Exodus

1 These are the names of the sons of Israel who
went to Egypt with Jacob, each with his family:

2 Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah;
3 Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin;
4 Dan and Naphtali;
Gad and Asher.
5 The descendants of Jacob numbered
seventy* in all, including Joseph, who was
already in Egypt.
6 Now Joseph and all his brothers and all that
generation died,
7 but the Israelites were fruitful and increased
rapidly; they multiplied and became exceedingly
numerous, so that the land was filled with them.
8 Then a new king, who did not know Joseph,
came to power in Egypt.
9 "Look," he said to his people, "the Israelites
have become too numerous and too powerful
for us.
10 Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or
they will increase even more; and if a war
breaks out, they may join our enemies, fight
against us, and leave the country.†"
11 So the Egyptians appointed taskmasters
over the Israelites to oppress them with forced

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* **1:5 1:5** MT (see also Genesis 46:27); DSS and LXX *seventy-five*
† **1:10 1:10** Or *and take the country*

labor. As a result, they built Pithom and
Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh.
12 But the more they were oppressed, the more
they multiplied and flourished; so the Egyptians
came to dread the Israelites.

13 They worked the Israelites ruthlessly
14 and made their lives bitter with hard labor
in brick and mortar, and with all kinds of work
in the fields. Every service they imposed was
harsh.

15 Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew
midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and
Puah,
16 "When you help the Hebrew women give
birth, observe them on the birthstools. If the
child is a son, kill him; but if it is a daughter, let
her live."

17 The midwives, however, feared God and did
not do as the king of Egypt had instructed; they
let the boys live.
18 So the king of Egypt summoned the
midwives and asked them, "Why have you done
this? Why have you let the boys live?"

19 The midwives answered Pharaoh, "The
Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian
women, for they are vigorous and give birth
before a midwife arrives."

20 So God was good to the midwives, and the
people multiplied and became even more
numerous.
21 And because the midwives feared God, he
gave them families of their own.

22 Then Pharaoh commanded all his people:
“Every son born‡ you must throw into the Nile,
but every daughter you may allow to live.”

2

1 Now a man of the house of Levi married a
Levite woman,
2 and she conceived and gave birth to a son.
When she saw that he was a beautiful child, she
hid him for three months.
3 But when she could no longer hide him, she
got him a papyrus basket* and coated it with tar
and pitch. Then she placed the child in the
basket and set it among the reeds along the bank
of the Nile.
4 And his sister stood at a distance to see what
would happen to him.
5 Soon the daughter of Pharaoh went down to
bathe in the Nile, and her attendants were
walking along the riverbank. And when she saw
the basket among the reeds, she sent her
maidservant to retrieve it.
6 When she opened it, she saw the child, and
behold, the little boy was crying. So she had
compassion on him and said, “This is one of the
Hebrew children.”
7 Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter,
“Shall I go and call one of the Hebrew women to
nurse the child for you?”
8 “Go ahead,” Pharaoh’s daughter told her. And
the girl went and called the boy’s mother.

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‡ **1:22 1:22** SP, LXX, and Targum Yonaton add *to the Hebrews*

* **2:3 2:3** The Hebrew can also mean *ark*; also in verse 5; see Genesis 6:14.

9 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this
child and nurse him for me, and I will pay your
wages." So the woman took the boy and nursed
him.
10 When the child had grown older, she
brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he
became her son. She named him Moses† and
explained, "I drew him out of the water."
11 One day, after Moses had grown up, he went
out to his own people‡ and observed their hard
labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew,
one of his own people.
12 After looking this way and that and seeing
no one, he struck down the Egyptian and hid his
body in the sand.
13 The next day Moses went out and saw two
Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the
wrong, "Why are you attacking your
companion?"
14 But the man replied, "Who made you ruler
and judge over us? Are you planning to kill me
as you killed the Egyptian?§"

Then Moses was afraid and thought, "This
thing I have done has surely become known."
15 When Pharaoh heard about this matter, he
sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from
Pharaoh and settled in the land of Midian,
where he sat down beside a well.

