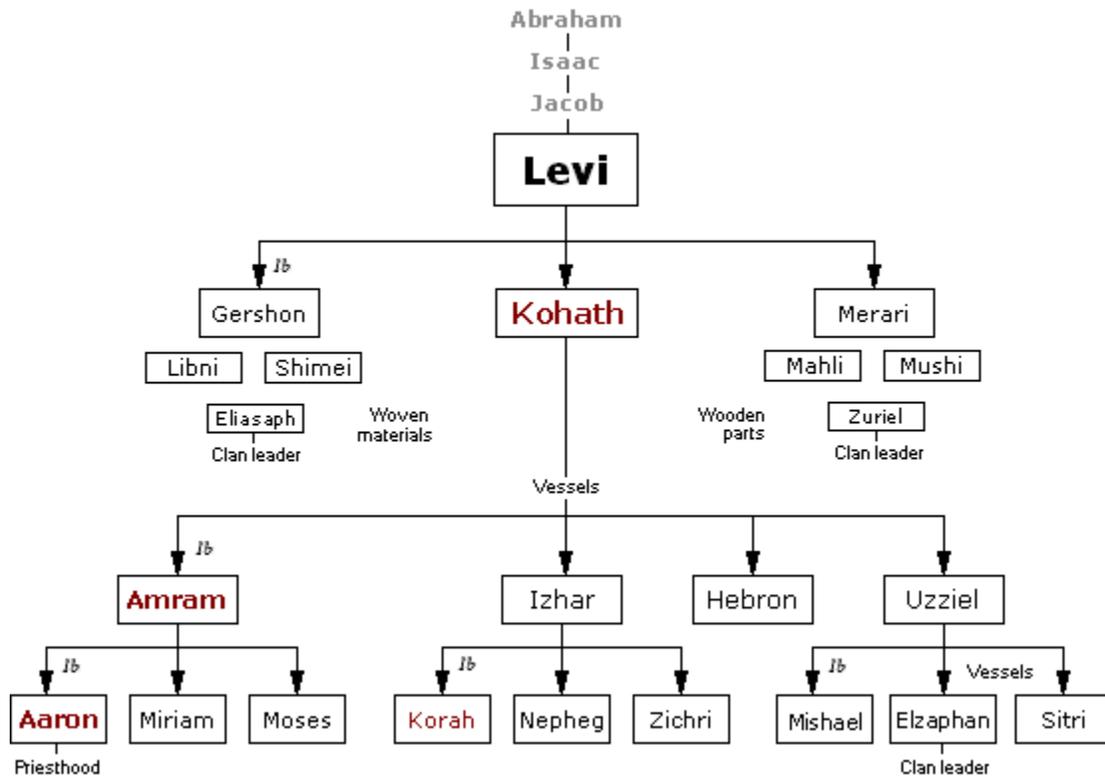
<sup>1</sup> Other references that mention Israel's idolatry while in Egypt include: Leviticus 17:7; Ezekiel 23:3, 8, 19; Joshua 24:14.

<sup>2</sup> 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).

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

**Textual Notes**

1) Genealogy of Moses.



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

Exodus 7:14–25

- 14 The LORD said to Moses, “Pharaoh’s heart is hard; he refuses to release the people.  
 15 Go to Pharaoh in the morning when he goes out to the water. Position yourself to meet him by the edge of the Nile, and take in your hand the staff that was turned into a snake.  
 16 Tell him, ‘The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to you to say, “Release my people, that they may serve me in the desert!” But until now you have not listened.  
 17 Thus says the LORD: “By this you will know that I am the LORD: I am going to strike the water of the Nile with the staff that is in my hand, and it will be turned into blood.  
 18 Fish in the Nile will die, the Nile will stink, and the Egyptians will be unable to drink water from the Nile.”’  
 19 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron, ‘Take your staff and stretch out your hand over Egypt’s waters—over their rivers, over their canals, over their ponds, and over all their reservoirs—so that it becomes blood.’ There will be blood everywhere in the land of Egypt, even in wooden and stone containers.”  
 20 Moses and Aaron did so, just as the LORD had commanded. Moses raised the staff and struck the water that was in the Nile right before the eyes of Pharaoh and his servants, and all the water that was in the Nile was turned to blood.  
 21 When the fish that were in the Nile died, the Nile began to stink, so that the Egyptians could not drink water from the Nile. There was blood everywhere in the land of Egypt!  
 22 But the magicians of Egypt did the same by their secret arts, and so Pharaoh’s heart remained hard, and he refused to listen to Moses and Aaron—just as the LORD had predicted.  
 23 And Pharaoh turned and went into his house. He did not pay any attention to this.  
 24 All the Egyptians dug around the Nile for water to drink, because they could not drink the water of the Nile.  
 25 Seven full days passed after the LORD struck the Nile.

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

Exodus 8:1–15

- 1 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and tell him, ‘Thus says the LORD: “Release my people in order that they may serve me!  
 2 But if you refuse to release them, then I am going to plague all your territory with frogs.  
 3 The Nile will swarm with frogs, and they will come up and go into your house, in your bedroom, and on your bed, and into the houses of your servants and your people, and into your ovens and your kneading troughs.  
 4 Frogs will come up against you, your people, and all your servants.”’  
 5 The LORD spoke to Moses, “Tell Aaron, ‘Extend your hand with your staff over the rivers, over the canals, and over the ponds, and bring the frogs up over the land of Egypt.”’  
 6 So Aaron extended his hand over the waters of Egypt, and frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt.  
 7 The magicians did the same with their secret arts and brought up frogs on the land of Egypt too.  
 8 Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, “Pray to the LORD that he may take the frogs away from me and my people, and I will release the people that they may sacrifice to the LORD.”  
 9 Moses said to Pharaoh, “You may have the honor over me—when shall I pray for you, your servants, and your people, for the frogs to be removed from you and your houses, so that they will be left only in the Nile?”  
 10 He said, “Tomorrow.” And Moses said, “It will be as you say, so that you may know that there is no one like the LORD our God.  
 11 The frogs will depart from you, your houses, your servants, and your people; they will be left only in the Nile.”  
 12 Then Moses and Aaron went out from Pharaoh, and Moses cried to the LORD because of the frogs that he had brought on Pharaoh.  
 13 The LORD did as Moses asked—the frogs died out of the houses, the villages, and the fields.  
 14 The Egyptians piled them in countless heaps, and the land stank.  
 15 But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and did not listen to them, just as the LORD had predicted.

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

Exodus 8:16–19

- 16 The LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron, ‘Extend your staff and strike the dust of the ground, and it will become gnats throughout all the land of Egypt.”’  
 17 They did so; Aaron extended his hand with his staff, he struck the dust of the ground, and it became gnats on people and on animals. All the dust of the ground became gnats throughout all the land of Egypt.  
 18 When the magicians attempted to bring forth gnats by their secret arts, they could not. So there were gnats on people and on animals.

19 The magicians said to Pharaoh, “It is the finger of God!” But Pharaoh’s heart remained hard, and he did not listen to them, just as the LORD had predicted.

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

Exodus 8:20–32

20 The LORD said to Moses, “Get up early in the morning and position yourself before Pharaoh as he goes out to the water, and tell him, ‘Thus says the LORD, “Release my people that they may serve me!

21 If you do not release my people, then I am going to send swarms of flies on you and on your servants and on your people and in your houses. The houses of the Egyptians will be full of flies, and even the ground they stand on.

22 But on that day I will mark off the land of Goshen, where my people are staying, so that no swarms of flies will be there, that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of this land.

23 I will put a division between my people and your people. This sign will take place tomorrow.”””

24 The LORD did so; a thick swarm of flies came into Pharaoh’s house and into the houses of his servants, and throughout the whole land of Egypt the land was ruined because of the swarms of flies.

25 Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, “Go, sacrifice to your God within the land.”

26 But Moses said, “That would not be the right thing to do, for the sacrifices we make to the LORD our God would be an abomination to the Egyptians. If we make sacrifices that are an abomination to the Egyptians right before their eyes, will they not stone us?

27 We must go on a three-day journey into the desert and sacrifice to the LORD our God, just as he is telling us.”

28 Pharaoh said, “I will release you so that you may sacrifice to the LORD your God in the desert. Only you must not go very far. Do pray for me.”

29 Moses said, “I am going to go out from you and pray to the LORD, and the swarms of flies will go away from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people tomorrow. Only do not let Pharaoh deal falsely again by not releasing the people to sacrifice to the LORD.”

30 So Moses went out from Pharaoh and prayed to the LORD,

31 and the LORD did as Moses asked—he removed the swarms of flies from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people. Not one remained!

32 But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also and did not release the people.

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

Exodus 9:1–7

1 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and tell him, ‘Thus says the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, “Release my people that they may serve me!

2 For if you refuse to release them and continue holding them,

3 then the hand of the LORD will surely bring a very terrible plague on your livestock in the field, on the horses, the donkeys, the camels, the herds, and the flocks.

4 But the Lord will distinguish between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt, and nothing will die of all that the Israelites have.”””

5 The LORD set an appointed time, saying, “Tomorrow the LORD will do this in the land.”

6 And the LORD did this on the next day; all the livestock of the Egyptians died, but of the Israelites’ livestock not one died.

7 Pharaoh sent representatives to investigate, and indeed, not even one of the livestock of Israel had died. But Pharaoh’s heart remained hard, and he did not release the people.

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

Exodus 9:8–12

8 Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “Take handfuls of soot from a furnace, and have Moses throw it into the air while Pharaoh is watching.

9 It will become fine dust over the whole land of Egypt and will cause boils to break out and fester on both people and animals in all the land of Egypt.”

10 So they took soot from a furnace and stood before Pharaoh, Moses threw it into the air, and it caused festering boils to break out on both people and animals.

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

12 But the LORD hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he did not listen to them, just as the LORD had predicted to Moses.

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

Exodus 9:13–35

- 13 The LORD said to Moses, “Get up early in the morning, stand before Pharaoh, and tell him, ‘Thus says the LORD, the God of the Hebrews: “Release my people so that they may serve me!”
- 14 For this time I will send all my plagues on your very self and on your servants and your people, so that you may know that there is no one like me in all the earth.
- 15 For by now I could have stretched out my hand and struck you and your people with plague, and you would have been destroyed from the earth.
- 16 But for this purpose I have caused you to stand: to show you my strength, and so that my name may be declared in all the earth. [[Rom 9:17](#)]
- 17 You are still exalting yourself against my people by not releasing them.
- 18 I am going to cause very severe hail to rain down about this time tomorrow, such hail as has never occurred in Egypt from the day it was founded until now.
- 19 So now, send instructions to gather your livestock and all your possessions in the fields to a safe place. Every person or animal caught in the field and not brought into the house—the hail will come down on them, and they will die!”
- 20 Those of Pharaoh’s servants who feared the word of the LORD hurried to bring their servants and livestock into the houses,
- 21 but those who did not take the word of the LORD seriously left their servants and their cattle in the field.
- 22 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Extend your hand toward the sky that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt, on people and on animals, and on everything that grows in the field in the land of Egypt.”
- 23 When Moses extended his staff toward the sky, the LORD sent thunder and hail, and fire fell to the earth; so the LORD caused hail to rain down on the land of Egypt.
- 24 Hail fell and fire mingled with the hail; the hail was so severe that there had not been any like it in all the land of Egypt since it had become a nation.
- 25 The hail struck everything in the open fields, both people and animals, throughout all the land of Egypt. The hail struck everything that grows in the field, and it broke all the trees of the field to pieces.
- 26 Only in the land of Goshen, where the Israelites lived, was there no hail.
- 27 So Pharaoh sent and summoned Moses and Aaron and said to them, “I have sinned this time! The LORD is righteous, and I and my people are guilty.
- 28 Pray to the LORD, for the mighty thunderings and hail are too much! I will release you and you will stay no longer.”
- 29 Moses said to him, “When I leave the city I will spread my hands to the LORD, the thunder will cease, and there will be no more hail, so that you may know that the earth belongs to the LORD.
- 30 But as for you and your servants, I know that you do not yet fear the LORD God.”
- 31 (Now the flax and the barley were struck by the hail, for the barley had ripened and the flax was in bud.
- 32 But the wheat and the spelt were not struck, for they are later crops.)
- 33 So Moses left Pharaoh, went out of the city, and spread out his hands to the LORD, and the thunder and the hail ceased, and the rain stopped pouring on the earth.
- 34 When Pharaoh saw that the rain and hail and thunder ceased, he sinned again: both he and his servants hardened their hearts.
- 35 So Pharaoh’s heart remained hard, and he did not release the Israelites, as the LORD had predicted through 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 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt,
- 2 “This month is to be your beginning of months; it will be your first month of the year.
- 3 Tell the whole community of Israel, ‘In the tenth day of this month they each must take a lamb for themselves according to their families—a lamb for each household.
- 4 If any household is too small for a lamb, the man and his next-door neighbor are to take a lamb according to the number of people—you will make your count for the lamb according to how much each one can eat.
- 5 Your lamb must be perfect, a male, one year old; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats.
- 6 You must care for it until the fourteenth day of this month, and then the whole community of Israel will kill it around sundown.
- 7 They will take some of the blood and put it on the two side posts and top of the doorframe of the houses where they will eat it.
- 8 They will eat the meat the same night; they will eat it roasted over the fire with bread made without yeast and with bitter herbs.
- 9 Do not eat it raw or boiled in water, but roast it over the fire with its head, its legs, and its entrails.
- 10 You must leave nothing until morning, but you must burn with fire whatever remains of it until morning.
- 11 This is how you are to eat it—dressed to travel, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. You are to eat it in haste. It is the LORD’s Passover.
- 12 I will pass through the land of Egypt in the same night, and I will attack all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both of humans and of animals, and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment. I am the LORD.
- 13 The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, so that when I see the blood I will pass over you, and this plague will not fall on you to destroy you when I attack the land of Egypt.

### Instructions Concerning the Feast of Unleavened Bread

- 14 This day will become a memorial for you, and you will celebrate it as a festival to the LORD—you will celebrate it perpetually as a lasting ordinance.
- 15 For seven days you must eat bread made without yeast. Surely on the first day you must put away yeast from your houses because anyone who eats bread made with yeast from the first day to the seventh day will be cut off from Israel.
- 16 On the first day there will be a holy convocation, and on the seventh day there will be a holy convocation for you. You must do no work of any kind on them, only what every person will eat—that alone may be prepared for you.
- 17 So you will keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread, because on this very day I brought your regiments out from the land of Egypt, and so you must keep this day perpetually as a lasting ordinance.
- 18 In the first month, from the fourteenth day of the month, in the evening, you will eat bread made without yeast until the twenty-first day of the month in the evening.
- 19 For seven days yeast must not be found in your houses, for whoever eats what is made with yeast—that person will be cut off from the community of Israel, whether a foreigner or one born in the land.
- 20 You will not eat anything made with yeast; in all the places where you live you must eat bread made without yeast.”

### Additional Instructions Concerning Participation in the Passover

- 43 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “This is the ordinance of the Passover. No foreigner may share in eating it.
- 44 But everyone’s servant who is bought for money, after you have circumcised him, may eat it.
- 45 A foreigner and a hired worker must not eat it.
- 46 It must be eaten in one house; you must not bring any of the meat outside the house, and you must not break a bone of it. [cf. [John 19:36](#)]
- 47 The whole community of Israel must observe it.
- 48 “When a foreigner lives with you and wants to observe the Passover to the LORD, all his males must be circumcised, and then he may approach and observe it, and he will be like one who is born in the land—but no uncircumcised person may eat of it.
- 49 The same law will apply to the person who is native-born and to the foreigner who lives among you.”

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

Exodus 10:1–20

- 1 The LORD said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants, in order to display these signs of mine before him,
- 2 and in order that in the hearing of your son and your grandson you may tell how I made fools of the Egyptians and about my signs that I displayed among them, so that you may know that I am the LORD.”
- 3 So Moses and Aaron came to Pharaoh and told him, “Thus says the LORD, the God of the Hebrews: ‘How long do you refuse to humble yourself before me? Release my people so that they may serve me!’
- 4 But if you refuse to release my people, I am going to bring locusts into your territory tomorrow.

5 They will cover the surface of the earth, so that you will be unable to see the ground. They will eat the remainder of what escaped—what is left over for you—from the hail, and they will eat every tree that grows for you from the field.

6 They will fill your houses, the houses of your servants, and all the houses of Egypt, such as neither your fathers nor your grandfathers have seen since they have been in the land until this day!” Then Moses turned and went out from Pharaoh.

7 Pharaoh’s servants said to him, “How long will this man be a menace to us? Release the people so that they may serve the LORD their God. Do you not know that Egypt is destroyed?”

8 So Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh, and he said to them, “Go, serve the LORD your God. Exactly who is going with you?”

9 Moses said, “We will go with our young and our old, with our sons and our daughters, and with our sheep and our cattle we will go, because we are to hold a pilgrim feast for the LORD.”

10 He said to them, “The LORD will need to be with you if I release you and your dependents! Watch out! Trouble is right in front of you!

11 No! Go, you men only, and serve the LORD, for that is what you want.” Then Moses and Aaron were driven out of Pharaoh’s presence.

12 The LORD said to Moses, “Extend your hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, that they may come up over the land of Egypt and eat everything that grows in the ground, everything that the hail has left.”

13 So Moses extended his staff over the land of Egypt, and then the LORD brought an east wind on the land all that day and all night. The morning came, and the east wind had brought up the locusts!

14 The locusts went up over all the land of Egypt and settled down in all the territory of Egypt. It was very severe; there had been no locusts like them before, nor will there be such ever again.

15 They covered the surface of all the ground, so that the ground became dark with them, and they ate all the vegetation of the ground and all the fruit of the trees that the hail had left. Nothing green remained on the trees or on anything that grew in the fields throughout the whole land of Egypt.

16 Then Pharaoh quickly summoned Moses and Aaron and said, “I have sinned against the LORD your God and against you!

17 So now, forgive my sin this time only, and pray to the LORD your God that he would only take this death away from me.”

18 Moses went out from Pharaoh and prayed to the LORD,

19 and the LORD turned a very strong west wind, and it picked up the locusts and blew them into the Red Sea. Not one locust remained in all the territory of Egypt.

20 But the LORD 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 The LORD said to Moses, “Extend your hand toward heaven so that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, a darkness so thick it can be felt.”

22 So Moses extended his hand toward heaven, and there was absolute darkness throughout the land of Egypt for three days.

23 No one could see another person, and no one could rise from his place for three days. But the Israelites had light in the places where they lived.

### 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 The LORD said to Moses, “I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt; after that he will release you from this place. When he releases you, he will drive you out completely from this place.

2 Instruct the people that each man and each woman is to request from his or her neighbor items of silver and gold.”

3 (Now the LORD granted the people favor with the Egyptians. Moreover, the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, respected by Pharaoh’s servants and by the Egyptian people.)

#### Pharaoh Bargains With Moses

10:24 Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and said, “Go, serve the LORD—only your flocks and herds will be detained. Even your families may go with you.”

25 But Moses said, “Will you also provide us with sacrifices and burnt offerings that we may present them to the LORD our God?

26 Our livestock must also go with us! Not a hoof is to be left behind! For we must take these animals to serve the LORD our God. Until we arrive there, we do not know what we must use to serve the LORD.”

27 But the LORD hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he was not willing to release them.

**Moses Warns Pharaoh About the Tenth Plague (flashback)**

11:4 Moses said, “Thus says the LORD: ‘About midnight I will go throughout Egypt,

5 and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, to the firstborn son of the slave girl who is at her hand mill, and all the firstborn of the cattle.

6 There will be a great cry throughout the whole land of Egypt, such as there has never been, nor ever will be again.

7 But against any of the Israelites not even a dog will bark against either people or animals, so that you may know that the LORD distinguishes between Egypt and Israel.’

8a All these your servants will come down to me and bow down to me, saying, ‘Go, you and all the people who follow you,’ and after that I will go out.”

**Pharaoh Refuses to Listen**

10:28 Pharaoh said to him, “Go from me! Watch out for yourself! Do not appear before me again, for when you see my face you will die!”

29 Moses said, “As you wish! I will not see your face again.”

11:8b Then Moses went out from Pharaoh in great anger.

**Summary Statement**

11:9 The LORD said to Moses, “Pharaoh will not listen to you, so that my wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt.”

10 So Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh, but the LORD 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 Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel, and told them, “Go and select for yourselves a lamb or young goat for your families, and kill the Passover animals.

22 Take a branch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and apply to the top of the doorframe and the two side posts some of the blood that is in the basin. Not one of you is to go out the door of his house until morning.

23 For the LORD will pass through to strike Egypt, and when he sees the blood on the top of the doorframe and the two side posts, then the LORD will pass over the door, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you.

24 You must observe this event as an ordinance for you and for your children forever.

25 When you enter the land that the LORD will give to you, just as he said, you must observe this ceremony.

26 When your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’—

27 then you will say, ‘It is the sacrifice of the LORD’s Passover, when he passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt, when he struck Egypt and delivered our households.’” The people bowed down low to the ground,

28 and the Israelites went away and did exactly as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron.

50 So all the Israelites did exactly as the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron. [[Heb 11:28](#)]

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

Exodus 12:29–36

29 It happened at midnight—the LORD attacked all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the prison, and all the firstborn of the cattle.

30 Pharaoh got up in the night, along with all his servants and all Egypt, and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was no house in which there was not someone dead.

31 Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron in the night and said, “Get up, get out from among my people, both you and the Israelites! Go, serve the LORD as you have requested!

32 Also, take your flocks and your herds, just as you have requested, and leave. But bless me also.”

33 The Egyptians were urging the people on, in order to send them out of the land quickly, for they were saying, “We are all dead!”

34 So the people took their dough before the yeast was added, with their kneading troughs bound up in their clothing on their shoulders.

35 Now the Israelites had done as Moses told them—they had requested from the Egyptians silver and gold items and clothing.

36 The LORD gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, and they gave them whatever they wanted, and so they plundered Egypt.

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

Exodus 12:37–42, 51	Numbers 33:1–5
<p>40 Now the length of time the Israelites lived in Egypt was 430 years.</p> <p>41 At the end of the 430 years, on the very day, all the regiments of the LORD went out of the land of Egypt.</p> <p>51 And on this very day the LORD brought the Israelites out of the land of Egypt by their regiments.</p> <p>42 It was a night of vigil for the LORD to bring them out from the land of Egypt, and so on this night all Israel is to keep the vigil to the LORD for generations to come.</p> <p>37 The Israelites journeyed from Rameses to Succoth. There were about 600,000 men on foot, plus their dependents.</p> <p>38 A mixed multitude also went up with them, and flocks and herds—a very large number of cattle.</p> <p>39 They baked cakes of bread without yeast using the dough they had brought from Egypt, for it was made without yeast—because they were thrust out of Egypt and were not able to delay, they could not prepare food for themselves either.</p>	<p>1 These are the journeys of the Israelites, who went out of the land of Egypt by their divisions under the authority of Moses and Aaron.</p> <p>2 Moses recorded their departures according to their journeys, by the commandment of the LORD; now these are their journeys according to their departures.</p> <p>3 They departed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the day after the Passover the Israelites went out defiantly in plain sight of all the Egyptians.</p> <p>4 Now the Egyptians were burying all their firstborn, whom the LORD had killed among them; the LORD also executed judgments on their gods.</p> <p>5 The Israelites traveled from Rameses and camped in Succoth.</p>

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

Exodus 13:1–16

- 1 The LORD spoke to Moses:
- 2 “Set apart to me every firstborn male—the first offspring of every womb among the Israelites, whether human or animal; it is mine.” [\[Luke 2:22–24\]](#)
- 3 Moses said to the people, “Remember this day on which you came out from Egypt, from the place where you were enslaved, for the LORD brought you out of there with a mighty hand—and no bread made with yeast may be eaten.
- 4 On this day, in the month of Abib, you are going out.
- 5 When the LORD brings you to the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Hivites, and Jebusites, which he swore to your fathers to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, then you will keep this ceremony in this month.
- 6 For seven days you must eat bread made without yeast, and on the seventh day there is to be a festival to the LORD.
- 7 Bread made without yeast must be eaten for seven days; no bread made with yeast shall be seen among you, and you must have no yeast among you within any of your borders.
- 8 You are to tell your son on that day, ‘It is because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt.’
- 9 It will be a sign for you on your hand and a memorial on your forehead, so that the law of the LORD may be in your mouth, for with a mighty hand the LORD brought you out of Egypt.
- 10 So you must keep this ordinance at its appointed time from year to year.
- 11 When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and to your fathers, and gives it to you,
- 12 then you must give over to the LORD the first offspring of every womb. Every firstling of a beast that you have—the males will be the LORD’S.
- 13 Every firstling of a donkey you must redeem with a lamb, and if you do not redeem it, then you must break its neck. Every firstborn of your sons you must redeem.
- 14 In the future, when your son asks you ‘What is this?’ you are to tell him, ‘With a mighty hand the LORD brought us out from Egypt, from the land of slavery.
- 15 When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to release us, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of people to the firstborn of animals. That is why I am sacrificing to the LORD the first male offspring of every womb, but all my firstborn sons I

redeem.’

16 It will be for a sign on your hand and for frontlets on your forehead, for with a mighty hand the LORD brought us out of 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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.<sup>1</sup>
- 3) My chronology places the Exodus on 15 Nisan 1446 BC.<sup>2</sup> 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.
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<sup>1</sup> John J. Davis, *Moses and the Gods of Egypt, Second Edition*, (BHM Books, 1986), 139–40.

<sup>2</sup> 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 When Pharaoh released the people, God did not lead them by the way to the land of the Philistines, although that was nearby, for God said, “Lest the people change their minds and return to Egypt when they experience war.”

18 So God brought the people around by the way of the desert to the Red Sea, and the Israelites went up from the land of Egypt prepared for battle.

19 Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for Joseph had made the Israelites solemnly swear, “God will surely attend to you, and you will carry my bones up from this place with you.”

20 They journeyed from Succoth and camped in Etham, on the edge of the desert.

21 Now the LORD was going before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them in the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel day or night.

22 He did not remove the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night from before the people.

6 They traveled from Succoth, and camped in Etham, which is on the edge of the wilderness.

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

Exodus 14:1–4; Numbers 33:7

Exod 14:1 The LORD spoke to Moses:

2 “Tell the Israelites that they must turn and camp before Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea; you are to camp by the sea before Baal Zephon opposite it.

3 Pharaoh will think regarding the Israelites, ‘They are wandering around confused in the land– the desert has closed in on them.’

4 I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will chase after them. I will gain honor because of Pharaoh and because of all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD.” So this is what they did.

Num 33:7 They traveled from Etham, and turned again to Pi-hahiroth, which is before Baal-Zephon; and they camped before Migdal.

### 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 When it was reported to the king of Egypt that the people had fled, the heart of Pharaoh and his servants was turned against the people, and the king and his servants said, “What in the world have we done? For we have released the people of Israel from serving us!”

6 Then he prepared his chariots and took his army with him.

7 He took six hundred select chariots, and all the rest of the chariots of Egypt, and officers on all of them.

8 But the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he chased after the Israelites. Now the Israelites were going out defiantly.

9 The Egyptians chased after them, and all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh and his horsemen and his army overtook them camping by the sea, beside Pi-hahiroth, before Baal-Zephon.

#### The Israelites Panic (Tested God #1)

10 When Pharaoh got closer, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians marching after them, and they were terrified. The Israelites cried out to the LORD,

11 and they said to Moses, “Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the desert? What in the world have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt?”

12 Isn’t this what we told you in Egypt, ‘Leave us alone so that we can serve the Egyptians, because it is better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!’”

13 Moses said to the people, “Do not fear! Stand firm and see the salvation of the LORD that he will provide for you today; for the Egyptians that you see today you will never, ever see again.

14 The LORD will fight for you, and you can be still.”

15 The LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on.

16 And as for you, lift up your staff and extend your hand toward the sea and divide it, so that the Israelites may go through the

middle of the sea on dry ground.

17 And as for me, I am going to harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will come after them, that I may be honored because of Pharaoh and his army and his chariots and his horsemen.

18 And the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I have gained my honor because of Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.”

19 The angel of God, who was going before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them.

20 It came between the Egyptian camp and the Israelite camp; it was a dark cloud and it lit up the night so that one camp did not come near the other the whole night.

### **The Crossing of the Red Sea**

21 Moses stretched out his hand toward the sea, and the LORD drove the sea apart by a strong east wind all that night, and he made the sea into dry land, and the water was divided.

22 So the Israelites went through the middle of the sea on dry ground, the water forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. [[Heb 11:29](#)]

23 The Egyptians chased them and followed them into the middle of the sea—all the horses of Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.

24 In the morning watch the LORD looked down on the Egyptian army through the pillar of fire and cloud, and he threw the Egyptian army into a panic.

25 He jammed the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving, and the Egyptians said, “Let’s flee from Israel, for the LORD fights for them against Egypt!”

26 The LORD said to Moses, “Extend your hand toward the sea, so that the waters may flow back on the Egyptians, on their chariots, and on their horsemen!”

27 So Moses extended his hand toward the sea, and the sea returned to its normal state when the sun began to rise. Now the Egyptians were fleeing before it, but the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the middle of the sea.

28 The water returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen and all the army of Pharaoh that was coming after the Israelites into the sea—not so much as one of them survived!

29 But the Israelites walked on dry ground in the middle of the sea, the water forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

30 So the LORD saved Israel on that day from the power of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the shore of the sea.

31 When Israel saw the great power that the LORD had exercised over the Egyptians, they feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

### **A Song of Praise by the Sea**

15:1 Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD. They said,

“I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously,  
the horse and its rider he has thrown into the sea.

2 The LORD is my strength and my song,  
and he has become my salvation.  
This is my God, and I will praise him,  
my father’s God, and I will exalt him.

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

4 The chariots of Pharaoh and his army he has thrown into the sea,  
and his chosen officers were drowned in the Red Sea.

5 The depths have covered them,  
they went down to the bottom like a stone.

6 Your right hand, O LORD, was majestic in power,  
your right hand, O LORD, shattered the enemy.

7 In the abundance of your majesty you have overthrown  
those who rise up against you.  
You sent forth your wrath;  
it consumed them like stubble.

8 By the blast of your nostrils the waters were piled up,  
the flowing water stood upright like a heap,  
and the deep waters were solidified in the heart of the sea.

9 The enemy said, ‘I will chase, I will overtake,  
I will divide the spoil;

my desire will be satisfied on them.  
I will draw my sword, my hand will destroy them.’

10 But you blew with your breath, and the sea covered them.  
They sank like lead in the mighty waters.

11 Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods?  
Who is like you?—majestic in holiness, fearful in praises, working wonders?

12 You stretched out your right hand,  
the earth swallowed them.

13 By your loyal love you will lead the people whom you have redeemed;  
you will guide them by your strength to your holy dwelling place.

14 The nations will hear and tremble;  
anguish will seize the inhabitants of Philistia.

15 Then the chiefs of Edom will be terrified,  
trembling will seize the leaders of Moab,  
and the inhabitants of Canaan will shake.

16 Fear and dread will fall on them;  
by the greatness of your arm they will be as still as stone  
until your people pass by, O LORD,  
until the people whom you have bought pass by.

17 You will bring them in and plant them in the mountain of your inheritance,  
in the place you made for your residence, O Lord,  
the sanctuary, O LORD, that your hands have established.

18 The LORD will reign forever and ever!

19 For the horses of Pharaoh came with his chariots and his footmen into the sea,  
and the LORD brought back the waters of the sea on them,  
but the Israelites walked on dry land in the middle of the sea.”

20 Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a hand-drum in her hand, and all the women went out after her with hand-drums and with dances.

21 Miriam sang in response to them,

“Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;  
the horse and its rider he has thrown into the sea.”

### From the Red Sea to Marah (April 1446 BC)

Exodus 15:22–23

Numbers 33:8

22 Then Moses led Israel to journey away from the Red Sea.

They went out to the Desert of Shur,  
walked for three days into the desert,  
and found no water.

23 Then they came to Marah, but they were not able to drink  
the waters of Marah, because they were bitter. (That is why its  
name was Marah.)

