

**This book contains the account of God enabling his people, the Israeli people, to escape from Egypt and of giving some laws for them. We call this book Exodus**

*The Egyptians caused the Israeli people to suffer greatly*

<sup>1</sup> The sons of Jacob who went to Egypt with him along with their families were <sup>2</sup> Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, <sup>3</sup> Issachar, Zebulun, Benjamin, <sup>4</sup> Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher. <sup>5</sup> Altogether there were 70 people *who went with Jacob*. That included his sons, his grandsons, and two great-grandsons. His son Joseph was already in Egypt.

<sup>6</sup> *Eventually* Joseph and his *older and younger* brothers and everyone *else in their family who lived* ◀in that generation/at that time▶ died.

<sup>7</sup> But Jacob's descendants kept giving birth to many children [IDM]. The number of *his descendants* kept becoming larger and larger. As a result, there were so many of them that they were everywhere in Egypt (OR, that they *became a threat* to the Egyptians). <sup>8</sup> Then *several hundred years later*, a new king began to rule [MTY] in Egypt. He did not know *what Joseph had done for the people of Egypt long ago*. <sup>9</sup> He said to his people, "Look at *what has happened!* The

Israeli people have become so numerous and so powerful that they *now might conquer us!* <sup>10</sup> We must find a way to control them! If we do not do that, their population will continue to grow. Then, if enemies [PRS] attack us, they will join with our enemies and fight against us, and they will escape from *our land.*”

<sup>11</sup> So *the king and his officials* put supervisors over the Israeli people to cause them to suffer very much by *forcing them* to work very hard. They forced *the Israeli people* to build two cities, Pithom and Ramses, in which to store *supplies for the king/government.* <sup>12</sup> But the more cruelly they treated the *Israeli people*, the bigger the Israeli *population* grew, and they became more numerous all over *the land.* So the Egyptian people began to be afraid of the Israeli people. <sup>13</sup> They forced the Israeli people to work very hard, <sup>14</sup> and by making them slaves, they made their lives miserable. They *forced them to build many buildings with mortar and bricks.* They *also forced them to do other work in the fields.* *In making them do all this work, the Egyptian officials treated them ruthlessly/cruelly.*

<sup>15</sup> There were two Hebrew ◀midwives/women who helped the women when they were giving birth▶. [Hebrew means the same as Israeli.] The names of the women were Shiphrah and Puah. The king of Egypt said to *those two women,* <sup>16</sup> “When you help the Hebrew women when they are giving birth [MTY], if *the baby that is born* is a boy, you must kill it. If *the baby* is a girl, you ◀may let it live/do not have to kill

them►.” <sup>17</sup> But the midwives feared/revered God. So they did not do what the king told them to do. They allowed the baby boys to live. <sup>18</sup> So the king summoned the *two* midwives and said to them, “Why are you doing this? Why are you letting the baby boys live?” <sup>19</sup> *One of* the midwives replied to the king, “*You need to realize that* the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women. The Hebrew women are very strong/healthy. They give birth *to their babies* before we can get to them *to help them.*”

<sup>20</sup> So God acted kindly toward the midwives, and the *Hebrew* people became even more numerous and strong. <sup>21</sup> Furthermore, because the midwives feared/revered God, he enabled them also to give birth to children.

<sup>22</sup> Then the king commanded all ◀the *Egyptian* people/his *advisors*►: “You must throw into the Nile River every baby boy born that the *Hebrew* women give birth to! But you can allow the baby girls to live.”

## 2

*After Moses was born he was later adopted by the king's daughter*

<sup>1</sup> ◀There was a man who/My father► was descended from *Jacob's son* Levi. He married a woman who was *also* descended from Levi. <sup>2</sup> She became pregnant and gave birth to ◀a baby boy/me►. When she saw that he/I was a good-looking baby, she hid him/me for three months, *because she was not willing to do what the king commanded.* <sup>3</sup> When she was unable to ◀hide

him/me/keep it a secret► any longer, she got a basket made from tall reeds. She covered the basket with tar ◀*to make it waterproof/so water could not get in*►. Then she put him/me in the basket and put the basket in *the water* in the middle of the tall grass at the edge of the Nile River. <sup>4</sup> His/My older sister was standing not far away, *watching to see* what would happen to him/me.

<sup>5</sup> *Soon* the king's daughter went down to the river to bathe. Her female servants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket amid the tall grass *in the river*. So she sent *one of* her servants to get it. <sup>6</sup> When *the servant brought the basket to her*, she opened it, and was surprised to see ◀*a baby that was/me*►, crying. She felt sorry for him/me, and said, "This *must* be one of the Hebrews' babies."

<sup>7</sup> Then ◀*the baby's/my*► *older* sister *approached* the king's daughter and said, "Do you want me to go and find someone from among the Hebrew women who will *be able to* nurse the baby for you?" <sup>8</sup> The king's daughter said to her, "Yes, go *and find one*." So the girl went and summoned ◀*the baby's/my*► mother. <sup>9</sup> The king's daughter said to her, "Please take this baby and nurse him for me. I will pay you *for doing that*." So ◀*the woman/my mother*► took him/me and nursed him/me. <sup>10</sup> ◀*A few years later/when* ◀*the child/I*► *grew older*►, she brought him/me to the king's daughter. She adopted him/me *as though I was* her own son. She named him/me Moses, *which sounds like*

*the Hebrew words 'pull out', because she said "I pulled him out of the water."*

*Moses, after murdering an Egyptian, escaped to Midian and later married Zipporah*

<sup>11</sup> One day, after Moses/I had grown up, he/I went out *of the palace area* to see his/my people, *the Hebrews*. He/I saw how they were being *forced to work* very hard. He/I *also* saw an Egyptian man beating one of his/my Hebrew people. <sup>12</sup> He/I looked around *to see if anyone was watching*. Seeing no one, he/I killed the Egyptian man and buried his *body* in the sand.

<sup>13</sup> The next day he/I returned *to the same place*. He/I was surprised to see two Hebrew men who were fighting *each other*. He/I said to the man who started the fight, "Why are you ◀you should not be▶ striking your fellow *Hebrew*." <sup>14</sup> The man replied, "◀Who made you our ruler and judge?/No one made you our ruler and judge!▶ [RHQ] *You have no right to interfere with us* Are you going to kill me just like you killed that Egyptian man *yesterday*?" Then Moses/I was afraid, *because* he/I thought, "*Since that man knows what I did, surely other people know, too.*"

<sup>15</sup> *And that was correct*. The king heard about what he/I had done *to that Egyptian*. *So he ordered his soldiers to execute/kill* Moses/me. But he/I fled from the king *and left Egypt*. *He/I traveled east to the Midian region* and started to live there. <sup>16</sup> The man who was the ◀priest/one who offered the people's gifts to God▶ for the Midian people, *whose name was Jethro*, had

seven daughters. *One day* as Moses/I sat down beside a well, those girls came *to the well* and got water, and filled the troughs in order to give water to their father's flock of sheep. <sup>17</sup> Some ◀shepherds/men who took care of other sheep▶ came and started to chase away the girls. But Moses/I helped/rescued the girls, and got water for their sheep. <sup>18</sup> When the girls returned to their father *Jethro, whose other name is Reuel*, he asked them, "How is it that you were able to *give water to the sheep and come home so quickly today?*" <sup>19</sup> They replied, "A man from Egypt kept [MTY] other shepherds from sending us away. He also got water for us *from the well* and gave water to the flock of sheep."

<sup>20</sup> He said to his daughters, "Where is he? ◀Why did you leave him *out there?*/You should not leave him *out there!*▶ [RHQ] Invite him *in*, so he can have something to eat [MTY]!" <sup>21</sup> *So they did*, and Moses/I *accepted and ate with them*. And Moses/I decided to live there. Later Jethro gave him/me his daughter Zipporah *to be his/my wife*. <sup>22</sup> Later she gave birth to a son, and Moses/I named him Gershom, *which sounds like the Hebrew words that mean 'foreigner'*, because he/I said, "I am living as a foreigner in *this land*."

<sup>23</sup> Many years later the king of Egypt died. The Israeli people *in Egypt* were still groaning because of the *hard work they had to do as slaves*. They called out for *someone to help them*, and God heard them call out [PRS]. <sup>24</sup> He heard them groaning. And he ◀thought about/did not forget▶ that he had solemnly promised

to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob *to bless their descendants*. <sup>25</sup> God saw how the Israeli people were *being badly treated*, and he was concerned about them.

### 3

*God talked to Moses from inside a burning bush, and told him to lead his people out of Egypt*

<sup>1</sup> Moses/I was taking care of the sheep that belonged to his/my father-in-law Jethro, the priest of the Midian *people*. He/I led the flock across the desert and came to Horeb, *the mountain that was later called Sinai*, the ◀mountain that had been dedicated to God/taboo mountain▶. <sup>2</sup> One day Yahweh ◀appeared/revealed himself▶ to him/me, *looking like* an angel. The angel appeared in a flame of fire in the middle of a bush *that was burning*. Moses/I looked at it, and he/I was surprised that the bush was burning, but it was not burning up. <sup>3</sup> Moses/I thought, “I will go closer and try to see this strange sight! Why is the bush not burning up?”

<sup>4</sup> When Yahweh saw that he/I had come closer, he called to Moses/me from the middle of the bush, saying, “Moses! Moses!” He/I replied, “Yes, here I am.” <sup>5</sup> Yahweh said, “Do not come closer! *Because I am God*, the ground on which you are standing is holy/taboo. So take off your sandals *to show respect to me*.” <sup>6</sup> Then he said, “I am God, whom your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob *worshiped*.” So Moses/I covered his/my face, because he/I was afraid *that God would kill him/me* if he/I looked at him.

<sup>7</sup> Then Yahweh said, “I have seen how cruelly *they are treating* my people in Egypt. I have heard them ◀wailing/crying out▶ *for help* because of what the slave-drivers *are forcing them to do*. I know how my people are suffering. <sup>8</sup> So I have come down *from heaven* to rescue them from the Egyptians [SYN]. I have come to bring them up from that land *to the highlands in Canaan*. I will bring them to a land that is good/fertile and that has plenty of space. It will be very good for raising livestock and growing crops [MTY]. It is the land where the descendants of Canaan, Heth, Amor, Periz, Hiv, and Jebus *live*. <sup>9</sup> Truly I have now heard my Israeli people crying [PRS]. I have seen how the Egyptians oppress them. <sup>10</sup> So you go *back* to Egypt. I am sending you to the king, in order that *he may permit* you to bring my people, the Israeli people, out of Egypt.”

<sup>11</sup> But Moses/I replied, “I am not a well-known person [RHQ]! ◀I cannot go to the king and *ask him to permit me* to bring the Israeli people out of Egypt!/How can I go to the king and *ask him to allow me to* bring the Israeli people out of Egypt?▶” [RHQ] <sup>12</sup> God replied, “I will be with you. And when you bring *my* people out of Egypt, all of you will worship me *right* here on this mountain. That will prove that I am the one who sent you *to them*.”

<sup>13</sup> Moses/I said to God, “If I go to the Israeli people and say to them, ‘God, the one your ancestors *worshiped*, has sent me to you,’ and

they ask me, ‘What is his name?’, what shall I say to them?” <sup>14</sup> God replied, “I AM who I AM.” And he said, “Tell the Israeli people that the one who is *named* ‘I AM’ has sent me to you.”

<sup>15</sup> God also said to Moses/me, “Say this to the Israeli people: ‘Yahweh God, the one your ancestors *worshipped*, the one that Abraham and Isaac and Jacob *worshipped*, has sent me to you.’ This name, *Yahweh*, will be my name forever. That is the name that *people in* all future generations *must use when they talk about/to* me.

<sup>16</sup> Go to *Egypt* and gather together the elders/leaders of the Israeli people, and say to them, ‘Yahweh God, the one your ancestors *worshipped*, the one Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob *worshipped*, appeared to me. He said to him/me, “I have been watching closely what the Egyptian people have done to you. <sup>17</sup> I promise that I will rescue you from being oppressed in Egypt, and *I will take you* to the land where the descendants of Canaan, Heth, Amor, Periz, Hiv, and Jebus *live*. It is a land good for raising livestock and growing crops [MTY].” ’ <sup>18</sup> My people will do what you say. Then you and their leaders must go to the king of Egypt, and you must say to him, ‘Yahweh, who is God, the one we Hebrews *worship*, has revealed himself to us. So now we ask you to allow us to travel for three days to *a place in* the desert, in order that there we may offer sacrifices to Yahweh, our God.’ <sup>19</sup> But I know that the king of Egypt will allow you to go only if he realizes I am *more powerful* [MTY] *than he is*. <sup>20</sup> So I will

use my power [MTY] to strike/punish *the people of Egypt* [MTY] by performing many miracles there. Then he will allow you to leave. <sup>21</sup> *When that happens*, I will cause the people of Egypt to respect you. *The result will be that* when you leave Egypt, ◀you will not go empty-handed/they will give you many *valuable* things to take with you▶. <sup>22</sup> *At that time*, each *Israeli* woman will ask her *Egyptian* neighbors and each *Egyptian* woman who is living in her (OR, her neighbor's) house to *give her* some silver and gold jewelry and some *nice* clothes. *Each Egyptian woman will give them some*, and you will put them on your sons and daughters *to take with you*. In that way you will ◀take away/confiscate▶ the wealth of the *Egyptian* people."

## 4

*After Moses tried to resist Yahweh's appointment, Yahweh gave him power to perform miracles*

<sup>1</sup> Moses/I replied, "But what if *the Israeli* people ◀do not believe me/are not convinced▶ or not do what I tell them? What if they say, 'Yahweh did not appear to you!' " <sup>2</sup> Yahweh said to him/me, "*Look at* that thing you are holding in your hand. What is it?" He/I replied, "A ◀walking stick/shepherd's stick▶." <sup>3</sup> He said, "Throw it down on the ground!" So, he/I threw it on the ground, and it became a snake! And he/I ran/jumped away from it. <sup>4</sup> But Yahweh said to Moses/me, "Reach down and pick it up by its tail!" So he/I reached

down and caught it, and *when he/I picked it up*, it became a stick in his/my hand *again*.

<sup>5</sup> Yahweh said, "*Do the same thing in front of the Israeli people*, in order that they may believe that I, Yahweh God, the one Abraham and Isaac and Jacob worshiped, truly appeared to you."

<sup>6</sup> Yahweh spoke to Moses/me again, saying "Put your hand inside your robe [MTY]!" He/I did that. And when he/I took it out again, *surprisingly*, his/my hand was white. It had a skin disease *that made it* as white as snow. <sup>7</sup> Then God said, "Put your hand back inside your robe [MTY]!" So he/I did that, and when he/I took it out again, *surprisingly*, it was normal again, just like the rest of his/my body! <sup>8</sup> God said, "*You can do that in front of the Israeli people, too*. If they do not pay attention to what you say because of *seeing* the first miracle, they will *◀believe you/be convinced▶* when you perform the second miracle. <sup>9</sup> If they do not believe you or do what you say, even *after you perform* those two miracles, get some water from the Nile River and pour it on the ground. *When you do that*, the water from the river that you pour on the ground will become blood [MTY] (OR, *red like blood*)."

<sup>10</sup> Moses/I replied, "O Yahweh! I am not an eloquent *speaker!* I was not an eloquent speaker before, and I have not become one since you started talking to me! I am not a good speaker [MTY], and I speak very slowly." <sup>11</sup> Then Yahweh said to him/me, "*You seem to forget* who it is that makes people able to speak [RHQ]! Who is it that enables people to be unable to speak or unable to

hear, or able to see or not to see? It is I, Yahweh [RHQ]! <sup>12</sup> So start going *to Egypt*, and I will help you to speak [MTY], and I will tell you what you should say.” <sup>13</sup> But he/I replied, “O, Yahweh, I ask you, please send someone else *instead!*”

<sup>14</sup> Then Yahweh became very angry with Moses/me. He said, “*What about your older brother Aaron, who is also a descendant of Levi? I know that he is a very good/eloquent speaker. He is actually on his way here right now, and he will be very happy to see you.*” <sup>15</sup> You can talk to him and tell him what to say [MTY], and I will help both of you [SYN] to know what to say [MTY]. And I will tell you both what you should do. <sup>16</sup> He will speak for you to the *Israeli* people. He will be ◀your spokesman/as though he was your mouth▶ [MET], and you will be to him as though you are *his* god. <sup>17</sup> *Be sure to take with you the walking/shepherd’s stick that is in your hand, because you will perform miracles with it.*”

### *God’s instructions to Moses after Moses returned to Egypt*

<sup>18</sup> Moses/I returned to his/my father-in-law Jethro and said to him, “Please let me go back to Egypt, to see my fellow Israelis there. I want to know if they are still alive.” Jethro said to Moses/me, “Go, and may *God give you inner peace.*”

<sup>19</sup> Yahweh said to Moses/me *before he/I left* Midian, “You can *safely* return to Egypt, because the men who were wanting to kill you [MTY] are *now* dead.” <sup>20</sup> So Moses/I took his/my wife and sons and put them on donkeys, and they/

we returned to Egypt. And Moses/I took in his/my hand the stick that God *told him/me to take along*.

<sup>21</sup> Yahweh said to Moses/me, “When you return to Egypt, be sure to perform all the miracles that I have given you power *to do*, while the king is watching. But I will make him stubborn [IDM], with the result that he will not let the Israeli people leave *Egypt*. <sup>22</sup> Then say to him, “This is what Yahweh says: “The Israeli *people* [MTY] are *as dear to me as firstborn sons* [MET]. <sup>23</sup> I told you to let my people [MTY] leave *Egypt*, in order that they may worship me *in the desert*. If you refuse to let them go, I warn you, I will kill your firstborn son!” ’ ’ ”

#### *Zipporah circumcised her son*

<sup>24</sup> *One night*, as they were camping on the way *to Egypt*, Yahweh appeared to Moses/me. He wanted/threatened to kill Moses/me *for disobeying his command that boys/sons be circumcised*. <sup>25</sup> Then *his/my wife* Zipporah took a flint knife and circumcised her son. Then she touched the boy’s feet (OR, genitals) with the piece of skin *she had cut off*, and she said, “The blood *which flowed when I circumcised you* will protect you *from being harmed by Yahweh* [MET].” <sup>26</sup> She said to him, “You are safe now [MET] because you have been circumcised.” So Yahweh did not harm her son.

#### *The Israeli people believed Moses when he and Aaron talked to them*

<sup>27</sup> Yahweh said to Aaron, “Go into the desert to meet/see Moses!” So he went *there from Egypt*

and met him/me at *Sinai*, the mountain dedicated to God, and *greeted him/me by* kissing him/me *on the cheek*.<sup>28</sup> Moses/I told Aaron everything that Yahweh had said to him/me when he told him/me to return to Egypt. He/I also told Aaron about all the miracles that Yahweh told him/me to perform.

<sup>29</sup> So Aaron and Moses/I returned to Egypt. There they/we gathered together all the Israeli elders/leaders.<sup>30</sup> Aaron told them everything that Yahweh had told Moses/me, and Aaron performed *all* the miracles as the people watched.<sup>31</sup> They believed *that what they/we were saying was true*. When they heard that Yahweh had seen how the Israeli people were being cruelly oppressed and that he was going to help them, they bowed down and worshiped Yahweh.

## 5

*The king refused to let the Israeli people go after Moses and Aaron talked to him*

<sup>1</sup> Then Aaron and Moses/I went to the king and *one of them/us* said, “Yahweh God, whom *we* Israeli people *worship*, says this *to you*: ‘Let my people go to the desert, in order that they may have a feast to *honor me!*’ ”<sup>2</sup> But the king said, “Who is Yahweh? Why should I pay attention to what he says and let the Israeli *people* [MTY] go? I do not know Yahweh! And furthermore, I will not let the Israeli *people* go!”<sup>3</sup> They/we replied, “Yahweh God, the one we Hebrews *worship*, has ◀revealed himself/appeared▶ to us *and told us what to tell you*. So we ask you to

*please* let us go on a three day journey into the desert. We must offer sacrifices to Yahweh God *there*. *If we do* not do that, he will cause us to die [IDM] from diseases or from attacks *by our enemies* [MTY].” <sup>4</sup> But the king of Egypt said to them/us, “Moses and Aaron, ◀stop trying to keep the Israeli people from working/why are you preventing the Israeli people from working?▶ [RHQ] *Tell those slaves* to return to work!” <sup>5</sup> The king also said, “Listen to me! You people who now live in this land are now *more* numerous, and you want them to *stop working and rest!*”

*The king increased the amount of work the Israelis were forced to do*

<sup>6</sup> That same day the king commanded the Egyptian slave bosses and the *Israeli* men supervising the slaves, <sup>7</sup> “Do not continue to give the *Israeli* people straw for making bricks, as you have done previously. Make them go *into the fields* and gather straw for themselves. <sup>8</sup> But require them to make the same number of bricks that they did before. Do not decrease the number at all. They ◀are lazy/do not have enough work to do▶. That is the reason they are asking me to let them go *into the desert* to offer sacrifices to their god. <sup>9</sup> Force the men to work harder, so that they will not *have time* to listen to lies *from their leaders!*”

<sup>10</sup> So the slave bosses and supervisors of the slaves went to where the *Israeli* people were and said to them, “The king has said that he will no longer give you any straw. <sup>11</sup> So you yourselves must go and get straw wherever you can find

it. But you must still keep working to make the same number of bricks as before.” [LIT] <sup>12</sup> So the Israeli people went all over Egypt to find straw. <sup>13</sup> The slave bosses kept telling them insistently, “Finish the work you are required to do each day, *making the same amount of bricks as you did before, when we gave you straw!*” <sup>14</sup> *When they were not able to do that*, the slave bosses had the *Israeli supervisors beaten with sticks*, and they asked them, “Why have *all the men you are supervising* not been able to make *the same number* of bricks today/now as *they did* before [RHQ]?”

*The king refused to pay attention to the complaints of the Israelis*

<sup>15</sup> Then the Israeli supervisors went to the king and complained, saying “*Your Majesty*, why are you treating us this way? <sup>16</sup> *Now* they are not giving us any straw *for making bricks*, but they keep commanding us to make bricks. And now sometimes they beat us. But it is the fault of your own slave bosses *that we cannot make as many bricks as before!*” <sup>17</sup> But the king said, “You are lazy and do not *want to work!* That is why you keep saying, ‘Allow us to go *to the desert* and offer sacrifices to Yahweh.’” <sup>18</sup> So go and get back to work! *We* are not going to give you any straw, but you must keep making the same number of bricks!”

<sup>19</sup> The Israeli supervisors realized that they were in a difficult situation, because they had been told, “We are not going to decrease the

number of bricks *you must make* each day.”<sup>20</sup> As they left the king’s *palace*, they met Aaron and Moses/me, who were waiting for them *there*.

<sup>21</sup> They said to Aaron and Moses/me, “Yahweh has seen *what* you two *have done* He will punish you [MTY], because you have caused the king and his officials to despise us! You have given them an excuse [MTY] to kill us!”

<sup>22</sup> Moses/I left them and prayed to Yahweh again, saying, “O Yahweh, why have you caused all these evil things to happen to your people [RHQ]? And why did you send me *here* [RHQ]?”

<sup>23</sup> Ever since I went to the king and told him what you told me to say [MTY], he has treated your people very cruelly, and you have not done anything to help/rescue them!”

## 6

### *Yahweh promised to rescue them*

<sup>1</sup> Then Yahweh said to Moses/me, “Now you will see what I will do to the king *and his people*. I will powerfully [MTY] compel him to let my people go. In fact, by my power [MTY] *I will force* him to expel them from his land!”

<sup>2</sup> God also said to Moses/me, “I am Yahweh.

<sup>3</sup> I am the one who appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and *told them that I was* God Almighty, but I did not *tell* them that my name *was Yahweh*. <sup>4</sup> I also made my solemn agreement with them, promising to give them the Canaan region. That was the area in which they were living as foreigners. <sup>5</sup> Furthermore, I have heard

the Israeli people as they were groaning *because of the hard work that* the Egyptians forced them to do as their slaves. I have thought about that solemn promise *that I made*. <sup>6</sup> So tell the Israeli people that *I said this*: 'I am Yahweh. I will free you from the burdens *of heavy work* that the Egyptians *have given you*. I will free you from being their slaves. With my great power [MTY] and by punishing them [MTY] very severely, I will save you. <sup>7</sup> I will cause you to be my own people, and I will be your God, *the one you worship*. You will truly know that I, Yahweh your God, am the one who has freed you from the burdens *of work as slaves* of the Egyptians. <sup>8</sup> And I will bring you to the land that I solemnly promised to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. You will possess it *forever*. I, Yahweh, am *promising this*.' "

<sup>9</sup> Moses/I told that to the Israeli people, but they did not believe what he/I said. They were very discouraged [IDM] because of the hard work *that they had been forced to do as slaves*.