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† **2:10 2:10** *Moses* sounds like a Hebrew term that means *to lift out.* ‡ **2:11 2:11** Or *his brothers* § **2:14 2:14** LXX *Are you planning to kill me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?*

16 Now the priest of Midian had seven
daughters, and they came to draw water and fill
the troughs to water their father's flock.
17 And when some shepherds came along and
drove them away, Moses rose up to help them
and watered their flock.
18 When the daughters returned to their father
Reuel,* he asked them, "Why have you returned
so early today?"
19 "An Egyptian rescued us from the
shepherds," they replied. "He even drew water
for us and watered the flock."
20 "So where is he?" their father asked. "Why
did you leave the man behind? Invite him to
have something to eat."
21 Moses agreed to stay with the man, and he
gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses in
marriage.
22 And she gave birth to a son, and Moses
named him Gershom,† saying, "I have become a
foreigner in a foreign land."
23 After a long time, the king of Egypt died.
The Israelites groaned and cried out under their
burden of slavery, and their cry for deliverance
from bondage ascended to God.
24 So God heard their groaning, and he
remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac,
and Jacob.
25 God saw the Israelites and took notice.

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* **2:18 2:18** *Reuel* was also called *Jethro*; see Exodus 3:1. † **2:22 2:22** *Gershom* sounds like the Hebrew for *foreigner*.

3

1 Meanwhile, Moses was shepherding the flock
of his father-in-law Jethro,* the priest of Midian.
He led the flock to the far side of the wilderness
and came to Horeb,† the mountain of God.
2 There the angel of the LORD appeared to him
in a blazing fire from within a bush. Moses saw
the bush ablaze with fire, but it was not
consumed.
3 So Moses thought, "I must go over and see
this marvelous sight. Why is the bush not
burning up?"
4 When the LORD saw that he had gone over
to look, God called out to him from within the
bush, "Moses, Moses!"
"Here I am," he answered.
5 "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off
your sandals, for the place where you are
standing is holy ground."
6 Then he said, "I am the God of your father,
the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the
God of Jacob."
At this, Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to
look at God.
7 The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the
affliction of my people in Egypt. I have heard
them crying out because of their oppressors,
and I am aware of their sufferings.
8 I have come down to rescue them from the
hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out

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* **3:1 3:1** Moses' father-in-law *Jethro* was also called *Reuel*; see Exodus 2:18. † **3:1 3:1** That is, Mount Sinai, or possibly a mountain in the range containing Mount Sinai

of that land to a good and spacious land, a land
flowing with milk and honey—the home of the
Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites,
Hivites, and Jebusites.
9 And now the cry of the Israelites has reached
me, and I have seen how severely the Egyptians
are oppressing them.
10 Therefore, go! I am sending you to Pharaoh
to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."
11 But Moses asked God, "Who am I, that I
should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out
of Egypt?"
12 "I will surely be with you," God said, "and
this will be the sign to you that I have sent you:
When you have brought the people out of Egypt,
all of you will worship God on this mountain."
13 Then Moses asked God, "Suppose I go to the
Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your
fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me,
'What is his name?' What should I tell them?"
14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM.‡ This is
what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has
sent me to you.' "
15 God also told Moses, "Say to the Israelites,
'The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of
Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of
Jacob—has sent me to you.' This is my name
forever, and this is how I am to be remembered
in every generation.
16 Go, assemble the elders of Israel and say to
them, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers—the
God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—has

‡ **3:14 3:14** Or *I WILL BE WHAT I WILL BE*

appeared to me and said: I have surely attended
to you and have seen what has been done to you
in Egypt.
17 And I have promised to bring you up out of
your affliction in Egypt, into the land of the
Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites,
Hivites, and Jebusites—a land flowing with milk
and honey.'
18 The elders of Israel will listen to what you
say, and you must go with them to the king of
Egypt and tell him, 'The LORD, the God of the
Hebrews, has met with us. Now please let us
take a three-day journey into the wilderness, so
that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.'
19 But I know that the king of Egypt will not
allow you to go unless a mighty hand compels
him.§
20 So I will stretch out my hand and strike the
Egyptians with all the wonders I will perform
among them. And after that, he will release you.
21 And I will grant this people such favor in
the sight of the Egyptians that when you leave,
you will not go away empty-handed.
22 Every woman shall ask her neighbor and
any woman staying in her house for silver and
gold jewelry and clothing, and you will put them
on your sons and daughters. So you will plunder
the Egyptians."