8 They traveled from Pi-hahiroth,  
and passed through the middle of the sea  
into the wilderness,  
and went three days’ journey in the wilderness of Etham,  
and camped in Marah.

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

Exodus 15:24–26

#### The People Complain (Tested God #2)

24 So the people murmured against Moses, saying, “What can we drink?”

25 He cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a tree. When Moses threw it into the water, the water became safe to drink.  
There the Lord made for them a binding ordinance, and there he tested them.

26 He said, “If you will diligently obey the LORD your God, and do what is right in his sight, and pay attention to his commandments,  
and keep all his statutes, then all the diseases that I brought on the Egyptians I will not bring on you, for I, the LORD, am 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

15:27 Then they came to Elim,  
where there were twelve wells of water and seventy palm  
trees, and they camped there by the water.  
16:1 When they journeyed from Elim,

the entire company of Israelites came to the Desert of Sin,  
which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the  
second month after their exodus from the land of Egypt.

Numbers 33:9–11

9 They traveled from Marah  
and came to Elim;  
in Elim there are twelve fountains of water and seventy palm  
trees, so they camped there.  
10 They traveled from Elim,  
and camped by the Red Sea.  
11 They traveled from the Red Sea  
and camped in the wilderness of Zin.

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

Exodus 16:2–36

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

2 The entire company of Israelites murmured against Moses and Aaron in the desert.  
3 The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat,  
when we ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this desert to kill this whole assembly with hunger!”

### **God Tells Moses Privately That He Intends to Test the People**

4 Then the LORD said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people will go out and gather the amount for  
each day, so that I may test them. Will they will walk in my law or not?  
5 On the sixth day they will prepare what they bring in, and it will be twice as much as they gather every other day.”

### **Grumbling Against God’s Man is Grumbling Against God**

6 Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you will know that the LORD has brought you out of the land of Egypt,  
7 and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your murmurings against the LORD. As for us, what are  
we, that you should murmur against us?”  
8 Moses said, “You will know this when the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and bread in the morning to satisfy you,  
because the LORD has heard your murmurings that you are murmuring against him. As for us, what are we? Your murmurings are not  
against us, but against the LORD.”

### **Yahweh Answers the People’s Complaint**

9 Then Moses said to Aaron, “Tell the whole community of the Israelites, ‘Come before the LORD, because he has heard your  
murmurings.’”  
10 As Aaron spoke to the whole community of the Israelites and they looked toward the desert, there the glory of the LORD appeared  
in the cloud,  
11 and the LORD spoke to Moses:  
12 “I have heard the murmurings of the Israelites. Tell them, ‘During the evening you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be  
satisfied with bread, so that you may know that I am the LORD your God.’”

### **God Provides Quail in the Evening and Manna in the Morning**

13 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 When the layer of dew had evaporated, there on the surface of the desert was a thin flaky substance, thin like frost on the earth.  
15 When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” because they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It  
is the bread that the LORD has given you for food.  
16 “This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Each person is to gather from it what he can eat, an omer per person according to the  
number of your people; each one will pick it up for whoever lives in his tent.’”  
17 The Israelites did so, and they gathered—some more, some less.  
18 When they measured with an omer, the one who gathered much had nothing left over, and the one who gathered little lacked  
nothing; each one had gathered what he could eat. [\[2 Cor 8:14–15\]](#)

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

19 Moses said to them, “No one is to keep any of it until morning.”  
20 But they did not listen to Moses; some kept part of it until morning, and it was full of worms and began to stink, and Moses was  
angry with them.

- 21 So they gathered it each morning, each person according to what he could eat, and when the sun got hot, it would melt.  
 22 And on the sixth day they gathered twice as much food, two omers per person; and all the leaders of the community came and told Moses.  
 23 He said to them, "This is what the LORD has said: 'Tomorrow is a time of cessation from work, a holy Sabbath to the LORD. Whatever you want to bake, bake today; whatever you want to boil, boil today; whatever is left put aside for yourselves to be kept until morning.'"  
 24 So they put it aside until the morning, just as Moses had commanded, and it did not stink, nor were there any worms in it.

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

- 25 Moses said, "Eat it today, for today is a Sabbath to the LORD; today you will not find it in the area.  
 26 Six days you will gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will not be any."  
 27 On the seventh day some of the people went out to gather it, but they found nothing.  
 28 So the LORD said to Moses, "How long do you refuse to obey my commandments and my instructions?  
 29 See, because the LORD has given you the Sabbath, that is why he is giving you food for two days on the sixth day. Each of you stay where you are; let no one go out of his place on the seventh day."  
 30 So the people rested on the seventh day.

#### **Manna**

- 31 The house of Israel called its name "manna." It was like coriander seed and was white, and it tasted like wafers with honey.  
 32 Moses said, "This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Fill an omer with it to be kept for generations to come, so that they may see the food I fed you in the desert when I brought you out from the land of Egypt.'"  
 33 Moses said to Aaron, "Take a jar and put in it an omer full of manna, and place it before the LORD to be kept for generations to come."  
 34 Just as the LORD commanded Moses, so Aaron placed it before the Testimony for safekeeping.  
 35 Now the Israelites ate manna forty years, until they came to a land that was inhabited; they ate manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan.  
 36 (Now an omer is one 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
<p>1 The whole community of the Israelites traveled on their journey from the Desert of Sin according to the LORD's instruction,</p> <p>and they pitched camp in Rephidim.            Now there was no water for the people to drink.</p>	<p>12 They traveled from the wilderness of Zin and camped in Dophkah.            13 And they traveled from Dophkah, and camped in Alush.            14 They traveled from Alush and camped at Rephidim, where there was no water for the people to drink.</p>

### **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 So the people contended with Moses, and they said, "Give us water to drink!" Moses said to them, "Why do you contend with me? Why do you test the LORD?"  
 3 But the people were very thirsty there for water, and they murmured against Moses and said, "Why in the world did you bring us up out of Egypt—to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?"  
 4 Then Moses cried out to the LORD, "What will I do with this people?—a little more and they will stone me!"  
 5 The LORD said to Moses, "Go over before the people; take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand your staff with which you struck the Nile and go.  
 6 I will be standing before you there on the rock in Horeb, and you will strike the rock, and water will come out of it so that the people may drink." And Moses did so in plain view of the elders of Israel.  
 7 He called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the contending of the Israelites and because of their testing the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

**Battle With the Amalekites (late May 1446 BC)**

Exodus 17:8–16

8 Amalek came and attacked Israel in Rephidim.

9 So Moses said to Joshua, “Choose some of our men and go out, fight against Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.”

10 So Joshua fought against Amalek just as Moses had instructed him; and Moses and Aaron and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

11 Whenever Moses would raise his hands, then Israel prevailed, but whenever he would rest his hands, then Amalek prevailed.

12 When the hands of Moses became heavy, they took a stone and put it under him, and Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side and one on the other, and so his hands were steady until the sun went down.

13 So Joshua destroyed Amalek and his army with the sword.

14 The LORD said to Moses, “Write this as a memorial in the book, and rehearse it in Joshua’s hearing; for I will surely wipe out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.

15 Moses built an altar, and he called it “The LORD is my Banner,”

16 for he said, “For a hand was lifted up to the throne of the LORD—that the LORD will have war 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).<sup>1</sup>

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	

<sup>1</sup> 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
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	
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 Jethro, the priest of Midian, Moses' father-in-law, heard about all that God had done for Moses and for his people Israel, that the LORD had brought Israel out of Egypt.  
2 Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, took Moses' wife Zipporah after he had sent her back,  
3 and her two sons, one of whom was named Gershom (for Moses had said, "I have been a foreigner in a foreign land"),  
4 and the other Eliezer (for Moses had said, "The God of my father has been my help and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh").  
5 Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, together with Moses' sons and his wife, came to Moses in the desert where he was camping by the mountain of God.  
6 He said to Moses, "I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you, along with your wife and her two sons with her."  
7 Moses went out to meet his father-in-law and bowed down and kissed him; they each asked about the other's welfare, and then they went into the tent.

**Jethro Believes in Yahweh**

8 Moses told his father-in-law all that the LORD had done to Pharaoh and to Egypt for Israel's sake, and all the hardship that had come on them along the way, and how the LORD had delivered them.  
9 Jethro rejoiced because of all the good that the LORD had done for Israel, whom he had delivered from the hand of Egypt.  
10 Jethro said, "Blessed be the LORD who has delivered you from the hand of Egypt, and from the hand of Pharaoh, who has delivered the people from the Egyptians' control!  
11 Now I know that the LORD is greater than all the gods, for in the thing in which they dealt proudly against them he has destroyed them."  
12 Then Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, brought a burnt offering and sacrifices for God, and Aaron and all the elders of Israel came to eat food with the father-in-law of Moses before God.

**Moses Judges the People**

13 On the next day Moses sat to judge the people, and the people stood around Moses from morning until evening.  
14 When Moses' father-in-law saw all that he was doing for the people, he said, "What is this that you are doing for the people? Why are you sitting by yourself, and all the people stand around you from morning until evening?"  
15 Moses said to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God.  
16 When they have a dispute, it comes to me and I decide between a man and his neighbor, and I make known the decrees of God and his laws."

**Jethro's Advice**

17 Moses' father-in-law said to him, "What you are doing is not good!  
18 You will surely wear out, both you and these people who are with you, for this is too heavy a burden for you; you are not able to do it by yourself.  
19 Now listen to me, I will give you advice, and may God be with you: You be a representative for the people to God, and you bring their disputes to God;  
20 warn them of the statutes and the laws, and make known to them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do.  
21 But you choose from the people capable men, God-fearing, men of truth, those who hate bribes, and put them over the people as rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.  
22 They will judge the people under normal circumstances, and every difficult case they will bring to you, but every small case they themselves will judge, so that you may make it easier for yourself, and they will bear the burden with you.  
23 If you do this thing, and God so commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all these people will be able to go home satisfied."  
24 Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he had said.  
25 Moses chose capable men from all Israel, and he made them heads over the people, rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.  
26 They judged the people under normal circumstances; the difficult cases they would bring to Moses, but every small case they would judge themselves.  
27 Then Moses sent his father-in-law on his way, and so Jethro went to his own land.

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

Exodus 19:1–2	Numbers 33:15
<p>1 In the third month after the Israelites went out from the land of Egypt, on the very day, they came to the Desert of Sinai.</p> <p>2 After they journeyed from Rephidim, they came to the Desert of Sinai, and they camped in the desert; Israel camped there in front of the mountain.</p>	<p>15 They traveled from Rephidim and camped in the wilderness of Sinai.</p>

### 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 Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, "Thus you will tell the house of Jacob, and declare to the people of Israel:

4 'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt and how I lifted you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.

5 And now, if you will diligently listen to me and keep my covenant, then you will be my special possession out of all the nations, for all the earth is mine,

6 and you will be to me 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 So Moses came and summoned the elders of Israel. He set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him,

8 and all the people answered together, "All that the LORD has commanded we will do!" So Moses brought the words of the people back to the LORD.

#### Preparations for the Meeting Between Yahweh and Israel

9 The LORD said to Moses, "I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, so that the people may hear when I speak with you and so that they will always believe in you." And Moses told the words of the people to the LORD.

10 The LORD said to Moses, "Go to the people and sanctify them today and tomorrow, and make them wash their clothes

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

12 You must set boundaries for the people all around, saying, 'Take heed to yourselves not to go up on the mountain nor touch its edge. Whoever touches the mountain will surely be put to death! [[Heb 12:20](#)]

13 No hand will touch him—but he will surely be stoned or shot through, whether a beast or a human being; he must not live.' When the ram's horn sounds a long blast they may go up on the mountain."

14 Then Moses went down from the mountain to the people and sanctified the people, and they washed their clothes.

15 He said to the people, "Be ready for the third day. Do not go near your wives."

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

Exodus 19:16–25

16 On the third day in the morning there was thunder and lightning and a dense cloud on the mountain, and the sound of a very loud horn; all the people who were in the camp trembled.

17 Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their place at the foot of the mountain.

18 Now Mount Sinai was completely covered with smoke because the LORD had descended on it in fire, and its smoke went up like the smoke of a great furnace, and the whole mountain shook violently.

19 When the sound of the horn grew louder and louder, Moses was speaking and God was answering him with a voice.

20 The LORD came down on Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain, and the LORD summoned Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

21 The LORD said to Moses, "Go down and solemnly warn the people, lest they force their way through to the LORD to look, and many of them perish.

22 Let the priests also, who approach the LORD, sanctify themselves, lest the LORD break through against them."

23 Moses said to the LORD, "The people are not able to come up to Mount Sinai, because you solemnly warned us, 'Set boundaries for the mountain and set it apart.'"

24 The LORD said to him, "Go, get down, and come up, and Aaron with you, but do not let the priests and the people force their way through to come up to the LORD, lest he break through against them."

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

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

Exodus 20:1–17

Deuteronomy 5:4–21

**Preamble**

1 God spoke all these words:

2 “I, the LORD, am your God, who brought you from the land of Egypt, from the house of slavery.

**The Ten Commandments**

3 “You shall have no other gods before me.

4 “You shall not make for yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above or that is on the earth beneath or that is in the water below.

5 You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I, the LORD, your God, am a jealous God, responding to the transgression of fathers by dealing with children to the third and fourth generations of those who reject me,

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

7 “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold guiltless anyone who takes his name in vain.

8 “Remember the Sabbath day to set it apart as holy.

9 For six days you may labor and do all your work,

10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God; on it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, or your male servant, or your female servant, or your cattle, or the resident foreigner who is in your gates.

11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that is in them, and he rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as holy. [cf. [Acts 4:24; 14:15](#)]

12 “Honor your father and your mother, [[Matt 15:4; Eph 6:2](#)]

that you may live a long time

in the land the LORD your God is giving to you.

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 give false testimony against your neighbor.

17 “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house.

You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that belongs to your neighbor.” [[Rom 7:7; 13:9](#)]

4 The LORD spoke face to face with you at the mountain, from the middle of the fire.

5 (I was standing between the LORD and you at that time to reveal to you the message of the LORD, because you were afraid of the fire and would not go up the mountain.)

He said:

6 “I am the LORD your God, he who brought you from the land of Egypt, from the place of slavery.

7 You must not have any other gods besides me.

8 You must not make for yourself an image of anything in heaven above, on earth below, or in the waters beneath.

9 You must not worship or serve them, for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God. I punish the sons, grandsons, and great-grandsons for the sin of the fathers who reject me,

10 but I show covenant faithfulness to the thousands who choose me and keep my commandments.

11 You must not make use of the name of the LORD your God for worthless purposes, for the LORD will not exonerate anyone who abuses his name that way.

12 Be careful to observe the Sabbath day just as the LORD your God has commanded you.

13 You are to work and do all your tasks in six days,

14 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God.

On that day you must not do any work, you, your son, your daughter, your male slave, your female slave, your ox, your donkey, any other animal, or the foreigner who lives with you,

so that your male and female slaves, like yourself, may have rest.

15 Recall that you were slaves in the land of Egypt and that the LORD your God brought you out of there by strength and power. That is why the LORD your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day.

16 Honor your father and your mother

just as the LORD your God has commanded you to do,

so that your days may be extended and that it may go well with you in the land that he is about to give you.

17 You must not murder.

18 You must not commit adultery.

19 You must not steal.

20 You must not offer false testimony against another.

21 You must not desire another man’s wife, nor should you crave his house, his field, his male and female servants, his ox, his donkey, or anything else he owns.” [[Matt 19:18; Mark 10:19; Luke 18:20](#)]

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

Exodus 20:18–21

18 All the people were seeing the thundering and the lightning, and heard the sound of the horn, and saw the mountain smoking—and when the people saw it they trembled with fear and kept their distance.

19 They said to Moses,

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

20 Moses said to the people, “Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you so that you do not sin.”

21 The people kept their distance, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was.

Deuteronomy 5:22a–33

22a The LORD said these things to your entire assembly at the mountain from the middle of the fire, the cloud, and the darkness with a loud voice, and that was all he said.

23 Then, when you heard the voice from the midst of the darkness while the mountain was ablaze, all your tribal leaders and elders approached me.

24 You said, “The LORD our God has shown us his great glory and we have heard him speak from the middle of the fire. It is now clear to us that God can speak to human beings and they can keep on living.

25 But now, why should we die, because this intense fire will consume us! If we keep hearing the voice of the LORD our God we will die!

26 Who is there from the entire human race who has heard the voice of the living God speaking from the middle of the fire as we have, and has lived?

27 You go near so that you can hear everything the LORD our God is saying and then you can tell us whatever he says to you; then we will pay attention and do it.”

28 When the LORD heard you speaking to me, he said to me, “I have heard what these people have said to you—they have spoken well.

29 If only it would really be their desire to fear me and obey all my commandments in the future, so that it may go well with them and their descendants forever.

30 Go and tell them, ‘Return to your tents!’

31 But as for you, remain here with me so I can declare to you all the commandments, statutes, and ordinances that you are to teach them, so that they can carry them out in the land I am about to give them.”

32 Be careful, therefore, to do exactly what the LORD your God has commanded you; do not turn right or left!

33 Walk just as he has commanded you so that you may live, that it may go well with you, and that you may live long in the land you are going to possess.

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

Exodus 20:22–22:20

### Proper Worship of Yahweh

20:22 The LORD said to Moses: “Thus you will tell the Israelites: ‘You yourselves have seen that I have spoken with you from heaven.  
 23 You must not make gods of silver alongside me, nor make gods of gold for yourselves.  
 24 ‘You must make for me an altar made of earth, and you will sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your cattle. In every place where I cause my name to be honored I will come to you and I will bless you.  
 25 If you make me an altar of stone, you must not build it of stones shaped with tools, for if you use your tool on it you have defiled it.  
 26 And you must not go up by steps to my altar, so that your nakedness is not exposed.’ [cf. [Gen 3:21](#); [1 Tim 2:9–10](#)]

### Treatment of Israelite Slaves

21:1 “These are the decisions that you will set before them:  
 2 “If you buy a Hebrew servant, he is to serve you for six years, but in the seventh year he will go out free without paying anything.  
 3 If he came in by himself he will go out by himself; if he had a wife when he came in, then his wife will go out with him.  
 4 If his master gave him a wife, and she bore sons or daughters, the wife and the children will belong to her master, and he will go out by himself.  
 5 But if the servant should declare, ‘I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,’  
 6 then his master must bring him to the judges, and he will bring him to the door or the doorposts, and his master will pierce his ear with an awl, and he shall serve him forever.  
 7 “If a man sells his daughter as a female servant, she will not go out as the male servants do.  
 8 If she does not please her master, who has designated her for himself, then he must let her be redeemed. He has no right to sell her to a foreign nation, because he has dealt deceitfully with her.  
 9 If he designated her for his son, then he will deal with her according to the customary rights of daughters.  
 10 If he takes another wife, he must not diminish the first one’s food, her clothing, or her marital rights.  
 11 If he does not provide her with these three things, then she will go out free, without paying money.

### Capital Crimes—Murder, Kidnapping and Violence against Parents

12 “Whoever strikes someone so that he dies must surely be put to death.  
 13 But if he does not do it with premeditation, but it happens by accident, then I will appoint for you a place where he may flee.  
 14 But if a man willfully attacks his neighbor to kill him cunningly, you will take him even from my altar that he may die.  
 15 “Whoever strikes his father or his mother must surely be put to death.  
 16 “Whoever kidnaps someone and sells him, or is caught still holding him, must surely be put to death.  
 17 “Whoever treats his father or his mother disgracefully must surely be put to death. [[Matt 15:4](#); [Mark 7:10](#)]

### Personal Injury by Humans

18 “If men fight, and one strikes his neighbor with a stone or with his fist and he does not die, but must remain in bed,  
 19 and then if he gets up and walks about outside on his staff, then the one who struck him is innocent, except he must pay for the injured person’s loss of time and see to it that he is fully healed.  
 20 “If a man strikes his male servant or his female servant with a staff so that he or she dies as a result of the blow, he will surely be punished.  
 21 However, if the injured servant survives one or two days, the owner will not be punished, for he has suffered the loss.  
 22 “If men fight and hit a pregnant woman and her child is born prematurely, but there is no serious injury, he will surely be punished in accordance with what the woman’s husband demands of him, and he will pay what the court decides.  
 23 But if there is serious injury, then you will give a life for a life,  
 24 eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, [[Matt 5:38–42](#)]  
 25 burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise.  
 26 “If a man strikes the eye of his male servant or his female servant so that he destroys it, he will let the servant go free as compensation for the eye.  
 27 If he knocks out the tooth of his male servant or his female servant, he will let the servant go free as compensation for the tooth.

### Personal Injury by Animals

28 “If an ox gores a man or a woman so that either dies, then the ox must surely be stoned and its flesh must not be eaten, but the owner of the ox will be acquitted.  
 29 But if the ox had the habit of goring, and its owner was warned, and he did not take the necessary precautions, and then it killed a man or a woman, the ox must be stoned and the man must be put to death.  
 30 If a ransom is set for him, then he must pay the redemption for his life according to whatever amount was set for him.  
 31 If the ox gores a son or a daughter, the owner will be dealt with according to this rule.

32 If the ox gores a male servant or a female servant, the owner must pay thirty shekels of silver, and the ox must be stoned.

#### **Damage or Destruction of Personal Property**

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

34 the owner of the pit must repay the loss. He must give money to its owner, and the dead animal will become his.

35 If the ox of one man injures the ox of his neighbor so that it dies, then they will sell the live ox and divide its proceeds, and they will also divide the dead ox.

36 Or if it is known that the ox had the habit of goring, and its owner did not take the necessary precautions, he must surely pay ox for ox, and the dead animal will become his.

#### **Theft, Accidental Property Damage & Restitution**

22:1 “If a man steals an ox or a sheep and kills it or sells it, he must pay back five head of cattle for the ox, and four sheep for the one sheep.

2 “If a thief is caught breaking in and is struck so that he dies, there will be no blood guilt for him.

3 If the sun has risen on him, then there is blood guilt for him. A thief must surely make full restitution; if he has nothing, then he will be sold for his theft.

4 If the stolen item should in fact be found alive in his possession, whether it be an ox or a donkey or a sheep, he must pay back double.

5 “If a man grazes his livestock in a field or a vineyard, and he lets the livestock loose and they graze in the field of another man, he must make restitution from the best of his own field and the best of his own vineyard.

6 “If a fire breaks out and spreads to thorn bushes, so that stacked grain or standing grain or the whole field is consumed, the one who started the fire must surely make restitution.

7 “If a man gives his neighbor money or articles for safekeeping, and it is stolen from the man’s house, if the thief is caught, he must repay double.

8 If the thief is not caught, then the owner of the house will be brought before the judges to see whether he has laid his hand on his neighbor’s goods.

9 In all cases of illegal possessions, whether for an ox, a donkey, a sheep, a garment, or any kind of lost item, about which someone says ‘This belongs to me,’ the matter of the two of them will come before the judges, and the one whom the judges declare guilty must repay double to his neighbor.

10 If a man gives his neighbor a donkey or an ox or a sheep or any beast to keep, and it dies or is hurt or is carried away without anyone seeing it,

11 then there will be an oath to the LORD between the two of them, that he has not laid his hand on his neighbor’s goods, and its owner will accept this, and he will not have to pay.

12 But if it was stolen from him, he will pay its owner.

13 If it is torn in pieces, then he will bring it for evidence, and he will not have to pay for what was torn.

14 “If a man borrows an animal from his neighbor, and it is hurt or dies when its owner was not with it, the man who borrowed it will surely pay.

15 If its owner was with it, he will not have to pay; if it was hired, what was paid for the hire covers it.

16 “If a man seduces a virgin who is not engaged and has sexual relations with her, he must surely endow her to be his wife.

17 If her father refuses to give her to him, he must pay money for the bride price of virgins.

#### **Capital Crimes—Sorcery, Bestiality and Apostasy**

18 “You must not allow a sorceress to live.

19 “Whoever has sexual relations with a beast must surely be put to death.

20 “Whoever sacrifices to a god other than the LORD alone must be utterly 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 must not wrong a foreigner nor oppress him, for you were foreigners in the land of Egypt.

22 “You must not afflict any widow or orphan.

23 If you afflict them in any way and they cry to me, I will surely hear their cry,

24 and my anger will burn and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives will be widows and your children will be fatherless.

25 “If you lend money to any of my people who are needy among you, do not be like a moneylender to him; do not charge him interest.

26 If you do take the garment of your neighbor in pledge, you must return it to him by the time the sun goes down,

27 for it is his only covering—it is his garment for his body. What else can he sleep in? And when he cries out to me, I will hear, for I am gracious.

28 “You must not blaspheme God or curse the ruler of your people. [[Acts 23:1–5](#)]

### Consecration of Firstborn

29 “Do not hold back offerings from your granaries or your vats. You must give me the firstborn of your sons.

30 You must also do this for your oxen and for your sheep; seven days they may remain with their mothers, but give them to me on the eighth day.

31 “You will be holy people to me; you must not eat any meat torn by animals in the field. You must throw it to the dogs.

### Justice, Honesty and Love

23:1 “You must not give a false report. Do not make common cause with the wicked to be a malicious witness.

2 “You must not follow a crowd in doing evil things; in a lawsuit you must not offer testimony that agrees with a crowd so as to pervert justice,

3 and you must not show partiality to a poor man in his lawsuit.

4 “If you encounter your enemy’s ox or donkey wandering off, you must by all means return it to him.

5 If you see the donkey of someone who hates you fallen under its load, you must not ignore him, but be sure to help him with it.

6 “You must not turn away justice for your poor people in their lawsuits.

7 Keep your distance from a false charge—do not kill the innocent and the righteous, for I will not justify the wicked.

8 “You must not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds those who see and subverts the words of the righteous.

9 “You must not oppress a foreigner, since you know the life of a foreigner, for you were foreigners in the land of Egypt.

### Rest for Land and People

10 “For six years you are to sow your land and gather in its produce.

11 But in the seventh year you must let it lie fallow and leave it alone so that the poor of your people may eat, and what they leave any animal in the field may eat; you must do likewise with your vineyard and your olive grove.

12 For six days you are to do your work, but on the seventh day you must cease, in order that your ox and your donkey may rest and that your female servant’s son and any hired help may refresh themselves.

13 “Pay attention to do everything I have told you, and do not even mention the names of other gods—do not let them be heard on your lips.

### Annual Feasts

14 “Three times in the year you must make a pilgrim feast to me.

15 You are to observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread; seven days you must eat bread made without yeast, as I commanded you, at the appointed time of the month of Abib, for at that time you came out of Egypt. No one may appear before me empty-handed.

16 “You are also to observe the Feast of Harvest, the firstfruits of your labors that you have sown in the field, and the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year when you have gathered in your harvest out of the field.

17 At three times in the year all your males will appear before the Lord God.

18 “You must not offer the blood of my sacrifice with bread containing yeast; the fat of my festal sacrifice must not remain until morning.

19 The first of the firstfruits of your soil you must bring to the house of the LORD your God. “You must not cook a young goat in its mother’s milk.

### Obey the Angel Yahweh Has Sent

20 “I am going to send an angel before you to protect you as you journey and to bring you into the place that I have prepared.

21 Take heed because of him, and obey his voice; do not rebel against him, for he will not pardon your transgressions, for my name is in him.

22 But if you diligently obey him and do all that I command, then I will be an enemy to your enemies, and I will be an adversary to

your adversaries.

### Conquest of Canaan Promised

23 For my angel will go before you and bring you to the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, and I will destroy them completely.

24 “You must not bow down to their gods; you must not serve them or do according to their practices. Instead you must completely overthrow them and smash their standing stones to pieces.

25 You must serve the LORD your God, and he will bless your bread and your water, and I will remove sickness from your midst.

26 No woman will miscarry her young or be barren in your land. I will fulfill the number of your days.

27 “I will send my terror before you, and I will destroy all the people whom you encounter; I will make all your enemies turn their backs to you.

28 I will send hornets before you that will drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite before you.

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

30 Little by little I will drive them out before you, until you become fruitful and inherit the land.

31 I will set your boundaries from the Red Sea to the sea of the Philistines, and from the desert to the River, for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you will drive them out before you.

32 “You must make no covenant with them or with their gods.

33 They must not live in your land, lest they make you sin against me, for if you serve their gods, it will surely 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 But to Moses the LORD said, “Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship from a distance.

2 Moses alone may come near the LORD, but the others must not come near, nor may the people go up with him.”

### The People Agree to Keep the Covenant

3 Moses came and told the people all the LORD’s words and all the decisions. All the people answered together, “We are willing to do all the words that the LORD has said,”

### Moses Writes the ‘Book of the Covenant’

4a and Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD.

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

Exodus 24:4b-11

### The Covenant is Inaugurated with Blood

4b Early in the morning he built an altar at the foot of the mountain and arranged twelve standing stones—according to the twelve tribes of Israel.

5 He sent young Israelite men, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls for peace offerings to the LORD.

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

7 He took the Book of the Covenant and read it aloud to the people, and they said, “We are willing to do and obey all that the LORD has spoken.”

8 So Moses took the blood and splashed it on the people and said, “This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD 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 Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up,

10 and they saw the God of Israel. Under his feet there was something like a pavement made of sapphire, clear like the sky itself.

11 But he did not lay a hand on the leaders of the Israelites, so they saw God, and they ate and they drank.

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

Exodus 24:12–18

12 The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me to the mountain and remain there, and I will give you the stone tablets with the law and the commandments that I have written, so that you may teach them.”

13 So Moses set out with Joshua his attendant, and Moses went up the mountain of God.

14 He told the elders, "Wait for us in this place until we return to you. Here are Aaron and Hur with you. Whoever has any matters of dispute can approach them."

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

16 The glory of the LORD resided on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days. On the seventh day he called to Moses from within the cloud.

17 Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in plain view of the people.

18 Moses went into the cloud when 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 The LORD spoke to Moses:

2 “Tell the Israelites to take an offering for me; from every person motivated by a willing heart you are to receive my offering.

3 This is the offering you are to accept from them: gold, silver, bronze,

4 blue, purple, scarlet, fine linen, goat’s hair,

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

6 oil for the light, spices for the anointing oil and for fragrant incense,

7 onyx stones, and other gems to be set in the ephod and in the breastpiece.

8 Let them make for me a sanctuary, so that I may live among them.

9 According to all that I am showing you—the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings—you must make it exactly so.

**The Ark of the Testimony**

10 “They are to make an ark of acacia wood—its length is to be three feet nine inches, its width two feet three inches, and its height two feet three inches.

11 You are to overlay it with pure gold—both inside and outside you must overlay it, and you are to make a surrounding border of gold over it.

12 You are to cast four gold rings for it and put them on its four feet, with two rings on one side and two rings on the other side.

13 You are to make poles of acacia wood, overlay them with gold,

14 and put the poles into the rings at the sides of the ark in order to carry the ark with them.

15 The poles must remain in the rings of the ark; they must not be removed from it.

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

17 “You are to make an atonement lid of pure gold; its length is to be three feet nine inches, and its width is to be two feet three inches.

18 You are to make two cherubim of gold; you are to make them of hammered metal on the two ends of the atonement lid.

19 Make one cherub on one end and one cherub on the other end; from the atonement lid you are to make the cherubim on the two ends.

20 The cherubim are to be spreading their wings upward, overshadowing the atonement lid with their wings, and the cherubim are to face each other, looking toward the atonement lid.

21 You are to put the atonement lid on top of the ark, and in the ark you are to put the testimony I am giving you.

22 I will meet with you there, and from above the atonement lid, from between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the testimony, I will speak with you about all that I will command you for the Israelites.

**The Table of the Bread of the Presence**

23 “You are to make a table of acacia wood; its length is to be three feet, its width one foot six inches, and its height two feet three inches.

24 You are to overlay it with pure gold, and you are to make a surrounding border of gold for it.

25 You are to make a surrounding frame for it about three inches broad, and you are to make a surrounding border of gold for its frame.

26 You are to make four rings of gold for it and attach the rings at the four corners where its four legs are.

27 The rings are to be close to the frame to provide places for the poles to carry the table.

28 You are to make the poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold, so that the table may be carried with them.

29 You are to make its plates, its ladles, its pitchers, and its bowls, to be used in pouring out offerings; you are to make them of pure gold.