*Aaron and Moses gave God's message to the king again*

<sup>10</sup> Yahweh said to Moses/me, <sup>11</sup> "Go and tell the king of Egypt *again* that he must allow the Israeli people to leave his land!" <sup>12</sup> But Moses/I said to Yahweh, "Listen to *what I am saying*. Even the Israeli people have not paid attention to what I *told them*. But I am a poor speaker. [MET, MTY] So ◀why should the king pay attention to what I tell him?/the king will certainly not pay attention

to what I *tell him!*►” [RHQ] <sup>13</sup> But Yahweh spoke to Aaron and Moses/me and commanded them/us, “Tell the Israeli people and the king of Egypt that I have *commissioned you two* to lead the Israeli people out of Egypt.”

*The ancestors of Moses and Aaron*

<sup>14</sup> ◀Here is/I will now give you► a list of the ancestors of *Moses/me and Aaron*:

The sons of Reuben, who was Jacob’s oldest son, *were* Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi. They were *ancestors of* the clans *that have those same names*.

<sup>15</sup> The sons of Simeon *were* Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar, and Shaul. Shaul’s mother was a woman from the Canaan people-group. Those men also were *ancestors of* clans *that have those same names*.

<sup>16</sup> These are the names of the sons of Levi, in the order in which they were born: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. Levi was 137 years old *when he died*.

<sup>17</sup> The sons of Gershon *were* Libni and Shimei. They were ancestors of clans that have those names.

<sup>18</sup> The sons of Kohath *were* Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel. Kohath was 133 years old *when he died*.

<sup>19</sup> The sons of Merari *were* Mahli and Mushi. All of those people whose names *I have listed* belonged to tribes/clans descended from Levi, in the order in which they were born.

<sup>20</sup> Amram married his father’s sister, Jochebed. She was the mother of Aaron and Moses/me. Amram was 137 years old *when he died*.

<sup>21</sup> The sons of Izhar were Korah, Nepheg, and Zichri.

<sup>22</sup> The sons of Uzziel were Mishael, Elzaphan, and Sithri.

<sup>23</sup> Aaron married Elisheba. She was the daughter of Amminadab and sister of Nahshon. Elisheba gave birth to *four sons*: Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

<sup>24</sup> The sons of Korah *were* Assir, Elkanah, and Abiasaph. They were the ancestors of the Korah people-group.

<sup>25</sup> Aaron's son Eleazar married one of the daughters of Putiel, and she gave birth to Phinehas. *That ends the list of* the families and clans that were descended from Levi. <sup>26</sup> Aaron and Moses/I were the ones to whom Yahweh said, "Lead all the families and clans of the Israeli people out of Egypt." <sup>27</sup> They/We were the ones who spoke to the king of Egypt about bringing the Israeli people out of Egypt. <sup>28</sup> On the day that Yahweh spoke to Moses/me in Egypt, <sup>29</sup> he said, "I am Yahweh. You must tell the king everything that I say to you." <sup>30</sup> But Moses/I said to Yahweh, "Listen to me. I am not a good speaker. [MET, MTY] So ◀the king will certainly not pay attention to what I say/why should the king pay attention to what I tell him?▶!" [RHQ]

## 7

### *Yahweh instructed Moses and Aaron*

<sup>1</sup> Then Yahweh said to Moses/me, "Listen *carefully*. *Just like I enabled prophet to speak my messages*, I will cause the king to consider that you are like a god, and that Aaron is like a

prophet. <sup>2</sup> You must tell everything I command you *to tell to your older* brother Aaron, and he will tell that to the king. He must tell the king to let the Israeli people leave his land. <sup>3</sup> But I will make the king stubborn [IDM]. As a result, even though I perform many kinds of ◀miracles/terrifying things▶ [DOU] *here* in Egypt, <sup>4</sup> the king will not pay any attention to what you say. Then I will punish [MTY] the people of Egypt [MTY] very severely [MTY], and I will lead/bring the tribes of the Israeli people out of Egypt. <sup>5</sup> Then, when I show my great power [MTY] to the Egyptian people and bring the Israeli people out from among them, they will know that I, Yahweh, *have the power to do what I say that I will do.*"

<sup>6</sup> Aaron and Moses/I did what Yahweh told them/us to do. They/We *went and spoke to the king.* <sup>7</sup> At that time, Moses/I was 80 years old, and Aaron was 83 years old.

*Aaron made his stick become a snake, but that did not influence the king*

<sup>8</sup> Yahweh said to Moses/me, <sup>9</sup> "If the king says to you, 'Prove *that God sent you* by performing a miracle,' then say to Aaron, 'Throw your stick down in front of the king, in order that it may become a snake.'" <sup>10</sup> So Aaron and Moses/I went to the king and did what Yahweh had commanded *them/us to do.* Aaron threw his stick down in front of the king and his officials, and it became a snake. <sup>11</sup> Then the king summoned his sorcerers and men who performed magic. They did the same thing, using their magic. <sup>12</sup> They all threw down their sticks, and they became

snakes. But Aaron's stick, *which had become a snake*, swallowed up all their sticks! <sup>13</sup> But the king continued to be stubborn [IDM], just as Yahweh had predicted, and he would not pay attention to *what Aaron and Moses/I said*.

*Moses and Aaron caused the Nile River to become red*

<sup>14</sup> Then Yahweh said to Moses/me, "The king is very stubborn [IDM]. He refuses to allow *my* people to go. <sup>15</sup> So *tomorrow* morning, go to him as he is going down to the Nile River to bathe. Wait for him at the riverbank. *When he comes out of the water, show* him the stick, the one which became a snake. <sup>16</sup> Say to him, 'Yahweh God, the one *we* Hebrews *worship*, sent me to you to tell you to let my people go, in order that they may worship him in the desert. *We told you that*, but you have not paid any attention to it. <sup>17</sup> So *now* Yahweh says this: "This is the way you will know that I, Yahweh, *have the power to do what I say that I will do*. Watch this: I am going to strike the water that is in the Nile River with the stick that is in my hand. *When I do that*, the water will become blood (OR, *red like blood* [MTY]). <sup>18</sup> Then the fish in the Nile River will die, and the *water in* the river will stink, and the Egyptians will not be able to drink water from the Nile River." ' ' "

<sup>19</sup> Yahweh said to Moses/me, "*When you are talking to the king*, say to Aaron, 'Hold your stick out *as though you were holding it* over the water in Egypt—over the rivers, the canals, the ponds, and over the pools of water, in order that *all of it* may become *red like blood*.' When Aaron does

that, there will be blood throughout Egypt, even in wooden jars and in stone jars.”

<sup>20</sup> So Aaron and Moses/I did what Yahweh commanded. As the king and his officials were watching, Aaron lifted up his stick and then struck the water in the Nile *River* with it. And all the water in the river turned *red like blood*.

<sup>21</sup> Then all the fish died. And the water stank, with the result that the Egyptians could not drink water from the river. Everywhere in Egypt *the water* became *red like blood*. <sup>22</sup> But the men who performed magic did the same thing using their magic. So the king remained stubborn [IDM], and he would not pay attention to what Aaron and Moses/I said, just as Yahweh had predicted.

<sup>23</sup> The king turned and went back to his palace, and he did not think any more about it [IDM].

<sup>24</sup> The Egyptians [HYP] dug *into the ground* near the Nile *River* to get water to drink, because they could not drink the water from the river.

*Moses and Aaron caused frogs to appear everywhere*

<sup>25</sup> ◀One week/Seven days▶ passed after Yahweh caused the water in the Nile *River* to become *red like blood*.

## 8

<sup>1</sup> Then Yahweh said to Moses/me, “Go back to the king and tell him, ‘Yahweh says that you must let my people go, in order that they can worship me *in the desert*. <sup>2</sup> But if you refuse to let them go, I will punish you by sending frogs to cover your country. <sup>3</sup> *Not only* will the Nile *River* be full of frogs, *but* the frogs will come up *out of the*

river into your palace. They will come into your bedroom and onto your bed. They will be in the houses of your officials and all *the rest of* your people. They will even get into your ovens and your pans for mixing the materials for baking bread. <sup>4</sup> The frogs will jump up on you and your officials and *all the rest of* your people.' ”

<sup>5</sup> Yahweh *also* said to Moses/me, “Say this to Aaron: ‘Hold your stick in your hand and stretch it out *as though you were stretching it* over the river, the canals, and over the pools, and cause frogs to come up *from all this water and* cover the land of Egypt.’ ” <sup>6</sup> After Moses/I told that to Aaron, he stretched out his hand *as though he were stretching it* over all the water in Egypt. And the frogs came up *from the water and* covered Egypt. <sup>7</sup> But the men who performed magic did the same thing, and they caused *more* frogs to come up *from the water onto the land*. <sup>8</sup> Then the king summoned Moses/me and said, “Ask Yahweh to take away these frogs from me and my people. After that happens, I will allow your people to go, in order that they can offer sacrifices to Yahweh.” <sup>9</sup> Moses/I said to the king, “I will be glad to pray for you and for your officials and for *the rest of* your people. *I will ask Yahweh* to get rid of the frogs from all your houses. The only frogs left will be *those* in the Nile River. Just tell me when I should pray.” <sup>10</sup> He replied, “Tomorrow.” So Moses/I said, “*I will do* what you say, and then you will know that Yahweh God, the one we *worship, is the only*

*true god*, and that there is no other god like him. <sup>11</sup> The frogs will leave you and your officials and all *the rest of* your people. The only ones left will be in the Nile River.”

<sup>12</sup> Aaron and Moses/I left the king. Then Moses/I prayed to Yahweh, *asking him to take away* all the frogs he had *brought to the king's land*.

<sup>13</sup> And Yahweh did just what Moses/I *asked him to do*. As a result, all the frogs in the houses, in their courtyards, and in the fields died. <sup>14</sup> The people gathered together all the dead frogs into big piles, and the land stank *from the smell*.

<sup>15</sup> But when the king saw that *the problem* was ended, he became stubborn [IDM] *again*. And just as Yahweh had predicted, he would not pay attention to what Aaron and Moses/we told him.

### *Moses and Aaron caused the land to be full of gnats*

<sup>16</sup> Then Yahweh said to Moses/me, “Tell Aaron to strike the ground with his stick. *When he does that*, all the fine particles of ground/dust will become gnats, all over the land of Egypt.” <sup>17</sup> So they/we did that. Aaron struck the ground with his stick, and all over Egypt, the fine particles of ground/dirt became gnats. The gnats covered the people and all *their* animals. <sup>18</sup> The men who worked magic tried to cause gnats to appear, but they were unable to do it. So the gnats *stayed* on the Egyptian people and on their animals. <sup>19</sup> The men who worked magic said to the king, “It is God who has done this with his power [MTY]!” But the king continued to be stubborn [IDM], and

he would not pay attention to us, just as Yahweh had predicted.

*Moses and Aaron caused the land to be filled with flies*

<sup>20</sup> Then Yahweh said to Moses/me, “Get up early *tomorrow* morning. *Go down* to the river and wait for the king. *When he comes to bathe* [MTY], say to him, “This is what Yahweh says to you: “Let my people go, in order that they may worship me *in the desert*. <sup>21</sup> *I warn you that* if you do not let my people go, I will send swarms of flies to you. They will come down on you and on your officials and on *the rest of* your people. The houses of all you Egyptians will be full of flies. They will *even* cover the ground. <sup>22</sup> But when that happens, I will treat the Goshen region, where my people live, differently. There will be no swarms of flies there. In that way, you will know that I, Yahweh, am doing these things *here* in this land. <sup>23</sup> I will distinguish clearly between *how I act toward* my people and *how I act toward* your people. And this plague is going to happen tomorrow!” ’ ’ ”

<sup>24</sup> *Early the next morning, Moses/I told that to the king, but the king would not pay any attention.* So Yahweh did what he said he would do. He sent great swarms of flies into the palace of the king and into the houses of his officials. The whole country of Egypt was ruined by the flies. <sup>25</sup> Then the king summoned Aaron and Moses/me and said, “You Israeli people can go and offer sacrifices to your god, *but you must do it here*

in *this* land.” <sup>26</sup> But Moses/I replied, “It would not be right *for us* to do that, because we will be offering sacrifices that are very offensive to the Egyptian people. If we offer sacrifices that the Egyptian people think are disgusting, they will kill us by throwing stones at us [RHQ]! <sup>27</sup> No, we need to travel for three days into the desert. There we will offer sacrifices to Yahweh, the God we worship, just as he commands (OR, has commanded) us.” <sup>28</sup> So the king said, “I will let your people go to offer sacrifices to Yahweh, your god, in the desert. But you must not go very far. *Now* pray for me!” <sup>29</sup> Moses/I said, “Listen to me! After I leave you, I will pray to Yahweh, *asking* that tomorrow *he will cause* the swarms of flies to leave you and your officials and *the rest of* your people. But do not deceive us again by refusing to let our people go to offer sacrifices to Yahweh!”

<sup>30</sup> Then Moses/I left the king and prayed to Yahweh. <sup>31</sup> And Yahweh did what Moses/I asked, and he got rid of the swarms of flies from *around* the king and his officials and *the rest of* his people. No flies remained. <sup>32</sup> But the king was stubborn [IDM] this time also, and he did not allow the Israeli people to go.

## 9

*Yahweh sent a terrible disease to afflict the Egyptians' livestock*

<sup>1</sup> Then Yahweh said to Moses/me, “Go to the king and say to him, ‘This is what Yahweh, the God *we* Hebrews *worship*, says: “Allow my

people to go, in order that they may worship me. <sup>2</sup> If you still keep refusing to let them go [DOU], <sup>3</sup> I warn you that I will punish you with my power [MTY] by sending a terrible disease on all your animals—on your horses, donkeys, camels, on your cattle, and on your flocks of *sheep and goats*. <sup>4</sup> But I, Yahweh, will distinguish between *what I do to* the animals that belong to the Israeli people and *what I do to* your animals. The result will be that no animal that belongs to the Israeli people will die.” ’ <sup>5</sup> *Tell him that I have determined/decided that tomorrow is the day that I will do this in this land.*”

<sup>6</sup> The next day Yahweh did just what he said *that he would do*. A terrible disease afflicted all of the Egyptians’ animals, and many of them [HYP] died. But none of the Israeli people’s animals died. <sup>7</sup> The king sent *men to investigate*, and they were surprised *to see* that none of the Israeli people’s animals had died. But *after they reported that to* the king, he continued to be stubborn [IDM], and he did not let the *Israeli* people go.

*Yahweh caused the Egyptian people to be afflicted with boils*

<sup>8</sup> Then Yahweh said to Aaron and Moses/me, “Take a few handfuls of ashes/soot from ◀a furnace/an oven where they burn lime▶, and let Moses throw them up into the air, in front of the king. <sup>9</sup> The *ashes/soot* will spread all over the country of Egypt like fine dust. And the ashes/soot will cause boils to afflict both the Egyptian people and their animals, all over

the land.” <sup>10</sup> So they/we both got some ashes/soot and *went and* stood in front of the king. Moses/I threw the ashes/soot up into the air. The ashes/soot spread all over, causing boils to afflict the *Egyptian* people and their animals. All the boils became open sores. <sup>11</sup> Even the men who worked magic had boils. The result was that *they were suffering so much that* they were not able to come to Moses/me, because the men who worked magic had boils just like all *the rest of* the Egyptian people. <sup>12</sup> But Yahweh caused the king to *continue to* be stubborn [IDM]. He did not pay any attention to what they/we *said*, just as Yahweh had told Moses/me *would happen*.

*Yahweh sent hail on all the Egyptian people and their animals*

<sup>13</sup> Then Yahweh said to Moses/me, “Get up early *tomorrow* morning. Go and stand in front of the king and tell him that Yahweh God, the one that the Hebrew people *worship*, says this: ‘Let my people go, in order that they may worship me *in the desert*. <sup>14</sup> *If you do not let them go*, this time I will *punish* with plagues *not only* your officials and the rest of your people, but I will punish you yourself [SYN], in order that you will know there is no *god* like me anywhere in the world. <sup>15</sup> By this time I could have used my power [MTY] to strike you and your people with terrible diseases that would have wiped you all from the earth. <sup>16</sup> But I have let you live. The reason I have let you live is to show you my power, with the result that *people* all over the earth [HYP] will

know how great I [MTY] am. <sup>17</sup> You are still acting proudly and refusing to let my people go. <sup>18</sup> So listen *to this*: About this time tomorrow I will cause very heavy hail to fall *in Egypt*. From the time Egypt first became *a country*, there has never been a hailstorm *as bad as this one will be*. <sup>19</sup> So you should send *a message to everyone* to put their cattle, and everything else that they own that is *out* in the fields, under shelters. The hail will fall on every person and every animal that is out in the fields and that is not put under a shelter, and they will all die.' " *So Moses/I did what Yahweh said.*

<sup>20</sup> Some of the king's officials who heard what Yahweh had said became very afraid. So they put all their animals and their slaves under shelters. <sup>21</sup> But those who did not pay any attention to what Yahweh had said left their slaves and their animals in the fields. <sup>22</sup> Then Yahweh said to Moses/me, "Raise your hand up toward the sky, in order that hail will fall all over the land of Egypt—on the people and on their animals and on all the plants in the fields." <sup>23</sup> So Moses/I lifted his/my stick up toward the sky. And Yahweh sent down hail, all over the land of Egypt. There was also thunder and lightning. <sup>24</sup> While very heavy hail was falling, there was thunder, and lightning struck the ground. There had never been a hailstorm like that since Egypt first became a country. <sup>25</sup> The hail struck everything that was in the fields all over Egypt—every person and every animal. The hail destroyed the plants in the fields and stripped *the leaves off* the trees. <sup>26</sup> Only in the Goshen region, where the Israeli

people were *living*, was there no hail.

<sup>27</sup> Then the king sent *someone* to summon Aaron and Moses/me. *When they/we came to the king*, he said to them/us, “This time *I admit that I have sinned*. What Yahweh *has done* is right, and what I and my people *have done* is wrong.

<sup>28</sup> ◀Pray to/Plead with▶ Yahweh *to cause it to stop!* We cannot *endure any more* of this thunder and hail! I will let your people go; they do not have to stay *here in Egypt any longer.*”

<sup>29</sup> Moses/I replied, “As soon as I go out of this city, I will lift up my hands *and pray* to Yahweh. Then the thunder will cease, and no more hail *will fall*. *This will happen* in order that you will know that Yahweh, *not your gods*, controls everything *that happens* on the earth. <sup>30</sup> But as for you and your officials, I know that you do not yet fear Yahweh God.”

<sup>31</sup> When the hail fell, the flax was ruined because the buds were forming, and the barley was ruined because its grain was ripe. <sup>32</sup> But none of the wheat crops was ruined, because their shoots were still very small.

<sup>33</sup> So Moses/I left the king and went outside the city. He/I lifted up his/my hands toward Yahweh *and prayed*. Then the thunder and the hail stopped, and the rain also stopped falling on the land *of Egypt*. <sup>34</sup> But when the king saw that the rain and the hail and the thunder had stopped, he sinned again. He and his officials continued to be stubborn [IDM]. <sup>35</sup> So, just as Yahweh had predicted by what he told Moses/

me, the king did not allow the Israeli people to leave.

## 10

*Yahweh sent locusts to destroy the rest of the Egyptians' crops*

<sup>1</sup> Then Yahweh said to Moses/me, “Go to the king *again*. I have made him and his officials stubborn [IDM]. I have done that in order that I would *have a good reason to perform* all these plagues among them, <sup>2</sup> and also in order that you would *be able to tell* your children and your grandchildren how I caused the Egyptians to act very foolishly *when* I performed all these miracles. Then all of you will know that I, Yahweh, *have the power to do what I say that I will do.*”

<sup>3</sup> So Aaron and Moses/I went into the king's *palace* and said to him, “Yahweh God, whom we Hebrews *worship*, says this: ‘How long will you stubbornly refuse to do what I tell you [MTY]? Let my people go, in order that they may worship me *in the desert*’ <sup>4</sup> If you *keep* refusing to let them go, I warn you that tomorrow I will bring ◀locusts/large flying insects called locusts▶ into your country. <sup>5</sup> *They will completely cover the ground so that you will not even be able to see the ground. They will eat everything that the hail did not destroy. They will eat everything that is left on the trees.* <sup>6</sup> They will fill your houses, and the houses of all your officials, and the houses of all *the rest of* the Egyptians. *There will be more locusts* than you or your parents or your

grandparents have ever seen, from the time your ancestors first came to *this* land until the present time!’ ” Then he/I turned and *Aaron and I* left the king.

<sup>7</sup> The king’s officials said to him, “ ◀How long is this man going to continue to bring disasters on us?/We must not let this man continue to cause trouble for us!▶ [RHQ] Let the *Israeli* men leave, in order that they may worship Yahweh, their god. ◀Do you not yet understand that *this man* has ruined Egypt?/You ought to realize by now that *this man* has ruined Egypt!▶” [RHQ] <sup>8</sup> So they brought Aaron and Moses/me back to the king. He said to them/us, “*All right*, you can go and worship Yahweh your god. But who are the ones who will go?” <sup>9</sup> Moses/I replied, “We *all* need to go, everyone, including those who are young and those who are old. We need to take our sons and our daughters and our flocks of *sheep and goats* and herds of *livestock*, because we must have a festival to *honor* Yahweh.”

<sup>10</sup> *Moses/I really did not intend that the Israelis would ever return to Egypt, and the king knew that also. So the king replied sarcastically, “If you all leave, it will be clear that Yahweh has helped you, but I myself will never let you take your children and your wives when you go! It is clear that you are wickedly planning not to return.* <sup>11</sup> So no, *I will not let you all go. The Israeli men may go and worship Yahweh, if that is what you want.*” Then the king expelled them/us from *his palace*.

<sup>12</sup> Then Yahweh said to Moses/me, “Reach out

your hand as *though you were stretching it* over the land to welcome the locusts. They will come to the country of Egypt and eat every plant that is *left* in the land, every plant that the hail has not destroyed.”

<sup>13</sup> So Moses/I held out his/my stick *as though he/I was stretching it* over the whole land of Egypt. Then Yahweh caused a *strong* wind to blow from the east, and it blew over the land all that day and all that night. By the *next* morning, it had brought the locusts. <sup>14</sup> The locusts swarmed all over Egypt. It was larger than any swarm of locusts that had ever *been seen*, and there will never be *a swarm of locusts like that* again.

<sup>15</sup> They covered the surface of the ground and made it *appear* black. They ate all the plants in the land and everything on the trees that had not been destroyed by the hail. Nothing that was green was left on any plant or on any tree, anywhere in Egypt.

<sup>16</sup> The king quickly summoned Aaron and Moses/me and said, “I have sinned against Yahweh, your god, and against you *two*. <sup>17</sup> So now I ask you to forgive me this one time *for having sinned*, and pray to Yahweh your god to stop *these locusts* [MTY] *from causing everything to die*.”

<sup>18</sup> They/We left the king, and Moses/I prayed to Yahweh. <sup>19</sup> Then Yahweh changed the wind so that it blew *strongly* from the west, and it blew all the locusts into the Red Sea (OR, the Gulf of Suez). There was not one locust left anywhere in the country of Egypt.

<sup>20</sup> But Yahweh made the king stubborn [IDM] *again*, and he did not let the Israeli people go.

*Yahweh caused a great darkness to cover Egypt*

<sup>21</sup> Yahweh said to Moses/me, “Reach your hand up toward the sky, in order that there will be darkness over all the land of Egypt, a darkness so *complete* that people will have to grope around *to know where to walk.*” <sup>22</sup> So Moses/I reached his/my hand toward the sky, and it became totally dark all over Egypt for three days *and nights.* <sup>23</sup> People could not see each other. No one left his house during that whole time. But there was light in the area where the Israeli people were living.

<sup>24</sup> The king summoned Moses/me and said, “All right, you may go and worship Yahweh. *Your wives and your children* may go with you. But your flocks of sheep and goats and your herds of cattle must remain here.” <sup>25</sup> But Moses/I replied, “*No*, you must let us *take along the sheep and goats, in order* that we may have *some of them* to sacrifice and give as burned offerings to Yahweh, our God. <sup>26</sup> Our livestock must also go with us; we are not going to leave one of them [SYN] behind. We must take them to worship Yahweh. We will not know *which animals to sacrifice* until we get to where we are going.”

<sup>27</sup> But Yahweh made the king *continue to be* stubborn [IDM], and he would not let *the Israeli* people go. <sup>28</sup> The king said to me, “Get out of here! Make sure that you never come to see me [SYN] again! The day you see me again, *I will*

*have you executed!*" <sup>29</sup> Moses/I replied, "You are correct! You will never see me [SYN] again!"

## 11

*Yahweh declared that all the oldest sons of the Egyptians would die, and then the king's officials would plead for the Israeli people to leave Egypt*

<sup>1</sup> Then Yahweh said to Moses/me, "I will cause one more disaster to strike the king of Egypt and all his people [MTY]. After that, he will let you leave. In fact, he will expel you all. <sup>2</sup> So now speak to all the *Israeli* people. Tell them to ask all their *Egyptian* neighbors, both men and women, to give them some silver and gold jewelry." <sup>3</sup> Yahweh made the Egyptians highly respect the Israeli people. In particular, the Egyptian officials and all *the rest of* the people considered Moses/me to be a very great man.