4

1 Then Moses answered, "What if they do not

§ **3:19 3:19** Literally *except by a mighty hand*

believe me or listen to my voice? For they may
say, 'The LORD has not appeared to you.' "
2 And the LORD asked him, "What is that in
your hand?"
"A staff," he replied.
3 "Throw it on the ground," said the LORD. So
Moses threw it on the ground, and it became a
snake,* and he ran from it.
4 "Stretch out your hand and grab it by the
tail," the LORD said to Moses, who reached out
his hand and caught the snake, and it turned
back into a staff in his hand.
5 "This is so that they may believe that the
LORD, the God of their fathers—the God of
Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of
Jacob—has appeared to you."
6 Furthermore, the LORD said to Moses, "Put
your hand inside your cloak.†" So he put his
hand inside his cloak, and when he took it out,
his hand was leprous,‡ white as snow.
7 "Put your hand back inside your cloak," said
the LORD.
So Moses put his hand back inside his cloak,
and when he took it out, it was restored, like the
rest of his skin.
8 "If they refuse to believe you or heed the
witness of the first sign, they may believe that of
the second.

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* **4:3 4:3** Hebrew *nachash*, in contrast to Aaron's staff, which became a *tannin* in Exodus 7:10 † **4:6 4:6** Hebrew *into your bosom*; twice in this verse and twice in verse 7 ‡ **4:6 4:6** The Hebrew word traditionally translated as *leprous* was used for various skin diseases; see Leviticus 13.

9 But if they do not believe even these two
signs or listen to your voice, take some water
from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground.
Then the water you take from the Nile will
become blood on the ground."
10 "Please, Lord," Moses replied, "I have never
been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you
have spoken to your servant, for I am slow of
speech and tongue."
11 And the LORD said to him, "Who gave man
his mouth? Or who makes the mute or the deaf,
the sighted or the blind? Is it not I, the LORD?
12 Now go! I will help you as you speak, and I
will teach you what to say."
13 But Moses replied, "Please, Lord, send
someone else."
14 Then the anger of the LORD burned against
Moses, and he said, "Is not Aaron the Levite your
brother? I know that he can speak well, and he
is now on his way to meet you. When he sees
you, he will be glad in his heart.
15 You are to speak to him and put the words
in his mouth. I will help both of you to speak,
and I will teach you what to do.
16 He will speak to the people for you. He will
be your spokesman, and it will be as if you were
God to him.
17 But take this staff in your hand so you can
perform signs with it."
18 Then Moses went back to his father-in-law
Jethro§ and said to him, "Please let me return to

§ **4:18 4:18** Moses' father-in-law *Jethro* was also called *Reuel*; see Exodus 2:18.

my brothers in Egypt to see if they are still alive."
"Go in peace," Jethro replied.
19 Now the LORD had said to Moses in Midian,
"Go back to Egypt, for all the men who sought to
kill you are dead."
20 So Moses took his wife and sons, put them
on a donkey, and headed back to Egypt. And he
took the staff of God in his hand.
21 The LORD instructed Moses, "When you go
back to Egypt, see that you perform before
Pharaoh all the wonders that I have put within
your power. But I will stiffen* his heart so that
he will not let the people go.
22 Then tell Pharaoh that this is what the LORD
says: 'Israel is my firstborn son,
23 and I told you to let my son go so that he
may worship me. But since you have refused to
let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son!' "
24 Now at a lodging place along the way, the
LORD met Moses† and was about to kill him.
25 But Zipporah took a flint knife, cut off her
son's foreskin, and touched it to Moses' feet.‡
"Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me,"
she said.
26 So the LORD let him alone. (When she said,
"bridegroom of blood," she was referring to the
circumcision.)
27 Meanwhile, the LORD had said to Aaron,
"Go and meet Moses in the wilderness." So he
went and met Moses at the mountain of God and
kissed him.