30 You are to set the Bread of the Presence on the table before me continually.

**The Golden Lampstand**

31 “You are to make a lampstand of pure gold. The lampstand is to be made of hammered metal; its base and its shaft, its cups, its buds, and its blossoms are to be from the same piece.

32 Six branches are to extend from the sides of the lampstand, three branches of the lampstand from one side of it and three branches of the lampstand from the other side of it.

33 Three cups shaped like almond flowers with buds and blossoms are to be on one branch, and three cups shaped like almond flowers with buds and blossoms are to be on the next branch, and the same for the six branches extending from the lampstand.

34 On the lampstand there are to be four cups shaped like almond flowers with buds and blossoms,

35 with a bud under the first two branches from it, and a bud under the next two branches from it, and a bud under the third two branches from it, according to the six branches that extend from the lampstand.

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

37 “You are to make its seven lamps, and then set its lamps up on it, so that it will give light to the area in front of it.

38 Its trimmers and its trays are to be of pure gold.

39 About seventy-five pounds of pure gold is to be used for it and for all these utensils.

40 Now be sure to make them according to the pattern you were shown on the mountain. [[Heb 8:4–6](#)]

### **The Tabernacle Curtains**

26:1 “The tabernacle itself you are to make with ten curtains of fine twisted linen and blue and purple and scarlet; you are to make them with cherubim that are the work of an artistic designer.

2 The length of each curtain is to be forty-two feet, and the width of each curtain is to be six feet—the same size for each of the curtains.

3 Five curtains are to be joined, one to another, and the other five curtains are to be joined, one to another.

4 You are to make loops of blue material along the edge of the end curtain in one set, and in the same way you are to make loops in the outer edge of the end curtain in the second set.

5 You are to make fifty loops on the one curtain, and you are to make fifty loops on the end curtain which is on the second set, so that the loops are opposite one to another.

6 You are to make fifty gold clasps and join the curtains together with the clasps, so that the tabernacle is a unit.

7 “You are to make curtains of goats’ hair for a tent over the tabernacle; you are to make eleven curtains.

8 The length of each curtain is to be forty-five feet, and the width of each curtain is to be six feet—the same size for the eleven curtains.

9 You are to join five curtains by themselves and six curtains by themselves. You are to double over the sixth curtain at the front of the tent.

10 You are to make fifty loops along the edge of the end curtain in one set and fifty loops along the edge of the curtain that joins the second set.

11 You are to make fifty bronze clasps and put the clasps into the loops and join the tent together so that it is a unit.

12 Now the part that remains of the curtains of the tent—the half curtain that remains will hang over at the back of the tabernacle.

13 The foot and a half on the one side and the foot and a half on the other side of what remains in the length of the curtains of the tent will hang over the sides of the tabernacle, on one side and the other side, to cover it.

14 “You are to make a covering for the tent out of ram skins dyed red and over that a covering of fine leather.

### **The Tabernacle Framework**

15 “You are to make the frames for the tabernacle out of acacia wood as uprights.

16 Each frame is to be fifteen feet long, and each frame is to be two feet three inches wide,

17 with two projections per frame parallel one to another. You are to make all the frames of the tabernacle in this way.

18 So you are to make the frames for the tabernacle: twenty frames for the south side,

19 and you are to make forty silver bases to go under the twenty frames—two bases under the first frame for its two projections, and likewise two bases under the next frame for its two projections;

20 and for the second side of the tabernacle, the north side, twenty frames,

21 and their forty silver bases, two bases under the first frame, and two bases under the next frame.

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

23 You are to make two frames for the corners of the tabernacle on the back.

24 At the two corners they must be doubled at the lower end and finished together at the top in one ring. So it will be for both.

25 So there are to be eight frames and their silver bases, sixteen bases, two bases under the first frame, and two bases under the next frame.

26 “You are to make bars of acacia wood, five for the frames on 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 back of the tabernacle on the west.

28 The middle bar in the center of the frames will reach from end to end.

29 You are to overlay the frames with gold and make their rings of gold to provide places for the bars, and you are to overlay the bars with gold.

30 You are to set up the tabernacle according to the plan that you were shown on the mountain.

### **The Tabernacle Veil**

31 “You are to make a special curtain of blue, purple, and scarlet yarn and fine twisted linen; it is to be made with cherubim, the work of an artistic designer.

32 You are to hang it with gold hooks on four posts of acacia wood overlaid with gold, set in four silver bases.

33 You are to hang this curtain under the clasps and bring the ark of the testimony in there behind the curtain. The curtain will make a division for you between the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place.

34 You are to put the atonement lid on the ark of the testimony in the Most Holy Place.

35 You are to put the table outside the curtain and the lampstand on the south side of the tabernacle, opposite the table, and you are to place the table on the north side.

#### **The Tabernacle Screen**

36 “You are to make a hanging for the entrance of the tent of blue, purple, and scarlet yarn and fine twined linen, the work of an embroiderer.

37 You are to make for the hanging five posts of acacia wood and overlay them with gold, and their hooks will be gold, and you are to cast five bronze bases for them.

#### **The Altar of Burnt Offering**

27:1 “You are to make the altar of acacia wood, seven feet six inches long, and seven feet six inches wide; the altar is to be square, and its height is to be four feet six inches.

2 You are to make its four horns on its four corners; its horns will be part of it, and you are to overlay it with bronze.

3 You are to make its pots for the ashes, its shovels, its tossing bowls, its meat hooks, and its fire pans—you are to make all its utensils of bronze.

4 You are to make a grating for it, a network of bronze, and you are to make on the network four bronze rings on its four corners.

5 You are to put it under the ledge of the altar below, so that the network will come halfway up the altar.

6 You are to make poles for the altar, poles of acacia wood, and you are to overlay them with bronze.

7 The poles are to be put into the rings so that the poles will be on two sides of the altar when carrying it.

8 You are to make the altar hollow, out of boards. Just as it was shown you on the mountain, so they must make it.

#### **The Tabernacle Courtyard**

9 “You are to make the courtyard of the tabernacle. For the south side there are to be hangings for the courtyard of fine twisted linen, one hundred fifty feet long for one side,

10 with twenty posts and their twenty bronze bases, with the hooks of the posts and their bands of silver.

11 Likewise for its length on the north side, there are to be hangings for one hundred fifty feet, with twenty posts and their twenty bronze bases, with silver hooks and bands on the posts.

12 The width of the court on the west side is to be seventy-five feet with hangings, with their ten posts and their ten bases.

13 The width of the court on the east side, toward the sunrise, is to be seventy-five feet.

14 The hangings on one side of the gate are to be twenty-two and a half feet long, with their three posts and their three bases.

15 On the second side there are to be hangings twenty-two and a half feet long, with their three posts and their three bases.

16 For the gate of the courtyard there is to be a curtain of thirty feet, of blue, purple, and scarlet yarn and fine twined linen, the work of an embroiderer, with four posts and their four bases.

17 All the posts around the courtyard are to have silver bands; their hooks are to be silver, and their bases bronze.

18 The length of the courtyard is to be one hundred fifty feet and the width seventy-five feet, and the height of the fine twisted linen hangings is to be seven and a half feet, with their bronze bases.

19 All the utensils of the tabernacle used in all its service, all its tent pegs, and all the tent pegs of the courtyard are to be made of bronze.

#### **Pure Olive Oil for Light for the Tabernacle**

20 “You are to command the Israelites that they bring to you pure oil of pressed olives for the light, so that the lamps will burn regularly.

21 In the tent of meeting outside the curtain that is before the testimony, Aaron and his sons are to arrange it from evening to morning before the LORD. This is to be a lasting ordinance among the Israelites for generations to come.

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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 you, bring near to you your brother Aaron and his sons with him from among the Israelites, so that they may minister as my priests—Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron’s sons.
- 2 You must make holy garments for your brother Aaron, for glory and for beauty.
- 3 You are to speak to all who are specially skilled, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, so that they may make Aaron’s garments to set him apart to minister as my priest.
- 4 Now these are the garments that they are to make: a breastpiece, an ephod, a robe, a fitted tunic, a turban, and a sash. They are to make holy garments for your brother Aaron and for his sons, that they may minister as my priests.
- 5 The artisans are to use the gold, blue, purple, scarlet, and fine linen.

### The Ephod

- 6 “They are to make the ephod of gold, blue, purple, scarlet, and fine twisted linen, the work of an artistic designer.
- 7 It is to have two shoulder pieces attached to two of its corners, so it can be joined together.
- 8 The artistically woven waistband of the ephod that is on it is to be like it, of one piece with the ephod, of gold, blue, purple, scarlet, and fine twisted linen.
- 9 “You are to take two onyx stones and engrave on them the names of the sons of Israel,
- 10 six of their names on one stone, and the six remaining names on the second stone, according to the order of their birth.
- 11 You are to engrave the two stones with the names of the sons of Israel with the work of an engraver in stone, like the engravings of a seal; you are to have them set in gold filigree settings.
- 12 You are to put the two stones on the shoulders of the ephod, stones of memorial for the sons of Israel, and Aaron will bear their names before the LORD on his two shoulders for a memorial.
- 13 You are to make filigree settings of gold
- 14 and two braided chains of pure gold, like a cord, and attach the chains to the settings.

### The Breastpiece

- 15 “You are to make a breastpiece for use in making decisions, the work of an artistic designer; you are to make it in the same fashion as the ephod; you are to make it of gold, blue, purple, scarlet, and fine twisted linen.
- 16 It is to be square when doubled, nine inches long and nine inches wide.
- 17 You are to set in it a setting for stones, four rows of stones, a row with a ruby, a topaz, and a beryl—the first row;
- 18 and the second row, a turquoise, a sapphire, and an emerald;
- 19 and the third row, a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst;
- 20 and the fourth row, a chrysolite, an onyx, and a jasper. They are to be enclosed in gold in their filigree settings.
- 21 The stones are to be for the names of the sons of Israel, twelve, according to the number of their names. Each name according to the twelve tribes is to be like the engravings of a seal.
- 22 “You are to make for the breastpiece braided chains like cords of pure gold,
- 23 and you are to make for the breastpiece two gold rings and attach the two rings to the upper two ends of the breastpiece.
- 24 You are to attach the two gold chains to the two rings at the ends of the breastpiece;
- 25 the other two ends of the two chains you will attach to the two settings and then attach them to the shoulder pieces of the ephod at the front of it.
- 26 You are to make two rings of gold and put them on the other two ends of the breastpiece, on its edge that is on the inner side of the ephod.
- 27 You are to make two more gold rings and attach them to the bottom of the two shoulder pieces on the front of the ephod, close to the juncture above the waistband of the ephod.
- 28 They are to tie the breastpiece by its rings to the rings of the ephod by blue cord, so that it may be above the waistband of the ephod, and so that the breastpiece will not be loose from the ephod.
- 29 Aaron will bear the names of the sons of Israel in the breastpiece of decision over his heart when he goes into the holy place, for a memorial before the LORD continually.
- 30 “You are to put the Urim and the Thummim into the breastpiece of decision; and they are to be over Aaron’s heart when he goes in before the LORD. Aaron is to bear the decisions of the Israelites over his heart before the LORD continually.

### The Robe

- 31 “You are to make the robe of the ephod completely blue.
- 32 There is to be an opening in its top in the center of it, with an edge all around the opening, the work of a weaver, like the opening of a collar, so that it cannot be torn.
- 33 You are to make pomegranates of blue, purple, and scarlet all around its hem and bells of gold between them all around.
- 34 The pattern is to be a gold bell and a pomegranate, a gold bell and a pomegranate, all around the hem of the robe.

35 The robe is to be on Aaron as he ministers, and his sound will be heard when he enters the Holy Place before the LORD and when he leaves, so that he does not die.

#### **The Golden Diadem**

36 “You are to make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it the way a seal is engraved: “Holiness to the LORD.”

37 You are to attach to it a blue cord so that it will be on the turban; it is to be on the front of the turban,

38 It will be on Aaron’s forehead, and Aaron will bear the iniquity of the holy things, which the Israelites are to sanctify by all their holy gifts; it will always be on his forehead, for their acceptance before the LORD.

#### **The Coat, Turban and Sash**

39 You are to weave the tunic of fine linen and make the turban of fine linen, and make the sash the work of an embroiderer.

40 “For Aaron’s sons you are to make tunics, sashes, and headbands for glory and for beauty.

41 “You are to clothe them—your brother Aaron and his sons with him—and anoint them and ordain them and set them apart as holy, so that they may minister as my priests.

#### **Undergarments for Modesty**

42 Make for them linen undergarments to cover their naked bodies; they must cover from the waist to the thighs.

43 These must be on Aaron and his sons when they enter to the tent of meeting, or when they approach the altar to minister in the Holy Place, so that they bear no iniquity and die. It is to be a perpetual ordinance for him and for his descendants 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 “Now this is what you are to do for them to consecrate them so that they may minister as my priests. Take a young bull and two rams without blemish;

2 and bread made without yeast, and perforated cakes without yeast mixed with oil, and wafers without yeast spread with oil—you are to make them using fine wheat flour.

3 You are to put them in one basket and present them in the basket, along with the bull and the two rams.

4 “You are to present Aaron and his sons at the entrance of the tent of meeting. You are to wash them with water

5 and take the garments and clothe Aaron with the tunic, the robe of the ephod, the ephod, and the breastpiece; you are to fasten the ephod on him by using the skillfully woven waistband.

6 You are to put the turban on his head and put the holy diadem on the turban.

7 You are to take the anointing oil and pour it on his head and anoint him.

8 You are to present his sons and clothe them with tunics

9 and wrap the sashes around Aaron and his sons and put headbands on them, and so the ministry of priesthood will belong to them by a perpetual ordinance. Thus you are to consecrate Aaron and his sons.

#### **A Bull as a Sin Offering**

10 “You are to present the bull at the front of the tent of meeting, and Aaron and his sons are to put their hands on the head of the bull.

11 You are to kill the bull before the LORD at the entrance to the tent of meeting

12 and take some of the blood of the bull and put it on the horns of the altar with your finger; all the rest of the blood you are to pour out at the base of the altar.

13 You are to take all the fat that covers the entrails, and the lobe that is above the liver, and the two kidneys and the fat that is on them, and burn them on the altar.

14 But the meat of the bull, its skin, and its dung you are to burn up outside the camp. It is the purification offering.

#### **A Ram as a Whole Burnt Offering**

15 “You are to take one ram, and Aaron and his sons are to lay their hands on the ram’s head,

16 and you are to kill the ram and take its blood and splash it all around on the altar.

17 Then you are to cut the ram into pieces and wash the entrails and its legs and put them on its pieces and on its head

18 and burn the whole ram on the altar. It is a burnt offering to the LORD, a soothing aroma; it is an offering made by fire to the LORD.

#### **A Second Ram’s Blood—the Ram for Consecration**

19 “You are to take the second ram, and Aaron and his sons are to lay their hands on the ram’s head,

20 and you are to kill the ram and take some of its blood and put it on the tip of the right ear of Aaron, on the tip of the right ear of his sons, on the thumb of their right hand, and on the big toe of their right foot, and then splash the blood all around on the altar.

21 You are to take some of the blood that is on the altar and some of the anointing oil and sprinkle it on Aaron, on his garments, on his sons, and on his sons' garments with him, so that he may be holy, he and his garments along with his sons and his sons' garments.

#### **Offering the Second Ram**

22 "You are to take from the ram the fat, the fat tail, the fat that covers the entrails, the lobe of the liver, the two kidneys and the fat that is on them, and the right thigh—for it is the ram for consecration—

23 and one round flat cake of bread, one perforated cake of oiled bread, and one wafer from the basket of bread made without yeast that is before the LORD.

24 You are to put all these in Aaron's hands and in his sons' hands, and you are to wave them as a wave offering before the LORD.

25 Then you are to take them from their hands and burn them on the altar for a burnt offering, for a soothing aroma before the LORD. It is an offering made by fire to the LORD.

26 You are to take the breast of the ram of Aaron's consecration; you are to wave it as a wave offering before the LORD, and it is to be your share.

27 You are to sanctify the breast of the wave offering and the thigh of the contribution, which were waved and lifted up as a contribution from the ram of consecration, from what belongs to Aaron and to his sons.

28 It is to belong to Aaron and to his sons from the Israelites, by a perpetual ordinance, for it is a contribution. It is to be a contribution from the Israelites from their peace offerings, their contribution to the LORD.

29 "The holy garments that belong to Aaron are to belong to his sons after him, so that they may be anointed in them and consecrated in them.

30 The priest who succeeds him from his sons, when he first comes to the tent of meeting to minister in the Holy Place, is to wear them for seven days.

#### **Eating the Second Ram**

31 "You are to take the ram of the consecration and cook its meat in a holy place.

32 Aaron and his sons are to eat the meat of the ram and the bread that was in the basket at the entrance of the tent of meeting.

33 They are to eat those things by which atonement was made to consecrate and to set them apart, but no one else may eat them, for they are holy.

34 If any of the meat from the consecration offerings or any of the bread is left over until morning, then you are to burn up what is left over. It must not be eaten, because it is holy.

#### **Length of the Consecration Ceremony**

35 "Thus you are to do for Aaron and for his sons, according to all that I have commanded you; you are to consecrate them for seven days.

36 Every day you are to prepare a bull for a purification offering for atonement. You are to purge the altar by making atonement for it, and you are to anoint it to set it apart as holy.

37 For seven days you are to make atonement for the altar and set it apart as holy. Then the altar will be most holy. Anything that touches the altar will be holy.

#### **The Daily Offerings**

38 "Now this is what you are to prepare on the altar every day continually: two lambs a year old.

39 The first lamb you are to prepare in the morning, and the second lamb you are to prepare around sundown.

40 With the first lamb offer a tenth of an ephah of fine flour mixed with a fourth of a hin of oil from pressed olives, and a fourth of a hin of wine as a drink offering.

41 The second lamb you are to offer around sundown; you are to prepare for it the same meal offering as for the morning and the same drink offering, for a soothing aroma, an offering made by fire to the LORD.

42 "This will be a regular burnt offering throughout your generations at the entrance of the tent of meeting before the LORD, where I will meet with you to speak to you there.

43 There I will meet with the Israelites, and it will be set apart as holy by my glory.

44 "So I will set apart as holy the tent of meeting and the altar, and I will set apart as holy Aaron and his sons, that they may minister as priests to me.

45 I will reside among the Israelites, and I will be their God,

46 and they will know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them out from the land of Egypt, so that I may reside among them. I am the LORD their God.

**Plans for the Tabernacle – Part 2 (c. early June – mid July 1446 BC)****Exodus 30****The Altar of Incense**

- 1 “You are to make an altar for burning incense; you are to make it of acacia wood.
- 2 Its length is to be a foot and a half and its width a foot and a half; it will be square. Its height is to be three feet, with its horns of one piece with it.
- 3 You are to overlay it with pure gold—its top, its four walls, and its horns—and make a surrounding border of gold for it.
- 4 You are to make two gold rings for it under its border, on its two flanks; you are to make them on its two sides. The rings will be places for poles to carry it with.
- 5 You are to make the poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold.
- 6 “You are to put it in front of the curtain that is before the ark of the testimony (before the atonement lid that is over the testimony), where I will meet you.
- 7 Aaron is to burn sweet incense on it morning by morning; when he attends to the lamps he is to burn incense.
- 8 When Aaron sets up the lamps around sundown he is to burn incense on it; it is to be a regular incense offering before the LORD throughout your generations.
- 9 You must not offer strange incense on it, nor burnt offering, nor meal offering, and you must not pour out a drink offering on it.
- 10 Aaron is to make atonement on its horns once in the year with some of the blood of the sin offering for atonement; once in the year he is to make atonement on it throughout your generations. It is most holy to the LORD.”

**Census Tax**

- 11 The LORD spoke to Moses:
- 12 “When you take a census of the Israelites according to their number, then each man is to pay a ransom for his life to the LORD when you number them, so that there will be no plague among them when you number them. [cf. [2 Sam 24](#)]
- 13 Everyone who crosses over to those who are numbered is to pay this: a half shekel according to the shekel of the sanctuary (a shekel weighs twenty gerahs). The half shekel is to be an offering to the LORD.
- 14 Everyone who crosses over to those numbered, from twenty years old and up, is to pay an offering to the LORD.
- 15 The rich are not to increase it, and the poor are not to pay less than the half shekel when giving the offering of the LORD, to make atonement for your lives.
- 16 You are to receive the atonement money from the Israelites and give it for the service of the tent of meeting. It will be a memorial for the Israelites before the LORD, to make atonement for your lives.”

**The Washbasin**

- 17 The LORD spoke to Moses:
- 18 “You are also to make a large bronze basin with a bronze stand for washing. You are to put it between the tent of meeting and the altar and put water in it,
- 19 and Aaron and his sons must wash their hands and their feet from it.
- 20 When they enter the tent of meeting, they must wash with water so that they do not die. Also, when they approach the altar to minister by burning incense as an offering made by fire to the LORD,
- 21 they must wash their hands and their feet so that they do not die. And this will be a perpetual ordinance for them and for their descendants throughout their generations.”

**Recipe for the Anointing Oil**

- 22 The LORD spoke to Moses:
- 23 “Take choice spices: twelve and a half pounds of free-flowing myrrh, half that—about six and a quarter pounds—of sweet-smelling cinnamon, six and a quarter pounds of sweet-smelling cane,
- 24 and twelve and a half pounds of cassia, all weighed according to the sanctuary shekel, and four quarts of olive oil.
- 25 You are to make this into a sacred anointing oil, a perfumed compound, the work of a perfumer. It will be sacred anointing oil.
- 26 “With it you are to anoint the tent of meeting, the ark of the testimony,
- 27 the table and all its utensils, the lampstand and its utensils, the altar of incense,
- 28 the altar for the burnt offering and all its utensils, and the laver and its base.
- 29 So you are to sanctify them, and they will be most holy; anything that touches them will be holy.
- 30 “You are to anoint Aaron and his sons and sanctify them, so that they may minister as my priests.
- 31 And you are to tell the Israelites: ‘This is to be my sacred anointing oil throughout your generations.
- 32 It must not be applied to people’s bodies, and you must not make any like it with the same recipe. It is holy, and it must be holy to you.
- 33 Whoever makes perfume like it and whoever puts any of it on someone not a priest will be cut off from his people.”

**Recipe for the Incense**

34 The LORD said to Moses: “Take spices, gum resin, onycha, galbanum, and pure frankincense of equal amounts  
 35 and make it into an incense, a perfume, the work of a perfumer. It is to be finely ground, and pure and sacred.  
 36 You are to beat some of it very fine and put some of it before the ark of the testimony in the tent of meeting where I will meet with you; it is to be most holy to you.  
 37 And the incense that you are to make, you must not make for yourselves using the same recipe; it is to be most holy to you, belonging to the LORD.  
 38 Whoever makes anything like it, to use as perfume, 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 The LORD spoke to Moses:  
 2 “See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah,  
 3 and I have filled him with the Spirit of God in skill, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of craftsmanship,  
 4 to make artistic designs for work with gold, with silver, and with bronze,  
 5 and with cutting and setting stone, and with cutting wood, to work in all kinds of craftsmanship.  
 6 Moreover, I have also given him Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, and I have given ability to all the specially skilled, that they may make everything I have commanded you:  
 7 the tent of meeting, the ark of the testimony, the atonement lid that is on it, all the furnishings of the tent,  
 8 the table with its utensils, the pure lampstand with all its utensils, the altar of incense,  
 9 the altar for the burnt offering with all its utensils, the large basin with its base,  
 10 the woven garments, the holy garments for Aaron the priest and the garments for his sons, to minister as priests,  
 11 the anointing oil, and sweet incense for the Holy Place. They will make all these things just as I have commanded you.”

**Work on the Tabernacle Does Not Trump the Sabbath**

12 The LORD said to Moses,  
 13 “Tell the Israelites, ‘Surely you must keep my Sabbaths, for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies you.  
 14 So you must keep the Sabbath, for it is holy for you. Everyone who defiles it must surely be put to death; indeed, if anyone does any work on it, then that person will be cut off from among his people.  
 15 Six days work may be done, but on the seventh day is a Sabbath of complete rest, holy to the LORD; anyone who does work on the Sabbath day must surely be put to death.  
 16 The Israelites must keep the Sabbath by observing the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant.  
 17 It is a sign between me and the Israelites forever; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.’”

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

Exodus 31:18–32:35

**The Tablets of Testimony**

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

**The Golden Calf**

32:1 When the people saw that Moses delayed in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said to him, “Get up, make us gods that will go before us. As for this fellow 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 So Aaron said to them, “Break off the gold earrings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.”

3 So all the people broke off the gold earrings that were on their ears and brought them to Aaron.

4 He accepted the gold from them, fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molten calf. Then they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.”

5 When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it, and Aaron made a proclamation and said, “Tomorrow will be a feast to the LORD.”

6 So they got up early on the next day and offered up burnt offerings and brought peace offerings, and the people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play. [[1 Cor 10:7](#)]

**Yahweh’s Anger and Moses’ Intercession**

7 The LORD spoke to Moses: “Go quickly, descend, because your people, whom you brought up from the land of Egypt, have acted corruptly.

8 They have quickly turned aside from the way that I commanded them—they have made for themselves a molten calf and have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt.’”

9 Then the LORD said to Moses: “I have seen this people. Look what a stiff-necked people they are!

10 So now, leave me alone so that my anger can burn against them and I can destroy them, and I will make from you a great nation.”

11 But Moses sought the favor of the LORD his God and said, “O LORD, why does your anger burn against your people, whom you have brought out from the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?

12 Why should the Egyptians say, ‘For evil he led them out to kill them in the mountains and to destroy them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your burning anger, and relent of this evil against your people.

13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel your servants, to whom you swore by yourself and told them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken about I will give to your descendants, and they will inherit it forever.’”

14 Then the LORD relented over the evil that he had said he would do to his people.

**Moses Breaks the Tablets of Testimony**

15 Moses turned and went down from the mountain with the two tablets of the testimony in his hands. The tablets were written on both sides—they were written on the front and on the back.

16 Now the tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets.

17 When Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, “It is the sound of war in the camp!”

18 Moses said, “It is not the sound of those who shout for victory, nor is it the sound of those who cry because they are overcome, but the sound of singing I hear.”

19 When he approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, Moses became extremely angry. He threw the tablets from his hands and broke them to pieces at the bottom of the mountain.

20 He took the calf they had made and burned it in the fire, ground it to powder, poured it out on the water, and made the Israelites drink it.

**Moses Confronts Aaron**

21 Moses said to Aaron, “What did this people do to you, that you have brought on them so great a sin?”

22 Aaron said, “Do not let your anger burn hot, my lord; you know these people, that they tend to evil.

23 They said to me, ‘Make us gods that will go before us, for as for this fellow Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has happened to him.’

24 So I said to them, ‘Whoever has gold, break it off.’ So they gave it to me, and I threw it into the fire, and this calf came out.”

**The Levites Kill the Ringleaders**

25 Moses saw that the people were running wild, for Aaron had let them get completely out of control, causing derision from their enemies.

26 So Moses stood at the entrance of the camp and said, “Whoever is for the LORD, come to me.” All the Levites gathered around

him,  
 27 and he said to them, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘Each man fasten his sword on his side, and go back and forth from entrance to entrance throughout the camp, and each one kill his brother, his friend, and his neighbor.’”  
 28 The Levites did what Moses ordered, and that day about three thousand men of the people died.  
 29 Moses said, “You have been consecrated today for the LORD, for each of you was against his son or against his brother, so he has given a blessing to you today.”

#### **Yahweh’s Punishment**

30 The next day Moses said to the people, “You have committed a very serious sin, but now I will go up to the LORD—perhaps I can make atonement on behalf of your sin.”  
 31 So Moses returned to the LORD and said, “Alas, this people has committed a very serious sin, and they have made for themselves gods of gold.  
 32 But now, if you will forgive their sin..., but if not, wipe me out from your book that you have written.”  
 33 The LORD said to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against me—that person I will wipe out of my book.  
 34 So now go, lead the people to the place I have spoken to you about. See, my angel will go before you. But on the day that I punish, I will indeed punish them for their sin.”  
 35 And the LORD sent a plague on the people because they had made the calf—the one Aaron 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 The LORD said to Moses, “Go up from here, you and the people whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, to the land I promised on oath to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants.’  
 2 I will send an angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanite, the Amorite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite.  
 3 Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey. But I will not go up among you, for you are a stiff-necked people, and I might destroy you on the way.”

#### **The People Obey Yahweh and Mourn in Genuine Repentance**

4 When the people heard this troubling word they mourned; no one put on his ornaments.  
 5 For the LORD had said to Moses, “Tell the Israelites, ‘You are a stiff-necked people. If I went up among you for a moment, I might destroy you. Now take off your ornaments, that I may know what I should do to you.’”  
 6 So the Israelites stripped off their ornaments by Mount Horeb.

#### **The Temporary Tabernacle—“Tent of Meeting”**

7 Moses took the tent and pitched it outside the camp, at a good distance from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting. Anyone seeking the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting that was outside the camp.  
 8 And when Moses went out to the tent, all the people would get up and stand at the entrance to their tents and watch Moses until he entered the tent.  
 9 And whenever Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the LORD would speak with Moses.  
 10 When all the people would see the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people, each one at the entrance of his own tent, would rise and worship.  
 11 The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, the way a person speaks to a friend. Then Moses would return to the camp, but his servant, Joshua son of Nun, a young man, did not leave the tent.

#### **Moses Entreats Yahweh to Personally Accompany Israel and Yahweh Agrees**

12 Moses said to the LORD, “See, you have been saying to me, ‘Bring this people up,’ but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. But you said, ‘I know you by name, and also you have found favor in my sight.’  
 13 Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your way, that I may know you, that I may continue to find favor in your sight. And see that this nation is your people.”  
 14 And the LORD said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”  
 15 And Moses said to him, “If your presence does not go with us, do not take us up from here.  
 16 For how will it be known then that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not by your going with us, so that we will be distinguished, I and your people, from all the people who are on the face of the earth?”  
 17 The LORD said to Moses, “I will do this thing also that you have requested, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know 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 Moses said, "Show me your glory."

19 And the LORD said, "I will make all my goodness pass before your face, and I will proclaim the LORD by name before you; I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, I will show mercy to whom I will show mercy." [\[Rom 9:14–15\]](#)

20 But he added, "You cannot see my face, for no one can see me and live."

21 The LORD said, "Here is a place by me; you will station yourself on a rock.

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

23 Then I will take away my hand, and you will see my back, but my face must not be seen."

### Yahweh Takes the Initiative to Renew the Covenant

34:1 The LORD said to Moses, "Cut out two tablets of stone like the first, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you smashed.

2 Be prepared in the morning, and go up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and station yourself for me there on the top of the mountain.

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

4 So Moses cut out two tablets of stone like the first; early in the morning he went up to Mount Sinai, just as the LORD had commanded him, and he took in his hand the two tablets of stone.

### Yahweh Passes Before Moses

5 The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there and proclaimed the LORD by name.

6 The LORD passed by before him and proclaimed: "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, and abounding in loyal love and faithfulness,

7 keeping loyal love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin. But he by no means leaves the guilty unpunished, responding to the transgression of fathers by dealing with children and children's children, to the third and fourth generation."

### Moses Worships and Repeats His Request for Yahweh's Presence

8 Moses quickly bowed to the ground and worshiped

9 and said, "If now I have found favor in your sight, O Lord, let my Lord go among us, for we are a stiff-necked people; pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance."

### The Renewal of the Covenant

10 He said, "See, I am going to make a covenant before all your people. I will do wonders such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation. All the people among whom you live will see the work of the LORD, for it is a fearful thing that I am doing with you.

11 "Obey what I am commanding you this day. I am going to drive out before you the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite.

12 Be careful not to make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you are going, lest it become a snare among you.

13 Rather you must destroy their altars, smash their images, and cut down their Asherah poles.

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

15 Be careful not to make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, for when they prostitute themselves to their gods and sacrifice to their gods, and someone invites you, you will eat from his sacrifice;

16 and you then take his daughters for your sons, and when his daughters prostitute themselves to their gods, they will make your sons prostitute themselves to their gods as well.