<sup>4</sup> Then Moses/I *went to the king and* said, "This is what Yahweh says: 'About midnight *tonight* I will go throughout Egypt, <sup>5</sup> and I will cause all the firstborn/oldest *sons* to die. That will include your oldest son, the oldest sons of the slave women who grind grain, *and the oldest sons of everyone else*. I will also kill the oldest males of the Egyptians' livestock. <sup>6</sup> When that happens, people all over Egypt will wail loudly. They have never wailed like that before, and they will never wail like that again. <sup>7</sup> But among the Israeli people *it will be so quiet that* not even a dog will bark! Then you will know for sure that I, Yahweh, distinguish *how I act toward*

the Egyptians and *how I act toward* the Israeli people. <sup>8</sup> Then all these officials of yours will come and bow down before me and will say, "Please get out *of Egypt*, you and all the Israeli people!" ' After that, I will leave Egypt!" *After Moses/I said that*, he/I very angrily left the king.

<sup>9</sup> Then Yahweh said to Moses/me, "The king will not pay any attention to what you say. The result will be that I will perform more plagues in the land of Egypt."

<sup>10</sup> Aaron and Moses/I performed all these miracles in front of the king, but Yahweh made the king stubborn, and he did not let the Israeli people leave his country.

## 12

### *Yahweh instructed Moses and Aaron about the Passover Festival*

<sup>1</sup> Yahweh said to Aaron and Moses/me there in Egypt, <sup>2</sup> "*From now on*, this month *will be* the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup> Tell all the Israeli people that in each family, the man who heads the family must select a lamb or a young goat for his household. <sup>4</sup> If there are not enough people in his family to eat a whole *cooked* lamb, then his family and the family that lives next door may share one animal. Decide how many lambs you need according to the number of people in each family, and according to how much each person can eat. <sup>5</sup> The lambs or goats that you choose must be males, one-year-old, and they must not have any defects. <sup>6</sup> You must take *special* care of these animals until the 14th

day of the month. On that day, all the Israeli people must slaughter the lambs *or goats* in the evening. <sup>7</sup> Then they must take some of the blood *from the lambs or goats*, and they must smear it on the doorposts and the ◀lintels/horizontal beams above the doorways▶ of the houses in which they will eat the meat. <sup>8</sup> They must roast the animals immediately and eat the meat that night. They must eat it with bread that is baked without yeast and with bitter herbs. <sup>9</sup> You must not eat any of the meat raw, and you must not boil the meat. You must roast it *whole*, without cutting off the head or the legs or removing the internal parts. <sup>10</sup> You must eat all the meat that evening; do not let any of the meat remain *to be eaten* the next morning. If any of the meat is left until the next morning, you must *completely* burn it. <sup>11</sup> When you eat it, you must be dressed ready to travel, and you must eat it quickly. You must have your sandals on your feet and your walking stick in your hands. It will be a festival *called* Passover to *honor* me, Yahweh. <sup>12</sup> On that night I will go through all the country of Egypt, and I will kill all the oldest males in Egypt, both humans and animals. *By doing this* I will show that all the gods in Egypt are worthless. *I can do this*, because I am Yahweh, *the all-powerful God*. <sup>13</sup> The blood *that you smear on the doorways will be a mark to indicate* the houses in which you *Israelis* live. When I see the blood, I will *ignore and pass by* those houses, and I will not harm you *Israelis who live there*, when I punish the Egyptians.

<sup>14</sup> *Each year, you must celebrate this festival on this day, to remember what I, Yahweh, have done for you. In all the generations to come, each year you must celebrate this festival. It must continue forever.* <sup>15</sup> For seven days you must eat bread that has no yeast in it. On the first day of that week you must get rid of all the yeast that is in your houses. During those seven days, if anyone eats bread that is baked with yeast in it, *you must consider* that person to be no longer an Israeli. <sup>16</sup> On the first day of that week, you must ◀have a holy meeting/gather together to worship me▶. You must do the same thing on the seventh day. People must not work on those two days. The only work they may do is to prepare food for you to eat.

<sup>17</sup> *Every year you must keep celebrating this festival of eating bread that has no yeast in it, because it will remind you that it was on this day that I brought all your tribal groups out of Egypt. So every year, in all the generations to come, you must celebrate this day as a festival. It must continue forever.* <sup>18-19</sup> In the first month of the year, on the 14th day of that month, the only bread you may eat is bread that has no yeast in it. You must keep doing that each day until the 21st day of that month. For those seven days you must not have any yeast in your house. *During that time, if anyone, either an Israeli or a foreigner, eats bread made with yeast, you must consider that person no longer to be an Israeli.* <sup>20</sup> In your houses, do not eat anything that has yeast in it during those seven days.”

<sup>21</sup> Then Moses/I summoned all the leaders of the Israeli people. He/I said to them, “Each family should select a lamb and kill it, *in order that you may eat it to celebrate the festival that will be called ‘Passover’*. <sup>22</sup> Let the lamb’s blood *drain into* a basin. Get a bunch/sprig of ◀hyssop/a very leafy plant▶ and dip it in the blood. Then smear some of the blood on the doorposts and the ◀lintels/beams above the doorways▶ *of your houses*. The people in each house must all stay inside the house until the next morning. <sup>23</sup> When Yahweh goes throughout Egypt to kill the *oldest male in each* Egyptian family, he will see the blood on the ◀lintels/beams of your doorways▶, and he will *ignore and* pass by those houses. He will not allow the angel who causes people to die to enter your houses and kill *any of* your *oldest sons*. <sup>24</sup> You and your descendants must celebrate this festival forever. <sup>25</sup> And when you arrive in the land that Yahweh will be giving to you as he promised, you must keep celebrating this ritual *every year*. <sup>26</sup> When your children ask you, ‘What does this ritual mean?’, <sup>27</sup> you must tell them, ‘This ritual is *to remember how our ancestors sacrificed lambs* on the night that Yahweh’s angel passed by the houses of the Israeli people *when they were* in Egypt. He killed the *oldest males/sons in all* the Egyptian houses, but he spared *the sons in* [MTY] our houses.’ ” After Moses/I told them this, they all bowed their heads and worshiped *Yahweh*. <sup>28</sup> Then the Israeli people did what Yahweh had told Aaron and Moses/me *to tell them to do*.

### *Yahweh killed all the oldest Egyptian males*

<sup>29</sup> At midnight Yahweh killed all the oldest sons of the Egyptian people, all over Egypt. That included the king's oldest son, the oldest sons of the prisoners in the dungeon/jail, and *the oldest sons of everyone else*. He also killed the oldest males of all the Egyptians' livestock. <sup>30</sup> That night the king, all his officials, and *all the rest of the Egyptian people awoke and discovered what had happened*. They wailed loudly all over Egypt, because in every house, someone's son had died.

### *The Israeli people left Egypt*

<sup>31</sup> That night the king summoned Aaron and Moses/me and said, "You and all the *other* Israeli people, must leave my country *immediately!* Go and worship Yahweh, as you requested! <sup>32</sup> Take your flocks *of sheep and goats* and herds *of cattle*, and leave! And ask Yahweh to bless me, also!"

<sup>33</sup> Then the Israeli people did as Moses/I had told them. They *went to* their Egyptian *neighbors* and asked them for silver and gold jewelry and clothing. <sup>34</sup> Yahweh caused the Egyptian people to greatly respect the *Israeli* people, so they gave them what they asked for. In that way, they carried away the wealth of the Egyptian people. <sup>35</sup> The Egyptians urged the *Israeli* people to leave their country quickly. They said, "*If you do not do that, we will all die!*" <sup>36</sup> So the *Israeli* people *prepared to leave at once*. They took the bowls in which they mixed the dough to make bread, and the dough that was in the bowls without any yeast in it, and they wrapped the bowls in their

cloaks. They put the bowls on their shoulders *and left*.

<sup>37</sup> The Israeli people traveled from Rameses *city* to Succoth *town*. There were about 600,000 men who went, in addition to the women and children. <sup>38</sup> Many other people who were not Israelis went along with them. There were also livestock, the flocks *of sheep and goats* and herds *of cattle*. <sup>39</sup> On their way, they baked bread with the dough that they carried with them when they had been expelled from Egypt. The dough did not have yeast in it, because they were told to leave Egypt so quickly that they did not have enough time to get food ready to take with them, or enough time to mix yeast in the dough.

<sup>40</sup> The Israeli people had lived in Egypt 430 years. <sup>41</sup> On the day that those 430 years ended, on that very day, all the tribes of Yahweh's people left Egypt. <sup>42</sup> It was a night when Yahweh ◀protected/guarded over▶ them as he brought them out of Egypt. So this same night every year is a night that is dedicated to Yahweh, a night when the Israeli people in every generation *remember how* Yahweh protected our ancestors.

### *Yahweh instructed Moses and Aaron about future Passover festivals*

<sup>43-44</sup> Then Yahweh said this to Aaron and Moses/me: "These are my instructions about the Passover ritual: Do not let foreigners eat *the Passover meal*. But any male slaves that you have bought may eat it after you have circumcised them. <sup>45</sup> Do not let people who are living among

you temporarily, or servants whom you have hired, eat *the Passover meal*. <sup>46</sup> Each family must eat the Passover meal inside their own house. Do not take any of the food outside the house. And do not break any of the bones of the lamb that is sacrificed. <sup>47</sup> All the Israeli people must celebrate this festival. <sup>48</sup> When someone from another country comes to live with you and wants to celebrate the Passover Festival, circumcise all the males in his household. Then they may eat the Passover meal, and you should treat those people as though they were born as Israelis. But do not allow men who have not been circumcised to eat the Passover meal. <sup>49</sup> These rules apply to people who were born as Israelis and to foreigners who come and live among you.”

<sup>50</sup> All the Israeli people obeyed Aaron and Moses/me and did what Yahweh had commanded. <sup>51</sup> On that very day Yahweh brought all the tribes of the Israeli people out of Egypt.

## 13

*Yahweh gave Moses instructions about dedicating the firstborn sons*

<sup>1</sup> Yahweh said to Moses/me, <sup>2</sup> “Set apart all the firstborn males in order that they may belong to me. The firstborn males of the Israeli people and of their animals will be mine.”

*Moses instructed them about future celebrations of the Festival of Unleavened Bread*

<sup>3</sup> Moses/I said to the people, “Do not forget this day! This is the day that you are leaving Egypt.

This is the day you *are freed from* being their slaves. Yahweh has brought you out of Egypt by his great power [MTY]. Do not eat any bread that has yeast in it *whenever you celebrate* this day. <sup>4</sup> You are leaving Egypt on this day, which is the first day of the month that is *named* Abib. <sup>5</sup> Later, when Yahweh brings you into the land where the descendants of Canaan, Heth, Amor, Hiv, and Jebus *now live*, the land that he solemnly promised to give to you, a land that will be very good for raising livestock and growing crops [MTY], you must celebrate this festival during this month *every year*. <sup>6</sup> For seven days the bread that you eat must not have any yeast in it. On the seventh day there must be a festival to *honor* Yahweh. <sup>7</sup> For seven days do not eat bread that has yeast in it. You should not have any yeast or bread made with yeast anywhere in your land. <sup>8</sup> On the day *the festival starts*, you must tell your children, '*We are doing this to remember* what Yahweh did for our ancestors when they left Egypt. <sup>9</sup> This ritual will remind you how Yahweh brought your ancestors out of Egypt with his great power [MTY]. *The ritual will be like something* you tie on your forehead or on your wrist. It will remind you to recite to others what Yahweh has instructed you. <sup>10</sup> So you must celebrate this festival every year at the time *Yahweh* has appointed.'

<sup>11</sup> Yahweh will bring you into the land where the descendants of Canaan live, just as he promised you and your ancestors that he would do. When he gives that land to you, <sup>12</sup> you must

dedicate to Yahweh the firstborn males of all your animals. These all will belong to Yahweh. <sup>13</sup> You may keep the firstborn male donkeys, but you must buy them back by sacrificing a lamb as a substitute for the donkey. If you do not want to buy back the donkey, you must *kill it by breaking its neck*. You must also buy back every one of your own firstborn sons. <sup>14</sup> In the future, when one of your children asks, ‘What does this mean?’, you must say to him, ‘Yahweh brought our ancestors out of Egypt with his great power [MTY], and freed us from being slaves there. <sup>15</sup> The king of Egypt stubbornly refused to let them leave his country, so Yahweh killed all the firstborn males in Egypt, both the boys and the firstborn of their livestock. That is why we now sacrifice to Yahweh all the firstborn of our livestock, but we buy back our own firstborn sons.’ <sup>16</sup> I repeat that this ritual will remind you about how Yahweh brought our *ancestors* out of Egypt by his great power [MTY]; it will be like something you tie on your wrist or on your forehead *to remind you of that.*”

### *God led them to detour through the desert*

<sup>17</sup> When the king *of Egypt* let the *Israeli* people go, God did not lead them to go through the land of the Philistines. That was a shorter way, but God said, “It would be bad if my people change their minds when they realize that they will have to fight *the Philistines to take their land*, and then *decide to return to Egypt.*” <sup>18</sup> Instead, God led them to go around through the desert toward the

Red Sea (OR, the Gulf of Suez). When the Israeli people left Egypt, they were carrying weapons to fight *their enemies*.

<sup>19</sup> Moses/I *had them* take along the bones of Joseph with them/us, because Joseph long ago had made the Israeli people promise solemnly that they would do that. He had said to them, “God will enable your descendants to leave Egypt. When that happens, you must carry my bones with you.”

<sup>20</sup> The Israeli people left Succoth and traveled to Etham, at the edge of the desert, and they set up their tents there. <sup>21</sup> *When they traveled* during the daytime, Yahweh went in front of them in a tall *white* cloud to show them the way. During the night, he went in front of them in a tall cloud that looked like a fire. By doing that, he enabled them to travel in the daytime and also at nighttime. <sup>22</sup> The tall cloud did not leave them. It was always in front of them, as a bright white cloud in the daytime and like a fire at night.

## 14

*Yahweh told Moses what he planned to do*

<sup>1</sup> Then Yahweh said to Moses/me, <sup>2</sup> “Tell the Israeli people to turn around and go back and set up their tents in front of Pi-Hahiroth *town*. That town is between Migdol and the sea, across from Baal-Zephon *town*. Set up your tents there, close to the sea. <sup>3</sup> When the king *knows you have done that*, he will think, “The Israeli people are confused. They are wandering around, and the

desert blocks their path.’ <sup>4</sup> But I will make the king stubborn *again*, and he will *take his army and* pursue you. Then my people will praise/thank me for winning a victory over the king and his army. And the Egyptians will know that I, Yahweh, *have the power to do what I say that I will do.*” So *Moses/I told my people that, and they did what he/I told them to do.*

*The Egyptian army started to pursue the Israelis*

<sup>5</sup> When someone told the king that the Israeli people had left *during the night*, he and his officials changed their minds and said, “◀What have we done?/What we have done was stupid!▶ [RHQ] The Israeli people will no longer be our slaves!” <sup>6</sup> So the king got his chariot and his army ready. <sup>7</sup> Then he selected 600 of the best chariots, and in each chariot he placed a driver, a soldier, and a commander, and they left. Other chariots, with a driver and a soldier in each of them, also went along. <sup>8</sup> Because Yahweh made the king of Egypt so stubborn that he and his army went to pursue the Israelis, who were leaving triumphantly, <sup>9</sup> the Egyptian army, with all the king’s horses and chariots and horsemen, pursued the Israelis. They caught up with them as they were camped near the sea, close to Pi-Hahiroth, in front of Baal-Zephon *town*.

<sup>10</sup> When the king’s army got near, the Israeli people were surprised to see that the Egyptians were marching toward them. They were terrified; so they cried out to Yahweh *to help them*.

11 Then they said to Moses/me, “Is it because there were no places in Egypt *where we could* be buried that you have brought us here to die in this desert [RHQ]? Look what you have done to us by bringing us out of Egypt [RHQ]! 12 That is what we told you when we were in Egypt! We said, ‘Leave us alone, and let us work for the Egyptians [RHQ]!’ It would have been better for us to be slaves for the Egyptians than to die here in the desert!”

13 Moses/I replied to the people, “Do not be afraid! Be brave, and see how Yahweh will rescue you! He will save you today, and the result will be that the Egyptians that you are looking at today—you will never see them again!

14 Yahweh will fight for you! Just keep quiet. There is nothing else that you will have to do.”

*Yahweh caused the Egyptian army to drown in the sea*

15-16 Yahweh said to Moses/me, “Tell the people to stop crying out for me *to help them*, and tell them to go forward. Lift up your stick and stretch it out toward the sea. The water will divide, so that all you Israeli people can go in the middle of the sea, walking on dry ground. 17 I will make the Egyptians stubborn, so that they will try to follow you. And then as a result of *what I will do to the king and his army and his chariots and his horsemen, my people* will praise/thank me. 18 And when I have won a glorious *victory* over the king and his chariots and his horsemen, the *other* Egyptians will know that I,

Yahweh, *have the power to do what I say that I will do.*"

<sup>19</sup> Then the angel of God, who had been in front of the Israeli people, moved and went behind them. The tall bright cloud that had been in front of them also moved behind them, <sup>20</sup> until it was between the Egyptian army and the Israeli people. The cloud caused the Egyptian army to be in the dark but it gave light for the Israelis. As a result, neither group could come near the other group during the whole night.

<sup>21</sup> *That evening*, Moses/I stretched out his/my hand toward the sea. Then Yahweh sent a strong wind from the east. It blew all night and pushed the water apart, and it caused the ground between the water to dry up. <sup>22</sup> Then we Israeli people went on the dry land in the middle of the sea. The water was like a wall on each side of us, on the right side and on the left side. <sup>23</sup> Then the Egyptian army pursued them, and went after them into the middle of the sea, with their horses and their chariots and the chariot-drivers. <sup>24</sup> Just before dawn, Yahweh looked down from the fiery cloud, and then he caused the Egyptian army to panic. <sup>25</sup> He caused the wheels of the chariots to get stuck *in the mud*, so that they could hardly move. So the Egyptians said, "Yahweh is fighting for the Israelis and against us; let's get out of here!"

<sup>26</sup> Then Yahweh said to Moses/me, "Stretch out your arm toward the sea again. Then the water will come back on the Egyptians and on their chariots and their horsemen." <sup>27</sup> So Moses/

I stretched out his/my arm, and as the sun was rising, the water returned to its normal level. The Egyptians tried to escape, but Yahweh hurled them back into the sea. <sup>28</sup> The water returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen and the whole Egyptian army that had tried to follow us Israelis into the sea. Every one of the Egyptians drowned. <sup>29</sup> But we Israeli people had already crossed through the sea by walking on dry ground, with the water being *like two* walls, one on the right side and one on the left side.

<sup>30</sup> That is the way Yahweh saved the Israeli people from the Egyptian army on that day. The Israeli people saw the Egyptians lying dead, *with their bodies washed up* on the shore. <sup>31</sup> The Israelis saw what Yahweh did to the Egyptians by his great power [MTY], and they were in awe of Yahweh. They trusted in Yahweh and they also trusted Moses/me.

## 15

### *The Israelis celebrated being rescued*

<sup>1</sup> Then Moses/I sang this song, and the Israeli people sang with him:

“I will sing to Yahweh, because he has triumphed gloriously;

He has thrown the horses and their riders into the sea!

<sup>2</sup> Yahweh is the one who makes me strong, and he is the one I sing about.

He is the one who has saved me.

He is ◀my God/God, the one I worship▶, and I will praise him.

He is the one my father worshiped,  
and I will tell *others* how great he is.

<sup>3</sup> Yahweh is a warrior;  
Yahweh is his name.

<sup>4</sup> He has thrown the king's chariots and his army  
into the sea;

His best officers  
all drowned in the Red Sea (OR, Gulf of Suez).

<sup>5</sup> The *water covered them like* a flood;  
they sank to the bottom like a stone.

<sup>6</sup> O Yahweh, your right arm has awesome power;  
with that power [MTY], O Yahweh, you have  
crushed/smashed the enemy into pieces.

<sup>7</sup> You have gloriously defeated your enemies.  
Because you were angry with them, you have  
*destroyed them*  
like a fire burns up straw [SIM].

<sup>8</sup> You blew on the sea,  
and the water piled up high;  
the water stood up like two walls.  
In the deepest part of the sea *the water* became  
thick/solid,  
*as though* it was frozen.

<sup>9</sup> *Our* enemies said, 'We will pursue them  
and catch up to them.

We will draw our swords  
and strike them.

After we defeat them,  
we will divide up the spoils.

We will take *from them* all we want.'

<sup>10</sup> But you blew on them with your breath,  
and then the sea covered them.  
They sank like lead/rocks in the big waves.

11 Yahweh, among their gods, there is no god like you [RHQ]!

You are glorious, completely different from all that you made.

◀There is no god like you!/What god is like you?▶  
[RHQ]

There is no one who can perform all kinds of miracles [DOU] like you do [RHQ]!

12 When you stretched out your right hand, the earth swallowed up *our enemies*

13 You faithfully loved the people you rescued; with your power you are leading them to the land that you have set apart.

14 The people of *other* nations will hear *what you have done*; and they will tremble.

The people in Philistia will be terrified.

15 The chiefs in Edom will be dismayed.

The leaders in Moab will be so afraid, they will shake. All those who live in Canaan will faint.

16 They will be terrified and fearful because of your great strength [MTY].

But they will be as silent as stones until your people march past them, the people you freed from being slaves in Egypt,

17 to go to *Canaan land*.

You will enable them to live [MET] on your hill, at the place that you, O Yahweh, have chosen to be your home,

in the ◀holy place/temple▶ that you yourself will build.

18 O Yahweh, you will rule forever!

19 The Israeli people walked through the middle of the sea on dry ground. But when the king's horses and chariots and horsemen tried to go through the sea, Yahweh caused the water to come back and cover them." 20 Then Miriam, who was Aaron's older sister and a ◀prophetess/woman who spoke messages that came directly from God▶, picked up her tambourine, 21 and she sang this song to Yahweh:

"Sing to Yahweh,

because he has triumphed gloriously *over his enemies.*

He has thrown the horses and their riders into the sea."

*Yahweh made bitter water become good water to drink*

22 Then Moses/I led the Israeli people away from the Red Sea (OR, Gulf of Suez). They/we went to the desert at Shur. They/We walked for three days, but they/we could not find any water. 23 So they/we *went on and* came to a *place named Marah. There was water there, but they/we could not drink it, because it was bitter. That is why they named the place Marah, which is the Hebrew word that means 'bitter'.* 24 The people complained to Moses/me, saying, "What are we going to drink?" 25 So Moses/I prayed earnestly to Yahweh. Then Yahweh showed him/me a tree. So he/I cut off *one of the branches* and threw it into the water, and the water became good to drink. There at Marah, Yahweh gave them various laws to direct their lives. He also tested

them there, to determine if they would obey him, <sup>26</sup> by saying, "I am Yahweh, your God. If you will carefully obey me when I speak *to you*, and do those things that I know are right, and pay close attention to all the things that I command you, I will keep you from being afflicted by all the diseases that I brought on the Egyptians. Do not forget that I am the one who heals you."

<sup>27</sup> *After they/we left Marah*, they/we came to a *place named Elim*. There were twelve springs of water and 70 palm trees there. So they/we camped there.

## 16

### *Yahweh gave them quail and manna to eat*

<sup>1</sup> They/We left Elim, and all the Israeli people came to the desert *named Sin*. That is between Elim and *Sinai Mountain*. That was on the fifteenth day of the second month after they/we left Egypt. <sup>2</sup> There in the desert, the Israeli [HYP] people complained to Aaron and Moses/me. <sup>3</sup> They said to them/us, "We wish that Yahweh had killed us in Egypt! There we had meat to eat, and all the bread that we wanted. But you have brought us into this desert in order that we will all starve to death!"

<sup>4</sup> Yahweh said to Moses/me, "Listen to what I am going *to do*. I am going to send something from the sky that will *take the place of* bread for all of you. When I do that, the people must go out of their tents every day and gather just enough to eat on that day. *When I do that*, I will find out whether they will obey my instructions or

not. <sup>5</sup> On the sixth day *after I start doing that*, they will be able to gather twice as much as on the other days, *and not have to gather any on the seventh day*. Then they can prepare it *to eat it on the 6th and 7th days.*”

<sup>6</sup> So Aaron and Moses/I said to all the Israeli people, “This evening you will know that it was Yahweh, *not we*, who brought you out of Egypt.