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* **4:21 4:21** Or *harden* or *strengthen* † **4:24 4:24** Hebrew *him*
‡ **4:25 4:25** Hebrew *his feet*

28 And Moses told Aaron everything the LORD
had sent him to say, and all the signs he had
commanded him to perform.
29 Then Moses and Aaron went and assembled
all the elders of the Israelites,
30 and Aaron relayed everything the LORD had
said to Moses.
And he performed the signs before the people,
31 and they believed. And when they heard
that the LORD had attended to the Israelites and
had seen their affliction, they bowed down and
worshiped.

5

1 After that, Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh
and said, “This is what the LORD, the God of
Israel, says: ‘Let my people go, so that they may
hold a feast to me in the wilderness.’ ”
2 But Pharaoh replied, “Who is the LORD that I
should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not
know the LORD, and I will not let Israel go.”
3 “The God of the Hebrews has met with us,”
they answered. “Please let us go on a three-day
journey into the wilderness to sacrifice to the
LORD our God, or he may strike us with plagues
or with the sword.”
4 But the king of Egypt said to them, “Moses
and Aaron, why do you draw the people away
from their work? Get back to your labor!”
5 Pharaoh also said, “Look, the people of the
land are now numerous, and you would be
stopping them from their labor.”
6 That same day Pharaoh commanded the
taskmasters of the people and their foremen:

7 “You shall no longer supply the people with
straw for making bricks. They must go and
gather their own straw.
8 But require of them the same quota of bricks
as before; do not reduce it. For they are lazy;
that is why they are crying out, ‘Let us go and
sacrifice to our God.’
9 Make the work harder on the men so they
will be occupied and pay no attention to these
lies.”
10 So the taskmasters and foremen of the
people went out and said to them, “This is what
Pharaoh says: ‘I am no longer giving you straw.
11 Go and get your own straw wherever you
can find it; but your workload will in no way be
reduced.’ ”
12 So the people scattered all over the land of
Egypt to gather stubble for straw.
13 The taskmasters kept pressing them, saying,
“Fulfill your quota each day, just as you did
when straw was provided.”
14 Then the Israelite foremen, whom Pharaoh’s
taskmasters had set over the people, were
beaten and asked, “Why have you not fulfilled
your quota of bricks yesterday or today, as you
did before?”
15 So the Israelite foremen went and appealed
to Pharaoh: “Why are you treating your servants
this way?
16 No straw has been given to your servants,
yet we are told, ‘Make bricks!’ Look, your
servants are being beaten, but the fault is with
your own people.”

17 “You are slackers!” Pharaoh replied.
“Slackers! That is why you keep saying, ‘Let us
go and sacrifice to the LORD.’
18 Now get to work. You will be given no straw,
yet you must deliver the full quota of bricks.”
19 The Israelite foremen realized they were in
trouble when they were told, “You must not
reduce your daily quota of bricks.”
20 When they left Pharaoh, they confronted
Moses and Aaron, who stood waiting to meet
them.
21 “May the LORD look upon you and judge
you,” the foremen said, “for you have made us a
stench before Pharaoh and his officials; you
have placed in their hand a sword to kill us!”
22 So Moses returned to the LORD and asked,
“Lord, why have you brought trouble upon this
people? Is this why you sent me?
23 Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in
your name, he has brought trouble on this
people, and you have not delivered your people
in any way.”

6

1 But the LORD said to Moses, “Now you will
see what I will do to Pharaoh, for with a mighty
hand he will let the people go; with a strong
hand he will drive them out of his land.”
2 God also told Moses, “I am the LORD.
3 I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob
as God Almighty,* but by my name the LORD I
did not make myself known to them.