17 You must not make yourselves molten gods.

18 "You must keep the Feast of Unleavened Bread. For seven days you must eat bread made without yeast, as I commanded you; do this at the appointed time of the month Abib, for in the month Abib you came out of Egypt.

19 "Every firstborn of the womb belongs to me, even every firstborn of your cattle that is a male, whether ox or sheep.

20 Now the firstling of a donkey you may redeem with a lamb, but if you do not redeem it, then break its neck. You must redeem all the firstborn of your sons. "No one will appear before me empty-handed.

21 "On six days you may labor, but on the seventh day you must rest; even at the time of plowing and of harvest you are to rest.

22 "You must observe the Feast of Weeks—the firstfruits of the harvest of wheat—and the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year.

23 At three times in the year all your men must appear before the Lord GOD, the God of Israel.

24 For I will drive out the nations before you and enlarge your borders; no one will covet your land when you go up to appear before the LORD your God three times in the year.

25 “You must not offer the blood of my sacrifice with yeast; the sacrifice from the feast of Passover must not remain until the following morning.

26 “The first of the firstfruits of your soil you must bring to the house of the LORD your God. You must not cook a young goat in its mother’s milk.”

#### **The Covenant in Writing**

27 The LORD said to Moses, “Write down these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel.”

28 So he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did not eat bread, and he did not drink water. He wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.

#### **Moses’ Shining Face**

29 Now when Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand—when he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him.

30 When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to approach him.

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

32 After this all the Israelites approached, and he commanded them all that the LORD had spoken to him on Mount Sinai.

33 When Moses finished speaking with them, he would put a veil on his face.

34 But when Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would remove the veil until he came out. Then he would come out and tell the Israelites what he had been commanded. [cf. [2 Cor 3:7–18](#)]

35 When the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses’ face shone, Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with the LORD.

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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 Moses assembled the whole community of the Israelites and said to them, “These are the things that the LORD has commanded you to do.

2 In six days work may be done, but on the seventh day there must be a holy day for you, a Sabbath of complete rest to the LORD. Anyone who does work on it will be put to death.

3 You must not kindle a fire in any of your homes on the Sabbath day.”

### A Call for Contributions

4 Moses spoke to the whole community of the Israelites, “This is the word that the LORD has commanded:

5 ‘Take an offering for the LORD. Let everyone who has a willing heart bring an offering to the LORD: gold, silver, bronze,

6 blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, fine linen, goat’s hair,

7 ram skins dyed red, fine leather, acacia wood,

8 olive oil for the light, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense,

9 onyx stones, and other gems for mounting on the ephod and the breastpiece.

10 Every skilled person among you is to come and make all that the LORD has commanded:

11 the tabernacle with its tent, its covering, its clasps, its frames, its crossbars, its posts, and its bases;

12 the ark, with its poles, the atonement lid, and the special curtain that conceals it;

13 the table with its poles and all its vessels, and the Bread of the Presence;

14 the lampstand for the light and its accessories, its lamps, and oil for the light;

15 and the altar of incense with its poles, the anointing oil, and the fragrant incense; the hanging for the door at the entrance of the tabernacle;

16 the altar for the burnt offering with its bronze grating that is on it, its poles, and all its utensils; the large basin and its pedestal;

17 the hangings of the courtyard, its posts and its bases, and the curtain for the gateway to the courtyard;

18 tent pegs for the tabernacle and tent pegs for the courtyard and their ropes;

19 the woven garments for serving in the holy place, the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments for his sons to minister as priests.”

20 So the whole community of the Israelites went out from the presence of Moses.

### Men and Women Give Generously

21 Everyone whose heart stirred him to action and everyone whose spirit was willing came and brought the offering for the LORD for the work of the tent of meeting, for all its service, and for the holy garments.

22 They came, men and women alike, all who had willing hearts. They brought brooches, earrings, rings and ornaments, all kinds of gold jewelry, and everyone came who waved a wave offering of gold to the LORD.

23 Everyone who had blue, purple, or scarlet yarn, fine linen, goats’ hair, ram skins dyed red, or fine leather brought them.

24 Everyone making an offering of silver or bronze brought it as an offering to the LORD, and everyone who had acacia wood for any work of the service brought it.

25 Every woman who was skilled spun with her hands and brought what she had spun, blue, purple, or scarlet yarn, or fine linen,

26 and all the women whose heart stirred them to action and who were skilled spun goats’ hair.

27 The leaders brought onyx stones and other gems to be mounted for the ephod and the breastpiece,

28 and spices and olive oil for the light, for the anointing oil, and for the fragrant incense.

29 The Israelites brought a freewill offering to the LORD, every man and woman whose heart was willing to bring materials for all the work that the LORD through Moses had commanded them to do.

### Moses Appoints Bezalel, Oholiab and Other Craftsmen

30 Moses said to the Israelites, “See, the LORD has chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah.

31 He has filled him with the Spirit of God—with skill, with understanding, with knowledge, and in all kinds of work,

32 to design artistic designs, to work in gold, in silver, and in bronze,

33 and in cutting stones for their setting, and in cutting wood, to do work in every artistic craft.

34 And he has put it in his heart to teach, he and Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan.

35 He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as craftsmen, as designers, as embroiderers in blue, purple, and scarlet yarn and in fine linen, and as weavers. They are craftsmen in all the work and artistic designers.

36:1 So Bezalel and Oholiab and every skilled person in whom the LORD has put skill and ability to know how to do all the work for the service of the sanctuary are to do the work according to all that the LORD has commanded.”

### Generosity That Must Be Restrained

2 Moses summoned Bezalel and Oholiab and every skilled person in whom the LORD had put skill—everyone whose heart stirred him

to volunteer to do the work,

3 and they received from Moses all the offerings the Israelites had brought to do the work for the service of the sanctuary, and they still continued to bring him a freewill offering each morning.

4 So all the skilled people who were doing all the work on the sanctuary came from the work they were doing

5 and told Moses, “The people are bringing much more than is needed for the completion of the work which the LORD commanded us to do!”

6 Moses instructed them to take his message throughout the camp, saying, “Let no man or woman do any more work for the offering for the sanctuary.” So the people were restrained from bringing any more.

7 Now the materials were more than enough for them to do all the work.

#### **Crafting the Curtains**

8 All the skilled among those who were doing the work made the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine twisted linen and blue and purple and scarlet; they were made with cherubim that were the work of an artistic designer.

9 The length of one curtain was forty-two feet, and the width of one curtain was six feet—the same size for each of the curtains.

10 He joined five of the curtains to one another, and the other five curtains he joined to one another.

11 He made loops of blue material along the edge of the end curtain in the first set; he did the same along the edge of the end curtain in the second set.

12 He made fifty loops on the first curtain, and he made fifty loops on the end curtain that was in the second set, with the loops opposite one another.

13 He made fifty gold clasps and joined the curtains together to one another with the clasps, so that the tabernacle was a unit.

14 He made curtains of goats' hair for a tent over the tabernacle; he made eleven curtains.

15 The length of one curtain was forty-five feet, and the width of one curtain was six feet—one size for all eleven curtains.

16 He joined five curtains by themselves and six curtains by themselves.

17 He made fifty loops along the edge of the end curtain in the first set and fifty loops along the edge of the curtain that joined the second set.

18 He made fifty bronze clasps to join the tent together so that it might be a unit.

19 He made a covering for the tent out of ram skins dyed red and over that a covering of fine leather.

#### **Crafting the Framing**

20 He made the frames for the tabernacle of acacia wood as uprights.

21 The length of each frame was fifteen feet, the width of each frame was two and a quarter feet,

22 with two projections per frame parallel one to another. He made all the frames of the tabernacle in this way.

23 So he made frames for the tabernacle: twenty frames for the south side.

24 He made forty silver bases under the twenty frames—two bases under the first frame for its two projections, and likewise two bases under the next frame for its two projections,

25 and for the second side of the tabernacle, the north side, he made twenty frames

26 and their forty silver bases, two bases under the first frame and two bases under the next frame.

27 And for the back of the tabernacle on the west he made six frames.

28 He made two frames for the corners of the tabernacle on the back.

29 At the two corners they were doubled at the lower end and finished together at the top in one ring. So he did for both.

30 So there were eight frames and their silver bases, sixteen bases, two bases under each frame.

31 He made bars of acacia wood, five for the frames on 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 of the tabernacle for the back side on the west.

33 He made the middle bar to reach from end to end in the center of the frames.

34 He overlaid the frames with gold and made their rings of gold to provide places for the bars, and he overlaid the bars with gold.

#### **Crafting the Veil and the Screen**

35 He made the special curtain of blue, purple, and scarlet yarn and fine twisted linen; he made it with cherubim, the work of an artistic designer.

36 He made for it four posts of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold, with gold hooks, and he cast for them four silver bases.

37 He made a hanging for the entrance of the tent of blue, purple, and scarlet yarn and fine twisted linen, the work of an embroiderer,

38 and its five posts and their hooks. He overlaid their tops and their bands with gold, but their five bases were bronze.

#### **Crafting the Ark of the Testimony**

37:1 Bezalel made the ark of acacia wood; its length was three feet nine inches, its width two feet three inches, and its height two feet three inches.

- 2 He overlaid it with pure gold, inside and out, and he made a surrounding border of gold for it.
- 3 He cast four gold rings for it that he put on its four feet, with two rings on one side and two rings on the other side.
- 4 He made poles of acacia wood, overlaid them with gold,
- 5 and put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark in order to carry the ark.

#### **Crafting the Cover of the Ark**

- 6 He made an atonement lid of pure gold; its length was three feet nine inches, and its width was two feet three inches.
- 7 He made two cherubim of gold; he made them of hammered metal on the two ends of the atonement lid,
- 8 one cherub on one end and one cherub on the other end. He made the cherubim from the atonement lid on its two ends.
- 9 The cherubim were spreading their wings upward, overshadowing the atonement lid with their wings. The cherubim faced each other, looking toward the atonement lid.

#### **Crafting the Table of the Bread of the Presence**

- 10 He made the table of acacia wood; its length was three feet, its width one foot six inches, and its height two feet three inches.
- 11 He overlaid it with pure gold, and he made a surrounding border of gold for it.
- 12 He made a surrounding frame for it about three inches wide, and he made a surrounding border of gold for its frame.
- 13 He cast four gold rings for it and attached the rings at the four corners where its four legs were.
- 14 The rings were close to the frame to provide places for the poles to carry the table.
- 15 He made the poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold, to carry the table.
- 16 He made the vessels which were on the table out of pure gold, its plates, its ladles, its pitchers, and its bowls, to be used in pouring out offerings.

#### **Crafting the Golden Lampstand**

- 17 He made the lampstand of pure gold. He made the lampstand of hammered metal; its base and its shaft, its cups, its buds, and its blossoms were from the same piece.
- 18 Six branches were extending from its sides, three branches of the lampstand from one side of it, and three branches of the lampstand from the other side of it.
- 19 Three cups shaped like almond flowers with buds and blossoms were on the first branch, and three cups shaped like almond flowers with buds and blossoms were on the next branch, and the same for the six branches that were extending from the lampstand.
- 20 On the lampstand there were four cups shaped like almond flowers with buds and blossoms,
- 21 with a bud under the first two branches from it, and a bud under the next two branches from it, and a bud under the third two branches from it; according to the six branches that extended from it.
- 22 Their buds and their branches were of one piece; all of it was one hammered piece of pure gold.
- 23 He made its seven lamps, its trimmers, and its trays of pure gold.
- 24 He made the lampstand and all its accessories with seventy-five pounds of pure gold.

#### **Crafting the Altar of Incense**

- 25 He made the incense altar of acacia wood. Its length was a foot and a half and its width a foot and a half—a square—and its height was three feet. Its horns were of one piece with it.
- 26 He overlaid it with pure gold—its top, its four walls, and its horns—and he made a surrounding border of gold for it.
- 27 He also made two gold rings for it under its border, on its two sides, on opposite sides, as places for poles to carry it with.
- 28 He made the poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold.

#### **Crafting the Oil and Incense**

- 29 He made the sacred anointing oil and the pure fragrant incense, the work of a perfumer.

#### **Crafting the Altar of Burnt Offering**

- 38:1 He made the altar for the burnt offering of acacia wood seven feet six inches long and seven feet six inches wide—it was square—and its height was four feet six inches.
- 2 He made its horns on its four corners; its horns were part of it, and he overlaid it with bronze.
- 3 He made all the utensils of the altar—the pots, the shovels, the tossing bowls, the meat hooks, and the fire pans—he made all its utensils of bronze.
- 4 He made a grating for the altar, a network of bronze under its ledge, halfway up from the bottom.
- 5 He cast four rings for the four corners of the bronze grating, to provide places for the poles.
- 6 He made the poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with bronze.
- 7 He put the poles into the rings on the sides of the altar, with which to carry it. He made the altar hollow, out of boards.

**Crafting the Washbasin**

8 He made the large basin of bronze and its pedestal of bronze from the mirrors of the women who served at the entrance of the tent of meeting.

**Crafting the Courtyard and Its Curtains**

9 He made the courtyard. For the south side the hangings of the courtyard were of fine twisted linen, one hundred fifty feet long, 10 with their twenty posts and their twenty bronze bases, with the hooks of the posts and their bands of silver.

11 For the north side the hangings were one hundred fifty feet, with their twenty posts and their twenty bronze bases, with the hooks of the posts and their bands of silver.

12 For the west side there were hangings seventy-five feet long, with their ten posts and their ten bases, with the hooks of the posts and their bands of silver.

13 For the east side, toward the sunrise, it was seventy-five feet wide,

14 with hangings on one side of the gate that were twenty-two and a half feet long, with their three posts and their three bases,

15 and for the second side of the gate of the courtyard, just like the other, the hangings were twenty-two and a half feet long, with their three posts and their three bases.

16 All the hangings around the courtyard were of fine twisted linen.

17 The bases for the posts were bronze. The hooks of the posts and their bands were silver, their tops were overlaid with silver, and all the posts of the courtyard had silver bands.

18 The curtain for the gate of the courtyard was of blue, purple, and scarlet yarn and fine twisted linen, the work of an embroiderer. It was thirty feet long, and like the hangings in the courtyard, it was seven and a half feet high,

19 with four posts and their four bronze bases. Their hooks and their bands were silver, and their tops were overlaid with silver.

20 All the tent pegs of the tabernacle and of the courtyard all around were bronze.

**Summary of Craftsmen and Materials Used**

21 This is the inventory of the tabernacle, the tabernacle of the testimony, which was counted by the order of Moses, being the work of the Levites under the direction of Ithamar, son of Aaron the priest.

22 Now Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, made everything that the LORD had commanded Moses;

23 and with him was Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, an artisan, a designer, and an embroiderer in blue, purple, and scarlet yarn and fine linen.

24 All the gold that was used for the work, in all the work of the sanctuary (namely, the gold of the wave offering) was twenty-nine talents and 730 shekels, according to the sanctuary shekel.

25 The silver of those who were numbered of the community was one hundred talents and 1,775 shekels, according to the sanctuary shekel,

26 one beka per person, that is, a half shekel, according to the sanctuary shekel, for everyone who crossed over to those numbered, from twenty years old or older, 603,550 in all.

27 The one hundred talents of silver were used for casting the bases of the sanctuary and the bases of the special curtain—one hundred bases for one hundred talents, one talent per base.

28 From the remaining 1,775 shekels he made hooks for the posts, overlaid their tops, and made bands for them.

29 The bronze of the wave offering was seventy talents and 2,400 shekels.

30 With it he made the bases for the door of the tent of meeting, the bronze altar, the bronze grating for it, and all the utensils of the altar,

31 the bases for the courtyard all around, the bases for the gate of the courtyard, all the tent pegs of the tabernacle, and all the tent pegs of the courtyard all around.

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**Crafting the Priestly Garments (c. September 1446–March 1445 BC)**

Exodus 39:1–31

**Crafting the Priestly Garments**

1 From the blue, purple, and scarlet yarn they made woven garments for serving in the sanctuary; they made holy garments that were for Aaron, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

**Crafting the Ephod**

2 He made the ephod of gold, blue, purple, scarlet, and fine twisted linen.

3 They hammered the gold into thin sheets and cut it into narrow strips to weave them into the blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and into the fine linen, the work of an artistic designer.

4 They made shoulder pieces for it, attached to two of its corners, so it could be joined together.

5 The artistically woven waistband of the ephod that was on it was like it, of one piece with it, of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet yarn and fine twisted linen, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

6 They set the onyx stones in gold filigree settings, engraved as with the engravings of a seal with the names of the sons of Israel.

7 He put them on the shoulder pieces of the ephod as stones of memorial for the Israelites, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

**Crafting the Breastpiece**

8 He made the breastpiece, the work of an artistic designer, in the same fashion as the ephod, of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet, and fine twisted linen.

9 It was square—they made the breastpiece doubled, nine inches long and nine inches wide when doubled.

10 They set on it four rows of stones: a row with a ruby, a topaz, and a beryl—the first row;

11 and the second row, a turquoise, a sapphire, and an emerald;

12 and the third row, a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst;

13 and the fourth row, a chrysolite, an onyx, and a jasper. They were enclosed in gold filigree settings.

14 The stones were for the names of the sons of Israel, twelve, corresponding to the number of their names. Each name corresponding to one of the twelve tribes was like the engravings of a seal.

15 They made for the breastpiece braided chains like cords of pure gold,

16 and they made two gold filigree settings and two gold rings, and they attached the two rings to the upper two ends of the breastpiece.

17 They attached the two gold chains to the two rings at the ends of the breastpiece;

18 the other two ends of the two chains they attached to the two settings, and they attached them to the shoulder pieces of the ephod at the front of it.

19 They made two rings of gold and put them on the other two ends of the breastpiece on its edge, which is on the inner side of the ephod.

20 They made two more gold rings and attached them to the bottom of the two shoulder pieces on the front of the ephod, close to the juncture above the waistband of the ephod.

21 They tied the breastpiece by its rings to the rings of the ephod by blue cord, so that it was above the waistband of the ephod, so that the breastpiece would not be loose from the ephod, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

**Crafting the Ephod's Robe**

22 He made the robe of the ephod completely blue, the work of a weaver.

23 There was an opening in the center of the robe, like the opening of a collar, with an edge all around the opening so that it could not be torn.

24 They made pomegranates of blue, purple, and scarlet yarn and twisted linen around the hem of the robe.

25 They made bells of pure gold and attached the bells between the pomegranates around the hem of the robe between the pomegranates.

26 There was a bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate, all around the hem of the robe, to be used in ministering, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

**Crafting the Coat, Sash, Turban and Undergarments**

27 They made tunics of fine linen—the work of a weaver, for Aaron and for his sons—

28 and the turban of fine linen, the headbands of fine linen, and the undergarments of fine twisted linen.

29 The sash was of fine twisted linen and blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, the work of an embroiderer, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

30 They made a plate, the holy diadem, of pure gold and wrote on it an inscription, as on the engravings of a seal, "Holiness to the LORD."

31 They attached to it a blue cord, to attach it to the turban above, just as the LORD 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 So all the work of the tabernacle, the tent of meeting, was completed, and the Israelites did according to all that the LORD had commanded Moses—they did it exactly so.

33 They brought the tabernacle to Moses, the tent and all its furnishings, clasps, frames, bars, posts, and bases;

34 and the coverings of ram skins dyed red, the covering of fine leather, and the protecting curtain;

35 the ark of the testimony and its poles, and the atonement lid;

36 the table, all its utensils, and the Bread of the Presence;

37 the pure lampstand, its lamps, with the lamps set in order, and all its accessories, and oil for the light;

38 and the gold altar, and the anointing oil, and the fragrant incense; and the curtain for the entrance to the tent;

39 the bronze altar and its bronze grating, its poles, and all its utensils; the large basin with its pedestal;

40 the hangings of the courtyard, its posts and its bases, and the curtain for the gateway of the courtyard, its ropes and its tent pegs, and all the furnishings for the service of the tabernacle, for the tent of meeting;

41 the woven garments for serving in the sanctuary, the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments for his sons to minister as priests.

42 The Israelites did all the work according to all that the LORD had commanded Moses.

43 Moses inspected all the work—and they had done it just as the LORD had commanded—they had done it exactly—and Moses blessed them.

### Yahweh Gives Instructions for Erecting the Tabernacle

40:1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses:

2 “On the first day of the first month you are to set up the tabernacle, the tent of meeting.

3 You are to place the ark of the testimony in it and shield the ark with the special curtain.

4 You are to bring in the table and set out the things that belong on it; then you are to bring in the lampstand and set up its lamps.

5 You are to put the gold altar for incense in front of the ark of the testimony and put the curtain at the entrance to the tabernacle.

6 You are to put the altar for the burnt offering in front of the entrance to the tabernacle, the tent of meeting.

7 You are to put the large basin between the tent of meeting and the altar and put water in it.

8 You are to set up the courtyard around it and put the curtain at the gate of the courtyard.

9 And take the anointing oil, and anoint the tabernacle and all that is in it, and sanctify it and all its furnishings, and it will be holy.

10 Then you are to anoint the altar for the burnt offering with all its utensils; you are to sanctify the altar, and it will be the most holy altar.

11 You must also anoint the large basin and its pedestal, and you are to sanctify it.

12 “You are to bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance of the tent of meeting and wash them with water.

13 Then you are to clothe Aaron with the holy garments and anoint him and sanctify him so that he may minister as my priest.

14 You are to bring his sons and clothe them with tunics

15 and anoint them just as you anointed their father, so that they may minister as my priests; their anointing will make them a priesthood that will continue throughout their generations.”

## The Tabernacle is Erected (1 Nisan [March/April] 1445 BC)

Exodus 40:16–33

16 This is what Moses did, according to all the LORD had commanded him—so he did.

17 So the tabernacle was set up on the first day of the first month, in the second year.

18 When Moses set up the tabernacle and put its bases in place, he set up its frames, attached its bars, and set up its posts.

19 Then he spread the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering of the tent over it, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

20 He took the testimony and put it in the ark, attached the poles to the ark, and then put the atonement lid on the ark.

21 And he brought the ark into the tabernacle, hung the protecting curtain, and shielded the ark of the testimony from view, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

22 And he put the table in the tent of meeting, on the north side of the tabernacle, outside the curtain.

23 And he set the bread in order on it before the LORD, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

24 And he put the lampstand in the tent of meeting opposite the table, on the south side of the tabernacle.

25 Then he set up the lamps before the LORD, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

26 And he put the gold altar in the tent of meeting in front of the curtain,

27 and he burned fragrant incense on it, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

28 Then he put the curtain at the entrance to the tabernacle.

29 He also put the altar for the burnt offering by the entrance to the tabernacle, the tent of meeting, and offered on it the burnt offering and the meal offering, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

30 Then he put the large basin between the tent of meeting and the altar and put water in it for washing.  
 31 Moses and Aaron and his sons would wash their hands and their feet from it.  
 32 Whenever they entered the tent of meeting, and whenever they approached the altar, they would wash, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.  
 33 And he set up the courtyard around the tabernacle and the altar, and put the curtain at the gate of the courtyard. So Moses finished 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 Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.            35 Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.</p> <p>38 For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, but fire would be on it at night, in plain view of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.</p>	<p>15 On the day that the tabernacle was set up, the cloud covered the tabernacle—the tent of the testimony—</p> <p>and from evening until morning there was a fiery appearance over the tabernacle.</p> <p>16 This is the way it used to be continually: The cloud would cover it by day, and there was a fiery appearance by night.</p>

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### **Chronological Notes**

#### 1) Early Tabernacle Chronology.<sup>1</sup>

- 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.<sup>2</sup> 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) 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).

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

- (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).<sup>3</sup>  
(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).<sup>4</sup>  
(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).

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<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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 the LORD called to Moses and spoke to him from the Meeting Tent:

2 “Speak to the Israelites and tell them, ‘When someone among you presents an offering to the LORD, you must present your offering from the domesticated animals, either from the herd or from the flock.

3 “‘If his offering is a burnt offering from the herd he must present it as a flawless male; he must present it at the entrance of the Meeting Tent for its acceptance before the LORD. [cf. [Rom 12:1](#)]

4 He must lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it will be accepted for him to make atonement on his behalf.

5 Then the one presenting the offering must slaughter the bull before the LORD, and the sons of Aaron, the priests, must present the blood and splash the blood against the sides of the altar which is at the entrance of the Meeting Tent.

6 Next, the one presenting the offering must skin the burnt offering and cut it into parts,

7 and the sons of Aaron, the priest, must put fire on the altar and arrange wood on the fire.

8 Then the sons of Aaron, the priests, must arrange the parts with the head and the suet on the wood that is in the fire on the altar.

9 Finally, the one presenting the offering must wash its entrails and its legs in water and the priest must offer all of it up in smoke on the altar—it is a burnt offering, a gift of a soothing aroma to the LORD.

### From the Flock

10 “‘If his offering is from the flock for a burnt offering—from the sheep or the goats—he must present a flawless male,

11 and must slaughter it on the north side of the altar before the LORD, and the sons of Aaron, the priests, will splash its blood against the altar’s sides.

12 Next, the one presenting the offering must cut it into parts, with its head and its suet, and the priest must arrange them on the wood which is in the fire, on the altar.

13 Then the one presenting the offering must wash the entrails and the legs in water, and the priest must present all of it and offer it up in smoke on the altar—it is a burnt offering, a gift of a soothing aroma to the LORD.

### From the Birds

14 “‘If his offering to the LORD is a burnt offering from the birds, he must present his offering from the turtledoves or from the young pigeons.

15 The priest must present it at the altar, pinch off its head and offer the head up in smoke on the altar, and its blood must be drained out against the side of the altar.

16 Then the priest must remove its entrails by cutting off its tail feathers, and throw them to the east side of the altar into the place of fatty ashes,

17 and tear it open by its wings without dividing it into two parts. Finally, the priest must offer it up in smoke on the altar on the wood which is in the fire—it is a burnt offering, a gift of a soothing aroma to the LORD.

### Disposal of the Offering

6:8 Then the LORD spoke to Moses:

9 “Command Aaron and his sons, ‘This is the law of the burnt offering. The burnt offering is to remain on the hearth on the altar all night until morning, and the fire of the altar must be kept burning on it.

10 Then the priest must put on his linen robe and must put linen leggings over his bare flesh, and he must take up the fatty ashes of the burnt offering that the fire consumed on the altar, and he must place them beside the altar.

11 Then he must take off his clothes and put on other clothes, and he must bring the fatty ashes outside the camp to a ceremonially clean place,

12 but the fire which is on the altar must be kept burning on it. It must not be extinguished. So the priest must kindle wood on it morning by morning, and he must arrange the burnt offering on it and offer the fat of the peace offering up in smoke on it.

13 A continual fire must be kept burning on the altar. It must not be extinguished.

### Priestly Portion

7:8 “‘As for the priest who presents someone’s burnt offering, the hide of that burnt offering which he presented belongs to him.

## 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 presents a grain offering to the LORD, his offering must consist of choice wheat flour, and he must pour olive oil on it and put frankincense on it.

2 Then he must bring it to the sons of Aaron, the priests, and the priest must scoop out from there a handful of its choice wheat

flour and some of its olive oil in addition to all of its frankincense, and the priest must offer its memorial portion up in smoke on the altar—it is a gift of a soothing aroma to the LORD.

3 The remainder of the grain offering belongs to Aaron and to his sons—it is most holy from the gifts of the LORD.

#### **Cooked Grain Offerings**

4 “When you present an offering of grain baked in an oven, it must be made of choice wheat flour baked into unleavened loaves mixed with olive oil or unleavened wafers smeared with olive oil.

5 If your offering is a grain offering made on the griddle, it must be choice wheat flour mixed with olive oil, unleavened.

6 Crumble it in pieces and pour olive oil on it—it is a grain offering.

7 If your offering is a grain offering made in a pan, it must be made of choice wheat flour deep fried in olive oil.

8 “You must bring the grain offering that must be made from these to the LORD. Present it to the priest, and he will bring it to the altar.

9 Then the priest must take up from the grain offering its memorial portion and offer it up in smoke on the altar—it is a gift of a soothing aroma to the LORD.

10 The remainder of the grain offering belongs to Aaron and to his sons—it is most holy from the gifts of the LORD.

#### **Additional Instructions**

11 “No grain offering which you present to the LORD can be made with yeast, for you must not offer up in smoke any yeast or honey as a gift to the LORD.

12 You can present them to the LORD as an offering of first fruit, but they must not go up to the altar for a soothing aroma.

13 Moreover, you must season every one of your grain offerings with salt; you must not allow the salt of the covenant of your God to be missing from your grain offering—on every one of your grain offerings you must present salt.

14 “If you present a grain offering of first ripe grain to the LORD, you must present your grain offering of first ripe grain as soft kernels roasted in fire—crushed bits of fresh grain.

15 And you must put olive oil on it and set frankincense on it—it is a grain offering.

16 Then the priest must offer its memorial portion up in smoke—some of its crushed bits, some of its olive oil, in addition to all of its frankincense—it is a gift to the LORD.

#### **Disposal of the Offering**

6:14 “This is the law of the grain offering. The sons of Aaron are to present it before the LORD in front of the altar,

15 and the priest must take up with his hand some of the choice wheat flour of the grain offering and some of its olive oil, and all of the frankincense that is on the grain offering, and he must offer its memorial portion up in smoke on the altar as a soothing aroma to the LORD.

16 Aaron and his sons are to eat what is left over from it. It must be eaten unleavened in a holy place; they are to eat it in the courtyard of the Meeting Tent.

17 It must not be baked with yeast. I have given it as their portion from my gifts. It is most holy, like the sin offering and the guilt offering.

18 Every male among the sons of Aaron may eat it. It is a perpetual allotted portion throughout your generations from the gifts of the LORD. Anyone who touches these gifts must be holy.”

#### **Priestly Portion**

7:9 Every grain offering which is baked in the oven or made in the pan or on the griddle belongs to the priest who presented it.

10 Every grain offering, whether mixed with olive oil or dry, belongs to all the sons of Aaron, each one alike.

### **Daily Grain Offering of the High Priest (1 Nisan [March/April] 1445 BC)**

Leviticus 6:19–23

19 Then the LORD spoke to Moses:

20 “This is the offering of Aaron and his sons which they must present to the LORD on the day when he is anointed: a tenth of an ephah of choice wheat flour as a continual grain offering, half of it in the morning and half of it in the evening.

21 It must be made with olive oil on a griddle and you must bring it well soaked, so you must present a grain offering of broken pieces as a soothing aroma to the LORD.

22 The high priest who succeeds him from among his sons must do it. It is a perpetual statute; it must be offered up in smoke as a whole offering to the LORD.

23 Every grain offering of a priest must be a whole 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 peace offering sacrifice, if he presents an offering from the herd, he must present before the LORD a flawless male or a female.

2 He must lay his hand on the head of his offering and slaughter it at the entrance of the Meeting Tent, and the sons of Aaron, the priests, must splash the blood against the altar’s sides.

3 Then the one presenting the offering must present a gift to the LORD from the peace offering sacrifice: He must remove the fat that covers the entrails and all the fat that surrounds the entrails,

4 the two kidneys with the fat on their sinews, and the protruding lobe on the liver (which he is to remove along with the kidneys).

5 Then the sons of Aaron must offer it up in smoke on the altar atop the burnt offering that is on the wood in the fire as a gift of a soothing aroma to the LORD.

### From the Flock

6 “If his offering for a peace offering sacrifice to the LORD is from the flock, he must present a flawless male or female.

7 If he presents a sheep as his offering, he must present it before the LORD.

8 He must lay his hand on the head of his offering and slaughter it before the Meeting Tent, and the sons of Aaron must splash its blood against the altar’s sides.

9 Then he must present a gift to the LORD from the peace offering sacrifice: He must remove all the fatty tail up to the end of the spine, the fat covering the entrails, and all the fat on the entrails,

10 the two kidneys with the fat on their sinews, and the protruding lobe on the liver (which he is to remove along with the kidneys).

11 Then the priest must offer it up in smoke on the altar as a food gift to the LORD.

12 “If his offering is a goat he must present it before the LORD,

13 lay his hand on its head, and slaughter it before the Meeting Tent, and the sons of Aaron must splash its blood against the altar’s sides.