<sup>7</sup> And tomorrow morning you will see how great Yahweh is, because he has heard what you have complained about. He is the one whom you have really complained to, because we are just his servants.” [RHQ] <sup>8</sup> Then Moses/I also said, “*From now on, each evening* Yahweh will give you meat to eat, and *each morning* he will give you *something that will take the place of bread*, because he has heard what you have complained about. Yahweh is the one to whom you have really complained, not us. We are just his servants.” [RHQ]

<sup>9</sup> Then Moses/I said to Aaron, “Tell all the Israeli people, ‘Come and stand here in the presence of Yahweh, because he has heard what you have been complaining about.’ ”

<sup>10</sup> So Aaron told them that. And as Aaron was talking to all the Israeli people, they looked toward the desert, and were surprised to see the ◀dazzling light/incredible brightness▶ of Yahweh in the cloud *that had been leading them*. <sup>11</sup> Then Yahweh said to Moses/me, <sup>12</sup> “I have heard what the Israeli people have been complaining about. So say to them, ‘From now on, each evening, you will have meat to eat. And

each morning you will have something that will take the place of bread. You will have all you want of it to eat.' Then you will know that I, Yahweh, *have the power to do what I say that I will do.*"

<sup>13</sup> That evening, ◀quails/small plump birds▶ appeared, and *there were so many that they covered the campsite. The next morning there was something like dew all around the campsite.*

<sup>14</sup> When the dew evaporated, on the surface of the desert there was a thick layer of something that looked like white flakes. It looked like frost.

<sup>15</sup> When the Israeli people saw it, since they *had never seen it before and did not know what it was*, they said to each other, "What is it?" Moses/I replied to them, "It is something Yahweh has given you to eat, to take the place of bread.

<sup>16</sup> This is what Yahweh has commanded: 'Each of you should gather as much as you need to eat. Gather two quarts/liters for each person who lives in your tents.' "

<sup>17</sup> So that is what the Israeli people did. Some gathered more and some gathered less. <sup>18</sup> But when they measured *what they had gathered*, those that had gathered a lot did not have anything left over. And those that gathered less still had enough to eat. Each person gathered just what they needed.

<sup>19</sup> Moses/I said to them, "Do not leave any of it to eat tomorrow morning!" <sup>20</sup> But some of them did not pay any attention to what Moses/I said. They kept some of it until the next morning. But

it was full of maggots and smelled rotten. And that made Moses/me angry.

<sup>21</sup> Each morning they gathered as much as they needed. But *later*, when the sun got hot, *what was left on the ground* melted.

<sup>22</sup> On the sixth day after they started gathering it, each person was able to gather four quarts/liters, which was twice *as much as they gathered on the other days*. When the leaders of the people came to Moses/me and told him/me *about that*,  
<sup>23</sup> Moses/I said to them, "This is what Yahweh has commanded: 'Tomorrow will be a day for you to rest completely. It will be a day dedicated to Yahweh. So today, bake or boil what you will *need for today and for tomorrow*. Whatever is left *this evening*, you should put aside and keep it *to eat tomorrow*.'" "

<sup>24</sup> So they did what Moses/I commanded. What was left over, they kept until the next day. It did not spoil and did not get maggots in it! <sup>25</sup> *On that day*, Moses/I said, "Eat today *what you have saved from yesterday*, because today is a day dedicated to Yahweh. Today you will not find any of that food outside. <sup>26</sup> *Every week*, you must gather it for six days; but on the seventh day, which will be a day of rest, you will not find any."

<sup>27</sup> On the seventh day, some of the people went outside their tents to gather some of that food, but there was none. <sup>28</sup> Then Yahweh *told Moses/me to say this* to the people: "How long will you people refuse to do all the things that I tell you? <sup>29</sup> Listen! Yahweh has given you a day of rest. So on the sixth day *of each week*, he will be giving

you enough of this food for two days. Each of you should stay in his tent *and do no work* on the seventh day!" <sup>30</sup> So the people rested on the seventh day.

<sup>31</sup> The Israeli people called this food manna, *which sounds like the words in their language that mean 'what is it?'* It looked like small seeds *called* coriander, but it was white, and it tasted like thin wafers/biscuits made with honey. <sup>32</sup> Moses/I said, "This is what Yahweh has commanded: 'You must keep two quarts/liters of it for all future generations, so that they can see the *food that took the place of* bread that I gave to your *ancestors* when I brought them out of Egypt.' "

<sup>33</sup> And he/I said to Aaron, "Take a jar, and put two quarts of manna in it. Then put it *in a place* where Yahweh can see it. It is to be kept like that for all future generations." <sup>34</sup> *Many years later*, as Yahweh had commanded Moses/me, Aaron put the jar in front of the box *that contained the stone slabs on which* the Ten Commandments *were written*. <sup>35</sup> The Israeli people were able to eat manna *every day* for 40 years, until they came to the border of Canaan land. <sup>36</sup> (The standard measure *that they used at that time* held 20 quarts/liters.)

## 17

*Yahweh provided water gushing from a rock*

<sup>1</sup> Obeying what Yahweh commanded, all the Israeli people moved from the Sin Desert. They/We traveled from one place to another. They/We camped at *a place named* Rephidim, but

there was no water there for ◀the people/us▶ to drink. <sup>2</sup> So the people complained to Moses/me again, saying, “Give us water to drink!” Moses/I replied to them, “Why are you ◀criticizing/arguing with▶ me [RHQ]? And why are you trying to determine whether Yahweh *has the power to provide for you?*” <sup>3</sup> But the people were very thirsty, and they continued to complain to Moses/me. They were saying things like “Why did you bring us out of Egypt?”, and “Did you bring us here to cause us and our children and livestock to die ◀from thirst/because we had no water to drink▶ [RHQ]?”

<sup>4</sup> So Moses/I prayed earnestly to Yahweh. He/I said, “◀How shall I deal with these people?/I do not know how to deal with these people!▶ [RHQ] They are almost ready to *kill me by throwing stones at me!*” <sup>5</sup> Yahweh replied to Moses/me, “Take some of the elders/leaders of the Israeli people with you and *tell the rest of the people to follow you to Sinai Mountain*. Take along the stick with which you struck the Nile River. <sup>6</sup> Listen carefully: I will stand in front of you on top of a *large rock* at the foot of the mountain. Strike the rock with your stick. *When you do that*, water for the people to drink will flow out of the rock.” *When they/we arrived at the mountain*, Moses/I did that while the Israeli elders were watching, *and water flowed from the rock*. <sup>7</sup> Moses/I gave that place two names *in the Hebrew language*: Massah, *which means ‘testing’*, and Meribah, *which means ‘complaining’*. He/I gave it the name Massah because the Israeli

people were testing Yahweh, saying “Is Yahweh really among us *and able to help us*, or not?”, and he/I gave it the name Meribah because they were *continually* complaining.

*God enabled the Israeli men to defeat the Amalekites*

<sup>8</sup> Then the descendants of the Amalek people-group came and fought against the Israeli people at Rephidim. <sup>9</sup> Moses/I said to Joshua, *who was one of our army/Israeli leaders*, “Choose some men to go out and fight against the Amalek people-group tomorrow. I will stand on the top of the hill, holding the stick that God told me to carry.” <sup>10</sup> So Joshua did what Moses/I told him to do. He took some men to fight against the Amalek people-group. *While they were fighting*, Aaron, Hur, and Moses/I went up to the top of the hill *so that they/we could see the whole battle area*. <sup>11</sup> Whenever Moses/I lifted up his/my arms, the Israeli men started to win *the battle*. And whenever he/I lowered his/my arms, the Amalek people-group started to win. <sup>12</sup> But his/my arms became tired. So Aaron and Hur *rolled a large stone* for Moses/me to sit on. *While he/I was sitting on it*, those two held up his/my arms, *one on one side and the other on the other side*. In that way, they kept his/my arms lifted up, and his/my arms held steady until the sun went down. <sup>13</sup> So Joshua and the men with him completely defeated the Amalek people-group, using their *swords to fight against them*. <sup>14</sup> Then Yahweh said to Moses/me, “Write an account of this battle, and then read it to Joshua. *Also write that*

*some day* I will completely get rid of the Amalek people-group.” <sup>15</sup> Then Moses/I built a *stone* altar there and named it ‘Yahweh is *like* my flag’. <sup>16</sup> He/I said, “Hold high Yahweh’s flag! Yahweh will continue to fight against the Amalek people-group ◀forever/in all future generations▶!”

## 18

*Moses’ father-in-law, Jethro, came to visit him*

<sup>1</sup> Jethro, who was the priest for the Midian people-group, and who was also Moses’/my father-in-law, heard about all that God had done for the Israeli people. He heard about how Yahweh had brought them out of Egypt. <sup>2</sup> Moses/I had *previously* sent his/my wife Zipporah *back home when he/I was returning to Egypt*. But now Jethro came to him/me, <sup>3</sup> bringing Zipporah and their/our two sons. One son was named Gershom, *which sounds like the Hebrew word that means ‘foreigner’*, because he/I had said, “I have been a foreigner living in another land.” <sup>4</sup> Her other son was named Eliezer, *which sounds like the Hebrew words that mean ‘God helps me’*, because he/I had said “God, whom my father *worshiped*, has helped me and saved me from being killed [MTY] by the king of Egypt.”

<sup>5</sup> While Moses/I was camped *with the Israeli people* in the desert *near Sinai*, God’s sacred/holy mountain, Jethro came to him/me, bringing along Moses’/my wife and our *two* sons. <sup>6</sup> Jethro had sent a message to Moses/me, “I, your father-in-law, Jethro, am coming to see you, bringing

along your wife and your two sons!" <sup>7</sup> So Moses/I went out of the campsite to meet his/my father-in-law. He/I bowed before him, and kissed him *on the cheek*. ◀They both/We▶ asked each other, "Have you been healthy?" Then they/we went into *Moses'/my* tent. <sup>8</sup> Moses/I told Jethro everything that Yahweh had done to the king and all the *other* people in Egypt for the sake of the Israeli people. He/I also told him about the troubles/problems they/we had experienced on the way, and how Yahweh had helped them/us. <sup>9</sup> Jethro rejoiced when he heard all that Yahweh had done for the Israeli people. <sup>10</sup> He said, "Praise Yahweh, who has rescued you from the powerful [MTY] Egyptian king and his army! <sup>11</sup> Now I realize that Yahweh is greater than all other gods, because he rescued you all from the power [MTY] of the proud Egyptians when *they* were causing you *to suffer*." <sup>12</sup> Then Jethro sacrificed an animal by burning it completely on the altar *as an offering*, and he also offered other sacrifices to God. Aaron and the Israeli elders/leaders went with them/us to eat a sacred meal with Jethro.

*Jethro gave Moses some good advice about appointing judges*

<sup>13</sup> The next day, Moses/I sat down at the place where he/I settled disputes among the people. The people were continually bringing their disputes to Moses/me, from morning until evening. <sup>14</sup> When Jethro saw everything that Moses/I was doing for the people, he said, "◀Why

are you doing all this for the people?/You should not be doing all this for the people!► [RHQ] Why are you doing this by yourself, and all the people are crowding around you, from morning until evening, *asking you to make decisions for them* [RHQ]?” <sup>15</sup> Moses/I replied, “*I am doing this* because the people keep coming to me to find out what God desires. <sup>16</sup> When they have a dispute about something, they come to me, and they ask me to decide which of them is right. I also tell them all of God’s laws and instructions.” <sup>17</sup> Jethro said to him/me, “What you are doing is not good *for you or for the people*. <sup>18</sup> You and these people will ◀wear yourselves out/become exhausted▶! This work is too much for one person. You are not able to do it by yourself. <sup>19</sup> Now listen to some good advice [MTY] I will give to you. *If you do what I suggest*, God will help you. You should continue to speak to God and tell him about the people’s disputes. <sup>20</sup> You should *also* teach the people what God has commanded and instructed you. You should also explain to them how they should conduct their lives, and the things that they should do. <sup>21</sup> But in addition, you should choose some *other men to help you*. Choose men who have reverence for God and who will not accept bribes. Appoint some of them to make decisions *for groups of ten people, some for groups of 50 people, some for groups of 100 people, and some for groups of 1,000 people*. <sup>22</sup> Allow them to serve permanently to settle disputes for the people. The difficult matters the people can bring to you; but the

matters that are not difficult, they can decide themselves. That will make the work easier for you, as they help you do that work. <sup>23</sup> If you do that, and *I think that* God is telling you to do it (OR, if God tells you to do it), you will not become exhausted, and all the people will be able to go home feeling satisfied about the decisions, *with their disputes settled quickly*".

<sup>24</sup> Moses/I accepted what his/my father-in-law *Jethro* suggested. <sup>25</sup> Moses/I chose capable men from among the Israeli people. <sup>26</sup> They were appointed permanently to make decisions about the people's disputes. They brought the difficult cases to Moses/me, but they decided the matters that were not difficult by themselves. <sup>27</sup> Then Moses/I said goodbye to his/my father-in-law, and *Jethro* returned home.

## 19

*Yahweh gave instructions to Moses at Sinai Mountain.*

<sup>1-2</sup> The Israeli people then left *Rephidim*, and exactly two months after leaving *Egypt*, they/we came to the desert near *Sinai Mountain*. They/We set up their/our tents at the base of the mountain. <sup>3</sup> Moses/I climbed up the mountain *to talk with* God. *Yahweh* called to *him/me* from *the top of* the mountain and said, "This is what I want you to say to the Israeli people, the descendants of *Jacob*: <sup>4</sup> 'You have seen what I did to the *Egyptians*. You have seen *what I did for all of you* and how I brought you here to me. It was as though I *lifted you up as an eagle carries its*

*young eaglets* on its wings [MET]. <sup>5</sup> So now, if you will do what I tell you and obey all that I command you, you will be my own people. All the people-groups on the earth are mine, but you will be ◀dearer/more special▶ to me than all the other people-groups. <sup>6</sup> You will be people over whom I will rule, and you will all ◀be like priests/represent me to other nations as priests represent me to one nation▶ [MET], and you will be completely dedicated to me.' That is what you must tell the Israeli people."

<sup>7</sup> So Moses/I went *down the mountain* and summoned the elders/leaders of the people. He/I told them everything that Yahweh had told him/me to tell them. <sup>8</sup> The people all said, "We will do everything that Yahweh has told us to do." Then Moses/I *climbed back up the mountain* and reported to Yahweh what the people had said.

<sup>9</sup> Then Yahweh said to Moses/me, "*Listen carefully*: I am going to appear to you from inside a thick cloud. When I am speaking to you, the people will hear it, and they will always trust in you." Then Moses/I went *down the mountain* and reported to the people what Yahweh said. Then he/I went *back up the mountain* and told Yahweh what the people replied. <sup>10</sup> Then Yahweh said to Moses/me, "Go *back down* to the people *again*. Tell them to purify themselves today and tomorrow. Tell them to wash their clothes, too. <sup>11</sup> They must do that to be ready on the day after tomorrow. On that day I will come down to Sinai Mountain to where all the people can see me. <sup>12</sup> You must make a boundary around

the base of the mountain, and tell them, 'Be sure that you do not climb the mountain or even go near it. Anyone who even touches the base of the mountain must be executed.' <sup>13</sup> Do not let anyone touch any person or any animal that touches the mountain. You must *kill any person or animal that touches the mountain* by throwing stones at it or shooting it *with arrows*. But when you hear a long *loud* trumpet sound, the people can come close to the *base of the mountain*."

<sup>14</sup> So Moses/I went down the mountain *again* and told the people to purify themselves. They did what Moses/I told them to do, and they also washed their clothes. <sup>15</sup> Then Moses/I said to the people, "Be ready on the day after tomorrow. And *you men* must not have sex with [EUP] *your wives* until after then."

<sup>16</sup> Two days later, during the morning, there was thunder and lightning, and a very dark cloud on the mountain. A trumpet sounded very loudly, with the result that the people in the camp shook/trembled because they *were very afraid*. <sup>17</sup> Then Moses/I led the people outside the camp to meet with God. They stood at the base of the mountain. <sup>18</sup> All of Sinai Mountain was covered in smoke, because Yahweh had descended on it, surrounded by a fire. The smoke rose up like the smoke from *the chimney of a furnace*, and the whole mountain shook violently. <sup>19</sup> As the sound of the trumpet continued to become louder, Moses/I spoke *to Yahweh*, and Yahweh answered *him/me in a loud voice that sounded like thunder*. <sup>20</sup> Then Yahweh came down *again* onto the top of Sinai Mountain,

and he summoned Moses/me to come up to the top of the mountain. So Moses/I went up. <sup>21</sup> Yahweh said to Moses/me, “Go down again and warn the people not to cross the boundary in order to look *at me*. If they *do* that, many of them will die. <sup>22</sup> Also, the priests who habitually come near me must purify themselves. If they do not do that, I will punish them.”

<sup>23</sup> Then Moses/I said to Yahweh, “The people will not climb the mountain, because you commanded them, saying, ‘Set a boundary around the mountain, to make it sacred/taboo.’ ”

<sup>24</sup> Yahweh replied, “Go down the mountain, and bring Aaron back up with you. But do not allow the priests or other people to cross the boundary to come up to me. If they cross it, I will punish them.” <sup>25</sup> So Moses/I went down the mountain *again* and told the people *what Yahweh had said*.

## 20

### *God gave the people the Ten Commandments*

<sup>1</sup> Then God said this *to the Israeli people*: <sup>2</sup> “I am Yahweh God, the one you *worship*. I am the one who brought you out of Egypt. I am the one who freed you from being slaves *there*.

<sup>3</sup> So you must worship *only* me; you must not worship any other god. <sup>4</sup> You must not carve/make for yourselves any idol that represents anything in the sky or that is on the ground or that is in the water under the ground/earth.

<sup>5</sup> You must not bow down to any idol and worship it, because I am Yahweh God, and I

◀am very jealous/want you to worship me only▶. I will punish those who sin and hate me. I will punish not only them, but I will punish ◀their descendants, down to the third and fourth generation/their children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren▶. <sup>6</sup> But I will steadfastly love thousands of generations of those who love me and obey my commandments (OR, I will love for thousands of generations.)

<sup>7</sup> Do not use my name carelessly (OR, for wrong/evil purposes), because I am Yahweh God, the one whom you *should worship*, and I will certainly punish those who use my name for wrong/evil purposes [LIT].

<sup>8</sup> Do not forget that the seventh day *of every week* is mine, so dedicate those days to me.

<sup>9</sup> There are six days each week for you to do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a day of rest, a day dedicated to me, Yahweh God, the one whom you *should worship*. On that day you must not do any work. You and your sons and daughters and your male and female slaves must not work. You must not even force your livestock to work, and you must not allow foreigners to work, those who are living in your country. <sup>11</sup> I, Yahweh, created the sky, the earth, the ocean, and everything that is in them, in six days. Then I stopped my work of creating everything, and rested on the seventh day. That is the reason that I, Yahweh, have blessed the rest day and set it apart *to be a sacred/special day*.

<sup>12</sup> Honor/Respect your fathers and your mothers, in order that you may live a long time in the

land that I, Yahweh God, will give you.

<sup>13</sup> Do not murder anyone.

<sup>14</sup> Do not ◀commit adultery/have sex with anyone other than your spouse▶.

<sup>15</sup> Do not steal anything.

<sup>16</sup> Do not falsely accuse anyone *of committing a crime*.

<sup>17</sup> Do not ◀covet/desire to have▶ someone else's house, someone else's wife, someone else's male or female slave, someone else's livestock, someone else's donkeys, or anything else that some other person owns."

<sup>18</sup> When the people heard the thunder and saw the lightning, and when they heard the sound of the trumpet and saw the smoke on the mountain, they were afraid and trembled. They stood at a distance, <sup>19</sup> and said to Moses/me, "If you speak to us, we will listen. But do not let God speak any more to us. *We are afraid that if he speaks any more to us, we will die.*" <sup>20</sup> Moses/I replied, "Do not be afraid! God has come to determine/test *how you will behave*. He wants you to revere him, and to not sin."

<sup>21</sup> Then, as the people *watched from* a distance, Moses/I went close to the black cloud where God was.

<sup>22-23</sup> Yahweh said to Moses/me, "Say this to the Israeli people: 'You have heard how I, Yahweh, have spoken to you from heaven. I told you that you must not make any idols of silver or gold *that you will worship instead* of me. <sup>24</sup> Make for me an altar from dirt. Sacrifice on it the animals that you will burn completely. Also sacrifice on it the animals that you will not burn completely,

to maintain fellowship with me. Worship me [MTY] in any place that I choose for you to honor/worship me; and if you do that, I will come to you and bless you. <sup>25</sup> If you make for me an altar from stones, do not make it from stones that you have cut *to make them look nice*, because you will make the altar unsuitable for *worshipping* me if you use tools to cut the stones. <sup>26</sup> Do not make an altar that has steps in front of it, because if you do that, *people* could see your naked *buttocks* as you go up the steps.' "

## 21

### *Instructions for treating slaves*

<sup>1</sup> "Here are some *other* instructions to give to *the Israeli people*: <sup>2</sup> When/If you buy a Hebrew slave, he is to serve you for *only* six years. In the seventh year you must free him *from being your slave*, and he is not required to pay you anything *for setting him free*. <sup>3</sup> If he was not married before he became your slave, and if he marries *someone while he is your slave*, his wife is not to be set free *with him*. But if he was married before he became your slave, you must free both him and his wife. <sup>4</sup> If a slave's master gives him a wife, and she gives birth to sons or daughters *while her husband is a slave*, only the man is to be freed. His wife and children will continue to be slaves of their master. <sup>5</sup> But when it is time for the slave to be set free, if the slave says, 'I love my master and my wife and my children, and I do not want to be set free,' <sup>6</sup> then his master must take him to *the place where they worship God*

(OR, to *the owner's* house). There he must make the slave stand against the door or the doorpost. Then the master will use an ◀awl/pointed metal rod▶ to make a hole in the slave's ear. Then *he will fasten a tag to the slave's ear to indicate that* ◀he will own that slave for the rest of his life/he will own the slave as long as the slave lives▶.

<sup>7</sup> If a man sells his daughter to become a slave, she should not be set free *after six years*, as the male slaves are. <sup>8</sup> If the man who bought her wanted her to be his wife, but if *later* he is not pleased with her, he must sell her back to her father. He must not sell her to a foreigner, because that would be breaking the contract/agreement *he made with the girl's father*. <sup>9</sup> If the man who buys her wants her to be a wife for his son, he must then treat her as though she were his own daughter. <sup>10</sup> If the master takes another slave girl to be another wife for himself, he must continue to give the first slave wife the same amount of food and clothing that he gave to her before, and he must continue to have sex [EUP] with her as before. <sup>11</sup> If he does not do all these three things for her, he must free her *from being a slave*, and she is not required to pay anything *for being set free*.

<sup>12</sup> You must execute anyone who strikes another person with the result that the person who is struck dies. <sup>13</sup> But if the one who struck the other did not intend to kill that person, the one who struck him can escape to a place that I will choose for you, *and he will be safe there*. <sup>14</sup> But if someone gets angry with another person and

kills him, even if the murderer runs to the altar, *a place that God designated as a place to be safe*, you must execute him.

<sup>15</sup> Anyone who strikes his father or mother must surely be executed.

<sup>16</sup> Anyone who kidnaps another person, either in order to sell that person or to keep him as a slave, must be executed.

<sup>17</sup> Anyone who reviles/curses his father or his mother must be executed.

<sup>18</sup> Suppose two people fight, and one strikes the other with a stone or with his fist. And suppose the person he strikes does not die but is injured and has to stay in bed *for a while*, <sup>19</sup> and later he is able to walk outside using a cane. Then the person who struck him does not have to be punished. However, he must pay the injured person the money he could not earn *while he was recovering*, and he must also pay the injured person's medical expenses until that person is well.

<sup>20</sup> If someone strikes his male or female slave with a stick, if the slave dies ◀immediately/as a result▶ [IDM], the one who struck him must be punished. <sup>21</sup> But if the slave lives for a day or two after he is struck *and then dies*, you must not punish the one who struck him. Not having that slave to be able to work for him any longer is enough punishment.

<sup>22</sup> Suppose two people are fighting and they hurt a pregnant woman with the result that ◀she has a miscarriage/her baby is born prematurely and dies▶. If the woman is not harmed in any

other way, the one who injured her must pay a fine. He must pay whatever the woman's husband demands, after a judge approves of the fine. <sup>23</sup> But if the woman is injured in some additional way, the one who injured her must be caused to suffer in exactly the same way *that he caused her to suffer*. If she dies, he must be executed. <sup>24-25</sup> If her eye is injured or destroyed, or if he knocks out one of her teeth, or her hand or foot is injured, or if she is burned or bruised, the one who injured her must be injured in the same way. <sup>26</sup> If the owner of a slave strikes the eye of his male or female slave and ruins it, he must free that slave because of *what he did to the slave's eye*. <sup>27</sup> If someone knocks out one of his slave's teeth, he must free the slave because of *what he did to the slave's tooth*.