* **6:3 6:3** Hebrew *El-Shaddai*

4 I also established my covenant with them to
give them the land of Canaan, the land where
they lived as foreigners.
5 Furthermore, I have heard the groaning of
the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are
enslaving, and I have remembered my covenant.
6 Therefore tell the Israelites: 'I am the LORD,
and I will bring you out from under the yoke of
the Egyptians and deliver you from their
bondage. I will redeem you with an outstretched
arm and with mighty acts of judgment.
7 I will take you as my own people, and I will
be your God. Then you will know that I am the
LORD your God, who brought you out from
under the yoke of the Egyptians.
8 And I will bring you into the land that I
swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I
will give it to you as a possession. I am the
LORD!' "
9 Moses relayed this message to the Israelites,
but on account of their broken spirit and cruel
bondage, they did not listen to him.
10 So the LORD said to Moses,
11 "Go and tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the
Israelites go out of his land."
12 But in the LORD's presence Moses replied,
"If the Israelites will not listen to me, then why
would Pharaoh listen to me, since I am unskilled
in speech?†"
13 Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron
and gave them a charge concerning both the

† **6:12 6:12** Hebrew *I have uncircumcised lips*; also in verse 30

Israelites and Pharaoh king of Egypt, to bring
the Israelites out of the land of Egypt.
14 These were the heads of their fathers'
houses:

The sons of Reuben, the firstborn of Israel,
were Hanoch and Pallu, Hezron and Carmi.
These were the clans of Reuben.
15 The sons of Simeon were Jemuel, Jamin,
Ohad, Jachin, Zohar,‡ and Shaul, the son of a
Canaanite woman. These were the clans of
Simeon.
16 These were the names of the sons of Levi
according to their records: Gershon, Kohath,
and Merari. Levi lived 137 years.
17 The sons of Gershon were Libni and Shimei,
by their clans.
18 The sons of Kohath were Amram, Izhar,
Hebron, and Uzziel. Kohath lived 133 years.
19 The sons of Merari were Mahli and Mushi.
These were the clans of the Levites according
to their records.
20 And Amram married his father's sister
Jochebed, and she bore him Aaron and
Moses. Amram lived 137 years.
21 The sons of Izhar were Korah, Nepheg, and
Zichri.
22 The sons of Uzziel were Mishael, Elzaphan,§
and Sithri.
23 And Aaron married Elisheba, the daughter
of Amminadab and sister of Nahshon, and

‡ **6:15 6:15** *Zohar* is a variant of *Zerah*; see Numbers 26:13 and 1 Chronicles 4:24. § **6:22 6:22** *Elzaphan* is a variant of *Elizaphan*; see Numbers 3:30.

she bore him Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and
Ithamar.
24 The sons of Korah were Assir, Elkanah, and
Abiasaph.* These were the clans of the
Korahites.
25 Aaron's son Eleazar married one of the
daughters of Putiel, and she bore him
Phinehas.
These were the heads of the Levite families by
their clans.
26 It was this Aaron and Moses to whom the
LORD said, "Bring the Israelites out of the land of
Egypt by their divisions."
27 Moses and Aaron were the ones who spoke
to Pharaoh king of Egypt in order to bring the
Israelites out of Egypt.
28 Now on the day that the LORD spoke to
Moses in Egypt,
29 he said to him, "I am the LORD; tell Pharaoh
king of Egypt everything I say to you."
30 But in the LORD's presence Moses replied,
"Since I am unskilled in speech, why would
Pharaoh listen to me?"

7

1 The LORD answered Moses, "See, I have
made you a god to Pharaoh, and your brother
Aaron will be your prophet.
2 You are to speak all that I command you, and
your brother Aaron is to tell Pharaoh to let the
Israelites go out of his land.

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* **6:24 6:24** *Abiasaph* is a variant of *Ebiasaph*; see 1 Chronicles 6:8 and 1 Chronicles 9:19.

3 But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and
though I will multiply my signs and wonders in
the land of Egypt,
4 Pharaoh will not listen to you.
Then I will lay my hand on Egypt, and by
mighty acts of judgment I will bring the
divisions of my people the Israelites out of the
land of Egypt.
5 And the Egyptians will know that I am the
LORD, when I stretch out my hand against Egypt
and bring the Israelites out from among them."
6 So Moses and Aaron did just as the LORD had
commanded them.
7 Moses was eighty years old and Aaron was
eighty-three when they spoke to Pharaoh.
8 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron,
9 "When Pharaoh tells you, 'Perform a
miracle,' you are to say to Aaron, 'Take your staff
and throw it down before Pharaoh,' and it will
become a serpent.*"
10 So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and
did just as the LORD had commanded. Aaron
threw his staff down before Pharaoh and his
officials, and it became a serpent.
11 But Pharaoh called the wise men and
sorcerers and magicians of Egypt, and they also
did the same things by their magic arts.
12 Each one threw down his staff, and it
became a serpent. But Aaron's staff swallowed
up the other staffs.