14 Then he must present from it his offering as a gift to the LORD: the fat which covers the entrails and all the fat on the entrails,

15 the two kidneys with the fat on their sinews, and the protruding lobe on the liver (which he is to remove along with the kidneys).

16 Then the priest must offer them up in smoke on the altar as a food gift for a soothing aroma—all the fat belongs to the LORD.

17 This is a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all the places where you live: You must never eat any fat or any blood.”

### Disposal of the Offering

7:11 “This is the law of the peace offering sacrifice which he is to present to the LORD.

12 If he presents it on account of thanksgiving, along with the thank offering sacrifice he must present unleavened loaves mixed with olive oil, unleavened wafers smeared with olive oil, and well soaked ring-shaped loaves made of choice wheat flour mixed with olive oil.

13 He must present this grain offering in addition to ring-shaped loaves of leavened bread which regularly accompany the sacrifice of his thanksgiving peace offering.

14 He must present one of each kind of grain offering as a contribution offering to the LORD; it belongs to the priest who splashes the blood of the peace offering.

15 The meat of his thanksgiving peace offering must be eaten on the day of his offering; he must not set any of it aside until morning.

16 “If his offering is a votive or freewill sacrifice, it may be eaten on the day he presents his sacrifice, and also the leftovers from it may be eaten on the next day,

17 but the leftovers from the meat of the sacrifice must be burned up in the fire on the third day.

18 If some of the meat of his peace offering sacrifice is ever eaten on the third day it will not be accepted; it will not be accounted to the one who presented it, since it is spoiled, and the person who eats from it will bear his punishment for iniquity.

19 The meat which touches anything ceremonially unclean must not be eaten; it must be burned up in the fire. As for ceremonially clean meat, everyone who is ceremonially clean may eat the meat.

20 The person who eats meat from the peace offering sacrifice which belongs to the LORD while his uncleanness persists will be cut off from his people.

21 When a person touches anything unclean (whether human uncleanness, or an unclean animal, or an unclean detestable creature) and eats some of the meat of the peace offering sacrifice which belongs to the LORD, that person will be cut off from his people.”

### Priestly Portion

7:28 Then the LORD spoke to Moses:

29 “Tell the Israelites, ‘The one who presents his peace offering sacrifice to the LORD must bring his offering to the LORD from his peace offering sacrifice.

30 With his own hands he must bring the LORD's gifts. He must bring the fat with the breast to wave the breast as a wave offering before the LORD,  
31 and the priest must offer the fat up in smoke on the altar, but the breast will belong to Aaron and his sons.  
32 The right thigh you must give as a contribution offering to the priest from your peace offering sacrifices.  
33 The one from Aaron's sons who presents the blood of the peace offering and fat will have the right thigh as his share,  
34 for the breast of the wave offering and the thigh of the contribution offering I have taken from the Israelites out of their peace offering sacrifices and have given them to Aaron the priest and to his sons from the people of Israel as a perpetual allotted portion.”  
35 This is the allotment of Aaron and the allotment of his sons from the LORD's gifts on the day Moses presented them to serve as priests to the LORD.  
36 This is what the LORD commanded to give to them from the Israelites on the day Moses anointed them—a perpetual allotted portion throughout 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 the LORD spoke to Moses:

2 “Tell the Israelites, ‘When a person sins by straying unintentionally from any of the Lord’s commandments which must not be violated, and violates any one of them—

3 “‘If the high priest sins so that the people are guilty, on account of the sin he has committed he must present a flawless young bull to the LORD for a sin offering.

4 He must bring the bull to the entrance of the Meeting Tent before the LORD, lay his hand on the head of the bull, and slaughter the bull before the LORD.

5 Then that high priest must take some of the blood of the bull and bring it to the Meeting Tent.

6 The priest must dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle some of it seven times before the LORD toward the front of the veil-canopy of the sanctuary.

7 The priest must put some of the blood on the horns of the altar of fragrant incense that is before the LORD in the Meeting Tent, and all the rest of the bull’s blood he must pour out at the base of the altar of burnt offering that is at the entrance of the Meeting Tent.

8 “‘Then he must take up all the fat from the sin offering bull: the fat covering the entrails and all the fat surrounding the entrails, 9 the two kidneys with the fat on their sinews, and the protruding lobe on the liver (which he is to remove along with the kidneys) 10 —just as it is taken from the ox of the peace offering sacrifice—and the priest must offer them up in smoke on the altar of burnt offering.

11 But the hide of the bull, all its flesh along with its head and its legs, its entrails, and its dung—

12 all the rest of the bull—he must bring outside the camp to a ceremonially clean place, to the fatty ash pile, and he must burn it on a wood fire; it must be burned on the fatty ash pile.

### Unintentional Sin by the Congregation (corporate guilt)

13 “‘If the whole congregation of Israel strays unintentionally and the matter is not noticed by the assembly, and they violate one of the Lord’s commandments, which must not be violated, so they become guilty,

14 the assembly must present a young bull for a sin offering when the sin they have committed becomes known. They must bring it before the Meeting Tent,

15 the elders of the congregation must lay their hands on the head of the bull before the LORD, and someone must slaughter the bull before the LORD.

16 Then the high priest must bring some of the blood of the bull to the Meeting Tent,

17 and that priest must dip his finger in the blood and sprinkle some of the blood seven times before the LORD toward the front of the veil-canopy.

18 He must put some of the blood on the horns of the altar which is before the LORD in the Meeting Tent, and all the rest of the blood he must pour out at the base of the altar of burnt offering that is at the entrance of the Meeting Tent.

19 “‘Then the priest must take all its fat and offer the fat up in smoke on the altar.

20 He must do with the rest of the bull just as he did with the bull of the sin offering; this is what he must do with it. So the priest will make atonement on their behalf and they will be forgiven.

21 He must bring the rest of the bull outside the camp and burn it just as he burned the first bull—it is the sin offering of the assembly.

### Unintentional Sin by a Ruler (personal guilt)

22 “‘Whenever a leader, by straying unintentionally, sins and violates one of the commandments of the LORD his God which must not be violated, and he pleads guilty,

23 or his sin that he committed is made known to him, he must bring a flawless male goat as his offering.

24 He must lay his hand on the head of the male goat and slaughter it in the place where the burnt offering is slaughtered before the LORD—it is a sin offering.

25 Then the priest must take some of the blood of the sin offering with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and he must pour out the rest of its blood at the base of the altar of burnt offering.

26 Then the priest must offer all of its fat up in smoke on the altar like the fat of the peace offering sacrifice. So the priest will make atonement on his behalf for his sin and he will be forgiven.

### Unintentional Sin by the Common Individual (personal guilt)

27 “‘If an ordinary individual sins by straying unintentionally when he violates one of the Lord’s commandments which must not be violated, and he pleads guilty

28 or his sin that he committed is made known to him, he must bring a flawless female goat as his offering for the sin that he committed.

29 He must lay his hand on the head of the sin offering and slaughter the sin offering in the place where the burnt offering is slaughtered.

30 Then the priest must take some of its blood with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and he must pour out all the rest of its blood at the base of the altar.

31 Then he must remove all of its fat (just as fat was removed from the peace offering sacrifice) and the priest must offer it up in smoke on the altar for a soothing aroma to the LORD. So the priest will make atonement on his behalf and he will be forgiven.

32 “But if he brings a sheep as his offering, for a sin offering, he must bring a flawless female.

33 He must lay his hand on the head of the sin offering and slaughter it for a sin offering in the place where the burnt offering is slaughtered.

34 Then the priest must take some of the blood of the sin offering with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and he must pour out all the rest of its blood at the base of the altar.

35 Then the one who brought the offering must remove all its fat (just as the fat of the sheep is removed from the peace offering sacrifice) and the priest must offer them up in smoke on the altar on top of the other gifts of the LORD. So the priest will make atonement on his behalf for his sin which he has 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 a public curse against one who fails to testify and he is a witness (he either saw or knew what had happened) and he does not make it known, then he will bear his punishment for iniquity.

2 Or when there is a person who touches anything ceremonially unclean, whether the carcass of an unclean wild animal, or the carcass of an unclean domesticated animal, or the carcass of an unclean creeping thing, even if he did not realize it, but he himself has become unclean and is guilty;

3 or when he touches human uncleanness with regard to anything by which he can become unclean, even if he did not realize it, but he himself has later come to know it and is guilty;

4 or when a person swears an oath, speaking thoughtlessly with his lips, whether to do evil or to do good, with regard to anything which the individual might speak thoughtlessly in an oath, even if he did not realize it, but he himself has later come to know it and is guilty with regard to one of these oaths—

5 when an individual becomes guilty with regard to one of these things he must confess how he has sinned,

6 and he must bring his penalty for guilt to the LORD for his sin that he has committed, a female from the flock, whether a female sheep or a female goat, for a sin offering. So the priest will make atonement on his behalf for his sin.

### **Alternatives for the Poor**

7 “If he cannot afford an animal from the flock, he must bring his penalty for guilt for his sin that he has committed, two turtledoves or two young pigeons, to the LORD, one for a sin offering and one for a burnt offering.

8 He must bring them to the priest and present first the one that is for a sin offering. The priest must pinch its head at the nape of its neck, but must not sever the head from the body.

9 Then he must sprinkle some of the blood of the sin offering on the wall of the altar, and the remainder of the blood must be squeezed out at the base of the altar—it is a sin offering.

10 The second bird he must make a burnt offering according to the standard regulation. So the priest will make atonement on behalf of this person for his sin which he has committed, and he will be forgiven.

11 “If he cannot afford two turtledoves or two young pigeons, he must bring as his offering for his sin which he has committed a tenth of an ephah of choice wheat flour for a sin offering. He must not place olive oil on it and he must not put frankincense on it, because it is a sin offering.

12 He must bring it to the priest and the priest must scoop out from it a handful as its memorial portion and offer it up in smoke on the altar on top of the other gifts of the LORD—it is a sin offering.

13 So the priest will make atonement on his behalf for his sin which he has committed by doing one of these things, and he will be forgiven. The remainder of the offering will belong to the priest like the grain offering.”

### **Disposal of the Offering**

6:24 Then the LORD spoke to Moses:

25 “Tell Aaron and his sons, ‘This is the law of the sin offering. In the place where the burnt offering is slaughtered the sin offering must be slaughtered before the LORD. It is most holy.

26 The priest who offers it for sin is to eat it. It must be eaten in a holy place, in the court of the Meeting Tent.

27 Anyone who touches its meat must be holy, and whoever spatters some of its blood on a garment, you must wash whatever he spatters it on in a holy place.

28 Any clay vessel it is boiled in must be broken, and if it was boiled in a bronze vessel, then that vessel must be rubbed out and rinsed in water.

**Priestly Portion**

29 Any male among the priests may eat it. It is most holy.

30 But any sin offering from which some of its blood is brought into the Meeting Tent to make atonement in the sanctuary must not be eaten. It must be burned up 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 the LORD spoke to Moses:

15 "When a person commits a trespass and sins by straying unintentionally from the regulations about the Lord's holy things, then he must bring his penalty for guilt to the LORD, a flawless ram from the flock, convertible into silver shekels according to the standard of the sanctuary shekel, for a guilt offering.

16 And whatever holy thing he violated he must restore and must add one fifth to it and give it to the priest. So the priest will make atonement on his behalf with the guilt offering ram and he will be forgiven."

17 "If a person sins and violates any of the Lord's commandments which must not be violated (although he did not know it at the time, but later realizes he is guilty), then he will bear his punishment for iniquity

18 and must bring a flawless ram from the flock, convertible into silver shekels, for a guilt offering to the priest. So the priest will make atonement on his behalf for his error which he committed (although he himself had not known it) and he will be forgiven.

19 It is a guilt offering; he was surely guilty before the LORD."

**Intentional Sin Involving the Private Property of a Neighbor**

6:1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses:

2 "When a person sins and commits a trespass against the LORD by deceiving his fellow citizen in regard to something held in trust, or a pledge, or something stolen, or by extorting something from his fellow citizen,

3 or has found something lost and denies it and swears falsely concerning any one of the things that someone might do to sin—

4 when it happens that he sins and he is found guilty, then he must return whatever he had stolen, or whatever he had extorted, or the thing that he had held in trust, or the lost thing that he had found,

5 or anything about which he swears falsely. He must restore it in full and add one fifth to it; he must give it to its owner when he is found guilty.

6 Then he must bring his guilt offering to the LORD, a flawless ram from the flock, convertible into silver shekels, for a guilt offering to the priest.

7 So the priest will make atonement on his behalf before the LORD and he will be forgiven for whatever he has done to become guilty."

**Disposal of the Offering**

7:1 "This is the law of the guilt offering. It is most holy.

2 In the place where they slaughter the burnt offering they must slaughter the guilt offering, and the officiating priest must splash the blood against the altar's sides.

3 Then the one making the offering must present all its fat: the fatty tail, the fat covering the entrails,

4 the two kidneys and the fat on their sinews, and the protruding lobe on the liver (which he must remove along with the kidneys).

5 Then the priest must offer them up in smoke on the altar as a gift to the LORD. It is a guilt offering.

**Priestly Portion**

6 Any male among the priests may eat it. It must be eaten in a holy place. It is most holy.

7 The law is the same for the sin offering and the guilt 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 the LORD spoke to Moses:

23 "Tell the Israelites, 'You must not eat any fat of an ox, sheep, or goat.

24 Moreover, the fat of an animal that has died of natural causes and the fat of an animal torn by beasts may be used for any other purpose, but you must certainly never eat it.

25 If anyone eats fat from the animal from which he presents a gift to the LORD, that person will be cut off from his people.

26 And you must not eat any blood of the birds or the domesticated land animals in any of the places where you live.

27 Any person who eats any blood—that person will be cut off from his people."

**Offering Summary (1 Nisan [March/April] 1445 BC)**

Leviticus 7:37–38

37 This is the law for the burnt offering, the grain offering, the sin offering, the guilt offering, the ordination offering, and the peace offering sacrifice,  
38 which the LORD commanded Moses on Mount Sinai on the day he commanded the Israelites to present their offerings to the LORD in the wilderness 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 the LORD spoke to Moses:

2 “Take Aaron and his sons with him, and the garments, the anointing oil, the sin offering bull, the two rams, and the basket of unleavened bread,

3 and assemble the whole congregation at the entrance of the Meeting Tent.”

4 So Moses did just as the LORD commanded him, and the congregation assembled at the entrance of the Meeting Tent.

5 Then Moses said to the congregation: “This is what the LORD has commanded to be done.”

6 So Moses brought Aaron and his sons forward and washed them with water.

7 Then he put the tunic on Aaron, wrapped the sash around him, and clothed him with the robe. Next he put the ephod on him and placed on him the decorated band of the ephod, and fastened the ephod closely to him with the band.

8 He then set the breastpiece on him and put the Urim and Thummim into the breastpiece.

9 Finally, he set the turban on his head and attached the gold plate, the holy diadem, to the front of the turban just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

**Anointing of Tabernacle and Aaron**

10 Then Moses took the anointing oil and anointed the tabernacle and everything in it, and so consecrated them.

11 Next he sprinkled some of it on the altar seven times and so anointed the altar, all its vessels, and the wash basin and its stand to consecrate them.

12 He then poured some of the anointing oil on the head of Aaron and anointed him to consecrate him.

13 Moses also brought forward Aaron’s sons, clothed them with tunics, wrapped sashes around them, and wrapped headbands on them just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

**Sin Offering (see Exodus 29:10–14)**

14 Then he brought near the sin offering bull and Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the sin offering bull,

15 and he slaughtered it. Moses then took the blood and put it all around on the horns of the altar with his finger and decontaminated the altar, and he poured out the rest of the blood at the base of the altar and so consecrated it to make atonement on it.

16 Then he took all the fat on the entrails, the protruding lobe of the liver, and the two kidneys and their fat, and Moses offered it all up in smoke on the altar,

17 but the rest of the bull—its hide, its flesh, and its dung—he completely burned up outside the camp just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

**Burnt Offering (see Exodus 29:15–18)**

18 Then he presented the burnt offering ram and Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the ram,

19 and he slaughtered it. Moses then splashed the blood against the altar’s sides.

20 Then he cut the ram into parts, and Moses offered the head, the parts, and the suet up in smoke,

21 but the entrails and the legs he washed with water, and Moses offered the whole ram up in smoke on the altar—it was a burnt offering for a soothing aroma, a gift to the LORD, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

**Ram of Ordination (see Exodus 29:19–30)**

22 Then he presented the second ram, the ram of ordination, and Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the ram

23 and he slaughtered it. Moses then took some of its blood and put it on Aaron’s right earlobe, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot.

24 Next he brought Aaron’s sons forward, and Moses put some of the blood on their right earlobes, on their right thumbs, and on the big toes of their right feet, and Moses splashed the rest of the blood against the altar’s sides.

25 Then he took the fat (the fatty tail, all the fat on the entrails, the protruding lobe of the liver, and the two kidneys and their fat) and the right thigh,

26 and from the basket of unleavened bread that was before the LORD he took one unleavened loaf, one loaf of bread mixed with olive oil, and one wafer, and placed them on the fat parts and on the right thigh.

27 He then put all of them on the palms of Aaron and his sons, who waved them as a wave offering before the LORD.

28 Moses then took them from their palms and offered them up in smoke on the altar on top of the burnt offering—they were an ordination offering for a soothing aroma; it was a gift to the LORD.

29 Finally, Moses took the breast and waved it as a wave offering before the LORD from the ram of ordination. It was Moses’ share just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

30 Then Moses took some of the anointing oil and some of the blood which was on the altar and sprinkled it on Aaron and his garments, and on his sons and his sons’ garments with him. So 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 his sons, “Boil the meat at the entrance of the Meeting Tent, and there you are to eat it and the bread which is in the ordination offering basket, just as I have commanded, saying, ‘Aaron and his sons are to eat it,’

32 but the remainder of the meat and the bread you must burn with fire.

33 And you must not go out from the entrance of the Meeting Tent for seven days, until the day when your days of ordination are completed, because you must be ordained over a seven-day period.

34 What has been done on this day the LORD has commanded to be done to make atonement for you.

35 You must reside at the entrance of the Meeting Tent day and night for seven days and keep the charge of the LORD so that you will not die, for this is what I have been commanded.”

36 So Aaron and his sons did all the things the LORD 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**

1 When Moses had completed setting up the tabernacle, he anointed it and consecrated it and all its furnishings, and he anointed and consecrated the altar and all its utensils.

2 Then the leaders of Israel, the heads of their clans, made an offering. They were the leaders of the tribes; they were the ones who had been supervising the numbering.

3 They brought their offering before the LORD, six covered carts and twelve oxen—one cart for every two of the leaders, and an ox for each one; and they presented them in front of the tabernacle.

4 Then the LORD spoke to Moses:

5 “Receive these gifts from them, that they may be used in doing the work of the tent of meeting; and you must give them to the Levites, to every man as his service requires.”

6 So Moses accepted the carts and the oxen and gave them to the Levites.

7 He gave two carts and four oxen to the Gershonites, as their service required;

8 and he gave four carts and eight oxen to the Merarites, as their service required, under the authority of Ithamar son of Aaron the priest.

9 But to the Kohathites he gave none, because the service of the holy things, which they carried on their shoulders, was their responsibility.

10 The leaders offered gifts for the dedication of the altar when it was anointed. And the leaders presented their offering before the altar.

11 For the LORD said to Moses, “They must present their offering, one leader for each day, for the dedication of the altar.”

### **First Day Offering—Judah**

12 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 silver platter weighing 130 shekels, and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing 70 shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each of them full of fine flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering;

14 one gold pan weighing 10 shekels, full of incense;

15 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, for a burnt offering;

16 one male goat for a purification offering;

17 and for the sacrifice of peace offerings: two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. 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 offered for his offering one silver platter weighing 130 shekels and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing 70, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each of them full of fine flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering;

20 one gold pan weighing 10 shekels, full of incense;

21 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, for a burnt offering;

22 one male goat for a purification offering;

23 and for the sacrifice of peace offerings: two bulls, five rams, five male 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 Zebulunites, presented an offering.

25 His offering was one silver platter weighing 130 shekels and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing 70 shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each of them full of fine flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering;  
26 one gold pan weighing 10 shekels, full of incense;  
27 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, for a burnt offering;  
28 one male goat for a purification offering;  
29 and for the sacrifice of peace offerings: two bulls, five rams, five male 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 Reubenites, presented an offering.  
31 His offering was one silver platter weighing 130 shekels and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing 70 shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each of them full of fine flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering;  
32 one gold pan weighing 10 shekels, full of incense;  
33 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, for a burnt offering;  
34 one male goat for a purification offering;  
35 and for the sacrifice of peace offerings: two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five 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 Simeonites, presented an offering.  
37 His offering was one silver platter weighing 130 shekels and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing 70 shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each of them full of fine flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering;  
38 one gold pan weighing 10 shekels;  
39 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, for a burnt offering;  
40 one male goat for a purification offering;  
41 and for the sacrifice of peace offerings: two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Sheloumiel son of Zurishaddai.

#### **Sixth Day Offering—Gad**

42 On the sixth day Eliasaph son of Deuel, leader of the Gadites, presented an offering.  
43 His offering was one silver platter weighing 130 shekels and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing 70 shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each of them full of fine flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering;  
44 one gold pan weighing 10 shekels;  
45 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, for a burnt offering;  
46 one male goat for a purification offering;  
47 and for the sacrifice of peace offerings: two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five 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 Ephraimites, presented an offering.  
49 His offering was one silver platter weighing 130 shekels and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing 70 shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each of them full of fine flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering;  
50 one gold pan weighing 10 shekels, full of incense;  
51 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, for a burnt offering;  
52 one male goat for a purification offering;  
53 and for the sacrifice of peace offerings: two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five 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 On the eighth day Moses summoned Aaron and his sons and the elders of Israel,
- 2 and said to Aaron, “Take for yourself a bull calf for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering, both flawless, and present them before the LORD.
- 3 Then tell the Israelites: ‘Take a male goat for a sin offering and a calf and lamb, both a year old and flawless, for a burnt offering,
- 4 and an ox and a ram for peace offerings to sacrifice before the LORD, and a grain offering mixed with olive oil, for today the LORD is going to appear to you.’”
- 5 So they took what Moses had commanded to the front of the Meeting Tent and the whole congregation presented them and stood before the LORD.
- 6 Then Moses said, “This is what the LORD has commanded you to do so that the glory of the LORD may appear to you.”
- 7 Moses then said to Aaron, “Approach the altar and make your sin offering and your burnt offering, and make atonement on behalf of yourself and on behalf of the people; and also make the people’s offering and make atonement on behalf of them just as the LORD has commanded.”

### Sin and Burnt Offering for Aaron

- 8 So Aaron approached the altar and slaughtered the sin offering calf which was for himself.
- 9 Then Aaron’s sons presented the blood to him and he dipped his finger in the blood and put it on the horns of the altar, and the rest of the blood he poured out at the base of the altar.
- 10 The fat and the kidneys and the protruding lobe of the liver from the sin offering he offered up in smoke on the altar just as the LORD had commanded Moses,
- 11 but the flesh and the hide he completely burned up outside the camp.
- 12 He then slaughtered the burnt offering, and his sons handed the blood to him and he splashed it against the altar’s sides.
- 13 The burnt offering itself they handed to him by its parts, including the head, and he offered them up in smoke on the altar,
- 14 and he washed the entrails and the legs and offered them up in smoke on top of the burnt offering on the altar.

### Sin, Burnt, Grain and Peace Offering for the People

- 15 Then he presented the people’s offering. He took the sin offering male goat which was for the people, slaughtered it, and performed a decontamination rite with it like the first one.
- 16 He then presented the burnt offering, and did it according to the standard regulation.
- 17 Next he presented the grain offering, filled his hand with some of it, and offered it up in smoke on the altar in addition to the morning burnt offering.
- 18 Then he slaughtered the ox and the ram—the peace offering sacrifices which were for the people—and Aaron’s sons handed the blood to him and he splashed it against the altar’s sides.
- 19 As for the fat parts from the ox and from the ram (the fatty tail, the fat covering the entrails, the kidneys, and the protruding lobe of the liver),
- 20 they set those on the breasts and he offered the fat parts up in smoke on the altar.
- 21 Finally Aaron waved the breasts and the right thigh as a wave offering before the LORD just as Moses had commanded.

### Yahweh Confirms the Priests’ Ministry

- 22 Then Aaron lifted up his hands toward the people and blessed them and descended from making the sin offering, the burnt offering, and the peace offering.
- 23 Moses and Aaron then entered into the Meeting Tent. When they came out, they blessed the people, and the glory of the LORD appeared to all the people.
- 24 Then fire went out from the presence of the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the fat parts on the altar, and all the people saw it, so they shouted loudly and fell down with their faces to the ground.

## The Sin of Nadab and Abihu (8 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 10

### Nadab and Abihu Sin Against Yahweh

- 1 Then Aaron’s sons, Nadab and Abihu, each took his fire pan and put fire in it, set incense on it, and presented strange fire before the LORD, which he had not commanded them to do.
- 2 So fire went out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them so that they died before the LORD.
- 3 Moses then said to Aaron, “This is what the LORD spoke: ‘Among the ones close to me I will show myself holy, and in the presence of all the people I will be honored.’” So Aaron kept silent.

**The Aftermath**

4 Moses then called to Mishael and Elzaphan, the sons of Uzziel, Aaron's uncle, and said to them, "Come near, carry your brothers away from the front of the sanctuary to a place outside the camp."

5 So they came near and carried them away in their tunics to a place outside the camp just as Moses had spoken.

6 Then Moses said to Aaron and to Eleazar and Ithamar his other two sons, "Do not dishevel the hair of your heads and do not tear your garments, so that you do not die and so that wrath does not come on the whole congregation. Your brothers, all the house of Israel, are to mourn the burning which the LORD has caused,

7 but you must not go out from the entrance of the Meeting Tent lest you die, for the Lord's anointing oil is on you." So they acted according to the word of Moses.

**Yahweh's Instructions to Aaron**

8 Then the LORD spoke to Aaron,

9 "Do not drink wine or strong drink, you and your sons with you, when you enter into the Meeting Tent, so that you do not die, which is a perpetual statute throughout your generations,

10 as well as to distinguish between the holy and the common, and between the unclean and the clean,

11 and to teach the Israelites all the statutes that the LORD has spoken to them through Moses."

**Disposal of Offerings**

12 Then Moses spoke to Aaron and to Eleazar and Ithamar, his remaining sons, "Take the grain offering which remains from the gifts of the LORD and eat it unleavened beside the altar, for it is most holy.

13 You must eat it in a holy place because it is your allotted portion and the allotted portion of your sons from the gifts of the LORD, for this is what I have been commanded.

14 Also, the breast of the wave offering and the thigh of the contribution offering you must eat in a ceremonially clean place, you and your sons and daughters with you, for they have been given as your allotted portion and the allotted portion of your sons from the peace offering sacrifices of the Israelites.

15 The thigh of the contribution offering and the breast of the wave offering they must bring in addition to the gifts of the fat parts to wave them as a wave offering before the LORD, and it will belong to you and your sons with you for a perpetual statute just as the LORD has commanded."

16 Later Moses sought diligently for the sin offering male goat, but it had actually been burnt. So he became angry at Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's remaining sons, saying,

17 "Why did you not eat the sin offering in the sanctuary? For it is most holy and he gave it to you to bear the iniquity of the congregation, to make atonement on their behalf before the LORD.

18 See here! Its blood was not brought into the holy place within! You should certainly have eaten it in the sanctuary just as I commanded!"

19 But Aaron spoke to Moses, "See here! Just today they presented their sin offering and their burnt offering before the LORD and such things as these have happened to me! If I had eaten a sin offering today would the LORD have been pleased?"

20 When Moses heard this explanation, he was satisfied.

## 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 Manassehites, presented an offering.

55 His offering was one silver platter weighing 130 shekels and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing 70 shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each of them full of fine flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering;

56 one gold pan weighing 10 shekels, full of incense;

57 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, for a burnt offering;

58 one male goat for a purification offering;

59 and for the sacrifice of peace offerings: two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five 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 Gideon, leader of the Benjaminites, presented an offering.

61 His offering was one silver platter weighing 130 shekels and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing 70 shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each of them full of fine flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering;

62 one gold pan weighing 10 shekels, full of incense;

63 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, for a burnt offering;

64 one male goat for a purification offering;

65 and for the sacrifice of peace offerings: two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five 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 Amishaddai, leader of the Danites, presented an offering.

67 His offering was one silver platter weighing 130 shekels and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing 70 shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each of them full of fine flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering;

68 one gold pan weighing 10 shekels, full of incense;

69 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, for a burnt offering;

70 one male goat for a purification offering;

71 and for the sacrifice of peace offerings: two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Ahiezer son of Amishaddai.

**Eleventh Day Offering—Asher**

72 On the eleventh day Pagiel son of Ocran, leader of the Asherites, presented an offering.

73 His offering was one silver platter weighing 130 shekels and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing 70 shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each of them full of fine flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering;

74 one gold pan weighing 10 shekels, full of incense;

75 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, for a burnt offering;

76 one male goat for a purification offering;

77 and for the sacrifice of peace offerings: two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five 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 The LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying to them,  
2 “Tell the Israelites: ‘This is the kind of creature you may eat from among all the animals that are on the land.  
3 You may eat any among the animals that has a divided hoof (the hooves are completely split in two) and that also chews the cud.  
4 However, you must not eat these from among those that chew the cud and have divided hooves: The camel is unclean to you because it chews the cud even though its hoof is not divided.  
5 The rock badger is unclean to you because it chews the cud even though its hoof is not divided.  
6 The hare is unclean to you because it chews the cud even though its hoof is not divided.  
7 The pig is unclean to you because its hoof is divided (the hoof is completely split in two), even though it does not chew the cud.  
8 You must not eat from their meat and you must not touch their carcasses; they are unclean to you.

**Clean and Unclean Aquatic Animals**

- 9 “These you can eat from all creatures that are in the water: Any creatures in the water that have both fins and scales, whether in the seas or in the streams, you may eat.  
10 But any creatures that do not have both fins and scales, whether in the seas or in the streams, from all the swarming things of the water and from all the living creatures that are in the water, are detestable to you.  
11 Since they are detestable to you, you must not eat their meat and their carcass you must detest.  
12 Any creature in the water that does not have both fins and scales is detestable to you.

**Unclean Birds**

- 13 “These you are to detest from among the birds—they must not be eaten, because they are detestable: the griffon vulture, the bearded vulture, the black vulture,  
14 the kite, the buzzard of any kind,  
15 every kind of crow,  
16 the eagle owl, the short-eared owl, the long-eared owl, the hawk of any kind,  
17 the little owl, the cormorant, the screech owl,  
18 the white owl, the scops owl, the osprey,  
19 the stork, the heron of any kind, the hoopoe, and the bat.

**Clean and Unclean Winged Insects**

- 20 “Every winged swarming thing that walks on all fours is detestable to you.  
21 However, this you may eat from all the winged swarming things that walk on all fours, which have jointed legs to hop with on the land.  
22 These you may eat from them: the locust of any kind, the bald locust of any kind, the cricket of any kind, the grasshopper of any kind.  
23 But any other winged swarming thing that has four legs is detestable to you.

**Purification After Touching Dead Animals**

- 24 “By these you defile yourselves; anyone who touches their carcass will be unclean until the evening,  
25 and anyone who carries their carcass must wash his clothes and will be unclean until the evening.  
26 “All animals that divide the hoof but it is not completely split in two and do not chew the cud are unclean to you; anyone who touches them becomes unclean.  
27 All that walk on their paws among all the creatures that walk on all fours are unclean to you. Anyone who touches their carcass will be unclean until the evening,  
28 and the one who carries their carcass must wash his clothes and be unclean until the evening; they are unclean to you.  
29 “Now this is what is unclean to you among the swarming things that swarm on the land: the rat, the mouse, the large lizard of any kind,  
30 the Mediterranean gecko, the spotted lizard, the wall gecko, the skink, and the chameleon.  
31 These are the ones that are unclean to you among all the swarming things. Anyone who touches them when they die will be unclean until evening.  
32 Also, anything they fall on when they die will become unclean—any wood vessel or garment or article of leather or sackcloth. Any such vessel with which work is done must be immersed in water and will be unclean until the evening. Then it will become clean.  
33 As for any clay vessel they fall into, everything in it will become unclean and you must break it.  
34 Any food that may be eaten which becomes soaked with water will become unclean. Anything drinkable in any such vessel will become unclean.  
35 Anything their carcass may fall on will become unclean. An oven or small stove must be smashed to pieces; they are unclean, and

they will stay unclean to you.