<sup>28</sup> If a bull gores a man or woman with the result that the person dies, you *must kill the bull by* throwing stones at it, but you must not punish the owner of the bull. <sup>29</sup> But suppose the bull had attacked people several times before, and its owner had been warned, but he did not keep the bull inside a fence. Then you *must kill the bull by* throwing stones at it, but you must also execute its owner. <sup>30</sup> However, if the owner of the bull is allowed to pay a fine ◀to save his own life/in order not to be executed▶, he must pay the full amount that the judges say that he must pay. <sup>31</sup> If someone's bull attacks and gores another person's son or daughter, you must treat the bull's owner according to that same rule. <sup>32</sup> If a bull attacks and gores a male or female slave,

its owner must pay to the slave's owner 30 pieces of silver. Then you must *kill the bull* by throwing stones at it.

<sup>33</sup> Suppose someone has a pit/cistern and does not keep it covered, and someone's bull or donkey falls into it *and dies*. <sup>34</sup> Then the owner of the pit/cistern must pay for the animal that died. He must give the money to the animal's owner, but then he can take away the animal that died and *do whatever he wants to with it*. <sup>35</sup> If someone's bull hurts another person's bull with the result that it dies, the owners of both bulls must sell the bull that is living, and they must divide *between them* the money *that they receive* for it. They must also divide *between them the meat of* the animal that died. <sup>36</sup> However, if people know that the bull often attacked other animals previously, and its owner did not keep it inside a fence, then the owner of that bull must give the owner of the bull that died one of his own bulls, but he can take away the animal that died *and do with it whatever he wants to do*."

## 22

### *Laws regarding possessions*

<sup>1</sup> Yahweh also said, "If someone steals a bull or a sheep, and then slaughters it *to sell it or to sacrifice it* or sells its *meat to someone else*, he must pay five bulls for the bull *that he stole*, and *he must pay* four sheep for the sheep *that he stole*.

<sup>2</sup> If a thief is caught while he is breaking into someone else's house *at night*, if *the one who catches him* kills the thief, he is not guilty of

murdering him. <sup>3</sup> But if that happens during the daytime, *the one who killed the thief* is guilty of murdering him. The thief must pay for what he stole. If he has no *animals with which to pay for the one that he stole*, he must be sold to *become someone's else's slave and the money must be used* to pay for what he stole. <sup>4</sup> If the thief still has the animal when he is caught, whether it is a bull or a donkey or a sheep, and it is still alive, the thief must give back *the stolen animal as well as giving two additional animals for each one that he stole*.

<sup>5</sup> If someone allows his animals to ◀graze/eat the grass▶ in his field or in his vineyard, and if they stray away and eat the crops in another person's field, the owner of the animals must pay *the owner of those crops* by giving him the best crops from his own field or vineyard.

<sup>6</sup> Suppose someone starts a fire in his own field, and the fire spreads through the grass and starts burning in someone else's field, and the fire burns grain that is growing or grain that is already *cut and stacked*. Then the person who started the fire must pay completely for the damage.

<sup>7</sup> Suppose someone gives to another person some money or other valuable goods and asks him to guard them *in his house for a while*. If those things are stolen from that person's house, if the thief is caught, he must pay back *twice as much as he stole*. <sup>8</sup> But if the thief is not caught, the owner of the house *from which the things were stolen* must stand before the judges, so that

the judges can determine whether *the owner of the house* was the one who took the other man's goods *and sold them to someone else*.

<sup>9</sup> If two people argue about which one of them owns a bull or a donkey or a sheep or some clothing, or something else that has been lost, the two people who each claim/say that the item belongs to them must stand before the judges. The one whom the judges declare is lying must pay back *to the real owner* twice as many bulls or donkeys or sheep or pieces of clothing.

<sup>10</sup> Suppose someone gives his donkey or bull or sheep or some other animal to someone else and asks him to take care of it *for a while*, and the animal dies or is injured or is stolen while no one is watching. <sup>11</sup> Then the person *who was taking care of the animal* must ◀swear/solemnly declare▶, knowing that God is listening, that he did not steal the animal. If he did not steal it the owner of the animal must accept/believe that the other person is telling the truth, and the other person will not have to pay anything back to the owner. <sup>12</sup> But if the animal was stolen *while he was supposed to be taking care of it*, the man who promised to take care of it must pay back the owner for the animal. <sup>13</sup> If *he says that* the animal was killed by wild animals, he must bring back the remains of the animal that was killed and show it to the animal's owner. If he does that, he will not have to pay anything for the animal.

<sup>14</sup> If someone borrows an animal, and if that animal is hurt or dies when its owner is not there, the one who borrowed it must pay the

owner for the animal. <sup>15</sup> But if that happens when the owner of the animal is there, the one who borrowed it will not have to pay back anything. If the man who borrowed it only rented it, the money that he paid to rent it will be enough to pay for the animal *dying or being injured.*”

### *Laws concerning everyday life*

<sup>16</sup> “If a man persuades a girl/woman to have sex with him, a girl/woman who ◀is a virgin/has never had sex with any man▶ and who is not engaged to be married, he must pay the bride price for her and marry her. <sup>17</sup> But if her father refuses to allow her to marry him, he must pay to the woman’s father the amount of money that is equal to the amount of bride price money that men pay for virgins.

<sup>18</sup> You must execute any woman who ◀practices sorcery/is a shaman▶.

<sup>19</sup> You must execute any person who has sex with an animal.

<sup>20</sup> You *must offer sacrifices* only to Yahweh. You must execute anyone who offers a sacrifice to any *other* god.

<sup>21</sup> You must not mistreat a foreigner *who comes to live among you*. Do not forget that you were previously foreigners in Egypt.

<sup>22</sup> You must not mistreat any widow or any orphan. <sup>23</sup> If you mistreat them and they cry out to me *for help*, I will hear them. <sup>24</sup> And I will be angry with you, and I will cause you to be killed

in a war [MTY]. Your wives will become widows, and your children will no longer have fathers.

<sup>25</sup> If you lend money to any of my people who are poor, do not act like a moneylender and require him to pay interest on the money. <sup>26</sup> If he gives you his cloak to guarantee *that he will pay the money back*, you must give the cloak back to him before the sun goes down, <sup>27</sup> because he needs it to keep him warm *during the night*. ◀That is the only covering that poor people have when they sleep at night./What else will he cover himself with during the night?▶ [RHQ] *If you do not act mercifully toward him by returning his cloak*, when he cries out to me asking for my help, I will help him, because I *always act mercifully*.

<sup>28</sup> Do not ◀revile/speak evil about▶ me, and do not ◀curse/ask me to do harmful things to▶ any ruler of your people.

<sup>29</sup> ◀Do not withhold from/Give▶ me the best parts of the grain that you harvest and of the olive oil and the wine that you produce.

<sup>30</sup> You must dedicate your firstborn sons to me. Similarly, your firstborn *male* cattle and sheep belong to me. After those animals are born, allow them to stay with their mothers for seven days. On the eighth day, offer them to me *as a sacrifice*.

<sup>31</sup> You are people who are ◀completely dedicated to/set apart for▶ me. *And I detest* the meat of any animal that has been killed by wild animals. Therefore you should not eat such

meat. Instead, throw it where the dogs *can eat it.*"

## 23

### *Treat people and animals fairly*

<sup>1</sup> "Do not tell to others ◀false rumors/untrue reports▶ about other people. Do not help someone who is guilty by ◀testifying falsely/lying▶ *about what happened.*

<sup>2</sup> Do not join a group of people who are planning to do something evil. Do not testify the way the *crowd wants you to*, if that will prevent *the judge from deciding the case justly/fairly.* <sup>3</sup> When a poor person is on trial, do not *testify in his favor just* because he is poor *and you feel sorry for him.*

<sup>4</sup> If you see someone's bull or donkey when it is wandering away *loose*, take it back to *its owner, even if the owner is your enemy.* <sup>5</sup> If you see someone's donkey that has fallen down *because of its heavy load*, help the owner to get the donkey up again, *even if he is someone who hates you.* Do not just walk away *without helping him.*

<sup>6</sup> Decide the cases of poor people who are on trial *as fairly as you decide the cases of other people.*

<sup>7</sup> Do not accuse people falsely. Do not decide that innocent and righteous [DOU] people should be executed, because I will ◀punish/not forgive▶ people who do such an evil thing.

<sup>8</sup> Do not accept money that is a bribe, because officials who accept bribes are not able to [MTY]

decide what is right to do, and they do not allow innocent people to be treated fairly.

<sup>9</sup> Do not mistreat foreigners *who live among you*. You know *how people often treat* foreigners, because the Egyptians *did not treat you well when you were foreigners there*.

<sup>10</sup> Plant *seeds* in your ground and gather the harvest for six years. <sup>11</sup> But during the seventh year you must not plant anything. *If things grow without your planting seeds*, allow poor people to harvest and eat the crops. If there are still crops ◀left over/that they do not harvest▶, allow wild animals to eat them. Do the same thing with your grapevines/vineyards and your olive trees.

<sup>12</sup> *You may work for six days each week*, but on the seventh day you must rest *and not work*. And on the seventh day you must allow your work animals and your slaves and the foreigners *who live among you also to rest and be refreshed*.

<sup>13</sup> Make certain that you obey everything that I have commanded *you to do*. Do not pray to [MTY] other gods. Do not even mention their names.”

### *Rules about three annual festivals*

<sup>14</sup> “Every year you must celebrate three festivals to *honor me*. <sup>15</sup> *The first one* is the Festival of Bread That Has No Yeast. Celebrate it in the month *that is named Abib*. That is the month in which you left Egypt. Celebrate it in the way that I commanded you. And always bring [LIT] an offering when you come to worship me. <sup>16</sup> The second one is the Festival of Harvesting. During

that festival you must offer to me the first parts/harvest of your crops that grow from the seeds that you planted. The third one is the Festival of Living in Temporary Shelters. That will be after you finish harvesting your grain and grapes and fruit. <sup>17</sup> Every year, at each of these times, all the men must gather together to worship me, Yahweh God.

<sup>18</sup> When you sacrifice an animal *and offer it* to me, you must not offer bread that has been baked with yeast. *When you offer sacrifices, burn the fat from the animals on that same day.* Do not allow any fat to remain until the next morning.

<sup>19</sup> Each year, when you harvest your crops, bring to the place where you worship me, Yahweh God, the first part of what you harvest. When you kill a ◀young animal/kid or lamb or calf▶, do not *prepare to eat it by* boiling it in its mother's milk."

*Yahweh gave the Israeli people several promises*

<sup>20-21</sup> "Note this: I am going to send an angel ahead of you, to guard you as you travel and to bring you safely to the place that I have prepared *for you.* Pay attention to what he says and obey him. Do not rebel against him, because he will have my authority [MTY] and he will ◀punish/not forgive▶ [LIT] you if you rebel against him.

<sup>22</sup> But if you pay attention to what he says and if you do all that I tell you *to do,* I will fight strongly [DOU] against all of your enemies. <sup>23</sup> My angel will go ahead of you, and will take you to

where the Amor and Heth and Periz and Canaan and Hiv and Jebus people-groups live, and I will completely get rid of them. <sup>24</sup> Do not bow down before their gods/idols or worship them. And do not do the things *that they think that their gods want* them to do. Completely destroy their gods/idols, and smash to pieces their sacred stones.

<sup>25</sup> You must worship me, Yahweh God. *If you do that*, I will bless your (OR, *bless you by giving you*) food and water, and I will protect you from becoming sick. <sup>26</sup> No women in your land will have ◀miscarriages/babies that will die after being born prematurely▶, and no women will be unable to become pregnant. And I will enable you to live a long time.

<sup>27</sup> I will cause the people who oppose you to become very afraid of me. I will cause the people whom you fight against to become very confused. And then I will cause them to turn around and run away from you. <sup>28</sup> I will cause your enemies to become terrified. And I will expel the Hiv, Canaan, and Heth people-groups from your land. <sup>29</sup> I will not expel *all of* them in less than one year. If I did that, your land would become deserted, and there would be very many wild animals ◀*that would attack you/you would not be able to control*▶. <sup>30</sup> I will expel those people-groups slowly, a few at a time, until the number of your people increases and you are able to live everywhere in the land. <sup>31</sup> I will cause the borders of your land to extend from the ◀Red Sea/Gulf of Aqaba▶ *in the southeast* to the Mediterranean Sea *in the northwest*, and

from the *Sinai Desert in the southwest* to the *Euphrates River in the northeast of the country*. I will enable you [MTY] to expel the people who live there, so that you will expel them as you occupy more of the country. <sup>32</sup> You must not make any agreement/treaty with those people or with their gods. <sup>33</sup> Do not allow *those people* to live in your land, in order that they do not cause you to sin against me. If you worship their gods, *you will not be able to escape from worshipping them and sinning against me, just like someone caught in a trap is unable to escape* [MET].”

## 24

### *Yahweh's agreement is confirmed*

<sup>1</sup> Then Yahweh said to Moses/me, “Come to me, up *on top of this mountain*, you and Aaron and *his sons Nadab and Abihu*. Also *take along 70 of the Israeli elders/leaders*. While you are still some distance *from the top of the mountain*, prostrate yourselves *on the ground* and worship me. <sup>2</sup> Moses, *I will allow* you alone to come near to me. The others must not come near, and the *rest of the people* must not come up the mountain.”

<sup>3</sup> Moses/I went and told the people everything that Yahweh had said and all that he had commanded. The people all replied together, saying, “We will do everything that Yahweh has told us *to do*.” <sup>4</sup> Then Moses/I wrote down everything that Yahweh had commanded. Early the next morning Moses/I built a *stone altar*. He/I also set up twelve stones, one for each of the

Israeli tribes. <sup>5</sup> He/I also selected some young men. They burned sacrifices to Yahweh and they also sacrificed some cattle *that they did not burn completely*, for the purpose of maintaining fellowship with Yahweh. <sup>6</sup> Moses/I took half of the blood of the animals that were slaughtered and put it in bowls. The other half of the blood *he/I* threw/splashed against the altar. <sup>7</sup> Then he/I took the scroll on which he/I had written *everything that Yahweh had commanded* in the agreement that he had made, and he/I read it *aloud*, while all the people were listening. Then all the people said, "We will do all that Yahweh has told us to do. We will obey *everything*."

<sup>8</sup> Then Moses/I took the blood *that was in the bowls* and threw/splashed it on the people. He/I said, "This is the blood *that* ◀*confirms/puts into effect*▶ the agreement that Yahweh made with you when he gave you all these commands."

<sup>9</sup> Then Moses/I, along with Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and the 70 Israeli elders/leaders, went up *the mountain*, <sup>10</sup> and they/we saw God, the one whom the Israeli people worship. Under his feet was something like a pavement *made of expensive blue stones called sapphires*. They were as clear as the sky is *when there are no clouds*. <sup>11</sup> God did not harm [MTY] those Israeli elders/leaders *because of their having seen him*. They saw God, and they ate and drank together! *Then we all went back down the mountain*.

<sup>12</sup> Then Yahweh said to Moses/me, "Come up to me *again on top of this* mountain. While you are here, I will give you *two* stone slabs on which

I have written all the laws [DOU] that I have given to you to instruct/teach *the people*.”<sup>13-14</sup> So Moses/I told the elders, “Stay here *with the other people* until we return! Do not forget that Aaron and Hur will be with you. So if anyone has a dispute *while I am gone*, he can go to those two men.” Then Moses/I went with his/my servant Joshua *part of the way* up the mountain that *was dedicated to God*.<sup>15</sup> Then Moses/I went the *rest of the way* up the mountain. A cloud covered the mountain.<sup>16</sup> The ◀glory/brilliant light▶ of Yahweh came down on the mountain and covered it for six days. On the seventh day, Yahweh called to Moses/me from the middle of the cloud.<sup>17</sup> When the Israeli people *looked at* the top of the mountain, the glory of Yahweh was like a big fire that was burning *there*.<sup>18</sup> Moses/I went into the cloud on top of the mountain. He/I was there for 40 days and nights.

## 25

*Yahweh gave Moses instructions about a big Sacred Tent for their worship*

<sup>1</sup> Yahweh said to Moses/me, “There *are many things that I want* you to tell to the Israeli people.

<sup>2</sup> Tell them that they must give offerings/gifts to me. Receive from the people every offering/gift that they want to give to me.<sup>3</sup> These are the things that they may offer/give: Gold, silver, bronze,<sup>4</sup> blue, purple, and scarlet yarn/wool, fine ◀linen/white cloth▶, goats’ hair for making *cloth*,<sup>5</sup> rams’ skins that have been ◀tanned/dyed

red, goatskins, *hard* wood from acacia trees, <sup>6</sup> olive oil to burn in the lamps, spices to put in the olive oil for anointing the priests and in the sweet-smelling incense, <sup>7</sup> expensive quartz stones called onyx, and other expensive stones to be fastened to the priest's vest and put on the pouches that are to be fastened to the vest. <sup>8</sup> Tell the people to make a big Sacred Tent for me, so that I can live in it among them. <sup>9</sup> They must make the Sacred Tent and all the things that will be used inside it according to the plan/model that I will show you."

*Instructions for making the sacred chest*

<sup>10</sup> "Tell the people to make a sacred chest from acacia wood. It is to be ◀45 in./110 cm.▶ long, ◀27 in./66 cm.▶ wide, and ◀27 in./66 cm.▶ high. <sup>11</sup> Cover it with pure gold inside and outside, and put a gold border around the top of it. <sup>12</sup> They must make/cast four rings from gold and fasten them to the legs of the chest. Put two rings on each side of the chest. <sup>13</sup> They must make two poles from acacia wood, and they must cover them with gold. <sup>14</sup> They must put the poles into the rings on the sides of the chest, so that the chest can be carried by the poles. <sup>15</sup> The poles must always be left in the rings; they must not take the poles out of the rings. <sup>16</sup> Put inside the chest the two stone slabs that I will give you, on which I have written my commandments.

<sup>17</sup> Tell them to make a lid for the chest from pure gold. It will be the place where I will forgive people's sins. It also is to be ◀45 in./110 cm.▶

long and ◀27 in./66 cm.▶ wide. <sup>18</sup> *Tell them to hammer huge lump of gold into the form of two creatures that have wings.* <sup>19</sup> One of these is to be put at each end of the chest, but the gold *from which they are made* must be joined to the gold from which the lid is made. <sup>20</sup> *Tell them to place the winged creatures so that their wings touch each other and spread out over the lid.* <sup>21</sup> Put inside the chest the stone slabs that I will give you. Then fasten the lid onto the top of the chest. <sup>22</sup> I will set times to talk with you there. From above the lid of the chest, between the two winged creatures, I will tell to you all my laws that *you must tell* to the Israeli people.”

*Instructions for the table for the sacred bread*

<sup>23</sup> *“Tell them to make a table from acacia wood. It is to be ◀36 in./88 cm.▶ long, ◀18 in./66 cm.▶ wide, and ◀27 in./66 cm.▶ high.* <sup>24</sup> *Tell them to cover it with pure gold and put a gold border around it.* <sup>25</sup> *Tell them to make a rim all around it, ◀3 in./7.5 cm.▶ wide, and put a gold border around the rim.* <sup>26</sup> *Tell them to make/cast four rings from gold and fasten the rings to the four corners of the table, one ring close to each leg of the table.* <sup>27</sup> The rings should be fastened to the table near the rim. <sup>28</sup> Make two poles from acacia wood and cover them with gold. The poles for carrying the table are to be inserted in the rings. <sup>29</sup> Also *tell them to make plates, cups, jars, and bowls to be used when the priests pour out wine to offer to me.* They must all be made from pure gold. <sup>30</sup> On the table, in front of the chest, there

must always be the loaves of sacred bread *that the priests have offered to me.*"

### *Instructions for the lampstand*

<sup>31</sup> "Tell them to make a lampstand from pure gold. They must hammer *one large lump of gold* to make its base and its shaft. *The branches of the lampstand, the cups for holding the oil, the flower buds and the flower petals that decorate the branches of the lamp, the base, and the shaft are all to be hammered from one big lump of gold.*

<sup>32</sup> There are to be six branches on the lampstand, three on each side *of the shaft.* <sup>33</sup> Each of the branches is to have on it three *gold decorations that will look like almond blossoms.* These decorations must also have flower buds and *flower petals.* <sup>34</sup> On the *shaft of the lampstand* there are to be four *gold decorations that also look like almond blossoms,* each one with flower buds and petals. <sup>35</sup> On each side, there is to be one *flower bud* beneath each of the branches.

<sup>36</sup> All these buds and branches, along with the shaft, are to be hammered from one large lump of pure gold. <sup>37</sup> Also *tell them to make seven small cups for holding oil. One is to be put on top of the shaft and the others are to be put on top of the branches.* Place these cups so that *when the lamps are lit, the light will shine toward the ◀front of the lampstand/entrance▶.* <sup>38</sup> *Tell them to make tongs from pure gold, to remove the burned wicks and trays in which to put the burned wicks.* <sup>39</sup> *Tell them to use ◀75 pounds/35 kg.▶ of pure gold to make the lampstand and the*

tongs and the trays. <sup>40</sup> Make sure that they make these things according to the instructions that I am giving you *here on this mountain.*”

## 26

### *Instructions for the coverings for the Sacred Tent*

<sup>1</sup> *“Tell the people to make the Sacred Tent using ten long strips of fine linen. They must take blue, purple, and red thread (OR, weave the strips from blue, purple, and red thread), and a skilled craftsman must embroider these strips with designs that represent the winged creatures that are above the chest.* <sup>2</sup> Each strip is to be ◀14 yards/twelve meters▶ long and ◀2 yards/1.8 meters▶ wide. <sup>3</sup> *Tell them to sew five strips together to make one set, and sew the other five strips together to make another set. <sup>4</sup> For each set, they must make loops of blue cloth and fasten them along the outer edge of the strip, at the end of each set. <sup>5</sup> They must put 50 loops on the edge of the first set, and 50 loops on the edge of the second set. <sup>6</sup> Tell them to make 50 gold clasps/fasteners, to fasten both of the sets together. As a result, the inside of the Sacred Tent will be as though it was one piece.*

<sup>7</sup> *Also, tell them to make a cover for the Sacred Tent from eleven pieces of cloth made from goats’ hair. <sup>8</sup> Each piece of cloth is to be ◀15 yards/13.5 meters▶ long and ◀2 yards/1.8 meters▶ wide. <sup>9</sup> Tell them to sew five of these pieces of cloth together to make one set, and sew the other six pieces of cloth together to make*

another set. *They* must fold the sixth piece of cloth in half to make it double over the front of the Sacred Tent. <sup>10</sup> *Tell them* to make 100 loops of blue cloth, and to fasten 50 of them to the outer edge of the one set and fasten 50 to the outer edge of the other set. <sup>11</sup> *Tell them* to make fifty bronze clasps/fasteners and put them in the cloth loops to join the two sets together. As a result, the cover for the Sacred Tent will be *as though it was* one piece. <sup>12</sup> *Let* the extra part of the cover, the part that extends beyond *the linen cloth*, hang over the back of the Sacred Tent. <sup>13</sup> The extra half yard/meter of each cover, the part that extends beyond *the linen cloth* on each side, must hang over the two sides of the Sacred Tent, to protect the sides. <sup>14</sup> *Tell them* to make two more covers for the Sacred Tent. One is to be made from rams' skins that have been ◀tanned/dyed red▶, and the top cover is to be made from goatskin leather.”

### *Instructions for the framework for the Sacred Tent*

<sup>15</sup> “*Tell them* to make 48 frames from acacia wood, frames that will be set up *from which to hang the Sacred Tent covers*. <sup>16</sup> Each frame is to be ◀five yards/four meters▶ long and ◀27 in./66 cm.▶ wide. <sup>17</sup> *They* must make two projections at the bottom of each frame. These will be to fasten the frames to the bases underneath them. They must make these projections at the bottom of each frame. <sup>18</sup> Make 20 frames for the south side of the Sacred Tent. <sup>19</sup> *Tell them* to make 40 silver bases to go underneath them. Two bases will go under each frame. The projections *at*

*the bottom* of each frame are *to be made* to fit into the bases. <sup>20</sup> *Similarly, tell them to make* twenty frames for the north side of the Sacred Tent. <sup>21</sup> *They must make* 40 silver bases for them also, with two bases to be put under each frame. <sup>22</sup> For the rear of the Sacred Tent, on the west side, *tell them to make* six frames. <sup>23</sup> Also, *tell them to make* two extra frames, one for each corner of the rear of the Sacred Tent, *to provide extra support*. <sup>24</sup> The two corner frames must be joined from the bottom to the top (OR, joined at both the bottom and the top). At the top of each of the two corner frames there must be a gold ring for holding the crossbar. <sup>25</sup> In that way, *for the rear of the Sacred Tent* there will be eight frames, and there will be 16 bases, two under each frame.