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* **7:9 7:9** Hebrew *tannin*; here and in verse 10, in contrast to Moses' staff, which became a *nachash* in Exodus 4:3 and was noted again in Exodus 7:15

13 Still, Pharaoh's heart was stiffened,† and he
would not listen to them, just as the LORD had
said.

14 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Pharaoh's
heart is stubborn;‡ he refuses to let the people
go.

15 Go to Pharaoh in the morning as you see
him walking out to the water. Wait on the bank
of the Nile to meet him, and take in your hand
the staff that was changed into a snake.

16 Then say to him, 'The LORD, the God of the
Hebrews, has sent me to tell you: Let my people
go, so that they may worship me in the
wilderness. But until now you have not listened.

17 This is what the LORD says: By this you will
know that I am the LORD. Behold, with the staff
in my hand I will strike the water of the Nile,
and it will turn to blood.

18 The fish in the Nile will die, the river will
stink, and the Egyptians will be unable to drink
its water.' "

19 And the LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron,
'Take your staff and stretch out your hand over
the waters of Egypt—over their rivers and
canals and ponds and all the reservoirs—that
they may become blood.' There will be blood
throughout the land of Egypt, even in the vessels
of wood and stone."

20 Moses and Aaron did just as the LORD had
commanded; in the presence of Pharaoh and his

† **7:13** **7:13** Or *hardened* or *strengthened*; also in verse 22 ‡ **7:14** **7:14** Or *heavy* or *unyielding*

officials, Aaron raised the staff§ and struck the
water of the Nile, and all the water was turned
to blood.
21 The fish in the Nile died, and the river
smelled so bad that the Egyptians could not
drink its water. And there was blood throughout
the land of Egypt.
22 But the magicians of Egypt did the same
things by their magic arts. So Pharaoh's heart
was stiffened, and he would not listen to Moses
and Aaron, just as the LORD had said.
23 Instead, Pharaoh turned around, went into
his palace, and did not take any of this to heart.
24 So all the Egyptians dug around the Nile for
water to drink, because they could not drink the
water from the river.
25 And seven full days passed after the LORD
had struck the Nile.
26 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to
Pharaoh and tell him that this is what the LORD
says: 'Let my people go, so that they may
worship me.
27 But if you refuse to let them go, I will plague
your whole country with frogs.
28 The Nile will teem with frogs, and they will
come into your palace and up to your bedroom
and onto your bed, into the houses of your
officials and your people, and into your ovens
and kneading bowls.
29 The frogs will come up on you and your
people and all your officials.' "

§ **7:20 7:20** Hebrew *he raised the staff*; see verse 19; some translators *Moses raised the staff*.

8

1 And the LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron,
‘Stretch out your hand with your staff over the
rivers and canals and ponds, and cause the frogs
to come up onto the land of Egypt.’ ”
2 So Aaron stretched out his hand over the
waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and
covered the land of Egypt.
3 But the magicians did the same thing by
their magic arts, and they also brought frogs up
onto the land of Egypt.
4 Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and
said, “Pray to the LORD to take the frogs away
from me and my people. Then I will let your
people go, that they may sacrifice to the LORD.”
5 Moses said to Pharaoh, “You may have the
honor over me. When shall I pray for you and
your officials and your people that the frogs
(except for those in the Nile) may be taken away
from you and your houses?”
6 “Tomorrow,” Pharaoh answered.
“May it be as you say,” Moses replied, “so that
you may know that there is no one like the
LORD our God.
7 The frogs will depart from you and your
houses and your officials and your people; they
will remain only in the Nile.”
8 After Moses and Aaron had left Pharaoh,
Moses cried out to the LORD for help with the
frogs that he had brought against Pharaoh.
9 And the LORD did as Moses requested, and
the frogs in the houses, the courtyards, and the
fields died.