36 However, a spring or a cistern which collects water will be clean, but one who touches their carcass will be unclean.

37 Now, if such a carcass falls on any sowing seed which is to be sown, it is clean,

38 but if water is put on the seed and such a carcass falls on it, it is unclean to you.

39 “Now if an animal that you may eat dies, whoever touches its carcass will be unclean until the evening.

40 One who eats from its carcass must wash his clothes and be unclean until the evening, and whoever carries its carcass must wash his clothes and be unclean until the evening.

#### **Unclean Swarming Animals**

41 Every swarming thing that swarms on the land is detestable; it must not be eaten.

42 You must not eat anything that crawls on its belly or anything that walks on all fours or on any number of legs of all the swarming things that swarm on the land, because they are detestable.

43 Do not make yourselves detestable by any of the swarming things. You must not defile yourselves by them and become unclean by them,

#### **Rationale for the Law**

44 for I am the LORD your God and you are to sanctify yourselves and be holy because I am holy. You must not defile yourselves by any of the swarming things that creep on the ground,

45 for I am the LORD who brought you up from the land of Egypt to be your God, and you are to be holy because I am holy. [[1 Pet 1:16](#)]

#### **Summary Statement**

46 This is the law of the land animals, the birds, all the living creatures that move in the water, and all the creatures that swarm on the land,

47 to distinguish between the unclean and the clean, between the living creatures that may be eaten and the living creatures that must not be eaten.”

## **Purification After Childbirth (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)**

### **Leviticus 12**

#### **Birth of a Son**

1 The LORD spoke to Moses:

2 “Tell the Israelites, ‘When a woman produces offspring and bears a male child, she will be unclean seven days, as she is unclean during the days of her menstruation.

3 On the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin must be circumcised.

4 Then she will remain thirty-three days in blood purity. She must not touch anything holy and she must not enter the sanctuary until the days of her purification are fulfilled.

#### **Birth of a Daughter**

5 If she bears a female child, she will be impure fourteen days as during her menstrual flow, and she will remain sixty-six days in blood purity.

#### **Offering for Bearing Children**

6 “When the days of her purification are completed for a son or for a daughter, she must bring a one year old lamb for a burnt offering and a young pigeon or turtledove for a sin offering to the entrance of the Meeting Tent, to the priest.

7 The priest is to present it before the LORD and make atonement on her behalf, and she will be clean from her flow of blood. This is the law of the one who bears a child, for the male or the female child.

8 If she cannot afford a sheep, then she must take two turtledoves or two young pigeons, one for a burnt offering and one for a sin offering, and the priest is to make atonement on her behalf, and she will be clean.” [cf. [Luke 2:22–24](#)]

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**Skin Infections and Mildew (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)**

Leviticus 13–14

**Diagnosis of Symptoms**

13:1 The LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying,

2 “When a person has on the skin of his body a swelling or an eruption or a spot, and it turns into a case of leprous disease on the skin of his body, then he shall be brought to Aaron the priest or to one of his sons the priests,

3 and the priest shall examine the diseased area on the skin of his body. And if the hair in the diseased area has turned white and the disease appears to be deeper than the skin of his body, it is a case of leprous disease. When the priest has examined him, he shall pronounce him unclean.

4 But if the spot is white in the skin of his body and appears no deeper than the skin, and the hair in it has not turned white, the priest shall shut up the diseased person for seven days.

5 And the priest shall examine him on the seventh day, and if in his eyes the disease is checked and the disease has not spread in the skin, then the priest shall shut him up for another seven days.

6 And the priest shall examine him again on the seventh day, and if the diseased area has faded and the disease has not spread in the skin, then the priest shall pronounce him clean; it is only an eruption. And he shall wash his clothes and be clean.

7 But if the eruption spreads in the skin, after he has shown himself to the priest for his cleansing, he shall appear again before the priest.

8 And the priest shall look, and if the eruption has spread in the skin, then the priest shall pronounce him unclean; it is a leprous disease.

**Diagnosis of Chronic Ailments**

9 “When a man is afflicted with a leprous disease, he shall be brought to the priest,

10 and the priest shall look. And if there is a white swelling in the skin that has turned the hair white, and there is raw flesh in the swelling,

11 it is a chronic leprous disease in the skin of his body, and the priest shall pronounce him unclean. He shall not shut him up, for he is unclean.

12 And if the leprous disease breaks out in the skin, so that the leprous disease covers all the skin of the diseased person from head to foot, so far as the priest can see,

13 then the priest shall look, and if the leprous disease has covered all his body, he shall pronounce him clean of the disease; it has all turned white, and he is clean.

14 But when raw flesh appears on him, he shall be unclean.

15 And the priest shall examine the raw flesh and pronounce him unclean. Raw flesh is unclean, for it is a leprous disease.

16 But if the raw flesh recovers and turns white again, then he shall come to the priest,

17 and the priest shall examine him, and if the disease has turned white, then the priest shall pronounce the diseased person clean; he is clean.

**Dealing With Complications—Boils**

18 “If there is in the skin of one’s body a boil and it heals,

19 and in the place of the boil there comes a white swelling or a reddish-white spot, then it shall be shown to the priest.

20 And the priest shall look, and if it appears deeper than the skin and its hair has turned white, then the priest shall pronounce him unclean. It is a case of leprous disease that has broken out in the boil.

21 But if the priest examines it and there is no white hair in it and it is not deeper than the skin, but has faded, then the priest shall shut him up seven days.

22 And if it spreads in the skin, then the priest shall pronounce him unclean; it is a disease.

23 But if the spot remains in one place and does not spread, it is the scar of the boil, and the priest shall pronounce him clean.

**Dealing With Complications—Burns**

24 “Or, when the body has a burn on its skin and the raw flesh of the burn becomes a spot, reddish-white or white,

25 the priest shall examine it, and if the hair in the spot has turned white and it appears deeper than the skin, then it is a leprous disease. It has broken out in the burn, and the priest shall pronounce him unclean; it is a case of leprous disease.

26 But if the priest examines it and there is no white hair in the spot and it is no deeper than the skin, but has faded, the priest shall shut him up seven days,

27 and the priest shall examine him the seventh day. If it is spreading in the skin, then the priest shall pronounce him unclean; it is a case of leprous disease.

28 But if the spot remains in one place and does not spread in the skin, but has faded, it is a swelling from the burn, and the priest shall pronounce him clean, for it is the scar of the burn.

**Dealing With Complications—Sores**

29 “When a man or woman has a disease on the head or the beard,

30 the priest shall examine the disease. And if it appears deeper than the skin, and the hair in it is yellow and thin, then the priest shall pronounce him unclean. It is an itch, a leprous disease of the head or the beard.

31 And if the priest examines the itching disease and it appears no deeper than the skin and there is no black hair in it, then the priest shall shut up the person with the itching disease for seven days,

32 and on the seventh day the priest shall examine the disease. If the itch has not spread, and there is in it no yellow hair, and the itch appears to be no deeper than the skin,

33 then he shall shave himself, but the itch he shall not shave; and the priest shall shut up the person with the itching disease for another seven days.

34 And on the seventh day the priest shall examine the itch, and if the itch has not spread in the skin and it appears to be no deeper than the skin, then the priest shall pronounce him clean. And he shall wash his clothes and be clean.

35 But if the itch spreads in the skin after his cleansing,

36 then the priest shall examine him, and if the itch has spread in the skin, the priest need not seek for the yellow hair; he is unclean.

37 But if in his eyes the itch is unchanged and black hair has grown in it, the itch is healed and he is clean, and the priest shall pronounce him clean.

**Dealing With Complications—Spots**

38 “When a man or a woman has spots on the skin of the body, white spots,

39 the priest shall look, and if the spots on the skin of the body are of a dull white, it is leukoderma that has broken out in the skin; he is clean.

**Dealing With Complications—Baldness**

40 “If a man’s hair falls out from his head, he is bald; he is clean.

41 And if a man’s hair falls out from his forehead, he has baldness of the forehead; he is clean.

42 But if there is on the bald head or the bald forehead a reddish-white diseased area, it is a leprous disease breaking out on his bald head or his bald forehead.

43 Then the priest shall examine him, and if the diseased swelling is reddish-white on his bald head or on his bald forehead, like the appearance of leprous disease in the skin of the body,

44 he is a leprous man, he is unclean. The priest must pronounce him unclean; his disease is on his head.

**Rules for Living with an Infectious Skin Disease**

45 “The leprous person who has the disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head hang loose, and he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, ‘Unclean, unclean.’

46 He shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease. He is unclean. He shall live alone. His dwelling shall be outside the camp.

**Mildew in Fabrics and Leather**

47 “When there is a case of leprous disease in a garment, whether a woolen or a linen garment,

48 in warp or woof of linen or wool, or in a skin or in anything made of skin,

49 if the disease is greenish or reddish in the garment, or in the skin or in the warp or the woof or in any article made of skin, it is a case of leprous disease, and it shall be shown to the priest.

50 And the priest shall examine the disease and shut up that which has the disease for seven days.

51 Then he shall examine the disease on the seventh day. If the disease has spread in the garment, in the warp or the woof, or in the skin, whatever be the use of the skin, the disease is a persistent leprous disease; it is unclean.

52 And he shall burn the garment, or the warp or the woof, the wool or the linen, or any article made of skin that is diseased, for it is a persistent leprous disease. It shall be burned in the fire.

53 “And if the priest examines, and if the disease has not spread in the garment, in the warp or the woof or in any article made of skin,

54 then the priest shall command that they wash the thing in which is the disease, and he shall shut it up for another seven days.

55 And the priest shall examine the diseased thing after it has been washed. And if the appearance of the diseased area has not changed, though the disease has not spread, it is unclean. You shall burn it in the fire, whether the rot is on the back or on the front.

56 “But if the priest examines, and if the diseased area has faded after it has been washed, he shall tear it out of the garment or the skin or the warp or the woof.

57 Then if it appears again in the garment, in the warp or the woof, or in any article made of skin, it is spreading. You shall burn with fire whatever has the disease.

58 But the garment, or the warp or the woof, or any article made of skin from which the disease departs when you have washed it, shall then be washed a second time, and be clean.”

59 This is the law for a case of leprous disease in a garment of wool or linen, either in the warp or the woof, or in any article made of

skin, to determine whether it is clean or unclean.

#### **Laws for Cleansing from Skin Infections—Admission Into the Camp**

14:1 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

2 “This shall be the law of the leprous person for the day of his cleansing. He shall be brought to the priest,

3 and the priest shall go out of the camp, and the priest shall look. Then, if the case of leprous disease is healed in the leprous person,

4 the priest shall command them to take for him who is to be cleansed two live clean birds and cedar wood and scarlet yarn and hyssop.

5 And the priest shall command them to kill one of the birds in an earthenware vessel over fresh water.

6 He shall take the live bird with the cedar wood and the scarlet yarn and the hyssop, and dip them and the live bird in the blood of the bird that was killed over the fresh water.

7 And he shall sprinkle it seven times on him who is to be cleansed of the leprous disease. Then he shall pronounce him clean and shall let the living bird go into the open field.

8 And he who is to be cleansed shall wash his clothes and shave off all his hair and bathe himself in water, and he shall be clean. And after that he may come into the camp, but live outside his tent seven days.

9 And on the seventh day he shall shave off all his hair from his head, his beard, and his eyebrows. He shall shave off all his hair, and then he shall wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and he shall be clean.

#### **Laws for Cleansing from Skin Infections—Purification Offering**

10 “And on the eighth day he shall take two male lambs without blemish, and one ewe lamb a year old without blemish, and a grain offering of three tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, and one log of oil.

11 And the priest who cleanses him shall set the man who is to be cleansed and these things before the LORD, at the entrance of the tent of meeting.

12 And the priest shall take one of the male lambs and offer it for a guilt offering, along with the log of oil, and wave them for a wave offering before the LORD.

13 And he shall kill the lamb in the place where they kill the sin offering and the burnt offering, in the place of the sanctuary. For the guilt offering, like the sin offering, belongs to the priest; it is most holy.

14 The priest shall take some of the blood of the guilt offering, and the priest shall put it on the lobe of the right ear of him who is to be cleansed and on the thumb of his right hand and on the big toe of his right foot.

15 Then the priest shall take some of the log of oil and pour it into the palm of his own left hand

16 and dip his right finger in the oil that is in his left hand and sprinkle some oil with his finger seven times before the LORD.

17 And some of the oil that remains in his hand the priest shall put on the lobe of the right ear of him who is to be cleansed and on the thumb of his right hand and on the big toe of his right foot, on top of the blood of the guilt offering.

18 And the rest of the oil that is in the priest’s hand he shall put on the head of him who is to be cleansed. Then the priest shall make atonement for him before the LORD.

19 The priest shall offer the sin offering, to make atonement for him who is to be cleansed from his uncleanness. And afterward he shall kill the burnt offering.

20 And the priest shall offer the burnt offering and the grain offering on the altar. Thus the priest shall make atonement for him, and he shall be clean.

#### **Laws for Cleansing from Skin Infections—Purification Offering for the Poor**

21 “But if he is poor and cannot afford so much, then he shall take one male lamb for a guilt offering to be waved, to make atonement for him, and a tenth of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering, and a log of oil;

22 also two turtledoves or two pigeons, whichever he can afford. The one shall be a sin offering and the other a burnt offering.

23 And on the eighth day he shall bring them for his cleansing to the priest, to the entrance of the tent of meeting, before the LORD.

24 And the priest shall take the lamb of the guilt offering and the log of oil, and the priest shall wave them for a wave offering before the LORD.

25 And he shall kill the lamb of the guilt offering. And the priest shall take some of the blood of the guilt offering and put it on the lobe of the right ear of him who is to be cleansed, and on the thumb of his right hand and on the big toe of his right foot.

26 And the priest shall pour some of the oil into the palm of his own left hand,

27 and shall sprinkle with his right finger some of the oil that is in his left hand seven times before the LORD.

28 And the priest shall put some of the oil that is in his hand on the lobe of the right ear of him who is to be cleansed and on the thumb of his right hand and on the big toe of his right foot, in the place where the blood of the guilt offering was put.

29 And the rest of the oil that is in the priest’s hand he shall put on the head of him who is to be cleansed, to make atonement for him before the LORD.

30 And he shall offer, of the turtledoves or pigeons, whichever he can afford,

31 one for a sin offering and the other for a burnt offering, along with a grain offering. And the priest shall make atonement before

the LORD for him who is being cleansed.

32 This is the law for him in whom is a case of leprous disease, who cannot afford the offerings for his cleansing.”

#### **Mildew in the Home—Diagnosis and Repair**

33 The Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron:

34 “When you enter the land of Canaan which I am about to give to you for a possession, and I put a diseased infection in a house in the land you are to possess,

35 then whoever owns the house must come and declare to the priest, ‘Something like an infection is visible to me in the house.’

36 Then the priest will command that the house be cleared before the priest enters to examine the infection so that everything in the house does not become unclean, and afterward the priest will enter to examine the house.

37 He is to examine the infection, and if the infection in the walls of the house consists of yellowish green or reddish eruptions, and it appears to be deeper than the surface of the wall,

38 then the priest is to go out of the house to the doorway of the house and quarantine the house for seven days.

39 The priest must return on the seventh day and examine it, and if the infection has spread in the walls of the house,

40 then the priest is to command that the stones that had the infection in them be pulled and thrown outside the city into an unclean place.

41 Then he is to have the house scraped all around on the inside, and the plaster which is scraped off must be dumped outside the city into an unclean place.

42 They are then to take other stones and replace those stones, and he is to take other plaster and replaster the house.

#### **Mildew in the Home—Provision for Reoccurrence**

43 “If the infection returns and breaks out in the house after he has pulled out the stones, scraped the house, and it is replastered, 44 the priest is to come and examine it, and if the infection has spread in the house, it is a malignant disease in the house. It is unclean.

45 He must tear down the house, its stones, its wood, and all the plaster of the house, and bring all of it outside the city to an unclean place.

46 Anyone who enters the house all the days the priest has quarantined it will be unclean until evening.

47 Anyone who lies down in the house must wash his clothes. Anyone who eats in the house must wash his clothes.

#### **Mildew in the Home—Purification Offering**

48 “If, however, the priest enters and examines it, and the infection has not spread in the house after the house has been replastered, then the priest is to pronounce the house clean because the infection has been healed.

49 Then he is to take two birds, a piece of cedar wood, a scrap of crimson fabric, and some twigs of hyssop to decontaminate the house,

50 and he is to slaughter one bird into a clay vessel over fresh water.

51 He must then take the piece of cedar wood, the twigs of hyssop, the scrap of crimson fabric, and the live bird, and dip them in the blood of the slaughtered bird and in the fresh water, and sprinkle the house seven times.

52 So he is to decontaminate the house with the blood of the bird, the fresh water, the live bird, the piece of cedar wood, the twigs of hyssop, and the scrap of crimson fabric,

53 and he is to send the live bird away outside the city into the open countryside. So he is to make atonement for the house and it will be clean.

#### **Summary Statement**

54 “This is the law for all diseased infections, for scall,

55 for the diseased garment, for the house,

56 for the swelling, for the scab, and for the bright spot,

57 to teach when something is unclean and when it is clean. This is the law for dealing with infectious disease.”

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## Bodily Discharges (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

### Leviticus 15

#### Abnormal Male Discharges

1 The LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron:

2 “Speak to the Israelites and tell them, ‘When any man has a discharge from his body, his discharge is unclean.

3 Now this is his uncleanness in regard to his discharge—whether his body secretes his discharge or blocks his discharge, he is unclean. All the days that his body has a discharge or his body blocks his discharge, this is his uncleanness.

4 “Any bed the man with a discharge lies on will be unclean, and any furniture he sits on will be unclean.

5 Anyone who touches his bed must wash his clothes, bathe in water, and be unclean until evening.

6 The one who sits on the furniture the man with a discharge sits on must wash his clothes, bathe in water, and be unclean until evening.

7 The one who touches the body of the man with a discharge must wash his clothes, bathe in water, and be unclean until evening.

8 If the man with a discharge spits on a person who is ceremonially clean, that person must wash his clothes, bathe in water, and be unclean until evening.

9 Any means of riding the man with a discharge rides on will be unclean.

10 Anyone who touches anything that was under him will be unclean until evening, and the one who carries those items must wash his clothes, bathe in water, and be unclean until evening.

11 Anyone whom the man with the discharge touches without having rinsed his hands in water must wash his clothes, bathe in water, and be unclean until evening.

12 A clay vessel which the man with the discharge touches must be broken, and any wooden utensil must be rinsed in water.

13 “When the man with the discharge becomes clean from his discharge he is to count off for himself seven days for his purification, and he must wash his clothes, bathe in fresh water, and be clean.

14 Then on the eighth day he is to take for himself two turtledoves or two young pigeons, and he is to present himself before the LORD at the entrance of the Meeting Tent and give them to the priest,

15 and the priest is to make one of them a sin offering and the other a burnt offering. So the priest is to make atonement for him before the LORD for his discharge.

#### Normal Male Discharges

16 “When a man has a seminal emission, he must bathe his whole body in water and be unclean until evening,

17 and he must wash in water any clothing or leather that has semen on it, and it will be unclean until evening.

18 When a man has sexual intercourse with a woman and there is a seminal emission, they must bathe in water and be unclean until evening.

#### Normal Female Discharges

19 “When a woman has a discharge and her discharge is blood from her body, she is to be in her menstruation seven days, and anyone who touches her will be unclean until evening.

20 Anything she lies on during her menstruation will be unclean, and anything she sits on will be unclean.

21 Anyone who touches her bed must wash his clothes, bathe in water, and be unclean until evening.

22 Anyone who touches any furniture she sits on must wash his clothes, bathe in water, and be unclean until evening.

23 If there is something on the bed or on the furniture she sits on, when he touches it he will be unclean until evening,

24 and if a man actually has sexual intercourse with her so that her menstrual impurity touches him, then he will be unclean seven days and any bed he lies on will be unclean.

#### Abnormal Female Discharges

25 “When a woman’s discharge of blood flows many days not at the time of her menstruation, or if it flows beyond the time of her menstruation, all the days of her discharge of impurity will be like the days of her menstruation—she is unclean.

26 Any bed she lies on all the days of her discharge will be to her like the bed of her menstruation, any furniture she sits on will be unclean like the impurity of her menstruation,

27 and anyone who touches them will be unclean, and he must wash his clothes, bathe in water, and be unclean until evening.

28 “If she becomes clean from her discharge, then she is to count off for herself seven days, and afterward she will be clean.

29 Then on the eighth day she must take for herself two turtledoves or two young pigeons and she must bring them to the priest at the entrance of the Meeting Tent,

30 and the priest is to make one a sin offering and the other a burnt offering. So the priest is to make atonement for her before the LORD from her discharge of impurity.

#### Summary

31 “Thus you are to set the Israelites apart from their impurity so that they do not die in their impurity by defiling my tabernacle which is in their midst.

32 This is the law of the one with a discharge: the one who has a seminal emission and becomes unclean by it,

33 the one who is sick in her menstruation, the one with a discharge, whether male or female, and a man who has sexual intercourse with an unclean woman.”

## The Day of Atonement (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 16

### General Instructions

1 The LORD spoke to Moses after the death of Aaron’s two sons when they approached the presence of the LORD and died,  
 2 and the LORD said to Moses: “Tell Aaron your brother that he must not enter at any time into the holy place inside the veil-canopy in front of the atonement plate that is on the ark so that he may not die, for I will appear in the cloud over the atonement plate.  
 3 “In this way Aaron is to enter into the sanctuary—with a young bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering.  
 4 He must put on a holy linen tunic, linen leggings are to cover his body, and he is to wrap himself with a linen sash and wrap his head with a linen turban. They are holy garments, so he must bathe his body in water and put them on.  
 5 He must also take two male goats from the congregation of the Israelites for a sin offering and one ram for a burnt offering.  
 6 Then Aaron is to present the sin offering bull which is for himself and is to make atonement on behalf of himself and his household.  
 7 He must then take the two goats and stand them before the LORD at the entrance of the Meeting Tent,  
 8 and Aaron is to cast lots over the two goats, one lot for the LORD and one lot for Azazel.  
 9 Aaron must then present the goat which has been designated by lot for the LORD, and he is to make it a sin offering,  
 10 but the goat which has been designated by lot for Azazel is to be stood alive before the LORD to make atonement on it by sending it away to Azazel into the wilderness.

### Offerings of the High Priest in the Most Holy Place

11 “Aaron is to present the sin offering bull which is for himself, and he is to make atonement on behalf of himself and his household. He is to slaughter the sin offering bull which is for himself,  
 12 and take a censer full of coals of fire from the altar before the LORD and a full double handful of finely ground fragrant incense, and bring them inside the veil-canopy.  
 13 He must then put the incense on the fire before the LORD, and the cloud of incense will cover the atonement plate which is above the ark of the testimony, so that he will not die.  
 14 Then he is to take some of the blood of the bull and sprinkle it with his finger on the eastern face of the atonement plate, and in front of the atonement plate he is to sprinkle some of the blood seven times with his finger. [\[Heb 9:7–10\]](#)

### Purification for the Tabernacle

15 “He must then slaughter the sin offering goat which is for the people. He is to bring its blood inside the veil-canopy, and he is to do with its blood just as he did to the blood of the bull: He is to sprinkle it on the atonement plate and in front of the atonement plate.  
 16 So he is to make atonement for the holy place from the impurities of the Israelites and from their transgressions with regard to all their sins, and thus he is to do for the Meeting Tent which resides with them in the midst of their impurities.  
 17 Nobody is to be in the Meeting Tent when he enters to make atonement in the holy place until he goes out, and he has made atonement on his behalf, on behalf of his household, and on behalf of the whole assembly of Israel.  
 18 “Then he is to go out to the altar which is before the LORD and make atonement for it. He is to take some of the blood of the bull and some of the blood of the goat, and put it all around on the horns of the altar.  
 19 Then he is to sprinkle on it some of the blood with his finger seven times, and cleanse and consecrate it from the impurities of the Israelites. [\[Heb 9:22–24\]](#)

### The Scapegoat

20 “When he has finished purifying the holy place, the Meeting Tent, and the altar, he is to present the live goat.  
 21 Aaron is to lay his two hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the iniquities of the Israelites and all their transgressions in regard to all their sins, and thus he is to put them on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man standing ready.  
 22 The goat is to bear on itself all their iniquities into an inaccessible land, so he is to send the goat away in the wilderness. [\[Heb 13:12–13\]](#)

### The Burnt Offering

23 “Aaron must then enter the Meeting Tent and take off the linen garments which he had put on when he entered the sanctuary, and leave them there.  
 24 Then he must bathe his body in water in a holy place, put on his clothes, and go out and make his burnt offering and the people’s burnt offering. So he is to make atonement on behalf of himself and the people.  
 25 “Then he is to offer up the fat of the sin offering in smoke on the altar,

26 and the one who sent the goat away to Azazel must wash his clothes, bathe his body in water, and afterward he may reenter the camp.

#### **Disposal of the Offerings**

27 The bull of the sin offering and the goat of the sin offering, whose blood was brought to make atonement in the holy place, must be brought outside the camp and their hide, their flesh, and their dung must be burned up, [\[Heb 13:11\]](#)

28 and the one who burns them must wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and afterward he may reenter the camp.

#### **Day of Atonement is a Permanent Statute**

29 “This is to be a perpetual statute for you. In the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you must humble yourselves and do no work of any kind, both the native citizen and the foreigner who resides in your midst,

30 for on this day atonement is to be made for you to cleanse you from all your sins; you must be clean before the LORD.

31 It is to be a Sabbath of complete rest for you, and you must humble yourselves. It is a perpetual statute.

32 “The priest who is anointed and ordained to act as high priest in place of his father is to make atonement. He is to put on the linen garments, the holy garments,

33 and he is to purify the Most Holy Place, he is to purify the Meeting Tent and the altar, and he is to make atonement for the priests and for all the people of the assembly.

34 This is to be a perpetual statute for you to make atonement for the Israelites for all their sins once a year.” So he did just as the LORD had commanded Moses. [\[Heb 10:1–4\]](#)

### **Playing the Harlot with Goats (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)**

#### **Leviticus 17**

#### **All Sacrifices Must Be Brought to the Tabernacle**

1 The LORD spoke to Moses:

2 “Speak to Aaron, his sons, and all the Israelites, and tell them: ‘This is the word that the LORD has commanded:

3 “Blood guilt will be accounted to any man from the house of Israel who slaughters an ox or a lamb or a goat inside the camp or outside the camp,

4 but has not brought it to the entrance of the Meeting Tent to present it as an offering to the LORD before the tabernacle of the LORD. He has shed blood, so that man will be cut off from the midst of his people.

5 This is so that the Israelites will bring their sacrifices that they are sacrificing in the open field to the LORD at the entrance of the Meeting Tent to the priest and sacrifice them there as peace offering sacrifices to the LORD.

6 The priest is to splash the blood on the altar of the LORD at the entrance of the Meeting Tent, and offer the fat up in smoke for a soothing aroma to the LORD.

7 So they must no longer offer their sacrifices to the goat demons, acting like prostitutes by going after them. This is to be a perpetual statute for them throughout their generations.

8 “You are to say to them: ‘Any man from the house of Israel or from the foreigners who reside in their midst, who offers a burnt offering or a sacrifice

9 but does not bring it to the entrance of the Meeting Tent to offer it to the LORD—that person will be cut off from his people.

#### **Eating of Blood Prohibited**

10 ““Any man from the house of Israel or from the foreigners who reside in their midst who eats any blood, I will set my face against that person who eats the blood, and I will cut him off from the midst of his people,

11 for the life of every living thing is in the blood. So I myself have assigned it to you on the altar to make atonement for your lives, for the blood makes atonement by means of the life.

12 Therefore, I have said to the Israelites: No person among you is to eat blood, and no resident foreigner who lives among you is to eat blood.

13 ““Any man from the Israelites or from the foreigners who reside in their midst who hunts a wild animal or a bird that may be eaten must pour out its blood and cover it with soil,

14 for the life of all flesh is its blood. So I have said to the Israelites: You must not eat the blood of any living thing because the life of every living thing is its blood—all who eat it will be cut off.

#### **Carcasses and Contamination**

15 ““Any person who eats an animal that has died of natural causes or an animal torn by beasts, whether a native citizen or a foreigner, must wash his clothes, bathe in water, and be unclean until evening; then he becomes clean.

16 But if he does not wash his clothes and does not bathe his body, he will bear his punishment for iniquity.”

**Sexual Prohibitions (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)**

Leviticus 18

**A Call to be Different than the World**

1 The LORD spoke to Moses:

2 “Speak to the Israelites and tell them, ‘I am the LORD your God!

3 You must not do as they do in the land of Egypt where you have been living, and you must not do as they do in the land of Canaan into which I am about to bring you; you must not walk in their statutes.

4 You must observe my regulations and you must be sure to walk in my statutes. I am the LORD your God.

5 So you must keep my statutes and my regulations; anyone who does so will live by keeping them. I am the LORD. [[Luke 10:28](#); [Rom 10:5](#); [Gal 3:12](#)]

**God’s Boundaries for Sex**

6 “No man is to approach any close relative to have sexual intercourse with her. I am the LORD.

7 You must not expose your father’s nakedness by having sexual intercourse with your mother. She is your mother; you must not have intercourse with her.

8 You must not have sexual intercourse with your father’s wife; she is your father’s nakedness.

9 You must not have sexual intercourse with your sister, whether she is your father’s daughter or your mother’s daughter, whether she is born in the same household or born outside it; you must not have sexual intercourse with either of them.

10 You must not expose the nakedness of your son’s daughter or your daughter’s daughter by having sexual intercourse with them, because they are your own nakedness.

11 You must not have sexual intercourse with the daughter of your father’s wife born of your father; she is your sister. You must not have intercourse with her.

12 You must not have sexual intercourse with your father’s sister; she is your father’s flesh.

13 You must not have sexual intercourse with your mother’s sister, because she is your mother’s flesh.

14 You must not expose the nakedness of your father’s brother; you must not approach his wife to have sexual intercourse with her. She is your aunt.

15 You must not have sexual intercourse with your daughter-in-law; she is your son’s wife. You must not have intercourse with her.

16 You must not have sexual intercourse with your brother’s wife; she is your brother’s nakedness.

17 You must not have sexual intercourse with both a woman and her daughter; you must not take as wife either her son’s daughter or her daughter’s daughter to have intercourse with them. They are closely related to her—it is lewdness.

18 You must not take a woman in marriage and then marry her sister as a rival wife while she is still alive, to have sexual intercourse with her.

19 “You must not approach a woman in her menstrual impurity to have sexual intercourse with her.

20 You must not have sexual intercourse with the wife of your fellow citizen to become unclean with her.

21 You must not give any of your children as an offering to Molech, so that you do not profane the name of your God. I am the LORD!

22 You must not have sexual intercourse with a male as one has sexual intercourse with a woman; it is a detestable act.

23 You must not have sexual intercourse with any animal to become defiled with it, and a woman must not stand before an animal to have sexual intercourse with it; it is a perversion.

**Sexual Perversion Defiles the Land**

24 “Do not defile yourselves with any of these things, for the nations which I am about to drive out before you have been defiled with all these things.

25 Therefore the land has become unclean and I have brought the punishment for its iniquity upon it, so that the land has vomited out its inhabitants.

26 You yourselves must obey my statutes and my regulations and must not do any of these abominations, both the native citizen and the resident foreigner in your midst,

27 for the people who were in the land before you have done all these abominations, and the land has become unclean.

28 So do not make the land vomit you out because you defile it just as it has vomited out the nations that were before you.

29 For if anyone does any of these abominations, the persons who do them will be cut off from the midst of their people.

30 You must obey my charge to not practice any of the abominable statutes that have been done before you, so that you do not defile yourselves by them. I am the LORD your God.”