<sup>26</sup> *Tell them to make* 15 crossbars from acacia wood. <sup>27</sup> Five of them will be for the frames on the north side of the Sacred Tent, five will be for the south side, and five for the frames at the rear of the Sacred Tent, the west side. <sup>28</sup> Tell them to fasten the crossbars on the north, south, and west sides of the Sacred Tent to the middle of the frames. The two long ones must extend from one end of the Sacred Tent to the other, and the crossbar on the west side must extend from one side of the Sacred Tent to the other. <sup>29</sup> *Tell them to cover* the frames with gold, and make gold rings to fasten the crossbars to the frames. The crossbars must *also* be covered with gold. <sup>30</sup> Erect the Sacred Tent in the way that I have shown you *here on this mountain*."

*Instructions for the Very Holy Place and the*

*curtain*

<sup>31</sup> *“Tell them to make a curtain from fine linen. A skilled craftsman must embroider it with blue, purple, and red yarn/thread, making designs to represent the winged creatures that are above the chest. <sup>32</sup> Tell them to suspend/hang the curtain from four posts made from acacia wood and covered with gold. Set each post in a silver base. <sup>33</sup> They must suspend/hang the top of the curtain by hooks that are fastened to the roof of the Sacred Tent. Behind the curtain, in the room called the Very Holy Place, they must put the chest containing the two stone slabs on which I have written my commandments. That curtain will separate the Holy Place from the Very Holy Place. <sup>34</sup> On top of the chest in the Very Holy Place they must put the lid which will be the place where blood will be sprinkled to forgive people’s sins. <sup>35</sup> In the room that is outside of the Very Holy Place, they must put the table for the sacred bread on the north side, and put the lampstand on the south side. <sup>36</sup> Tell them to make a curtain to cover the entrance of the Sacred Tent. They must make it from fine linen, and a skilled weaver must embroider it with blue, purple, and red yarn/thread. <sup>37</sup> To hold up this curtain, they must make five posts from acacia wood. They must cover them with gold, and fasten gold clasps/fasteners to them. Also they must make a bronze base for each of these posts.”*

### *Instructions for the altar*

<sup>1</sup> “Tell them to make an altar from acacia wood. It is to be square, ◀7-1/2 feet/2.2 meters▶ on each side, and make it ◀4-1/2 feet/1.3 meters▶ high. <sup>2</sup> *They must make a projection that looks like a horn on each of the top corners. The projections must be carved from the same block of wood as the altar. Tell them to cover the whole altar with gold.* <sup>3</sup> *They must make pans in which to put the greasy ashes from the animal sacrifices. Also they must make shovels for cleaning out the ashes, basins and forks for turning the meat as it cooks, and buckets for carrying hot coals/ashes. All of these things must be made from bronze.* <sup>4</sup> *Also tell them to make a bronze grating to hold the wood and burning coals. They must fasten to each of the corners of the altar a bronze ring for carrying the altar.* <sup>5</sup> *They must put the grating under the rim that is around the altar. They must make it so that it is inside the altar, halfway down.* <sup>6</sup> *For carrying the altar, they must make poles from acacia wood and cover them with bronze.* <sup>7</sup> *They must put the poles through the rings on each side of the altar. The poles are for carrying the altar.* <sup>8</sup> *The altar will be like a box, made from boards of acacia wood. They must make it according to these instructions that I am giving you here on this mountain.”*

### *Instructions for the courtyard*

<sup>9</sup> “Around the Sacred Tent there is to be a courtyard. To form the courtyard, *tell them to make curtains of fine linen. On the south side, the curtain is to be ◀50 yards/44 meters▶*

long. <sup>10</sup> *To support/hang the curtain, tell them to make twenty bronze posts, and one bronze base for each post. To fasten the curtains to the posts, they must make silver hooks, and metal rods covered with silver to fasten the curtains to the hooks.* <sup>11</sup> *They must make the same kind of curtains for the north side of the courtyard.* <sup>12</sup> *On the west side of the courtyard they must make a curtain ◀25 yards/22 meters▶ long. The curtains are to be supported by ten posts, with a base under each post.* <sup>13</sup> *On the east side, where the entrance is, the courtyard must also be ◀25 yards/22 meters▶ wide.* <sup>14-15</sup> *Tell them to make a curtain ◀22-1/2 feet/6.6 meters▶ wide for each side of the entrance to the courtyard.* <sup>16</sup> *They must make a curtain ◀30 feet/9 meters▶ long for the entrance. A skilled weaver must embroider it with blue, purple, and red yarn/thread. It must be ◀supported by/hung from▶ four posts, each one with a base under it.* <sup>17</sup> *All the posts around the courtyard must be connected with metal rods covered with silver. The clasps/fasteners must be made of silver, and the bases must be made of bronze.* <sup>18</sup> *The whole courtyard, from the east entrance to the west end, must be ◀50 yards/44 meters▶ long, and the curtains that enclose it must be ◀7-1/2 feet/2.3 meters▶ high. All the curtains must be made of fine linen, and all the bases under the posts must be made of bronze.* <sup>19</sup> *All the things that are not made of gold that are to be used inside the Sacred Tent and in the courtyard, and all the tent pegs to support the Sacred Tent and the curtains, must be made of*

bronze.

<sup>20</sup> “Command the Israeli people that they must bring to you the best kind of olive oil to *burn in the lamps*. *They must bring this oil to you continually*, in order that the lamps can burn continually. <sup>21</sup> They must put the lampstand outside of the curtain which is in front of *the sacred chest which contains the stone slabs on which I have written my commandments*. Aaron must take care of the lamps. *After he dies*, his descendants must do this work. The lamps are to burn every night, from evening until morning. The Israeli people must obey this regulation throughout all future generations.”

## 28

### *Instructions for the priests' clothing*

<sup>1</sup> “Summon your *older* brother Aaron and his sons—Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. ◀*Set them apart/They are the ones whom I have chosen*▶ from the rest of the Israeli people, in order that they can serve me *by being* priests. <sup>2</sup> *Tell the people to make beautiful clothes for Aaron, clothes that are suitable for one who has this dignified and sacred work*. <sup>3</sup> Talk to all the skilled workmen, those to whom I have given special ability. *Tell them to make clothes for Aaron, for him to wear when he is* ◀*set apart/dedicated*▶ *to become* a priest to serve me. <sup>4</sup> These are the clothes that they are to make: A sacred pouch for Aaron to wear over his chest, a sacred apron, a robe, an embroidered tunic/gown, a ◀*turban/cloth to wrap around his*

head▶, and a sash/waistband. These are the clothes that your *older* brother Aaron and his sons must wear as they serve me *by doing the work that* priests do. <sup>5</sup> The skilled workmen must use fine linen and blue, purple, and red yarn/thread to make these clothes.”

*Instructions for the sacred apron*

<sup>6</sup> “The skilled workmen must make the sacred apron from fine linen, and skillfully embroider it with blue, purple, and red yarn/thread. <sup>7</sup> It must have two shoulder straps, to join the front part to the back part. <sup>8</sup> A carefully-woven sash, which must be made from the same materials as the sacred apron, must be *sewn* onto the sacred apron. <sup>9</sup> A *skilled workman* must take two *expensive* onyx stones and engrave on them the names of the twelve sons of Jacob. <sup>10</sup> He must engrave the names in the order in which Jacob’s sons were born. He must engrave six names on one stone, and the other six names on the other stone. <sup>11</sup> A gem-cutter should engrave these names on the stones. Then he should enclose the stones in ◀settings/tiny gold frames▶. <sup>12</sup> Then he should fasten the stones onto the shoulder straps *of the sacred apron*, to represent the twelve Israeli tribes. In that way, Aaron will carry the names of the tribes on his shoulders in order that *I, Yahweh*, will never forget *my people* (OR, in order that *he will always* remember that *those tribes belong to Yahweh*). <sup>13</sup> The settings for the stones must be made from gold. <sup>14</sup> *Tell them to* make two tiny chains that are braided like cords, and fasten the chains to the settings.”

### *Instructions for the sacred pouch*

<sup>15</sup> *“Tell the skilled workman to make a sacred pouch for Aaron to wear over his chest. He will use the things he puts into the pouch to determine my answers to the questions he asks. It must be made of the same materials as the sacred apron, and embroidered in the same way.* <sup>16</sup> *It is to be square, and the material must be folded double, so that it is ◀9 in./22 cm.▶ on each side.* <sup>17</sup> *The skilled workman must fasten four rows of valuable stones onto the pouch. In the first row he must put a red ruby, a yellow topaz, and a red garnet.* <sup>18</sup> *In the second row he must put a green emerald, a blue sapphire, and a clear/white diamond.* <sup>19</sup> *In the third row he must put a red jacinth, a white agate, and a purple amethyst.* <sup>20</sup> *In the fourth row he must put a yellow beryl, a red carnelian, and a green jasper.* <sup>21</sup> *A gem-cutter should engrave on each of these twelve stones the name of one of the sons of Jacob. These names will represent the twelve Israeli tribes.* <sup>22</sup> *The two chains that are made from pure gold and braided like cords are for attaching the sacred pouch to the sacred apron.* <sup>23</sup> *The workman must make two gold rings, and attach them to the upper corners of the sacred pouch.* <sup>24</sup> *He must make two gold cords, and fasten one end of each cord to one of the rings.* <sup>25</sup> *He must fasten the other end of each cord to the two settings that enclose the stones. In that way, the sacred pouch will be attached to the shoulder straps of the sacred apron.* <sup>26</sup> *Then he must make two more gold rings, and attach them to the lower corners of the sacred pouch, on the*

inside edges, next to the sacred apron. <sup>27</sup> *He must make two more gold rings, and attach them to the lower part of the front of the shoulder straps, near to where the shoulder straps are joined to the sacred apron, just above the carefully-woven sash/waistband.* <sup>28</sup> The skilled workman must tie the rings on the sacred pouch to the rings on the sacred apron with a blue cord, so that the sacred pouch is above the sash/waistband and does not come loose from the sacred apron. <sup>29</sup> In that way, Aaron will have the names of the twelve Israeli tribes in the sacred pouch close to his chest when he enters the Holy Place. This will remind him that I, Yahweh, *will never forget my people (OR, that he represents my people when he talks to me, Yahweh).* <sup>30</sup> Put into the sacred pouch the two things that the priest will use to determine my answers to the questions he asks. In that way, they will be close to his chest when he enters *the Holy Place to talk to me.* He will use them to find out what is my will for the Israeli people.”

### *Instructions for other clothes for the priests*

<sup>31</sup> “*Tell the workmen to use only blue cloth to make the robe that is to be worn underneath the priest’s sacred apron.* <sup>32</sup> It is to have an opening through which *the priest* can put his head. They must sew a border around this opening, to keep the material from tearing. <sup>33</sup> At the lower edge on the robe, they must fasten *decorations that look like pomegranate fruit.* They must be *woven from* blue, purple, and red yarn/thread. <sup>34</sup> Between each of these decorations, they must

fasten a tiny gold bell. <sup>35</sup> When Aaron enters the Holy Place *in the Sacred Tent* to do his work as a priest and when he leaves the Sacred Tent, the bells will ring *as he walks*. As a result, he will not die *because of disobeying my instructions*.

<sup>36</sup> “Tell them to make a tiny ornament of pure gold, and tell a ◀skilled workman/gem-cutter▶ to engrave on it the words, ‘Dedicated to Yahweh.’

<sup>37</sup> They should fasten this ornament to the front of the turban by a blue cord. <sup>38</sup> Aaron must always wear this on his forehead. In that way, Aaron himself will show *that he accepts* the guilt if the Israeli people offer *their sacrifices* to me in a way that is not correct, and I, Yahweh, will accept their sacrifices.

<sup>39</sup> “Tell them to weave the long-sleeved tunic/gown from fine linen. Also, they must make from fine linen a turban and a sash/waistband, and embroider *designs on it*.

<sup>40</sup> “Tell them to make beautiful long-sleeved tunics/gowns, sashes, and caps for Aaron’s sons. Make ones that will be suitable for those who have this dignified work. <sup>41</sup> Put these clothes on your *older* brother Aaron and on his sons. Then ◀set them apart/dedicate them▶ for this work by anointing them *with olive oil*, in order that they may serve me *by being* priests. <sup>42</sup> Also *tell them to* make linen undershorts for them. The undershorts should extend from their waists to their thighs, in order that no one can see their private parts. <sup>43</sup> Aaron and his sons must always wear those undershorts when they enter the Sacred Tent or when they come near to the

altar to offer sacrifices in the Holy Place. If they do not obey this command, I will cause them to die. Aaron and all his male descendants must obey this rule forever.”

## 29

### *Instructions for dedicating the priests*

<sup>1</sup> “This is what you must do to dedicate Aaron and his sons to serve me *by being* priests: Select one young bull and two rams that do not have any defects. <sup>2</sup> Bake three *kinds of bread* using finely-ground wheat flour, but without yeast: Bake some loaves that do not have any olive oil in them, bake some loaves that have olive oil in the dough, and bake some thin wafers that will be smeared with olive oil *after they are baked*. <sup>3</sup> Put them in a basket and offer them *to me* when you sacrifice the young bull and the two rams. <sup>4</sup> Take Aaron and his sons to the entrance of the Sacred Tent, and wash them *ritually*. <sup>5</sup> Then put the special clothes on Aaron—the long-sleeved tunic/gown, the robe that will be worn underneath the sacred apron, the sacred apron, the sacred pouch, and the sash/waistband. <sup>6</sup> Place the turban on his head, and fasten to the turban the ornament that has the words ‘Dedicated to Yahweh’ engraved on it. <sup>7</sup> Then take the oil and pour some on his head to ◀dedicate him/set him apart▶. <sup>8</sup> Then bring his sons and put the long-sleeved tunics/gowns on them. <sup>9</sup> Put the sashes/waistbands around their waists and the caps on their heads. That is the ritual by which you are to ◀dedicate them/set them apart▶ to be priests.

Aaron and his male descendants must serve me *by being* priests forever.

<sup>10</sup> “Then bring the young bull to the entrance of the Sacred Tent. Tell Aaron and his sons to put their hands on the head of the young bull.

<sup>11</sup> Then, while they do that, kill the young bull *by slitting its throat*, and catch/drain the blood in a bowl. <sup>12</sup> Take some of that blood with your

finger and smear it on the projections of the altar. Throw/Splash the rest of the blood against the base of the altar. <sup>13</sup> Take all the fat that

covers the inner organs of the young bull, the best part of the liver, and the two kidneys with the fat on them, and burn all these on the altar

*as an offering to me*. <sup>14</sup> But the meat of the young bull and its hide and intestines must be burned outside the camp. That will be an offering to forgive the guilt of your sins.

<sup>15</sup> “Then select one of the rams, and tell Aaron and his sons to put their hands on the head of the ram. <sup>16</sup> Then kill the ram *by slitting its throat*. Catch/Drain some of the blood and splash

it against all four sides of the altar. <sup>17</sup> Then cut the ram into pieces. Wash its inner organs and its rear legs and put those with the head <sup>18</sup> and

burn those pieces *completely* on the altar with the rest of the ram. That will be an offering to me, Yahweh, and the smell will please me.

<sup>19</sup> “Take the other ram *that was selected for these rituals*, and tell Aaron and his sons to put their hands on the ram’s head. <sup>20</sup> Then kill the ram by slitting its throat, and drain the blood *into a bowl*. Smear some of the blood on the lobe of

the right ears of Aaron and his sons, and on the thumbs of their right hands, and on the big toes of their right feet. Throw/Splash the rest of the blood against the four sides of the altar. <sup>21</sup> Wipe up some of the blood that is on the altar, mix it with some of the oil for anointing, and sprinkle it on Aaron and his clothes, and on his sons and their clothes. By doing that, you will dedicate them and their clothes *to me*.

<sup>22</sup> “Also, cut off the ram’s fat and its fat tail and the fat that covers the inner organs, the best part of the liver, the two kidneys with the fat on them, and the right thigh. <sup>23</sup> Take also one of each of the kinds of bread *that was baked*—one made with no oil, one with oil, and one thin wafer. <sup>24</sup> Put all these things in the hands of Aaron and his sons. *Then tell them to lift them up high to dedicate them to me.* <sup>25</sup> Then take them from their hands and burn them on the altar, on top of the other things *that were placed there*. That *also* will be an offering to me, and its smell will please me. <sup>26</sup> Then take the meat of the ribs of the second ram that was killed, and lift it up *high* as an offering to me. But then this part of the animal will be for you *to eat*. <sup>27</sup> Then take the meat of the ribs, the other thigh of the first ram that was sacrificed to ◀dedicate/set apart▶ the priests, and the ram whose other parts were lifted high to show that they were an offering to me; and set the meat of the ribs and thigh apart for Aaron and his sons, for them to eat. <sup>28</sup> In the future, whenever the Israeli people present to me, Yahweh, offerings to maintain fellowship

with me, the ribs and the thigh *of animals that they sacrifice* will be for Aaron and his male descendants *to eat*.

<sup>29</sup> “After Aaron *dies*, the special clothes that he wore will belong to his sons. They are to wear those clothes when they are ◀set apart/dedicated▶ *to become priests*. <sup>30</sup> Aaron’s son who becomes The Supreme Priest and enters the Sacred Tent and performs rituals in the Holy Place must *stay in the Sacred Tent*, wearing these special clothes, for seven days.

<sup>31</sup> “Take the meat of the other ram that was sacrificed to ◀set apart/dedicate▶ Aaron and his sons, and boil it in the courtyard. <sup>32</sup> After it is cooked, Aaron and his sons must eat it, along with the bread that is left in the basket, at the entrance of the Sacred Tent. <sup>33</sup> They must eat the meat of the ram that was sacrificed to forgive them for *their sins* when they were dedicated to do this work. They are the only ones who are permitted to eat this meat. *Those who are not priests are not allowed to eat it*, because it is dedicated to me. <sup>34</sup> If any of this meat or some of the bread is not eaten that night, no one is permitted to eat any of it the next day. It must be completely burned, because it is sacred/dedicated to me.

<sup>35</sup> “Those are the rituals that you(sg) must perform during those seven days when you dedicate Aaron and his sons for this work. You must do everything that I have commanded you. <sup>36</sup> Each of those seven days you must also sacrifice a young bull as an offering to me, in

order that I may forgive sins. Also, you must make another offering ◀to make the altar pure in my sight/in order that I will consider the altar to be pure▶. You must also anoint the altar with olive oil, to ◀set it apart/dedicate it▶. <sup>37</sup> Perform these rituals every day for seven days, to ◀set apart/dedicate▶ the altar and make it pure. If you do not do that, anyone or anything that touches the altar will become taboo.

<sup>38</sup> “You must also sacrifice lambs and burn them on the altar. Each of those *seven* days you must sacrifice two lambs. <sup>39</sup> One lamb must be sacrificed in the morning, and one must be sacrificed in the evening. <sup>40</sup> With the first lamb, also offer ◀2 pounds/1 kilogram▶ of finely-ground wheat flour mixed with one quart/liter of the best kind of olive oil, and one quart/liter of wine as an offering. <sup>41</sup> In the evening, when you sacrifice the other lamb, offer the same amounts of flour, olive oil, and wine as you did in the morning. This will be an offering to me, Yahweh, that will be burned, and its smell will please me. <sup>42</sup> You *and your descendants* must continue making these offerings to me, Yahweh, throughout all future generations. You must offer them at the entrance of the Sacred Tent. That is where I will meet with you and speak to you. <sup>43</sup> That is where I will meet with the Israeli people, and the brilliant light of my presence will cause that place to be holy/sacred. <sup>44</sup> I will dedicate the Sacred Tent and the altar. I will also dedicate Aaron and his sons to serve me *by being* priests. <sup>45</sup> I will live among the Israeli people,

and I will be their God. <sup>46</sup> They will know that I, Yahweh their God, am the one who brought them out of Egypt in order that I might live among them.”

## 30

### *Instructions for the incense altar*

<sup>1</sup> *“Tell the skilled workers to make an altar from acacia wood, for burning incense. <sup>2</sup> It is to be square, ◀18 in./45 cm.▶ on each side. It is to be ◀3 feet/90 cm.▶ high. Tell them to make a projection that looks like a horn on each of the top corners. The projections must be carved from the same block of wood that the altar is made from. <sup>3</sup> They must cover the top and the four sides, including the projections, with pure gold. Put a gold border around the altar, near the top. <sup>4</sup> They must make two gold rings for carrying the altar. They must attach them to the altar below the border, one on each side of the altar. These rings are for the poles for carrying the altar. <sup>5</sup> Tell them to make these two poles from acacia wood and cover them with gold. <sup>6</sup> They must put this altar outside the curtain that hangs in front of the sacred chest and its lid. That is the place where I will talk with you. <sup>7</sup> Aaron must burn sweet-smelling incense on this altar. He must burn some every morning when he takes care of the lamps, <sup>8</sup> and he must burn some in the evening when he lights the lamps. The incense must be burned continually, throughout all future generations. <sup>9</sup> The priests must not burn on the altar any incense that I have not told*

you to burn, or burn any animal on it, or any grain offering for me, or pour any wine on it as an offering. <sup>10</sup> One time every year Aaron must perform the ritual for making this altar pure. He must do it by putting on its four projections some of the blood from the animal that was sacrificed ◀to remove the guilt of the people's sins/so that the people would no longer be guilty for sins▶. This ritual is to be done by Aaron and his descendants throughout all future generations. This altar must be completely dedicated to me, Yahweh."

*Instructions for the money to take care of the Sacred Tent*

<sup>11</sup> Yahweh also said to Moses/me, <sup>12</sup> "When your *leaders* ◀take a census of/count▶ the Israeli people, each man *who is counted* must pay to me a price to save his life. They must do this in order that no disaster will happen to them while the people are being counted. <sup>13</sup> Every man who is counted must pay to me ◀0.2 ounces/5.7 grams▶ of silver. They must use the official standard when they weigh the silver. <sup>14</sup> All the men who are at least 20 years old must pay this amount to me when the people are counted. <sup>15</sup> Rich men must not pay more than this amount, and poor men must not pay less than this amount, when they pay this money to save their lives. <sup>16</sup> Your leaders must collect this money from the Israeli people and give it to *those who will* take care of the Sacred Tent. This money is the payment for the lives of those who take care of the Sacred

Tent, ◀to enable me not to forget them/and then I will remember to protect them▶.”

### *Instructions for the washbasin*

<sup>17</sup> Yahweh *also* said to Moses/me, <sup>18</sup> “*Tell the skilled workers to make a bronze washbasin and a bronze base for it. They must put it between the Sacred Tent and the altar, and fill it with water.* <sup>19</sup> Aaron and his sons must ritually wash their hands and their feet with this water <sup>20</sup> before they enter the Sacred Tent and before they come to the altar to sacrifice offerings that will be burned on it. *If they do that, they will not die because of disobeying my instructions.* <sup>21</sup> They must wash their hands and their feet, in order that they will not die. They and the males descended from them must obey this ritual throughout all generations.”

### *Instructions for the oil for anointing*

<sup>22</sup> Yahweh *also* said to Moses/me, <sup>23</sup> “*Tell the people to collect some of the finest spices— ◀12 pounds/6 kg.▶ of ◀liquid myrrh/sweet-smelling sap named myrrh▶, ◀6 pounds/3 kg.▶ of sweet-smelling cinnamon, ◀6 pounds/3 kg.▶ of a sweet-smelling cane/reed, <sup>24</sup> and ◀12 pounds/6 kg.▶ of ◀cassia/a sweet-smelling bark named cassia▶. Be sure that they use the official standard when they weigh these things. Tell an expert perfumer to mix these with ◀one gallon/four liters▶ of olive oil <sup>25</sup> to make sacred oil for anointing. <sup>26</sup> Use this oil for anointing the Sacred Tent, the sacred chest, <sup>27</sup> the table and all the things that are used with it, the lampstand and all the*

things that are used to take care of it, the altar for *burning* incense, <sup>28</sup> and the altar for offering sacrifices that will be burned, along with its bases and the washbasin and all the things that are used with it. <sup>29</sup> Dedicate them by anointing them, in order that they will be completely holy/sacred. Anyone or anything that touches the altar will become taboo. <sup>30</sup> And anoint Aaron and his sons. *By doing that*, you will dedicate them to serve me *by being* priests. <sup>31</sup> And tell the Israeli people, ‘This oil will be my sacred anointing oil that must be used throughout all future generations. <sup>32</sup> You must not pour it on the bodies of people who are not priests, and you must not make other oil to be like it by mixing the same amount of those things. This oil is sacred, and you must consider it to be sacred.’ <sup>33</sup> I will consider that anyone who makes ointment like this *for any other purpose*, and anyone who puts any of this ointment on someone who is not a priest, no longer be allowed to associate with my people.”

<sup>34</sup> Yahweh also said to Moses/me, “*Tell the people* to take equal parts of several sweet spices—stacte, onycha, galbanum, and pure frankincense— <sup>35</sup> and tell an expert perfumer to mix them together to make some perfume. Add some salt to keep it pure and make it holy. <sup>36</sup> Beat some of it into a fine powder. Then take some of it into the Sacred Tent and sprinkle it in front of the sacred chest. You must all consider this incense to be very holy. <sup>37</sup> The people must not mix the same spices to make incense for themselves.