10 They were piled into countless heaps, and
there was a terrible stench in the land.
11 When Pharaoh saw that there was relief,
however, he hardened* his heart and would not
listen to Moses and Aaron, just as the LORD had
said.
12 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron,
‘Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the
earth, that it may turn into swarms of gnats
throughout the land of Egypt.’ ”
13 This they did, and when Aaron stretched
out his hand with his staff and struck the dust of
the earth, gnats came upon man and beast. All
the dust of the earth turned into gnats
throughout the land of Egypt.
14 The magicians tried to produce gnats using
their magic arts, but they could not. And the
gnats remained on man and beast.
15 “This is the finger of God,” the magicians
said to Pharaoh. But Pharaoh’s heart was
stiffened,† and he would not listen to them, just
as the LORD had said.
16 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Get up early
in the morning, and when Pharaoh goes out to
the water, stand before him and tell him that
this is what the LORD says: ‘Let my people go, so
that they may worship me.
17 But if you will not let my people go, I will
send swarms of flies‡ upon you and your
officials and your people and your houses. The

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* **8:11 8:11** Or *made heavy*; also in verse 28 † **8:15 8:15** Or *hardened* or *strengthened* ‡ **8:17 8:17** Literally *a noxious mixture*; also in verses 18, 20, 25, and 27

houses of the Egyptians and even the ground
where they stand will be full of flies.
18 But on that day I will give special treatment
to the land of Goshen, where my people live; no
swarms of flies will be found there. In this way
you will know that I, the LORD, am in the land.
19 I will set redemption§ between my people
and your people. This sign will take place
tomorrow.' "
20 And the LORD did so. Thick swarms of flies
poured into Pharaoh's palace and into the
houses of his officials. Throughout Egypt the
land was ruined by swarms of flies.
21 Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron
and said, "Go, sacrifice to your God within this
land."
22 But Moses replied, "It would not be right to
do that, because the sacrifices we offer to the
LORD our God would be detestable to the
Egyptians. If we offer sacrifices that are
detestable before the Egyptians, will they not
stone us?
23 We must make a three-day journey into the
wilderness and sacrifice to the LORD our God as
he commands us."
24 Pharaoh answered, "I will let you go and
sacrifice to the LORD your God in the wilderness,
but you must not go very far. Now pray for me."
25 "As soon as I leave you," Moses said, "I will
pray to the LORD, so that tomorrow the swarms
of flies will depart from Pharaoh and his
officials and his people. But Pharaoh must not

§ **8:19 8:19** LXX and Vulgate *I will make a distinction*

act deceitfully again by refusing to let the people
go and sacrifice to the LORD."
26 Then Moses left Pharaoh and prayed to the
LORD,
27 and the LORD did as Moses requested. He
removed the swarms of flies from Pharaoh and
his officials and his people; not one fly remained.
28 But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time as
well, and he would not let the people go.

9

1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh
and tell him that this is what the LORD, the God
of the Hebrews, says: 'Let my people go, so that
they may worship me.
2 But if you continue to restrain them and
refuse to let them go,
3 then the hand of the LORD will bring a
severe plague on your livestock in the field—on
your horses, donkeys, camels, herds, and flocks.
4 But the LORD will make a distinction
between the livestock of Israel and the livestock
of Egypt, so that no animal belonging to the
Israelites will die.' "
5 The LORD set a time, saying, "Tomorrow the
LORD will do this in the land."
6 And the next day the LORD did just that. All
the livestock of the Egyptians died, but not one
animal belonging to the Israelites died.
7 Pharaoh sent officials and found that none of
the livestock of the Israelites had died. But
Pharaoh's heart was hardened,* and he would
not let the people go.