**A Call to Holiness (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)**

Leviticus 19

**God’s Call to Emulate His Holiness**

1 The LORD spoke to Moses:

2 “Speak to the whole congregation of the Israelites and tell them, ‘You must be holy because I, the LORD your God, am

holy. [[1 Pet 1:14–16](#)]

#### **Being Holy Means...Keeping the Ten Commandments**

3 Each of you must respect his mother and his father, and you must keep my Sabbaths. I am the LORD your God.

4 Do not turn to idols, and you must not make for yourselves gods of cast metal. I am the LORD your God.

#### **Being Holy Means...Obeying God's Ritual Requirements (baptism today)**

5 "When you sacrifice a peace offering sacrifice to the LORD, you must sacrifice it so that it is accepted for you.

6 It must be eaten on the day of your sacrifice and on the following day, but what is left over until the third day must be burned up.

7 If, however, it is eaten on the third day, it is spoiled, it will not be accepted,

8 and the one who eats it will bear his punishment for iniquity because he has profaned what is holy to the LORD. That person will be cut off from his people.

#### **Being Holy Means...Loving Your Neighbor**

9 "When you gather in the harvest of your land, you must not completely harvest the corner of your field, and you must not gather up the gleanings of your harvest.

10 You must not pick your vineyard bare, and you must not gather up the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You must leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the LORD your God.

11 "You must not steal, you must not tell lies, and you must not deal falsely with your fellow citizen.

12 You must not swear falsely in my name, so that you do not profane the name of your God. I am the LORD.

13 You must not oppress your neighbor or commit robbery against him. You must not withhold the wages of the hired laborer overnight until morning.

14 You must not curse a deaf person or put a stumbling block in front of a blind person. You must fear your God; I am the LORD.

15 "You must not deal unjustly in judgment: you must neither show partiality to the poor nor honor the rich. You must judge your fellow citizen fairly.

16 You must not go about as a slanderer among your people. You must not stand idly by when your neighbor's life is at stake. I am the LORD.

#### **Being Holy Means...Forgiving Your Neighbor**

17 You must not hate your brother in your heart. You must surely reprove your fellow citizen so that you do not incur sin on account of him. [[Luke 17:3–4](#); [Matt 18:15](#)]

18 You must not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the children of your people, but you must love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD. [[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. You must not allow two different kinds of your animals to breed, you must not sow your field with two different kinds of seed, and you must not wear a garment made of two different kinds of fabric.

#### **Being Holy Means...Keeping Sex Within God's Boundaries**

20 "When a man has sexual intercourse with a woman, although she is a slave woman designated for another man and she has not yet been ransomed, or freedom has not been granted to her, there will be an obligation to pay compensation. They must not be put to death, because she was not free.

21 He must bring his guilt offering to the LORD at the entrance of the Meeting Tent, a guilt offering ram,

22 and the priest is to make atonement for him with the ram of the guilt offering before the LORD for his sin that he has committed, and he will be forgiven of his sin that he has committed.

#### **Being Holy Means...Acknowledging God's Ownership of All Things**

23 "When you enter the land and plant any fruit tree, you must consider its fruit to be forbidden. Three years it will be forbidden to you; it must not be eaten.

24 In the fourth year all its fruit will be holy, praise offerings to the LORD.

25 Then in the fifth year you may eat its fruit to add its produce to your harvest. I am the LORD your God.

#### **Being Holy Means...Shunning Pagan Practices**

26 "You must not eat anything with the blood still in it. You must not practice either divination or soothsaying.

27 You must not round off the corners of the hair on your head or ruin the corners of your beard.

28 You must not slash your body for a dead person or incise a tattoo on yourself. I am the LORD.

**Being Holy Means...Worshiping God as He Requires**

29 Do not profane your daughter by making her a prostitute, so that the land does not practice prostitution and become full of lewdness.

30 “You must keep my Sabbaths and fear my sanctuary. I am the LORD.

31 Do not turn to the spirits of the dead and do not seek familiar spirits to become unclean by them. I am the LORD your God.

**Being Holy Means...Respecting the Elderly**

32 You must stand up in the presence of the aged, honor the presence of an elder, and fear your God. I am the LORD.

**Being Holy Means...Treating Outsiders With Love**

33 When a foreigner resides with you in your land, you must not oppress him.

34 The foreigner who resides with you must be to you like a native citizen among you; so you must love him as yourself, because you were foreigners in the land of Egypt. I am the LORD your God.

**Being Holy Means...Dealing Honestly With Others**

35 You must not do injustice in the regulation of measures, whether of length, weight, or volume.

36 You must have honest balances, honest weights, an honest ephah, and an honest hin. I am the LORD your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt.

**Concluding Call to Holiness**

37 You must be sure to obey all my statutes and regulations. I am the LORD.”

**Punishment for Perversion (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)**

## Leviticus 20

**Punishment for the Worship of Molech**

1 The LORD spoke to Moses:

2 “You are to say to the Israelites, ‘Any man from the Israelites or from the foreigners who reside in Israel who gives any of his children to Molech must be put to death; the people of the land must pelt him with stones.

3 I myself will set my face against that man and cut him off from the midst of his people, because he has given some of his children to Molech and thereby defiled my sanctuary and profaned my holy name.

4 If, however, the people of the land shut their eyes to that man when he gives some of his children to Molech so that they do not put him to death,

5 I myself will set my face against that man and his clan. I will cut off from the midst of their people both him and all who follow after him in spiritual prostitution, to commit prostitution by worshiping Molech.

**Punishment for Sorcery and Divination**

6 “The person who turns to the spirits of the dead and familiar spirits to commit prostitution by going after them, I will set my face against that person and cut him off from the midst of his people.

7 “You must sanctify yourselves and be holy, because I am the LORD your God.

8 You must be sure to obey my statutes. I am the LORD who sanctifies you.

**Punishment for Cursing Parents**

9 “If anyone curses his father and mother he must be put to death. He has cursed his father and mother; his blood guilt is on himself. [[Mark 7:9–13](#); [Matt 15:3–6](#)]

**Punishment for Sexual Sins**

10 If a man commits adultery with his neighbor’s wife, both the adulterer and the adulteress must be put to death. [[John 8:1–11](#)]

11 If a man has sexual intercourse with his father’s wife, he has exposed his father’s nakedness. Both of them must be put to death; their blood guilt is on themselves.

12 If a man has sexual intercourse with his daughter-in-law, both of them must be put to death. They have committed perversion; their blood guilt is on themselves.

13 If a man has sexual intercourse with a male as one has sexual intercourse with a woman, the two of them have committed an abomination. They must be put to death; their blood guilt is on themselves.

14 If a man has sexual intercourse with both a woman and her mother, it is lewdness. Both he and they must be burned to death, so there is no lewdness in your midst.

15 If a man has sexual intercourse with any animal, he must be put to death, and you must kill the animal.

16 If a woman approaches any animal to have sexual intercourse with it, you must kill the woman, and the animal must be put to

death; their blood guilt is on themselves.

17 “If a man has sexual intercourse with his sister, whether the daughter of his father or his mother, so that he sees her nakedness and she sees his nakedness, it is a disgrace. They must be cut off in the sight of the children of their people. He has exposed his sister’s nakedness; he will bear his punishment for iniquity.

18 If a man has sexual intercourse with a menstruating woman and uncovers her nakedness, he has laid bare her fountain of blood and she has exposed the fountain of her blood, so both of them must be cut off from the midst of their people.

19 You must not expose the nakedness of your mother’s sister and your father’s sister, for such a person has laid bare his own close relative. They must bear their punishment for iniquity.

20 If a man has sexual intercourse with his aunt, he has exposed his uncle’s nakedness; they must bear responsibility for their sin, they will die childless.

21 If a man has sexual intercourse with his brother’s wife, it is indecency. He has exposed his brother’s nakedness; they will be childless.

#### **The Essence of Holiness—Separation from the World to God**

22 “You must be sure to obey all my statutes and regulations, so that the land to which I am about to bring you to take up residence there does not vomit you out.

23 You must not walk in the statutes of the nation which I am about to drive out before you, because they have done all these things and I am filled with disgust against them.

24 So I have said to you: You yourselves will possess their land and I myself will give it to you for a possession, a land flowing with milk and honey. I am the LORD your God who has set you apart from the other peoples.

25 Therefore you must distinguish between the clean animal and the unclean, and between the unclean bird and the clean, and you must not make yourselves detestable by means of an animal or bird or anything that creeps on the ground—creatures I have distinguished for you as unclean.

26 You must be holy to me because I, the LORD, am holy, and I have set you apart from the other peoples to be mine.

#### **Punishment for Possessing a Spirit**

27 “A man or woman who has in them a spirit of the dead or a familiar spirit must be put to death. They must pelt them with stones; their blood guilt is on themselves.”

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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 The LORD said to Moses: “Say to the priests, the sons of Aaron—say to them, ‘For a dead person no priest is to defile himself among his people,

2 except for his close relative who is near to him: his mother, his father, his son, his daughter, his brother,

3 and his virgin sister who is near to him, who has no husband; he may defile himself for her.

4 He must not defile himself as a husband among his people so as to profane himself.

5 Priests must not have a bald spot shaved on their head, they must not shave the corner of their beard, and they must not cut slashes in their body.

6 “‘They must be holy to their God, and they must not profane the name of their God, because they are the ones who present the LORD’s gifts, the food of their God. Therefore they must be holy.

7 They must not take a wife defiled by prostitution, nor are they to take a wife divorced from her husband, for the priest is holy to his God.

8 You must sanctify him because he presents the food of your God. He must be holy to you because I, the LORD who sanctifies you all, am holy.

9 If a daughter of a priest profanes herself by engaging in prostitution, she is profaning her father. She must be burned to death.

### Restrictions on Mourning and Marriage for the High Priest

10 “‘The high priest—who is greater than his brothers, on whose head the anointing oil is poured, who has been ordained to wear the priestly garments—must neither dishevel the hair of his head nor tear his garments.

11 He must not go where there is any dead person; he must not defile himself even for his father and his mother.

12 He must not go out from the sanctuary and must not profane the sanctuary of his God, because the dedication of the anointing oil of his God is on him. I am the LORD.

13 He must take a wife who is a virgin.

14 He must not marry a widow, a divorced woman, or one profaned by prostitution; he may only take a virgin from his people as a wife.

15 He must not profane his children among his people, for I am the LORD who sanctifies him.”

### Restrictions for Priests With Physical Defects

16 The LORD spoke to Moses:

17 “Tell Aaron, ‘No man from your descendants throughout their generations who has a physical flaw is to approach to present the food of his God.

18 Certainly no man who has a physical flaw is to approach: a blind man, or one who is lame, or one with a slit nose, or a limb too long,

19 or a man who has had a broken leg or arm,

20 or a hunchback, or a dwarf, or one with a spot in his eye, or a festering eruption, or a feverish rash, or a crushed testicle.

21 No man from the descendants of Aaron the priest who has a physical flaw may step forward to present the LORD’s gifts; he has a physical flaw, so he must not step forward to present the food of his God.

22 He may eat both the most holy and the holy food of his God,

23 but he must not go into the veil-canopy or step forward to the altar because he has a physical flaw. Thus he must not profane my holy places, for I am the LORD who sanctifies them.”

24 So Moses spoke these things to Aaron, his sons, and all the Israelites.

### Restrictions on Eating Priestly Food

22:1 The LORD spoke to Moses:

2 “Tell Aaron and his sons that they must deal respectfully with the holy offerings of the Israelites, which they consecrate to me, so that they do not profane my holy name. I am the LORD.

3 Say to them, ‘Throughout your generations, if any man from all your descendants approaches the holy offerings which the Israelites consecrate to the LORD while he is impure, that person must be cut off from before me. I am the LORD.

4 No man from the descendants of Aaron who is diseased or has a discharge may eat the holy offerings until he becomes clean. The one who touches anything made unclean by contact with a dead person, or a man who has a seminal emission,

5 or a man who touches a swarming thing by which he becomes unclean, or touches a person by which he becomes unclean, whatever that person’s impurity—

6 the person who touches any of these will be unclean until evening and must not eat from the holy offerings unless he has bathed his body in water.

7 When the sun goes down he will be clean, and afterward he may eat from the holy offerings, because they are his food.

8 He must not eat an animal that has died of natural causes or an animal torn by beasts and thus become unclean by it. I am the

LORD.

9 They must keep my charge so that they do not incur sin on account of it and therefore die because they profane it. I am the LORD who sanctifies them.

#### **Relatives' Rights to Priestly Food**

10 "No lay person may eat anything holy. Neither a priest's lodger nor a hired laborer may eat anything holy,

11 but if a priest buys a person with his own money, that person may eat the holy offerings, and those born in the priest's own house may eat his food.

12 If a priest's daughter marries a lay person, she may not eat the holy contribution offerings,

13 but if a priest's daughter is a widow or divorced, and she has no children so that she returns to live in her father's house as in her youth, she may eat from her father's food, but no lay person may eat it.

14 "If a man eats a holy offering by mistake, he must add one fifth to it and give the holy offering to the priest.

15 They must not profane the holy offerings which the Israelites contribute to the LORD,

16 and so cause them to incur a penalty for guilt when they eat their holy offerings, for I am the LORD who sanctifies them."

#### **Laws Concerning Acceptable Sacrificial Animals**

17 The LORD spoke to Moses:

18 "Speak to Aaron, his sons, and all the Israelites and tell them, 'When any man from the house of Israel or from the foreigners in Israel presents his offering for any of the votive or freewill offerings which they present to the LORD as a burnt offering,

19 if it is to be acceptable for your benefit it must be a flawless male from the cattle, sheep, or goats.

20 You must not present anything that has a flaw, because it will not be acceptable for your benefit.

21 If a man presents a peace offering sacrifice to the LORD for a special votive offering or for a freewill offering from the herd or the flock, it must be flawless to be acceptable; it must have no flaw.

22 "You must not present to the LORD something blind, or with a broken bone, or mutilated, or with a running sore, or with a festering eruption, or with a feverish rash. You must not give any of these as a gift on the altar to the LORD.

23 As for an ox or a sheep with a limb too long or stunted, you may present it as a freewill offering, but it will not be acceptable for a votive offering.

24 You must not present to the LORD something with testicles that are bruised, crushed, torn, or cut off; you must not do this in your land.

25 Even from a foreigner you must not present the food of your God from such animals as these, for they are ruined and flawed; they will not be acceptable for your benefit."

26 The LORD spoke to Moses:

27 "When an ox, lamb, or goat is born, it must be under the care of its mother seven days, but from the eighth day onward it will be acceptable as an offering gift to the LORD.

28 You must not slaughter an ox or a sheep and its young on the same day.

29 When you sacrifice a thanksgiving offering to the LORD, you must sacrifice it so that it is acceptable for your benefit.

30 On that very day it must be eaten; you must not leave any part of it over until morning. I am the LORD.

31 "You must be sure to do my commandments. I am the LORD.

32 You must not profane my holy name, and I will be sanctified in the midst of the Israelites. I am the LORD who sanctifies you,

33 the one who brought you out from the land of Egypt to be your God. I am the LORD."

## **The Seven Annual Feasts (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)**

### **Leviticus 23**

#### **Introduction—The Sabbath**

1 The LORD spoke to Moses:

2 "Speak to the Israelites and tell them, 'These are the LORD's appointed times which you must proclaim as holy assemblies—my appointed times:

3 "Six days work may be done, but on the seventh day there must be a Sabbath of complete rest, a holy assembly. You must not do any work; it is a Sabbath to the LORD in all the places where you live.

4 "These are the LORD's appointed times, holy assemblies, which you must proclaim at their appointed time.

#### **Spring Feast—The Passover (14<sup>th</sup> of First Month: Nisan)—Good Friday**

5 In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, at twilight, is a Passover offering to the LORD.

#### **Spring Feast—The Feast of Unleavened Bread (15<sup>th</sup>–22<sup>nd</sup> of First Month: Nisan)—Easter**

6 Then on the fifteenth day of the same month will be the festival of unleavened bread to the LORD; seven days you must eat unleavened bread.

7 On the first day there will be a holy assembly for you; you must not do any regular work.

8 You must present a gift to the LORD for seven days, and the seventh day is a holy assembly; you must not do any regular work.”

### **Spring Feast—The Feasts of Firstfruits**

9 The LORD spoke to Moses:

10 “Speak to the Israelites and tell them, ‘When you enter the land that I am about to give to you and you gather in its harvest, then you must bring the sheaf of the first portion of your harvest to the priest,

11 and he must wave the sheaf before the LORD to be accepted for your benefit—on the day after the Sabbath the priest is to wave it.

12 On the day you wave the sheaf you must also offer a flawless yearling lamb for a burnt offering to the LORD,

13 along with its grain offering, two tenths of an ephah of choice wheat flour mixed with olive oil, as a gift to the LORD, a soothing aroma, and its drink offering, one fourth of a hin of wine.

14 You must not eat bread, roasted grain, or fresh grain until this very day, until you bring the offering of your God. This is a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all the places where you live.

### **Spring Feast—The Feasts of Weeks—Pentecost**

15 “You must count for yourselves seven weeks from the day after the Sabbath, from the day you bring the wave offering sheaf; they must be complete weeks.

16 You must count fifty days—until the day after the seventh Sabbath—and then you must present a new grain offering to the LORD.

17 From the places where you live you must bring two loaves of bread for a wave offering; they must be made from two tenths of an ephah of fine wheat flour, baked with yeast, as first fruits to the LORD.

18 Along with the loaves of bread, you must also present seven flawless yearling lambs, one young bull, and two rams. They are to be a burnt offering to the LORD along with their grain offering and drink offerings, a gift of a soothing aroma to the LORD.

19 You must also offer one male goat for a sin offering and two yearling lambs for a peace offering sacrifice,

20 and the priest is to wave them—the two lambs—along with the bread of the first fruits, as a wave offering before the LORD; they will be holy to the LORD for the priest.

21 “On this very day you must proclaim an assembly; it is to be a holy assembly for you. You must not do any regular work. This is a perpetual statute in all the places where you live throughout your generations.

22 When you gather in the harvest of your land, you must not completely harvest the corner of your field, and you must not gather up the gleanings of your harvest. You must leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the LORD your God.”

### **Fall Feast—The Feast of Trumpets (1<sup>st</sup> of Seventh Month: Tishri)**

23 The LORD spoke to Moses:

24 “Tell the Israelites, ‘In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you must have a complete rest, a memorial announced by loud horn blasts, a holy assembly.

25 You must not do any regular work, but you must present a gift to the LORD.”

### **Fall Feast—The Day of Atonement (10<sup>th</sup> of Seventh Month: Tishri)**

26 The LORD spoke to Moses:

27 “The tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. It is to be a holy assembly for you, and you must humble yourselves and present a gift to the LORD.

28 You must not do any work on this particular day, because it is a day of atonement to make atonement for yourselves before the LORD your God.

29 Indeed, any person who does not behave with humility on this particular day will be cut off from his people.

30 As for any person who does any work on this particular day, I will exterminate that person from the midst of his people!

31 You must not do any work. This is a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all the places where you live.

32 It is a Sabbath of complete rest for you, and you must humble yourselves on the ninth day of the month in the evening, from evening until evening you must observe your Sabbath.”

### **Fall Feast—The Feast of Tabernacles/Booths (15<sup>th</sup>–22<sup>nd</sup> of Seventh Month: Tishri)**

33 The LORD spoke to Moses:

34 “Tell the Israelites, ‘On the fifteenth day of this seventh month is the Festival of Temporary Shelters for seven days to the LORD.

35 On the first day is a holy assembly; you must do no regular work.

36 For seven days you must present a gift to the LORD. On the eighth day there is to be a holy assembly for you, and you must present a gift to the LORD. It is a solemn assembly day; you must not do any regular work.

37 “These are the appointed times of the LORD that you must proclaim as holy assemblies to present a gift to the LORD—burnt offering, grain offering, sacrifice, and drink offerings, each day according to its regulation,

38 besides the Sabbaths of the LORD and all your gifts, votive offerings, and freewill offerings which you must give to the LORD.

39 “On the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you gather in the produce of the land, you must celebrate a pilgrim festival of the LORD for seven days. On the first day is a complete rest and on the eighth day is complete rest.

40 On the first day you must take for yourselves branches from majestic trees—palm branches, branches of leafy trees, and willows of the brook—and you must rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days.

41 You must celebrate it as a pilgrim festival to the LORD for seven days in the year. This is a perpetual statute throughout your generations; you must celebrate it in the seventh month.

42 You must live in temporary shelters for seven days; every native citizen in Israel must live in temporary shelters,

43 so that your future generations may know that I made the Israelites live in temporary shelters when I brought them out from the land of Egypt. I am the LORD your God.”

#### **Concluding Summary**

44 So Moses spoke to the Israelites about the appointed times of the LORD.

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### Instructions for the Lampstand and Bread Table (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 24:1–9

- 1 The LORD spoke to Moses:
- 2 “Command the Israelites to bring to you pure oil of beaten olives for the light, to make a lamp burn continually.
- 3 Outside the veil-canopy of the congregation in the Meeting Tent Aaron must arrange it from evening until morning before the LORD continually. This is a perpetual statute throughout your generations.
- 4 On the ceremonially pure lampstand he must arrange the lamps before the LORD continually.
- 5 “You must take choice wheat flour and bake twelve loaves; there must be two tenths of an ephah of flour in each loaf,
- 6 and you must set them in two rows, six in a row, on the ceremonially pure table before the LORD.
- 7 You must put pure frankincense on each row, and it will become a memorial portion for the bread, a gift to the LORD.
- 8 Each Sabbath day Aaron must arrange it before the LORD continually; this portion is from the Israelites as a perpetual covenant.
- 9 It will belong to Aaron and his sons, and they must eat it in a holy place because it is most holy to him, a perpetual allotted portion from the gifts of the LORD.”

### Laws Apply Equally for Foreigners and Native-born Israelites (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 24:10–23

- 10 Now an Israelite woman’s son whose father was an Egyptian went out among the Israelites, and the Israelite woman’s son and an Israelite man had a fight in the camp.
- 11 The Israelite woman’s son misused the Name and cursed, so they brought him to Moses. (Now his mother’s name was Shelomith daughter of Dibri, of the tribe of Dan.)
- 12 So they placed him in custody until they were able to make a clear legal decision for themselves based on words from the mouth of the LORD.
- 13 Then the LORD spoke to Moses:
- 14 “Bring the one who cursed outside the camp, and all who heard him are to lay their hands on his head, and the whole congregation is to stone him to death.
- 15 Moreover, you are to tell the Israelites, ‘If any man curses his God he will bear responsibility for his sin,
- 16 and one who misuses the name of the LORD must surely be put to death. The whole congregation must surely stone him, whether he is a foreigner or a native citizen; when he misuses the Name he must be put to death.
- 17 “‘If a man beats any person to death, he must be put to death.
- 18 One who beats an animal to death must make restitution for it, life for life.
- 19 If a man inflicts an injury on his fellow citizen, just as he has done it must be done to him—
- 20 fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth—just as he inflicts an injury on another person that same injury must be inflicted on him. [[Exod 21:22–25](#); [Deut 19:21](#); [Matt 5:38–39](#)]
- 21 One who beats an animal to death must make restitution for it, but one who beats a person to death must be put to death.
- 22 There will be one regulation for you, whether a foreigner or a native citizen, for I am the LORD your God.”
- 23 Then Moses spoke to the Israelites and they brought the one who cursed outside the camp and stoned him with stones. So the Israelites did just as the LORD 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 The LORD spoke to Moses at Mount Sinai:
- 2 “Speak to the Israelites and tell them, ‘When you enter the land that I am giving you, the land must observe a Sabbath to the LORD.
- 3 Six years you may sow your field, and six years you may prune your vineyard and gather the produce,
- 4 but in the seventh year the land must have a Sabbath of complete rest—a Sabbath to the LORD. You must not sow your field or prune your vineyard.
- 5 You must not gather in the aftergrowth of your harvest and you must not pick the grapes of your unpruned vines; the land must have a year of complete rest.
- 6 You may have the Sabbath produce of the land to eat—you, your male servant, your female servant, your hired worker, the resident foreigner who stays with you,
- 7 your cattle, and the wild animals that are in your land—all its produce will be for you to eat.

#### The Year of Jubilee (every fiftieth year)

- 8 “You must count off seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, and the days of the seven weeks of years will amount to forty-nine years.

9 You must sound loud horn blasts—in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, on the Day of Atonement—you must sound the horn in your entire land.

10 So you must consecrate the fiftieth year, and you must proclaim a release in the land for all its inhabitants. That year will be your jubilee; each one of you must return to his property and each one of you must return to his clan.

11 That fiftieth year will be your jubilee; you must not sow the land, harvest its aftergrowth, or pick the grapes of its unpruned vines.

12 Because that year is a jubilee, it will be holy to you—you may 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 you must each return to your property.

14 If you make a sale to your fellow citizen or buy from your fellow citizen, no one is to wrong his brother.

15 You may buy it from your fellow citizen according to the number of years since the last jubilee; he may sell it to you according to the years of produce that are left.

16 The more years there are, the more you may make its purchase price, and the fewer years there are, the less you must make its purchase price, because he is only selling to you a number of years of produce.

17 No one is to oppress his fellow citizen, but you must fear your God, because I am the LORD your God.

#### **Obedience Brings Blessing**

18 You must obey my statutes and my regulations; you must be sure to keep them so that you may live securely in the land.

19 “The land will give its fruit and you may eat until you are satisfied, and you may live securely in the land.

20 If you say, ‘What will we eat in the seventh year if we do not sow and gather our produce?’

21 I will command my blessing for you in the sixth year so that it may yield the produce for three years,

22 and you may sow the eighth year and eat from that sixth year’s produce—old produce. Until you bring in the ninth year’s produce, you may eat old produce.

#### **Redemption and Release of Land (to prevent the land from ending up in the hands of a few wealthy families)**

23 The land must not be sold without reclaim because the land belongs to me, for you are foreigners and residents with me.

24 In all your landed property you must provide for the right of redemption of the land.

25 “If your brother becomes impoverished and sells some of his property, his near redeemer is to come to you and redeem what his brother sold.

26 If a man has no redeemer, but he prospers and gains enough for its redemption,

27 he is to calculate the value of the years it was sold, refund the balance to the man to whom he had sold it, and return to his property.

28 If he has not prospered enough to refund a balance to him, then what he sold will belong to the one who bought it until the jubilee year, but it must revert in the jubilee and the original owner may return to his property.

#### **Redemption of City Homes**

29 “If a man sells a residential house in a walled city, its right of redemption must extend until one full year from its sale; its right of redemption must extend to a full calendar year.

30 If it is not redeemed before the full calendar year is ended, the house in the walled city will belong without reclaim to the one who bought it throughout his generations; it will not revert in the jubilee.

#### **Redemption and Release of Village Homes**

31 The houses of villages, however, which have no wall surrounding them must be considered as the field of the land; they will have the right of redemption and must revert in the jubilee.

#### **Levitical Homes and Land Exempted**

32 As for the cities of the Levites, the houses in the cities which they possess, the Levites must have a perpetual right of redemption.

33 Whatever someone among the Levites might redeem—the sale of a house which is his property in a city—must revert in the jubilee, because the houses of the cities of the Levites are their property in the midst of the Israelites.

34 Moreover, the open field areas of their cities must not be sold, because that is their perpetual possession.

#### **Proper Treatment of the Poor**

35 “If your brother becomes impoverished and is indebted to you, you must support him; he must live with you like a foreign resident.

36 Do not take interest or profit from him, but you must fear your God and your brother must live with you.

37 You must not lend him your money at interest and you must not sell him food for profit.

38 I am the LORD your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt to give you the land of Canaan—to be your God.

**Release of Indentured Israelites**

39 “If your brother becomes impoverished with regard to you so that he sells himself to you, you must not subject him to slave service.

40 He must be with you as a hired worker, as a resident foreigner; he must serve with you until the year of jubilee,

41 but then he may go free, he and his children with him, and may return to his family and to the property of his ancestors.

42 Since they are my servants whom I brought out from the land of Egypt, they must not be sold in a slave sale.

43 You must not rule over him harshly, but you must fear your God.

**Ownership of Non-Israelite Slaves**

44 “As for your male and female slaves who may belong to you—you may buy male and female slaves from the nations all around you.

45 Also you may buy slaves from the children of the foreigners who reside with you, and from their families that are with you, whom they have fathered in your land, they may become your property.

46 You may give them as inheritance to your children after you to possess as property. You may enslave them perpetually. However, as for your brothers the Israelites, no man may rule over his brother harshly.

**Redemption of Indentured Israelites from Non-Israelites**

47 “If a resident foreigner who is with you prospers and your brother becomes impoverished with regard to him so that he sells himself to a resident foreigner who is with you or to a member of a foreigner’s family,

48 after he has sold himself he retains a right of redemption. One of his brothers may redeem him,

49 or his uncle or his cousin may redeem him, or anyone of the rest of his blood relatives—his family—may redeem him, or if he prospers he may redeem himself.

50 He must calculate with the one who bought him the number of years from the year he sold himself to him until the jubilee year, and the cost of his sale must correspond to the number of years, according to the rate of wages a hired worker would have earned while with him.

51 If there are still many years, in keeping with them he must refund most of the cost of his purchase for his redemption,

52 but if only a few years remain until the jubilee, he must calculate for himself in keeping with the remaining years and refund it for his redemption.

**Treatment and Eventual Release of Indentured Israelites from Non-Israelites**

53 He must be with the one who bought him like a yearly hired worker. The one who bought him must not rule over him harshly in your sight.

54 If, however, he is not redeemed in these ways, he must go free in the jubilee year, he and his children with him,

55 because the Israelites are my own servants; they are my servants whom I brought out from the land of Egypt. I am the LORD 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 must not make for yourselves idols, so you must not set up for yourselves a carved image or a pillar, and you must not place a sculpted stone in your land to bow down before it, for I am the LORD your God.  
2 You must keep my Sabbaths and reverence my sanctuary. I am the LORD.

#### Promised Blessings for Obedience

- 3 “If you walk in my statutes and are sure to obey my commandments,  
4 I will give you your rains in their time so that the land will give its yield and the trees of the field will produce their fruit.  
5 Threshing season will extend for you until the season for harvesting grapes, and the season for harvesting grapes will extend until sowing season, so you will eat your bread until you are satisfied, and you will live securely in your land.  
6 I will grant peace in the land so that you will lie down to sleep without anyone terrifying you. I will remove harmful animals from the land, and no sword of war will pass through your land.  
7 You will pursue your enemies and they will fall before you by the sword.  
8 Five of you will pursue a hundred, and a hundred of you will pursue ten thousand, and your enemies will fall before you by the sword.  
9 I will turn to you, make you fruitful, multiply you, and maintain my covenant with you.  
10 You will still be eating stored produce from the previous year and will have to clean out what is stored from the previous year to make room for new.  
11 “I will put my tabernacle in your midst and I will not abhor you.  
12 I will walk among you, and I will be your God and you will be my people. [\[2 Cor 6:16\]](#)  
13 I am the LORD your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, from being their slaves, and I broke the bars of your yoke and caused you to walk upright.