This incense must be completely dedicated to me, Yahweh. <sup>38</sup> I will consider that anyone who makes incense like this to use it for perfume will no longer be allowed to associate with my people.”

## 31

### *Instructions for the work to be done by Bezalel and Oholiab*

<sup>1-2</sup> Yahweh *also* said to Moses/me, “Note that I have chosen Bezalel, the son of Uri and grandson of Hur, from the tribe of Judah, *for special tasks*. <sup>3</sup> I have caused him to be completely controlled/empowered by my Spirit, and I have given him special ability *to make things* and have enabled him to know how to do very skilled work. <sup>4</sup> He can engrave skillful designs in gold, silver, and bronze. <sup>5</sup> He can cut ◀jewels/valuable stones▶ and enclose them *in tiny gold settings/frames*. He can carve things from wood and do other skilled work. <sup>6</sup> Note that I have also appointed Oholiab, the son of Ahisamach, from the tribe of Dan, to work with him. I have also given special ability to other men, in order that they can make all the things that I have commanded you *to be made*. <sup>7</sup> That includes the Sacred Tent, the sacred chest and its lid, all the other things that will be inside the Sacred Tent, <sup>8</sup> the table and all the things that are used with it, the pure gold lampstand and all the things that are used to take care of it, the altar *for burning* incense, <sup>9</sup> the altar for offering sacrifices that will be burned and all the things that will be used with it, the washbasin and its

base, <sup>10</sup> all the beautiful sacred clothes for Aaron and his sons to wear when they work as priests, <sup>11</sup> the oil for anointing, and the sweet-smelling incense for the Holy Place. *The skilled workers must make all these things exactly as I have told you to do.*”

### *Instructions for the day of rest*

<sup>12</sup> Yahweh also said to Moses/me, <sup>13</sup> “Tell the Israeli people, ‘Obey my instructions regarding the ◀rest days/Sabbath days▶. Those days will remind you *and your descendants*, throughout all future generations, that I, Yahweh, have ◀set you apart/chosen you▶ to be my people. <sup>14</sup> You must obey *my rules about* the Sabbath days because they are holy/sacred. Those who treat those days in an irreverent way by working on those days must be executed *to show that* I no longer consider them to belong to my people. <sup>15</sup> You may work for six days *each week*, but the seventh day *of each week* is a solemn day of rest, dedicated to me, Yahweh. Anyone who does any work on a day of rest is to be executed *because I no longer want them to be able to associate with my people*. <sup>16</sup> You Israeli people must respect the rest day, and you *and your descendants* must ◀celebrate it/keep it holy▶ throughout all future generations. *It will remind you* of the agreement that I have made with you that will last forever. <sup>17</sup> It will remind you Israeli people and remind me *of that agreement* because I, Yahweh, created the heavens and the earth in six days, and on

the seventh day I stopped doing that work and relaxed.' ”

<sup>18</sup> When Yahweh finished talking with Moses/me on the top of Sinai Mountain, he gave him/me the two stone slabs on which he had engraved his commandments with his own fingers.

## 32

### *The Israelis made a golden calf to worship*

<sup>1</sup> ◀Moses/I▶ stayed on top of the mountain a long time. When the people realized that he/I was not returning quickly, they gathered near Aaron and said to him, “We do not know what has happened to that man Moses who brought us here out of Egypt. So quickly, make us ◀an idol/a statue of a god▶ who will lead us!” <sup>2</sup> Aaron replied to them, “All right, *I will do that, but tell your wives and your sons and your daughters to take off all their gold earrings and bring them to me.*” <sup>3</sup> So the people did that. They took off all their gold earrings and brought them to Aaron. <sup>4</sup> He took all those gold earrings and melted them in a fire. He *poured the gold into a mold and made a statue that looked like a young bull.* The people saw it and said, “This is the god of us Israeli people! This is the one who brought us up from the land of Egypt!”

<sup>5</sup> When Aaron saw *what was happening*, he built an altar in front of the *statue of the young bull.* Then he announced, “Tomorrow we will have a festival to honor Yahweh!” <sup>6</sup> So the people got up early the next morning and brought

animals to kill and burn as sacrifices on the altar. They also brought sacrifices to maintain fellowship with Yahweh. Then they sat down to eat and drink *wine*. Then they got up and started dancing in a very immoral way.

*Yahweh threatened to destroy the Israeli people*

<sup>7</sup> Then Yahweh said to Moses/me, “Go back down from the mountain, because your people, the ones that you brought up here from Egypt, have *already* ◀become very depraved/wicked▶!

<sup>8</sup> They have already ◀left the road that I showed them/stopped obeying me▶! They have made a *statue of* a young bull from melted gold. They have worshiped it and offered sacrifices to it. And they are saying, ‘This is the god of us Israeli people! This is the one who brought us up from Egypt!’ ”

<sup>9</sup> Then Yahweh said to Moses/me, “I have seen that these people are very stubborn. <sup>10</sup> I am very angry with them, and so I am going to get rid of them. Do not try to stop me! Then I will cause you and your descendants to become a great nation.”

<sup>11</sup> But Moses/I pleaded with his/my God, Yahweh, and said, “Yahweh, ◀you should not be very angry with your people!/why are you so angry with your people [RHQ]?▶ These are the people whom you rescued from Egypt with very great power [MTY, DOU]! <sup>12</sup> Do not *do anything that would* allow the people of Egypt to say, ‘Their god led them out from our country, but

*he did that only because he wanted to kill them in the mountains and get rid of them completely [RHQ]!* Stop being so angry! ◀Change your mind/Do not do what you have told me that you will do▶! Do not do to your people this terrible thing *that you have just said that you will do* <sup>13</sup> Think about your servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. You solemnly promised them, 'I will enable you to have as many descendants as there are stars in the sky.' You said to them, 'I will give to your descendants all the land that I am promising to give them. It will be their land forever.' "

<sup>14</sup> So Yahweh changed his mind. He did not do to his people the terrible thing that he said he would do.

<sup>15</sup> Moses/I turned away from God and went down the mountain, carrying in his hands the two stone slabs on which Yahweh had engraved his commandments. He had written on both sides of the slabs. <sup>16</sup> God *himself* had made the slabs, and he was the one who had engraved the commandments on them.

<sup>17</sup> Joshua heard the very loud noise of the people shouting. So when he and I got near the camp, Joshua said, "There is a noise in the camp that sounds like *the noise of a battle!*" <sup>18</sup> But Moses/I replied, "No, that is not the shouting that people do when they have won a victory or when they have been defeated *in a battle* What I hear is the sound of *loud* singing!"

<sup>19</sup> As soon as Moses/I came close to the camp and saw the statue of the young bull and saw the

people dancing, he/I became extremely angry. He/I threw the stone tablets that he/I was carrying down onto the ground, there at the base of the mountain. <sup>20</sup> Then he/I took the statue of the young bull that they had made and melted it in the fire. *When it cooled*, he/I ground it into *fine powder*. Then he/I mixed the powder with water and forced the Israeli people to drink it. <sup>21</sup> Then he/I said to Aaron, “What did these people do to you, with the result that you have made them commit such a terrible sin?” <sup>22</sup> Aaron replied, “Please do not be angry with me, sir. You know that these people are very determined to do evil things. <sup>23</sup> They said to me, ‘As for that man Moses, the one who brought us up here from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has happened to him. So make for us an idol that will lead us!’ <sup>24</sup> So I said to them, ‘Everyone who is wearing *gold earrings* should take them off.’ So they *took them off and* gave them to me. I threw them into the fire, and out came this statue of a young bull!”

<sup>25</sup> Moses/I saw that Aaron had allowed the people to become completely out of control and to do things that would make their enemies think the Israeli people were foolish. <sup>26</sup> So he/I stood at the entrance to the camp and shouted, “Everyone who is loyal to Yahweh should come *closer* to me!” So the descendants of Levi gathered around him/me. <sup>27</sup> Then he/I said to them, “Yahweh, the God of us Israeli people, commands that every one of you should fasten your sword to your side, and then go through the

camp from this entrance to the other one, and kill some of your relatives and your companions and your neighbors.”<sup>28</sup> The descendants of Levi did what Moses/I told them to do, and they killed 3,000 men on that day.<sup>29</sup> Moses/I said to the descendants of Levi, “Today you have dedicated yourselves to serving Yahweh by ◀killing/not sparing▶ *even* your own sons and brothers, and as a result Yahweh will bless you.”

<sup>30</sup> The next day, Moses/I said to the people, “You have committed a terrible sin. But I will now climb up the mountain again to talk with Yahweh. Perhaps I can *persuade him* to forgive you for sinning *like this*.”<sup>31</sup> So Moses/I went back up the mountain and said to Yahweh, “I am sorry to admit that these people have committed a terrible sin. They have made for themselves a gold idol and have worshiped it.<sup>32</sup> But now I ask you to please forgive them for having sinned. If you will not forgive them, then erase my name from the book in which you have written *the names of your people*.”<sup>33</sup> But Yahweh said to Moses/me, “It is *only* those who have sinned against me whose names I will erase from that book.<sup>34</sup> Now you go back down and lead the *Israeli* people to the place that I told you about. Keep in mind that my angel will go in front of you. But, at the time that I determine, I will punish them for their sin.”

<sup>35</sup> *Later* Yahweh caused a plague to strike the people because they had told Aaron to make the gold *statue of a young bull*.

## 33

### *Yahweh further rebuked and warned the Israeli people*

<sup>1</sup> Yahweh said to Moses/me, “Leave this place and go with the people whom you led out of Egypt. Go to the land that I promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that I would give to their descendants. <sup>2</sup> I will send my angel ahead of you all, and I will expel *from that land* the Canaan, Amor, Heth, Periz, Hiv, and Jebus people-groups. <sup>3</sup> You will go to a land that will be very good for raising livestock and growing crops [IDM]. But I will not go with you myself, because *if I did that*, I might get rid of you while you are traveling, because you are very stubborn [IDM] people.”

<sup>4-5</sup> Yahweh said to Moses/me, “Tell the Israeli people, ‘You are very stubborn [IDM]. If I would go with you for even a moment, I would completely ◀get rid of you/wipe you out▶. Now take off your jewelry *to show that you are sorry for having sinned*. Then I will decide how I will punish you (OR, if I should punish you).’ ” So when Moses/I told to the people what God said, they started to mourn, and they all took off their jewelry. <sup>6</sup> After the Israeli people left Sinai Mountain, they did not wear jewelry any more.

<sup>7</sup> *When the Israeli people traveled*, whenever they stopped and set up their tents, Moses/I had them set up a tent outside the camp, far from the camp. I called it ‘the Sacred Tent where God and I talk together’. Everyone who wanted Yahweh to decide something for them would go out of

the camp to the Sacred Tent. <sup>8</sup> Whenever Moses/I went out to the Sacred Tent, all the people would stand at the entrances of their tents and watch him/me until he/I had entered the Sacred Tent. <sup>9</sup> When Moses/I entered the Sacred Tent, the tall cloud that looked like a fire would come down and stay at the entrance of the Sacred Tent, and then Yahweh would talk with Moses/me. <sup>10</sup> When the people saw the tall cloud at the entrance of the Sacred Tent, they would all prostrate themselves on the ground and worship Yahweh. <sup>11</sup> Yahweh would speak to Moses/me directly, like someone speaks to his friend. Then Moses/I would return to the camp. But his/my young helper, Joshua, the son of Nun, stayed in the Sacred Tent.

*Yahweh promised to be with his people and to let Moses see his glory*

<sup>12</sup> Moses/I said to Yahweh, "It is true that you have told me, 'Lead the people to the land *that I will show you,*' and you have said that you know me well and that you are pleased with me, but you have not told me whom you will send with me! <sup>13</sup> So now, if you are truly pleased with me, I ask you, tell me the things that you intend/plan to do, in order that I will know you *better* and continue to please you. Also, do not forget that the *Israeli* people are the people whom you chose to belong to you." <sup>14</sup> Yahweh replied, "I will go with you, and I will give you inner peace." <sup>15</sup> Moses/I replied, "If you do not go with me, do not force us to leave this place. <sup>16</sup> The only way that *other* people will know that you are pleased

with me and with your people is if you go with us [RHQ]! ◀If you go with us, *that will show that we are different from all the other people on the earth./If you do not go with us, what will show that we are different from all the other people on the earth?▶*” [RHQ] <sup>17</sup> Yahweh replied to Moses/me, “What you have asked is exactly what I will do, because I know you well and I am pleased with you.”

<sup>18</sup> Then Moses/I said, “Please let me see your glorious presence!” <sup>19</sup> Yahweh replied, “I will let you see how great and glorious I am, and I will tell you clearly that my name is Yahweh. I will act very kindly and be merciful to all those whom I choose. <sup>20</sup> But you are not allowed to see my face, because anyone who sees my face will ◀die/not continue to stay alive▶. <sup>21</sup> *But look!* Here is a place close to me where you can stand on a *large rock*. <sup>22</sup> When my glorious presence comes past you, I will put you in a large crevice/opening in the rock, and I will cover your face with my hand until I have passed by. <sup>23</sup> Then I will take my hand away, and you will see my back, but you will not see my face.”

## 34

*Yahweh gave Moses another copy of his commandments*

<sup>1</sup> Yahweh said to Moses/me, “Cut two slabs of stone that will be like the first slabs, the ones that you broke. Then I will engrave on them the words that were on the first slabs.

<sup>2</sup> Get ready tomorrow morning, and come up

to the top of Sinai Mountain again to talk with me there. <sup>3</sup> Do not allow anyone to come up with you. I do not want anyone *else* to be anywhere on the mountain. Do not allow any sheep or cattle to graze ◀at the base of/near▶ the mountain.” <sup>4</sup> So Moses/I cut two slabs of stone that were like the first ones. He/I arose early the next morning. He/I took the slabs and carried them in his/my hands up to the top of Sinai Mountain, as Yahweh had commanded. <sup>5</sup> Then Yahweh descended in the *tall* cloud and stood with Moses/me there. He proclaimed that it was he, Yahweh, *who was going to speak to Moses/me*. <sup>6</sup> Then Yahweh passed in front of him/me and proclaimed, “I am Yahweh God. I always act mercifully and kindly *toward people*. I do not get angry quickly. I *truly* love *people* and I do what I promise to do for them, without changing. <sup>7</sup> I love people for thousands of generations. I forgive people for all kinds of sins [TRI]. But I will certainly punish [LIT] those who are guilty. I will punish not only them, but I will punish ◀their descendants, down to the third and fourth generation/their children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren▶.”

<sup>8</sup> Moses/I quickly prostrated himself/myself on the ground and worshiped *Yahweh*. <sup>9</sup> He/I said, “Yahweh, if you are now pleased with me, I ask that you go with us. These people are very stubborn [IDM], but forgive us for all our sins [DOU], and accept us to be people who belong to you *forever*.”

<sup>10</sup> Yahweh replied, “Note this: I am going

to make a solemn agreement *with the Israeli people*. As they are watching, I will perform great miracles. They will be miracles that no one has ever done on the earth in any nation. All the people who are near you will see the great things that I, Yahweh, will do. I will do awesome things for you *all*. <sup>11-12</sup> *Each Israeli person must obey what I am commanding you this day. Do not forget that if you obey me, I will expel the Amor, Canaan, Heth, Periz, Hiv, and Jebus people-groups from the land. But be careful that you do not make any peace agreements with any of the people who live in the land into which you are going, because if you do that, you will begin to do the evil things that they do. It will be like falling into a trap.* <sup>13</sup> You must tear down their altars, destroy their sacred pillars, and cut down *the poles that they use to worship their female goddess Asherah.* <sup>14</sup> You must worship only me, *and not worship any other god, because I, Yahweh, cannot endure any rivals.* <sup>15</sup> Do not make peace agreements with *any group* that lives in that land. When they worship their gods and offer sacrifices to their gods, and they invite you to join them, do not join them. *If you join them, you will eat the food that they sacrifice to their gods, and you will not be faithful to me. You will be like people who commit adultery, who are not being faithful to their spouses [MET].* <sup>16</sup> If you take some of their women to be wives for your sons, and these women worship their own gods, they will persuade your sons also to worship their gods.

<sup>17</sup> Do not pour melted metal into molds to make statues for you to worship.

<sup>18</sup> *Each year*, during the month *of/named* Abib, celebrate the Festival of Eating Bread Made Without Yeast. *During that festival*, for seven days you must not eat bread made with yeast, as I commanded you, because it was in that month that you left Egypt.

<sup>19</sup> Your firstborn sons and the firstborn *male* animals of your cattle and sheep *and goats* belong to me. <sup>20</sup> The firstborn of your *male* donkeys *also belong to me*. But you may buy them back by *offering to me* lambs *in their place*. If you do not do that, you must *kill these animals* by breaking their necks. You must also buy back your firstborn sons. You must bring an offering to me [LIT] each time you come to *worship* me.

<sup>21</sup> *Each week* you may work for six days, but on the seventh day you must rest. *Even* during the times when you plow *the ground* and harvest *your crops*, you must rest *on the seventh day*.

<sup>22</sup> *Each year* celebrate the Harvest Festival, when you begin to harvest the first crop of wheat, and also celebrate the Festival of Living in Temporary Shelters, when you finish harvesting *the grain and fruit*.

<sup>23</sup> Three times each year all the men must come to worship me, Yahweh, the God of the Israeli people. <sup>24</sup> I will expel the people-groups that live in the land *where you will be*, and I will cause your territory to become very large. As a result, no group will try to conquer your country if

you come to worship me each year during those three festivals.

<sup>25</sup> When you sacrifice an animal [MTY] to me, do not offer with it bread that is made with yeast. And during the Passover Festival, when you sacrifice lambs, do not keep any of the meat until the next morning.

<sup>26</sup> I am Yahweh God. You must bring to my Sacred Tent the first part of the grain that you harvest each year. When you kill a young animal/kid *either a lamb or a calf*, do not *prepare to eat it by boiling it in its mother's milk.*"

<sup>27</sup> Yahweh also said to Moses/me, "Write down the words that I have told you. By giving you these commands, I have made a solemn agreement with you and with the *other* Israeli people."

<sup>28</sup> Moses/I was there *on the top of the mountain* with Yahweh for 40 days and nights. During that time he/I did not eat or drink anything [SYN]. He/I engraved on the stone slabs the words of the Ten Commandments, *which were part of Yahweh's* solemn agreement.

*Moses' face was shining as he returned to the people*

<sup>29</sup> When Moses/I came back down the mountain, carrying in his/my hand the two stone slabs on which were written the Ten Commandments, his/my face was shining because he/I had been talking with Yahweh, but he/I did not know that his/my face was shining. <sup>30</sup> When Aaron and the *other* Israeli people saw Moses/me, they were amazed/surprised that his/my face was shining.

So they were afraid to come near him/me. <sup>31</sup> But Moses/I called to them. Then Aaron and the other Israeli leaders came to him/me, and he/I talked with them. <sup>32</sup> Afterwards, all the other Israeli people came near, and he/I told them all the laws that Yahweh had given to him/me on Sinai Mountain. <sup>33</sup> When Moses/I finished talking to the people, he/I put a veil over his/my face. <sup>34</sup> But whenever Moses/I entered the Sacred Tent to talk with Yahweh, he/I removed the veil. When he/I came back out, he/I would always tell to the Israeli people everything that Yahweh had commanded him/me *to tell them*. <sup>35</sup> The Israeli people would see that Moses'/my face was *still* shining. Then he/I would put the veil back on his/my face again until the next time that he/I went into *the Sacred Tent* to talk with Yahweh.

## 35

### *Regulations for the day of rest*

<sup>1</sup> Moses/I gathered all the Israeli people together and said to them, "This is what Yahweh has commanded you to do: <sup>2</sup> *Each week* you may work for six days, but on the seventh day you must rest. It is a sacred day, dedicated to Yahweh. Anyone who does any work on the seventh day must be executed. <sup>3</sup> Do not *even* light a fire in your homes on days of rest."

### *Gifts for constructing the Sacred Tent*

<sup>4</sup> Moses/I also said to all the Israeli people, "This is *also* what Yahweh has commanded: <sup>5</sup> Make offerings to Yahweh. Everyone who wants to should bring to Yahweh an offering.

*These are the things that they may offer:* Gold, silver, bronze, <sup>6</sup> fine white linen, blue or purple or red cloth, *cloth made from goats' hair*, <sup>7</sup> rams' skins that are ◀tanned/dyed red▶, fine leather made from goatskins, wood from acacia *trees*, <sup>8</sup> oil for the lamps, spices to put in the olive oil for anointing and in the sweet-smelling incense, <sup>9</sup> *valuable* onyx stones or *other* valuable stones to fasten onto the *priest's* sacred apron and put on his sacred chest pouch.

<sup>10</sup> “All the skilled workers among you should come and make all the things that Yahweh has commanded: <sup>11</sup> The Sacred Tent and its covering, its fasteners and its frames, its crossbars, its posts, its bases, <sup>12</sup> the sacred chest with its poles and its lid, the curtain that will separate the Holy Place from the Very Holy Place, <sup>13</sup> the table with the poles *for carrying it* and all the things that will be used with the table, the sacred bread that will be offered to God, <sup>14</sup> the lampstand for the lamps with all the things that will be used to take care of them, the oil for the lamps, <sup>15</sup> the altar for *burning* incense, and the poles *for carrying that altar*, the oil for anointing and the sweet-smelling incense, the curtain for the entrance of the Sacred Tent, <sup>16</sup> the altar for offering *sacrifices that will be completely* burned and its bronze grating, the poles *for carrying that altar* and all the things that will be used with it, the washbasin and its base, <sup>17</sup> the curtains *to surround* the courtyard and the posts and bases *for the posts from which to hang the curtains*, the curtain for

the entrance to the courtyard, <sup>18</sup> the pegs and ropes for the Sacred Tent and for the courtyard, <sup>19</sup> and the beautiful clothes that Aaron and his sons are to wear when they do their work in the Holy Place.”

<sup>20</sup> Then all the Israeli people returned *to their tents*. <sup>21</sup> Everyone who wanted to brought an offering to Yahweh. They brought some of the things that would be used to make the Sacred Tent and all the other items that would be used in the rituals, and the materials to make the sacred clothes *for the priests*. <sup>22</sup> All the men and women who wanted to brought gold ornaments, earrings, rings, necklaces, and many other kinds of things made of gold, and they dedicated them to Yahweh. <sup>23</sup> And many [HYP] people who had blue, purple, or red cloth or fine white linen or cloth made from goats’ hair or rams’ skins that were ◀tanned/dyed red▶ or leather made from goatskins brought some of these things. <sup>24</sup> All those who had silver or bronze brought them as offerings to Yahweh. All those who had some acacia wood that could be used for any of the work brought it. <sup>25</sup> All the women who were skilled to make cloth brought fine linen thread and blue, purple, or red yarn/thread that they had made/spun. <sup>26</sup> And all the women who wanted to made/spun thread from goats’ hair. <sup>27</sup> All the leaders brought valuable onyx stones and other valuable stones to be fastened to Aaron’s sacred apron and his sacred chest pouch. <sup>28</sup> They also brought spices *to put in the sweet-smelling incense*, and they brought olive oil

for the lamps and for the oil for anointing and for putting in the sweet-smelling incense. <sup>29</sup> All the Israeli men and women who wanted to brought these things to offer them to Yahweh, for doing the work that he had commanded Moses/me to do.

*Moses' instructions regarding Bezalel and Oholiab*

<sup>30</sup> Moses/I said to the Israeli people, "Listen carefully. Yahweh has chosen Bezalel, the son of Uri and grandson of Hur, from the tribe of Judah. <sup>31</sup> Yahweh has enabled his Spirit to completely control Bezalel and has given him ability and enabled him to know how to do very skilled work. <sup>32</sup> He can engrave skillful designs in gold, silver, and bronze. <sup>33</sup> He can cut ◀jewels/valuable stones▶ and enclose them *in tiny gold frames*. He can carve things from wood and do other skilled work. <sup>34</sup> Yahweh has also given to him and to Oholiab, the son of Ahisamach, from the tribe of Dan, the ability to teach their skills to others. <sup>35</sup> He has given to them the ability to do all kinds of work that is done by craftsmen—those who create artistic things, those who make fine white linen, those who embroider designs using blue or purple or red yarn/thread, and those who make other cloth. They are able to do many [HYP] kinds of skillful work.

## 36

<sup>1</sup> "Bezalel and Oholiab, and all the other men to whom Yahweh has given ability and enabled them to understand how to do all the work to

make the Sacred Tent, must make everything just as Yahweh has commanded.”

<sup>2</sup> So Moses/I summoned Bezalel and Oholiab and all the other skilled men to whom Yahweh had given special ability and who wanted to do some of the work. <sup>3</sup> Moses/I gave them all the things that the people had brought as offerings to Yahweh for making the Sacred Tent. But the people continued bringing more things every morning. <sup>4</sup> As a result, the skilled men who were doing various things to make the Sacred Tent came to Moses/me <sup>5</sup> and said, “The people are bringing more than we need to do the work that Yahweh has commanded us!” <sup>6</sup> So Moses/I gave the skilled men this message that was proclaimed throughout the camp: “No one should bring anything more as an offering to make the Sacred Tent!” When the people *heard that*, they did not bring anything more. <sup>7</sup> What they had already brought was enough to do all the work. *In fact*, it was more than was needed!

### *They made the curtains and coverings for the Sacred Tent*

<sup>8</sup> All the most skilled men among the workmen made the Sacred Tent. They made it from ten strips of fine linen, and carefully embroidered it using blue, purple, and red yarn/thread to make figures that resembled the winged creatures. <sup>9</sup> Each strip was ◀14 yards/twelve meters▶ long and ◀2 yards/1.8 meters▶ wide. <sup>10</sup> They sewed five strips together to make one set, and they sewed the other five strips together to make the other set. <sup>11</sup> For each set, they made loops of

blue *cloth* and fastened them on the outer edge of the strip, at the end of each set. <sup>12</sup> They put 50 loops on the edge of the first set, and 50 loops on the edge of the second set. <sup>13</sup> They made 50 gold clasps/fasteners, to fasten both of the sets together. In that way, the inside of the Sacred Tent was *as though it was* one piece. <sup>14</sup> They made a cover for the Sacred Tent from eleven pieces of cloth made from goats' hair. <sup>15</sup> Each piece of cloth was ◀15 yards/13.5 meters▶ long and ◀2 yards/1.8 meters▶ wide. <sup>16</sup> They sewed five of these pieces of cloth together to make one set, and they sewed the other six pieces of cloth together to make another set. <sup>17</sup> They made 100 loops of *blue cloth*. They fastened 50 of them to the outer edge of the one set and they fastened 50 to the outer edge of the other set. <sup>18</sup> They made 50 bronze clasps/fasteners and joined the two sets together with them. In that way it formed one cover. <sup>19</sup> They made two more covers for the Sacred Tent. They made one from rams' skins that had been ◀tanned/dyed red▶, and they made the top cover from goatskin leather. <sup>20</sup> They made 48 frames from acacia wood and set them up *to support the covers for the Sacred Tent*. <sup>21</sup> Each frame was ◀15 feet/4.5 meters▶ long and ◀27 in./66 cm.▶ wide. <sup>22</sup> They made two projections at the bottom of each frame. These were for fastening the frames to the bases underneath them. Each frame had these projections. <sup>23</sup> The skilled workmen made twenty frames for the south side of the Sacred Tent. <sup>24</sup> They made 40 silver bases to go

underneath them. Two bases went under each frame. The projections on each frame fit into these bases. <sup>25</sup> *Similarly*, they made 20 frames for the north side of the Sacred Tent. <sup>26</sup> They made 40 silver bases for them also, with two bases for under each frame. <sup>27</sup> For the rear of the Sacred Tent, on the west side, they made six frames. <sup>28</sup> They also made two extra frames, one for each corner of the rear of the Sacred Tent, *to provide extra support*. <sup>29</sup> The two corner frames were joined from the bottom to the top (OR, joined at both the bottom and the top). At the top of each of the two corner frames they fastened a gold ring for holding the crossbar. <sup>30</sup> In that way, *for the rear of the Sacred Tent* there were eight frames, and there were 16 bases, two bases under each frame. <sup>31</sup> The workmen made 15 crossbars from acacia wood. <sup>32</sup> Five of them were for the frames on the north side of the Sacred Tent, five for the south side, and five for the frames at the rear of the Sacred Tent, the west side. <sup>33</sup> The crossbars on the north, south, and west sides of the Sacred Tent were fastened to the middle of the frames. The two long crossbars extended from one end of the Sacred Tent to the other, and the crossbar on the west side extended from one side of the Sacred Tent to the other side. <sup>34</sup> The workmen covered the frames with gold and fastened gold rings to the poles. The crossbars *were put* into the rings. The crossbars *were also* covered with gold.

<sup>35</sup> They made a curtain from fine white linen. Skilled craftsmen embroidered it with blue, purple, and red yarn/thread, making designs

*that resembled* the winged creatures. <sup>36</sup> They suspended/hung the curtain from four posts that were made from acacia *wood* and covered with gold. They set *each* post in a silver base. <sup>37</sup> They made a curtain to *cover* the entrance of the Sacred Tent. They made it from fine linen, and a skilled weaver embroidered it with blue, purple, and red yarn/thread. <sup>38</sup> *To support this curtain*, they also made five posts from acacia wood and fastened gold clasps/fasteners to them. They completely covered the posts with gold. They also made a bronze base for each of those posts.

## 37

### *Bezalel made the altar for burning sacrifices*

<sup>1</sup> Then Bezalel made the *sacred* chest from acacia wood. It was ◀45 in./110 cm.▶ long, ◀27 in./66 cm.▶ wide, and ◀27 in./66 cm.▶ high. <sup>2</sup> He covered it with pure gold inside and outside the chest, and he made a gold border around the top of it. <sup>3</sup> He made/cast four rings from gold *and fastened them* to the legs of the chest. He put two rings on each side of the chest. <sup>4</sup> He made *two* poles from acacia wood, and covered them with gold. <sup>5</sup> He put the poles into the rings on the sides of the chest, in order that the chest could be carried *by means of the poles*. <sup>6</sup> He made a lid for the chest. That was *the place where Yahweh would* forgive people's sins. It *also* was ◀45 in./110 cm.▶ long and ◀27 in./66 cm.▶ wide. <sup>7</sup> He made two winged creatures from hammered gold. <sup>8</sup> One of these was put at each end of the chest. The gold *with which they*

*were made* was joined to the gold from which the lid *was made*. <sup>9</sup> *He placed* the winged creatures facing each other so that their wings touched each other and spread out over the lid.

### *Bezalel made the table*

<sup>10</sup> Bezalel made a table from acacia wood. It was ◀36 in./88 cm.▶ long, ◀18 in./44 cm.▶ wide, and ◀27 in./66 cm.▶ high. <sup>11</sup> He covered it with pure gold, and he put a gold border around it. <sup>12</sup> He made a rim all around it, ◀3 in./7 cm.▶ wide. He put a gold border around the rim. <sup>13</sup> He made/cast four rings from gold and fastened the rings to the four corners of the table, one ring close to each leg *of the table*. <sup>14</sup> The rings were fastened to the table near the rim. <sup>15</sup> He made two poles from acacia wood and covered them with gold. These poles for carrying the table were then inserted into the rings. <sup>16</sup> He also made from pure gold all the things to be put on the table. He made the plates, the cups, and the jars and bowls to be used *when the priests poured out wine as an offering to Yahweh*. <sup>17</sup> He made the lampstand from pure gold. Its base and its shaft were hammered from *one large lump of gold*. *The branches of the lampstand, the cups for holding the oil, the flower buds and the petals that decorated the branches of the lamp, the base, and the shaft were all hammered from one big lump of gold*. <sup>18</sup> There were six branches on the lampstand, three on each side *of the shaft*. <sup>19</sup> Each of the branches had on it three *gold decorations that looked like*

almond blossoms. These decorations also had flower buds and *flower petals*. <sup>20</sup> On the *shaft of the lampstand* there were four *gold decorations that also looked like almond blossoms*, each one with flower buds and *flower petals*. <sup>21</sup> On each side, beneath and extending from each of the branches, there was one *flower bud*. <sup>22</sup> All these *flower buds and branches*, along with the shaft, were hammered from one large lump of pure gold. <sup>23</sup> Bezalel also made seven small cups *for holding oil*. *He put one cup on top of the shaft and he put the others on top of the branches*. He made from pure gold the *tongs for removing the burned wicks* and the *trays in which to put the burned wicks*. <sup>24</sup> He used ◀75 pounds/35 kg.▶ of pure gold to make the lampstand and all the things that were used to take care of it.

### *Bezalel made the altar for burning incense*

<sup>25</sup> From acacia wood, Bezalel made the altar *for burning incense*. It was square, ◀18 in./45 cm.▶ on each side. It was ◀3 ft./90 cm.▶ high. He made *a projection that looked like a horn* on each of the top corners. The projections were carved from the same block of wood that the altar was made of. <sup>26</sup> He covered the top and the four sides, including the projections, with pure gold. He put a gold border around the altar, *near the top*. <sup>27</sup> He made two gold rings for carrying the altar. Then he attached them to the altar below the border, one on each side of the altar. The poles by means of which the altar was to be carried were to be inserted into those rings. <sup>28</sup> He made those *two poles* from acacia wood and covered them with

gold. <sup>29</sup> He also made the sacred oil for anointing and the pure sweet-smelling incense. He mixed the incense together as a skilled perfumer would.

## 38

*They made the altar for burning sacrifices, and they made the washbasin*

<sup>1</sup> Several men helped Bezalel to make the altar for burning sacrifices. They made it from acacia wood. It was square, ◀7-1/2 feet/2.2 meters▶ on each side, and it was ◀4-1/2 feet/1.3 meters▶ high. <sup>2</sup> They made a *projection that looked like a horn* on each of the top corners. The projections were carved from the same block of wood that the altar *was made of*. They covered the whole altar with bronze. <sup>3</sup> They made the pans in which to put the greasy ashes *from the animal sacrifices*. They also made the shovels for cleaning out the ashes. They made the basins and forks for turning the meat as it cooked, and buckets for carrying hot coals/ashes. All of those things were made from bronze. <sup>4</sup> They also made a bronze grating to hold the wood and burning coals. They put the grating under the rim that went around the altar. *They made it so that it was inside the altar*, halfway down. <sup>5</sup> They made bronze rings in which to put the poles *for carrying the altar*, and fastened one of them to each of the corners of the altar. <sup>6</sup> They made the poles from acacia wood and covered them with bronze. <sup>7</sup> They put the poles through the rings on each side of the altar. The poles were for carrying the altar. <sup>8</sup> The

altar was *hollow* like an empty box. It was made from boards of *acacia wood*.

They made/cast the washbasin and its base from bronze. The bronze was from the mirrors that belonged to the women who worked at the entrance of the Sacred Tent.

*They made curtains to surround the courtyard*

<sup>9</sup> *Around the Sacred Tent* Bezalel and his helpers made a courtyard. To form the courtyard, they made curtains of fine white linen. On the south side, the curtain was ◀150 feet/46 meters▶ long. <sup>10</sup> *To hang the curtain*, they made 20 bronze posts and 20 bronze bases, *one for under each post*. *To fasten the curtains to the posts*, they made silver hooks, and *they made metal rods covered with silver*. <sup>11</sup> They made the same kind of curtains, posts, bases, and hooks for the north side of the courtyard. <sup>12</sup> On the west side *of the courtyard*, they made a curtain ◀75 feet/23 meters▶ long. They also made ten posts on which to hang the curtains, and ten bases, with silver hooks and *metal rods covered with silver*. <sup>13</sup> On the east side, *where the entrance is*, the courtyard was ◀75 feet/23 meters▶ wide. <sup>14-15</sup> On each side of the entrance, they made a curtain ◀22-1/2 feet/6.6 meters▶ wide. On each side they *were hung from* three posts, and one base was under each post. <sup>16</sup> All the curtains around the courtyard were made from fine white linen. <sup>17</sup> All the posts around the courtyard were made of bronze, but the tops were covered with silver. The posts were connected with *metal rods covered with silver*. The clasps/fasteners

and hooks were made of silver. <sup>18</sup> For the entrance of the courtyard, they made a curtain from fine white linen, and a skilled weaver embroidered it with blue, purple, and red yarn/thread. The curtain was ◀30 feet/9 meters▶ long and ◀7-1/2 feet/2.3 meters▶ high, just like the other curtains around the courtyard. <sup>19</sup> All the curtains were made of fine white linen. They were supported by four posts, and *under each post* was a base made of bronze. All the posts around the courtyard were connected with *metal rods covered with silver*. The clasps/fasteners were made of silver, and the tops of the posts were covered with silver. <sup>20</sup> All the tent pegs to support the Sacred Tent and the curtains around the courtyard were made of bronze.

### *A list of the materials used*

<sup>21</sup> Here is a list of the amounts of metal used to make the Sacred Tent. Moses/I told *some men from* the tribe of Levi to *count all the materials used and* write down the amounts. Ithamar, the son of Aaron the priest, supervised those men.

<sup>22</sup> Bezalel the son of Uri and grandson of Hur made all the things that Yahweh commanded Moses/me to be made. <sup>23</sup> Bezalel's helper was Oholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. Oholiab was a skilled engraver who made artistic things. He made fine white linen, and he embroidered designs using blue, purple, and red yarn/thread. He also made other cloth. <sup>24</sup> All the gold that was used to make the Sacred Tent weighed ◀2,195 pounds/1,000 kg.▶. They used the official standard when they weighed the gold.

<sup>25</sup> All the silver that the people contributed when the leaders ◀took the census/counted the men▶ weighed ◀7,500 pounds/3,400 kg.▶. They also used the official standard when they weighed the silver. <sup>26</sup> All the men who were at least 20 years old were counted, and they each paid the required amount. That was a total of 603,550 men. <sup>27</sup> They used ◀75 pounds/34 kg.▶ of silver for making/casting each of the 100 bases to *put under the posts to support* the curtains of the Sacred Tent. <sup>28</sup> Bezalel and his helpers used the ◀50 pounds/30 kg.▶ of silver that was not used for the bases to make the rods and the hooks for the posts, and to cover the tops of the posts. <sup>29</sup> The bronze that the people contributed weighed ◀5,310 pounds/2,425 kg.▶. <sup>30</sup> With the bronze, Bezalel and his helpers made the bases for under the posts at the entrance of the Sacred Tent. They also made the altar for burning sacrifices, the grating for it and the tools used with it, <sup>31</sup> the bases for the posts *that supported the curtains* that surrounded the courtyard and the bases for the entrance to the courtyard, and the pegs for the Sacred Tent and for *the curtains around* the courtyard.

## 39

### *They made the sacred clothes for Aaron*

<sup>1</sup> Bezalel, Oholiab, and the other skilled workmen made the beautiful clothes for Aaron to wear while he did his work as a priest in the Holy Place. They made them from blue, purple, and red cloth, just as Yahweh had commanded

Moses/me. <sup>2</sup> They made the sacred apron from fine white linen and from blue, purple, and red cloth. <sup>3</sup> They hammered some thin sheets of gold and cut them into thin strips which they embroidered into the fine linen and into the blue, purple, and red cloth. <sup>4</sup> The apron had two shoulder straps, to join the front part to the back part at the shoulders. <sup>5</sup> A carefully-woven sash, which was made from the same materials as the sacred apron, was *sewn* onto the sacred apron. This was made exactly as Yahweh had commanded Moses/me. <sup>6</sup> They cut two valuable onyx stones and enclosed them in a tiny gold frame, and a skilled gem-cutter engraved on the stones the names of the twelve sons of Jacob. <sup>7</sup> They fastened the stones to the shoulder straps of the sacred apron, to represent the twelve Israeli tribes, exactly as Yahweh had commanded Moses/me. <sup>8</sup> They made the sacred chest pouch. They made it of the same materials as the sacred apron and embroidered it in the same way. <sup>9</sup> It was square, and the material was folded double, so that it was ◀9 in./22 cm.▶ long and ◀9 in./22 cm.▶ wide. <sup>10</sup> They fastened four rows of valuable stones onto the pouch. In the first row, they put a *red* ruby, a *yellow* topaz, and a *red* garnet. <sup>11</sup> In the second row, they put a *green* emerald, a *blue* sapphire, and a *clear/white* diamond. <sup>12</sup> In the third row they put a *red* jacinth, a *white* agate, and a *purple* amethyst. <sup>13</sup> In the fourth row, they put a *yellow* beryl, a *red* carnelian, and a *green* jasper. They set each of the stones in tiny gold frames. <sup>14</sup> On each

of the twelve stones they engraved the name of one of the sons of Jacob, to represent one of the twelve Israeli tribes. <sup>15</sup> They made two *chains* from pure gold and braided them like cords, to *attach* the sacred pouch to the sacred apron. <sup>16</sup> They made two gold rings, and they attached them to the upper corners of the sacred pouch. <sup>17</sup> They fastened one end of each cord to one of the rings. <sup>18</sup> They fastened the other end of each cord to the two ◀settings/tiny frames▶ that enclosed the stones. Then they attached the sacred pouch to the shoulder straps of the sacred apron. <sup>19</sup> Then they made two more gold rings and attached them to the lower corners of the sacred pouch, on the inside edges, next to the sacred apron. <sup>20</sup> They made two more gold rings and attached them to the lower part of the front of the shoulder straps, near to where the *shoulder straps* were joined to the sacred apron, just above the carefully-woven sash/waistband. <sup>21</sup> They tied the rings on the sacred pouch to the rings on the sacred apron with a blue cord, so that the sacred pouch was above the sash/waistband and would not come loose from the sacred apron.

*They made other special clothes for the priests*

<sup>22</sup> They made the robe that is to be worn underneath the priest's sacred apron, using only blue *cloth*. <sup>23</sup> It had an opening through which the *priest* would put his head. They sewed a border around this opening, to prevent the material from tearing. <sup>24</sup> At the lower edge

on the robe, they fastened *decorations that resembled* pomegranate fruit. The decorations were *woven from* blue, purple, and red yarn/thread. <sup>25</sup> Between each of these decorations, they fastened a tiny bell made from pure gold, so there was a bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate, alternating all around the hem of the robe <sup>26</sup> for *Aaron to wear while* he did his work as a priest. They made all these things exactly as Yahweh had commanded Moses/me.

<sup>27</sup> They wove long-sleeved tunics/gowns from fine white linen, for Aaron and his sons. <sup>28</sup> They also made a turban of fine linen *for Aaron to wear around his head*. They made the caps and the undershorts *for Aaron's sons* from fine linen.

<sup>29</sup> They made the embroidered sash/waistband *for Aaron* from fine linen and from blue, purple, and red cloth, and they embroidered designs on it using blue, purple, and red yarn/thread, exactly as Yahweh had commanded Moses/me.

<sup>30</sup> They also made the tiny ornament of pure gold and had a skilled workman engrave on it the words, 'Dedicated to Yahweh'. <sup>31</sup> They fastened this to the front of the turban by a blue cord, just as Yahweh had commanded Moses/me.

<sup>32</sup> Finally they finished all the work to make the Sacred Tent. They brought to Moses/me all the things that they had made. They had made them exactly as Yahweh had commanded me. <sup>33</sup> They brought to him/me the Sacred Tent and all the things that were used with it: the hooks, the frames, the crossbars, the posts and their bases,

<sup>34</sup> the coverings for the Sacred Tent that were

made of tanned/dyed rams' skins and goatskins, the curtains, <sup>35</sup> the sacred chest that contained the stone slabs *on which the commandments were written*, the poles, the lid for the chest, <sup>36</sup> the table with all the things that were used with it, the sacred bread *that was offered* to God, <sup>37</sup> the lampstand made of pure gold and all its lamps and all the things that were to be used to take care of it, the oil for the lamps, <sup>38</sup> the golden altar *for burning incense*, the oil for anointing, the sweet-smelling incense, the curtain for the entrance to the Sacred Tent, <sup>39</sup> the bronze altar *for burning sacrifices* and its bronze grating, the poles *for carrying* it, and all the other things that were used with it, the washbasin and its base, <sup>40</sup> the curtains *that surrounded* the courtyard, the posts and bases that supported them, the curtain for the entrance to the courtyard and its ropes, the tent pegs, and all the other things that would be used in the Sacred Tent, <sup>41</sup> the beautiful sacred clothes for Aaron to wear when he did his work in the Holy Place, and the special clothes for his sons to wear as they did their work as priests. <sup>42</sup> The Israeli people had done all this work exactly as Yahweh had commanded Moses/me. <sup>43</sup> Then Moses/I saw all the work that they had done. Truly, they had done everything exactly as Yahweh had commanded *that it should be done*. Then Moses/I *asked God* to bless them.

## 40

*They set up the Sacred Tent*

<sup>1</sup> Then Yahweh said to Moses/me, <sup>2</sup> “On the first day of the first month next year, *tell the people to set up the Sacred Tent.* <sup>3</sup> Put inside it the sacred chest *that contains the stone slabs on which are engraved the Ten Commandments,* and hang the curtain in front of it. <sup>4</sup> Bring the table into the Sacred Tent, and place on it all the things that are to be used with it. Bring in the lampstand and fasten the lamps to it. <sup>5</sup> Put the gold altar for *burning* incense in front of the sacred chest, and set up the curtain at the entrance of the Sacred Tent. <sup>6</sup> Put the altar for burning sacrifices in front of the Sacred Tent. <sup>7</sup> Put the washbasin between the Sacred Tent and the altar, and fill it with water. <sup>8</sup> Hang the curtains that will surround the courtyard, and hang the curtain at its entrance. <sup>9</sup> Then take the oil for anointing, and anoint the Sacred Tent and everything that is in it, to ◀set it apart/dedicate it▶ to me. Then it will be holy/sacred. <sup>10</sup> Also anoint the altar for offering sacrifices that will be completely burned, and all the things that will be used with it, and set it apart. Then it also will be holy/sacred. <sup>11</sup> Also anoint the washbasin and its base, to set it apart. <sup>12</sup> Then bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance of the Sacred Tent, and wash them *ritually* with water. <sup>13</sup> Then put on Aaron his sacred clothes to ◀set him apart/dedicate him▶, in order that he can serve me as a priest. <sup>14</sup> Also bring his sons there. Put their sacred tunics/gowns on them <sup>15</sup> and anoint them just as you anointed their father, in order that they also may serve me by working as priests. By

anointing them *and their descendants*, you will cause them and their descendants to be priests throughout all coming generations.”

<sup>16</sup> Moses/I did all these things exactly as Yahweh had commanded him/me. <sup>17</sup> On the first day of the first month of the next year (OR, second year *after they/we left Egypt*), the people set up the Sacred Tent. <sup>18</sup> Following Moses’/my instructions, they set up the Sacred Tent and its bases, set up the frames, attached the crossbars, and put up the posts *for the curtains*. <sup>19</sup> Then they spread out the coverings over the Sacred Tent, exactly as Yahweh had commanded. <sup>20</sup> Then he/I took the two stone slabs *on which the commandments were written* and put them in the sacred chest. He/I put the carrying poles *in the rings* on the chest and put the lid on top of the chest. <sup>21</sup> Then he/I took the chest into *the Very Holy Place inside* the Sacred Tent and hung the curtain. In that way, he/I prevented the people who were outside from seeing the chest. He/I did all this exactly as Yahweh had commanded him/me. <sup>22</sup> He/I set the table inside the Sacred Tent, on the north side, outside the curtain. <sup>23</sup> He/I placed on the table the bread that was offered to Yahweh, exactly as Yahweh had commanded. <sup>24</sup> He/I set the lampstand inside the Sacred Tent, on the south side, opposite the table. <sup>25</sup> Then he/I fastened the lamps to the lampstand in Yahweh’s presence, exactly as Yahweh had commanded. <sup>26</sup> He/I set the golden altar for burning incense inside the Sacred Tent, in front of the curtain *that separated the Holy Place from*

*the Very Holy Place*, <sup>27</sup> and he/I burned some sweet-smelling incense on it, exactly as Yahweh had commanded him/me. <sup>28</sup> He/I hung the curtain at the entrance to the Sacred Tent. <sup>29</sup> At the entrance to the Sacred Tent, he/I set the altar for offering sacrifices that were to be burned completely. Then he/I offered on it the meat that was to be burned completely and the grain offering, exactly as Yahweh had commanded him/me. <sup>30</sup> He/I set the washbasin between the Sacred Tent and the *bronze* altar, and he/I filled the washbasin with water. <sup>31-32</sup> Every time Moses/I and Aaron and his sons went into the Sacred Tent or went to the altar, they/we washed their/our hands and feet *ritually*, exactly as Yahweh had commanded Moses/me. <sup>33</sup> Following Moses'/my instructions, they hung the curtains that surrounded the courtyard and the altar, and they hung the curtain at the entrance to the courtyard. So Moses/I finished that work.

*Yahweh's brilliant light filled the Sacred Tent*

<sup>34</sup> Then the *tall bright* cloud covered the Sacred Tent, and Yahweh's ◀glory/brilliant light▶ filled the Sacred Tent. <sup>35</sup> Because that light was very bright, Moses/I was not able to enter the Sacred Tent. <sup>36</sup> From that day, whenever the Israeli people wanted to move to another place, they went only when the bright cloud rose from above the Sacred Tent. <sup>37</sup> If the cloud did not rise, they stayed where they were and did not go on until the cloud rose. <sup>38</sup> Wherever they traveled, the bright cloud that *indicated* Yahweh's *presence* was above the Sacred Tent during the day, and a

*bright* fire was inside the cloud at night, with the result that all the Israeli people [MTY] could see it *at any time*.

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