#### Promised Curses for Disobedience

- 14 “If, however, you do not obey me and keep all these commandments—  
15 if you reject my statutes and abhor my regulations so that you do not keep all my commandments and you break my covenant—  
16 I for my part will do this to you: I will inflict horror on you, consumption and fever, which diminish eyesight and drain away the vitality of life. You will sow your seed in vain because your enemies will eat it.  
17 I will set my face against you. You will be struck down before your enemies, those who hate you will rule over you, and you will flee when there is no one pursuing you.  
18 “If, in spite of all these things, you do not obey me, I will discipline you seven times more on account of your sins.  
19 I will break your strong pride and make your sky like iron and your land like bronze.  
20 Your strength will be used up in vain, your land will not give its yield, and the trees of the land will not produce their fruit.  
21 “If you walk in hostility against me and are not willing to obey me, I will increase your affliction seven times according to your sins.  
22 I will send the wild animals against you and they will bereave you of your children, annihilate your cattle, and diminish your population so that your roads will become deserted.  
23 “If in spite of these things you do not allow yourselves to be disciplined and you walk in hostility against me,  
24 I myself will also walk in hostility against you and strike you seven times on account of your sins.  
25 I will bring on you an avenging sword, a covenant vengeance. Although you will gather together into your cities, I will send pestilence among you and you will be given into enemy hands.  
26 When I break off your supply of bread, ten women will bake your bread in one oven; they will ration your bread by weight, and you will eat and not be satisfied.  
27 “If in spite of this you do not obey me but walk in hostility against me,  
28 I will walk in hostile rage against you and I myself will also discipline you seven times on account of your sins.  
29 You will eat the flesh of your sons and the flesh of your daughters.  
30 I will destroy your high places and cut down your incense altars, and I will stack your dead bodies on top of the lifeless bodies of your idols. I will abhor you.  
31 I will lay your cities waste and make your sanctuaries desolate, and I will refuse to smell your soothing aromas.  
32 I myself will make the land desolate and your enemies who live in it will be appalled.  
33 I will scatter you among the nations and unsheathe the sword after you, so your land will become desolate and your cities will become a waste.  
34 “Then the land will make up for its Sabbaths all the days it lies desolate while you are in the land of your enemies; then the land will rest and make up its Sabbaths. [\[2 Chr 36:15–21; Jer 29:8–14\]](#)  
35 All the days of the desolation it will have the rest it did not have on your Sabbaths when you lived on it.  
36 “As for the ones who remain among you, I will bring despair into their hearts in the lands of their enemies. The sound of a

blowing leaf will pursue them, and they will flee as one who flees the sword and fall down even though there is no pursuer.  
 37 They will stumble over each other as those who flee before a sword, though there is no pursuer, and there will be no one to take a stand for you before your enemies.  
 38 You will perish among the nations; the land of your enemies will consume you.  
 39 “As for the ones who remain among you, they will rot away because of their iniquity in the lands of your enemies, and they will also rot away because of their ancestors’ iniquities which are with them.

#### **Promised Restoration for Repentance—A Way Back from Apostasy**

40 However, when they confess their iniquity and their ancestors’ iniquity which they committed by trespassing against me, by which they also walked in hostility against me  
 41 (and I myself will walk in hostility against them and bring them into the land of their enemies), and then their uncircumcised hearts become humbled and they make up for their iniquity,  
 42 I will remember my covenant with Jacob and also my covenant with Isaac and also my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land.  
 43 The land will be abandoned by them in order that it may make up for its Sabbaths while it is made desolate without them, and they will make up for their iniquity because they have rejected my regulations and have abhorred my statutes.  
 44 In spite of this, however, when they are in the land of their enemies I will not reject them and abhor them to make a complete end of them, to break my covenant with them, for I am the LORD their God.  
 45 I will remember for them the covenant with their ancestors whom I brought out from the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations to be their God. I am the LORD.”

#### **Summary**

46 These are the statutes, regulations, and instructions which the LORD established between himself and the Israelites at Mount Sinai through Moses.

## **Vows (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)**

### **Leviticus 27**

#### **Vows Involving People and Animals**

1 The LORD spoke to Moses:  
 2 “Speak to the Israelites and tell them, ‘When a man makes a special votive offering based on the conversion value of persons to the LORD,  
 3 the conversion value of the male from twenty years old up to sixty years old is fifty shekels by the standard of the sanctuary shekel.  
 4 If the person is a female, the conversion value is thirty shekels.  
 5 If the person is from five years old up to twenty years old, the conversion value of the male is twenty shekels, and for the female ten shekels.  
 6 If the person is one month old up to five years old, the conversion value of the male is five shekels of silver, and for the female the conversion value is three shekels of silver.  
 7 If the person is from sixty years old and older, if he is a male the conversion value is fifteen shekels, and for the female ten shekels.  
 8 If he is too poor to pay the conversion value, he must stand the person before the priest and the priest will establish his conversion value; according to what the man who made the vow can afford, the priest will establish his conversion value.  
 9 “If what is vowed is a kind of animal from which an offering may be presented to the LORD, anything which he gives to the LORD from this kind of animal will be holy.  
 10 He must not replace or exchange it, good for bad or bad for good, and if he does indeed exchange one animal for another animal, then both the original animal and its substitute will be holy.  
 11 If what is vowed is an unclean animal from which an offering must not be presented to the LORD, then he must stand the animal before the priest,  
 12 and the priest will establish its conversion value, whether good or bad. According to the assessed conversion value of the priest, thus it will be.  
 13 If, however, the person who made the vow redeems the animal, he must add one fifth to its conversion value.

#### **Dedication of Houses and Land**

14 “If a man consecrates his house as holy to the LORD, the priest will establish its conversion value, whether good or bad. Just as the priest establishes its conversion value, thus it will stand.  
 15 If the one who consecrates it redeems his house, he must add to it one fifth of its conversion value in silver, and it will belong to him.  
 16 “If a man consecrates to the LORD some of his own landed property, the conversion value must be calculated in accordance with

the amount of seed needed to sow it, a homer of barley seed being priced at fifty shekels of silver.

17 If he consecrates his field in the jubilee year, the conversion value will stand,

18 but if he consecrates his field after the jubilee, the priest will calculate the price for him according to the years that are left until the next jubilee year, and it will be deducted from the conversion value.

19 If, however, the one who consecrated the field redeems it, he must add to it one fifth of the conversion price and it will belong to him.

20 If he does not redeem the field, but sells the field to someone else, he may never redeem it.

21 When it reverts in the jubilee, the field will be holy to the LORD like a permanently dedicated field; it will become the priest's property.

22 "If he consecrates to the LORD a field he has purchased, which is not part of his own landed property,

23 the priest will calculate for him the amount of its conversion value until the jubilee year, and he must pay the conversion value on that jubilee day as something that is holy to the LORD.

24 In the jubilee year the field will return to the one from whom he bought it, the one to whom it belongs as landed property.

#### **Miscellaneous Regulations about Vows**

25 Every conversion value must be calculated by the standard of the sanctuary shekel; twenty gerahs to the shekel.

26 "Surely no man may consecrate a firstborn that already belongs to the LORD as a firstborn among the animals; whether it is an ox or a sheep, it belongs to the LORD.

27 If, however, it is among the unclean animals, he may ransom it according to its conversion value and must add one fifth to it, but if it is not redeemed it must be sold according to its conversion value.

28 "Surely anything which a man permanently dedicates to the LORD from all that belongs to him, whether from people, animals, or his landed property, must be neither sold nor redeemed; anything permanently dedicated is most holy to the LORD.

29 Any human being who is permanently dedicated [to destruction] must not be ransomed; such a person must be put to death. [cf. [Num 21:2–3](#); [Josh 6:16–19](#); [1 Sam 15](#)]

30 "Any tithe of the land, from the grain of the land or from the fruit of the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.

31 If a man redeems part of his tithe, however, he must add one fifth to it.

32 All the tithe of herd or flock, everything which passes under the rod, the tenth one will be holy to the LORD.

33 The owner must not examine the animals to distinguish between good and bad, and he must not exchange it. If, however, he does exchange it, both the original animal and its substitute will be holy. It must not be redeemed."

#### **Conclusion**

34 These are the commandments which the LORD commanded Moses to tell the Israelites at 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 Naphtalites, presented an offering.

79 His offering was one silver platter weighing 130 shekels and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing 70 shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each of them full of fine flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering;

80 one gold pan weighing 10 shekels;

81 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, for a burnt offering;

82 one male goat for a purification offering;

83 and for the sacrifice of peace offerings: two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Ahira son of Enan.

### Summary

84 This was the dedication for the altar from the leaders of Israel, when it was anointed: twelve silver platters, twelve silver sprinkling bowls, and twelve gold pans.

85 Each silver platter weighed 130 shekels, and each silver sprinkling bowl weighed 70 shekels. All the silver of the vessels weighed 2,400 shekels, according to the sanctuary shekel.

86 The twelve gold pans full of incense weighed 10 shekels each, according to the sanctuary shekel; all the gold of the pans weighed 120 shekels.

87 All the animals for the burnt offering were 12 young bulls, 12 rams, 12 male lambs in their first year, with their grain offering, and 12 male goats for a purification offering.

88 All the animals for the sacrifice for the peace offering were 24 young bulls, 60 rams, 60 male goats, and 60 lambs in their first year. These were the dedication offerings for the altar after it was anointed.

### God Now Speaks from the Mercy Seat

89 Now when Moses went into the tent of meeting to speak with the LORD, he heard the voice speaking to him from above the atonement lid that was on the ark of the testimony, from between the two cherubim. Thus he spoke to him.

## Clarification on the Direction of the Lamps (c. 12 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Numbers 8:1–4

1 The LORD spoke to Moses:

2 “Speak to Aaron and tell him, ‘When you set up the lamps, the seven lamps are to give light in front of the lampstand.’”

3 And Aaron did so; he set up the lamps to face toward the front of the lampstand, as the LORD commanded Moses.

4 This is how the lampstand was made: It was beaten work in gold; from its shaft to its flowers it was beaten work. According to the pattern which the LORD had shown 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 Then the LORD spoke to Moses:

6 “Take the Levites from among the Israelites and purify them.

7 And do this to them to purify them: Sprinkle water of purification on them; then have them shave all their body and wash their clothes, and so purify themselves.

8 Then they are to take a young bull with its grain offering of fine flour mixed with olive oil; and you are to take a second young bull for a purification offering.

9 You are to bring the Levites before the tent of meeting and assemble the entire community of the Israelites.

10 Then you are to bring the Levites before the LORD, and the Israelites are to lay their hands on the Levites;

11 and Aaron is to offer the Levites before the LORD as a wave offering from the Israelites, that they may do the work of the LORD.

12 When the Levites lay their hands on the heads of the bulls, offer the one for a purification offering and the other for a whole burnt offering to the LORD, to make atonement for the Levites.

13 You are to have the Levites stand before Aaron and his sons, and then offer them as a wave offering to the LORD.

14 And so you are to separate the Levites from among the Israelites, and the Levites will be mine.

### Substitutionary Role of the Levites

15 “After this, the Levites will go in to do the work of the tent of meeting. So you must cleanse them and offer them like a wave offering.

16 For they are entirely given to me from among the Israelites. I have taken them for myself instead of all who open the womb, the

firstborn sons of all the Israelites.

17 For all the firstborn males among the Israelites are mine, both humans and animals; when I destroyed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt I set them apart for myself.

18 So I have taken the Levites instead of all the firstborn sons among the Israelites.

19 I have given the Levites as a gift to Aaron and his sons from among the Israelites, to do the work for the Israelites in the tent of meeting, and to make atonement for the Israelites, so there will be no plague among the Israelites when the Israelites come near the sanctuary.”

#### **Consecration of the Levites**

20 So Moses and Aaron and the entire community of the Israelites did this with the Levites. According to all that the LORD commanded Moses concerning the Levites, this is what the Israelites did with them.

21 The Levites purified themselves and washed their clothing; then Aaron presented them like a wave offering before the LORD, and Aaron made atonement for them to purify them.

22 After this, the Levites went in to do their work in the tent of meeting before Aaron and before his sons. As the LORD had commanded Moses concerning the Levites, so they did.

#### **Service and Retirement Ages**

23 Then the LORD spoke to Moses:

24 “This is what pertains to the Levites: At the age of twenty-five years and upward one may begin to join the company in the work of the tent of meeting,

25 and at the age of fifty years they must retire from performing the work and may no longer work.

26 They may assist their colleagues in the tent of meeting, to attend to needs, but they must do no work. This is the way you must establish the Levites regarding their duties.”

## The Second Passover (14 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Numbers 9:1–14

#### **Israel's Second Passover**

1 The LORD spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the first month of the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt:

2 “The Israelites are to observe the Passover at its appointed time.

3 In the fourteenth day of this month, at twilight, you are to observe it at its appointed time; you must keep it in accordance with all its statutes and all its customs.”

4 So Moses instructed the Israelites to observe the Passover.

5 And they observed the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight in the wilderness of Sinai; in accordance with all that the LORD had commanded Moses, so the Israelites did.

#### **Provision for Being Unclean at Passover (celebrate on the 14<sup>th</sup> of the 2<sup>nd</sup> month)**

6 It happened that some men who were ceremonially defiled by the dead body of a man could not keep the Passover on that day, so they came before Moses and before Aaron on that day.

7 And those men said to him, “We are ceremonially defiled by the dead body of a man; why are we kept back from offering the LORD’s offering at its appointed time among the Israelites?”

8 So Moses said to them, “Remain here and I will hear what the LORD will command concerning you.”

9 The LORD spoke to Moses:

10 “Tell the Israelites, ‘If any of you or of your posterity become ceremonially defiled by touching a dead body, or are on a journey far away, then he may observe the Passover to the LORD.

11 They may observe it on the fourteenth day of the second month at twilight; they are to eat it with bread made without yeast and with bitter herbs.

12 They must not leave any of it until morning, nor break any of its bones; they must observe it in accordance with every statute of the Passover.

13 But the man who is ceremonially clean, and was not on a journey, and fails to keep the Passover, that person must be cut off from his people. Because he did not bring the LORD’s offering at its appointed time, that man must bear his sin.

14 If a resident foreigner lives among you and wants to keep the Passover to the LORD, he must do so according to the statute of the Passover, and according to its custom. You must have the same statute for the resident foreigner and for the one who was born in the land.””

## First Census of the Twelve Tribes (1 Iyyar [April/May] 1445 BC)

### Numbers 1

#### Historical/Chronological Setting

1 Now the LORD spoke to Moses in the tent of meeting in the wilderness of Sinai on the first day of the second month of the second year after the Israelites departed from the land of Egypt. He said:

#### Instructions for the Military Conscription Census

2 “Take a census of the entire Israelite community by their clans and families, counting the name of every individual male.  
 3 You and Aaron are to number all in Israel who can serve in the army, those who are twenty years old or older, by their divisions.  
 4 And to help you there is to be a man from each tribe, each man the head of his family.  
 5 Now these are the names of the men who are to help you: from Reuben, Elizur son of Shedeur;  
 6 from Simeon, Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai;  
 7 from Judah, Nahshon son of Amminadab;  
 8 from Issachar, Nethanel son of Zuar;  
 9 from Zebulun, Eliab son of Helon;  
 10 from the sons of Joseph: from Ephraim, Elishama son of Ammihud; from Manasseh, Gamaliel son of Pedahzur;  
 11 from Benjamin, Abidan son of Gideon;  
 12 from Dan, Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai;  
 13 from Asher, Pagiel son of Ocran;  
 14 from Gad, Eliasaph son of Deuel;  
 15 from Naphtali, Ahira son of Enan.”  
 16 These were the ones chosen from the community, leaders of their ancestral tribes. They were the heads of the thousands of Israel.

#### Moses Directs the Census

17 So Moses and Aaron took these men who had been mentioned specifically by name,  
 18 and they assembled the entire community together on the first day of the second month. Then the people recorded their ancestry by their clans and families, and the men who were twenty years old or older were listed by name individually,  
 19 just as the LORD had commanded Moses. And so he numbered them in the wilderness of Sinai.

#### Census Results by Tribe (excluding Levi)

20 And they were as follows: The descendants of Reuben, the firstborn son of Israel: According to the records of their clans and families, all the males twenty years old or older who could serve in the army were listed by name individually.  
 21 Those of them who were numbered from the tribe of Reuben were 46,500.  
 22 From the descendants of Simeon: According to the records of their clans and families, all the males numbered of them twenty years old or older who could serve in the army were listed by name individually.  
 23 Those of them who were numbered from the tribe of Simeon were 59,300.  
 24 From the descendants of Gad: According to the records of their clans and families, all the males twenty years old or older who could serve in the army were listed by name.  
 25 Those of them who were numbered from the tribe of Gad were 45,650.  
 26 From the descendants of Judah: According to the records of their clans and families, all the males twenty years old or older who could serve in the army were listed by name.  
 27 Those of them who were numbered from the tribe of Judah were 74,600.  
 28 From the descendants of Issachar: According to the records of their clans and families, all the males twenty years old or older who could serve in the army were listed by name.  
 29 Those of them who were numbered from the tribe of Issachar were 54,400.  
 30 From the descendants of Zebulun: According to the records of their clans and families, all the males twenty years old or older who could serve in the army were listed by name.  
 31 Those of them who were numbered from the tribe of Zebulun were 57,400.  
 32 From the sons of Joseph: From the descendants of Ephraim: According to the records of their clans and families, all the males twenty years old or older who could serve in the army were listed by name.  
 33 Those of them who were numbered from the tribe of Ephraim were 40,500.  
 34 From the descendants of Manasseh: According to the records of their clans and families, all the males twenty years old or older who could serve in the army were listed by name.  
 35 Those of them who were numbered from the tribe of Manasseh were 32,200.  
 36 From the descendants of Benjamin: According to the records of their clans and families, all the males twenty years old or older who could serve in the army were listed by name.  
 37 Those of them who were numbered from the tribe of Benjamin were 35,400.

38 From the descendants of Dan: According to the records of their clans and families, all the males twenty years old or older who could serve in the army were listed by name.

39 Those of them who were numbered from the tribe of Dan were 62,700.

40 From the descendants of Asher: According to the records of their clans and families, all the males twenty years old or older who could serve in the army were listed by name.

41 Those of them who were numbered from the tribe of Asher were 41,500.

42 From the descendants of Naphtali: According to the records of their clans and families, all the males twenty years old or older who could serve in the army were listed by name.

43 Those of them who were numbered from the tribe of Naphtali were 53,400.

#### **Census Summary and Total**

44 These were the men whom Moses and Aaron numbered along with the twelve leaders of Israel, each of whom was from his own family.

45 All the Israelites who were twenty years old or older, who could serve in Israel's army, were numbered according to their families.

46 And all those numbered totaled 603,550.

#### **Uncounted Levites Dedicated to Tabernacle Service**

47 But the Levites, according to the tribe of their fathers, were not numbered among them.

48 The LORD had said to Moses,

49 "Only the tribe of Levi you must not number or count with the other Israelites.

50 But appoint the Levites over the tabernacle of the testimony, over all its furnishings and over everything in it. They must carry the tabernacle and all its furnishings; and they must attend to it and camp around it.

51 Whenever the tabernacle is to move, the Levites must take it down, and whenever the tabernacle is to be reassembled, the Levites must set it up. Any unauthorized person who approaches it must be killed.

52 "The Israelites will camp according to their divisions, each man in his camp, and each man by his standard.

53 But the Levites must camp around the tabernacle of the testimony, so that the LORD's anger will not fall on the Israelite community. The Levites are responsible for the care of the tabernacle of the testimony."

#### **Census Conclusion: Faithful Obedience**

54 The Israelites did according to all that the LORD commanded Moses—that is what they did.

## Organization of the Camp (c. 1 Iyyar [April/May] 1445 BC)

### Numbers 2

#### **Introduction**

1 The LORD spoke to Moses and to Aaron:

2 "Every one of the Israelites must camp under his standard with the emblems of his family; they must camp at some distance around the tent of meeting.

#### **East Side—Judah, Issachar, Zebulun**

3 "Now those who will be camping on the east, toward the sunrise, are the divisions of the camp of Judah under their standard. The leader of the people of Judah is Nahshon son of Amminadab.

4 Those numbered in his division are 74,600.

5 Those who will be camping next to them are the tribe of Issachar. The leader of the people of Issachar is Nethanel son of Zuar.

6 Those numbered in his division are 54,400.

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

8 Those numbered in his division are 57,400.

9 All those numbered of the camp of Judah, according to their divisions, are 186,400. They will travel at the front.

#### **South Side—Reuben, Simeon, Gad**

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

11 Those numbered in his division are 46,500.

12 Those who will be camping next to them are the tribe of Simeon. The leader of the people of Simeon is Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai.

13 Those numbered in his division are 59,300.

14 Next will be the tribe of Gad. The leader of the people of Gad is Eliasaph son of Deuel.

15 Those numbered in his division are 45,650.

16 All those numbered of the camp of Reuben, according to their divisions, are 151,450. They will travel second.

### **The Tabernacle**

17 “Then the tent of meeting with the camp of the Levites will travel in the middle of the camps. They will travel in the same order as they camped, each in his own place under his standard.

### **West Side—Ephraim, Manasseh, Benjamin**

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

19 Those numbered in his division are 40,500.

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

21 Those numbered in his division are 32,200.

22 Next will be the tribe of Benjamin. The leader of the people of Benjamin is Abidan son of Gideon.

23 Those numbered in his division are 35,400.

24 All those numbered of the camp of Ephraim, according to their divisions, are 108,100. They will travel third.

### **North Side—Dan, Asher, Naphtali**

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

26 Those numbered in his division are 62,700.

27 Those who will be camping next to them are the tribe of Asher. The leader of the people of Asher is Pagiel son of Ocran.

28 Those numbered in his division are 41,500.

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

30 Those numbered in his division are 53,400.

31 All those numbered of the camp of Dan are 157,600. They will travel last, under their standards.”

### **Summary and Total**

32 These are the Israelites, numbered according to their families. All those numbered in the camps, by their divisions, are 603,550.

33 But the Levites were not numbered among the other Israelites, as the LORD commanded Moses.

### **Conclusion: Faithful Obedience**

34 So the Israelites did according to all that the LORD commanded Moses; that is the way they camped under their standards, and that is the way they traveled, each with his clan and family.

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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 Now these are the records of Aaron and Moses when the LORD spoke with Moses on Mount Sinai.

2 These are the names of the sons of Aaron: Nadab, the firstborn, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

3 These are the names of the sons of Aaron, the anointed priests, whom he consecrated to minister as priests.

4 Nadab and Abihu died before the LORD when they offered strange fire before the LORD in the wilderness of Sinai, and they had no children. So Eleazar and Ithamar ministered as priests in the presence of Aaron their father.

**The Levites are Given in Service to the Priesthood**

5 The LORD spoke to Moses:

6 “Bring the tribe of Levi near, and present them before Aaron the priest, that they may serve him.

7 They are responsible for his needs and the needs of the whole community before the tent of meeting, by attending to the service of the tabernacle.

8 And they are responsible for all the furnishings of the tent of meeting, and for the needs of the Israelites, as they serve in the tabernacle.

9 You are to assign the Levites to Aaron and his sons; they will be assigned exclusively to him out of all the Israelites.

10 So you are to appoint Aaron and his sons, and they will be responsible for their priesthood; but the unauthorized person who comes near must be put to death.”

**The Purpose Behind the Levitical Census**

11 Then the LORD spoke to Moses:

12 “Look, I myself have taken the Levites from among the Israelites instead of every firstborn who opens the womb among the Israelites. So the Levites belong to me,

13 because all the firstborn are mine. When I destroyed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, I set apart for myself all the firstborn in Israel, both man and beast. They belong to me. I am the LORD.”

**Levitical Census for Firstborn Redemption**

14 Then the LORD spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai:

15 “Number the Levites by their clans and their families; every male from a month old and upward you are to number.”

16 So Moses numbered them according to the word of the LORD, just as he had been commanded.

17 These were the sons of Levi by their names: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

18 These are the names of the sons of Gershon by their families: Libni and Shimei.

19 The sons of Kohath by their families were: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel.

20 The sons of Merari by their families were Mahli and Mushi. These are the families of the Levites by their clans.

**Clan of Gershon**

21 From Gershon came the family of the Libnites and the family of the Shimeites; these were the families of the Gershonites.

22 Those of them who were numbered, counting every male from a month old and upward, were 7,500.

23 The families of the Gershonites were to camp behind the tabernacle toward the west.

24 Now the leader of the clan of the Gershonites was Eliasaph son of Lael.

25 And the responsibilities of the Gershonites in the tent of meeting included the tabernacle, the tent with its covering, the curtain at the entrance of the tent of meeting,

26 the hangings of the courtyard, the curtain at the entrance to the courtyard that surrounded the tabernacle and the altar, and their ropes, plus all the service connected with these things.

**Clan of Kohath**

27 From Kohath came the family of the Amramites, the family of the Izharites, the family of the Hebronites, and the family of the Uzzielites; these were the families of the Kohathites.

28 Counting every male from a month old and upward, there were 8,600. They were responsible for the care of the sanctuary.

29 The families of the Kohathites were to camp on the south side of the tabernacle.

30 Now the leader of the clan of the families of the Kohathites was Elizaphan son of Uzziel.

31 Their responsibilities included the ark, the table, the lampstand, the altars, and the utensils of the sanctuary with which they ministered, the curtain, and all their service.

32 Now the head of all the Levitical leaders was Eleazar son of Aaron the priest. He was appointed over those who were responsible for the sanctuary.

**Clan of Merari**

33 From Merari came the family of the Mahlites and the family of the Mushites; these were the families of Merari.

34 Those of them who were numbered, counting every male from a month old and upward, were 6,200.

35 Now the leader of the clan of the families of Merari was Zuriel son of Abihail. These were to camp on the north side of the tabernacle.

36 The appointed responsibilities of the Merarites included the frames of the tabernacle, its crossbars, its posts, its sockets, its utensils, plus all the service connected with these things,

37 and the pillars of the courtyard all around, with their sockets, their pegs, and their ropes.

38 But those who were to camp in front of the tabernacle on the east, in front of the tent of meeting, were Moses, Aaron, and his sons. They were responsible for the needs of the sanctuary and for the needs of the Israelites, but the unauthorized person who approached was to be put to death.

**Census Total**

39 All who were numbered of the Levites, whom Moses and Aaron numbered by the word of the LORD, according to their families, every male from a month old and upward, were 22,000.

**Firstborn Israelites Redeemed With Levites**

40 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Number all the firstborn males of the Israelites from a month old and upward, and take the number of their names.

41 And take the Levites for me—I am the LORD—instead of all the firstborn males among the Israelites, and the livestock of the Levites instead of all the firstborn of the livestock of the Israelites."

42 So Moses numbered all the firstborn males among the Israelites, as the LORD had commanded him.

43 And all the firstborn males, by the number of the names from a month old and upward, totaled 22,273.

44 Then the LORD spoke to Moses:

45 "Take the Levites instead of all the firstborn males among the Israelites, and the livestock of the Levites instead of their livestock. And the Levites will be mine. I am the LORD.

**Excess Israelites Redeemed With Money**

46 And for the redemption of the 273 firstborn males of the Israelites who exceed the number of the Levites,

47 collect five shekels for each one individually; you are to collect this amount in the currency of the sanctuary shekel (this shekel is twenty gerahs).

48 And give the money for the redemption of the excess number of them to Aaron and his sons."

49 So Moses took the redemption money from those who were in excess of those redeemed by the Levites.

50 From the firstborn males of the Israelites he collected the money, 1,365 shekels, according to the sanctuary shekel.

51 Moses gave the redemption money to Aaron and his sons, according to the word of the LORD, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

**Census and Duties of Kohath Clan**

4:1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron:

2 "Take a census of the Kohathites from among the Levites, by their families and by their clans,

3 from thirty years old and upward to fifty years old, all who enter the company to do the work in the tent of meeting.

4 This is the service of the Kohathites in the tent of meeting, relating to the most holy things.

5 When it is time for the camp to journey, Aaron and his sons must come and take down the screening curtain and cover the ark of the testimony with it.

6 Then they must put over it a covering of fine leather and spread over that a cloth entirely of blue, and then they must insert its poles.

7 "On the table of the presence they must spread a blue cloth, and put on it the dishes, the pans, the bowls, and the pitchers for pouring, and the Bread of the Presence must be on it continually.

8 They must spread over them a scarlet cloth, and cover the same with a covering of fine leather; and they must insert its poles.

9 "They must take a blue cloth and cover the lampstand of the light, with its lamps, its wick-trimmers, its trays, and all its oil vessels, with which they service it.

10 Then they must put it with all its utensils in a covering of fine leather, and put it on a carrying beam.

11 "They must spread a blue cloth on the gold altar, and cover it with a covering of fine leather; and they must insert its poles.

12 Then they must take all the utensils of the service, with which they serve in the sanctuary, put them in a blue cloth, cover them with a covering of fine leather, and put them on a carrying beam.

13 Also, they must take away the ashes from the altar and spread a purple cloth over it.

14 Then they must place on it all its implements with which they serve there—the trays, the meat forks, the shovels, the basins, and all the utensils of the altar—and they must spread on it a covering of fine leather, and then insert its poles.

15 “When Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, when the camp is ready to journey, then the Kohathites will come to carry them; but they must not touch any holy thing, or they will die. These are the responsibilities of the Kohathites with the tent of meeting.

16 “The appointed responsibility of Eleazar son of Aaron the priest is for the oil for the light, and the spiced incense, and the daily grain offering, and the anointing oil; he also has the appointed responsibility over all the tabernacle with all that is in it, over the sanctuary and over all its furnishings.”

17 Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron:

18 “Do not allow the tribe of the families of the Kohathites to be cut off from among the Levites;

19 but in order that they will live and not die when they approach the most holy things, do this for them: Aaron and his sons will go in and appoint each man to his service and his responsibility.

20 But the Kohathites are not to go in to watch while the holy things are being covered, or they will die.”

#### **Census and Duties of Gershon Clan**

21 Then the LORD spoke to Moses:

22 “Also take a census of the Gershonites, by their clans and by their families.

23 You must number them from thirty years old and upward to fifty years old, all who enter the company to do the work of the tent of meeting.

24 This is the service of the families of Gershonites, as they serve and carry it.

25 They must carry the curtains for the tabernacle and the tent of meeting with its covering, the covering of fine leather that is over it, the curtains for the entrance of the tent of meeting,

26 the hangings for the courtyard, the curtain for the entrance of the gate of the court, which is around the tabernacle and the altar, and their ropes, along with all the furnishings for their service and everything that is made for them. So they are to serve.

27 “All the service of the Gershonites, whether carrying loads or for any of their work, will be at the direction of Aaron and his sons. You will assign them all their tasks as their responsibility.

28 This is the service of the families of the Gershonites concerning the tent of meeting. Their responsibilities will be under the authority of Ithamar son of Aaron the priest.

#### **Census and Duties of Merari Clan**

29 “As for the sons of Merari, you are to number them by their families and by their clans.

30 You must number them from thirty years old and upward to fifty years old, all who enter the company to do the work of the tent of meeting.

31 This is what they are responsible to carry as their entire service in the tent of meeting: the frames of the tabernacle, its crossbars, its posts, its sockets,

32 and the posts of the surrounding courtyard with their sockets, tent pegs, and ropes, along with all their furnishings and everything for their service. You are to assign by names the items that each man is responsible to carry.

33 This is the service of the families of the Merarites, their entire service concerning the tent of meeting, under the authority of Ithamar son of Aaron the priest.”

#### **Census Totals—Kohathites**

34 So Moses and Aaron and the leaders of the community numbered the Kohathites by their families and by clans,

35 from thirty years old and upward to fifty years old, everyone who entered the company for the work in the tent of meeting;

36 and those of them numbered by their families were 2,750.

37 These were those numbered from the families of the Kohathites, everyone who served in the tent of meeting, whom Moses and Aaron numbered according to the word of the LORD by the authority of Moses.

#### **Census Totals—Gershonites**

38 Those numbered from the Gershonites, by their families and by their clans,

39 from thirty years old and upward to fifty years old, everyone who entered the company for the work in the tent of meeting

40 those of them numbered by their families, by their clans, were 2,630.

41 These were those numbered from the families of the Gershonites, everyone who served in the tent of meeting, whom Moses and Aaron numbered according to the word of the LORD.

#### **Census Totals—Merarites**

42 Those numbered from the families of the Merarites, by their families, by their clans,

43 from thirty years old and upward to fifty years old, everyone who entered the company for the work in the tent of meeting—

44 those of them numbered by their families were 3,200.

45 These are those numbered from the families of the Merarites, whom Moses and Aaron numbered according to the word of the LORD by the authority of Moses.

**Summary**

46 All who were numbered of the Levites, whom Moses, Aaron, and the leaders of Israel numbered by their families and by their clans,

47 from thirty years old and upward to fifty years old, everyone who entered to do the work of service and the work of carrying relating to the tent of meeting—

48 those of them numbered were 8,580.

49 According to the word of the LORD they were numbered, by the authority of Moses, each according to his service and according to what he was to carry. Thus were they numbered by him, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

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