* **9:7 9:7** Or *made heavy*; also in verse 34

8 Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron,
“Take handfuls of soot from the furnace; in the
sight of Pharaoh, Moses is to toss it into the air.
9 It will become fine dust over all the land of
Egypt, and festering boils will break out on man
and beast throughout the land.”
10 So they took soot from the furnace and stood
before Pharaoh. Moses tossed it into the air, and
festering boils broke out on man and beast.
11 The magicians could not stand before
Moses, because the boils had broken out on
them and on all the Egyptians.
12 But the LORD stiffened† Pharaoh’s heart,
and he would not listen to them, just as the
LORD had said to Moses.
13 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Get up early
in the morning, stand before Pharaoh, and tell
him that this is what the LORD, the God of the
Hebrews, says: ‘Let my people go, so that they
may worship me.
14 Otherwise, I will send all my plagues against
you‡ and your officials and your people, so you
may know that there is no one like me in all the
earth.
15 For by this time I could have stretched out
my hand and struck you and your people with a
plague to wipe you off the earth.
16 But I have spared you§ for this very
purpose, that I might display my power to you,*

† **9:12 9:12** Or *hardened* or *strengthened*; also in verse 35 ‡ **9:14 9:14** Hebrew *against your heart* or *against your inner man* § **9:16 9:16** Or *have raised you up* * **9:16 9:16** LXX *in you*

and that my name might be proclaimed in all
the earth.
17 Still, you lord it over my people and do not
allow them to go.
18 Behold, at this time tomorrow I will rain
down the worst hail that has ever fallen on
Egypt, from the day it was founded until now.
19 So give orders now to shelter your livestock
and everything you have in the field. Every man
or beast that remains in the field and is not
brought inside will die when the hail comes
down upon them.' "
20 Those among Pharaoh's officials who feared
the word of the LORD hurried to bring their
servants and livestock to shelter,
21 but those who disregarded the word of the
LORD left their servants and livestock in the
field.
22 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out
your hand toward heaven, so that hail may fall
on all the land of Egypt—on man and beast and
every plant of the field throughout the land of
Egypt."
23 So Moses stretched out his staff toward
heaven, and the LORD sent thunder and hail,
and lightning struck the earth. So the LORD
rained down hail upon the land of Egypt.
24 The hail fell and the lightning continued
flashing through it. The hail was so severe that
nothing like it had ever been seen in all the land
of Egypt from the time it became a nation.
25 Throughout the land of Egypt, the hail
struck down everything in the field, both man

and beast; it beat down every plant of the field
and stripped every tree.
26 The only place where it did not hail was in
the land of Goshen, where the Israelites lived.

27 Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron.
"This time I have sinned," he said. "The LORD is
righteous, and I and my people are wicked.
28 Pray to the LORD, for there has been enough
of God's thunder and hail. I will let you go; you
do not need to stay any longer."

29 Moses said to him, "When I have left the city,
I will spread out my hands to the LORD. The
thunder will cease, and there will be no more
hail, so that you may know that the earth is the
LORD's.
30 But as for you and your officials, I know that
you still do not fear the LORD God."

31 (Now the flax and barley were destroyed,
since the barley was ripe and the flax was in
bloom;
32 but the wheat and spelt were not destroyed,
because they are late crops.)

33 Then Moses departed from Pharaoh, went
out of the city, and spread out his hands to the
LORD. The thunder and hail ceased, and the rain
no longer poured down on the land.

34 When Pharaoh saw that the rain and hail
and thunder had ceased, he sinned again and
hardened his heart—he and his officials.
35 So Pharaoh's heart was stiffened, and he
would not let the Israelites go, just as the LORD
had said through Moses.

10

1 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go to
Pharaoh, for I have hardened* his heart and the
hearts of his officials, that I may perform these
miraculous signs of mine among them,
2 and that you may tell your children and
grandchildren how severely I dealt with the
Egyptians when I performed miraculous signs
among them, so that all of you may know that I
am the LORD.”
3 So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and
told him, “This is what the LORD, the God of the
Hebrews, says: ‘How long will you refuse to
humble yourself before me? Let my people go,
so that they may worship me.
4 But if you refuse to let my people go, I will
bring locusts into your territory tomorrow.
5 They will cover the face of the land so that
no one can see it. They will devour whatever is
left after the hail and eat every tree that grows
in your fields.
6 They will fill your houses and the houses of
all your officials and every Egyptian—something
neither your fathers nor your grandfathers have
seen since the day they came into this land.’ ”

Then Moses turned and left Pharaoh’s
presence.

7 Pharaoh’s officials asked him, “How long will
this man be a snare to us? Let the people go, so
that they may worship the LORD their God. Do
you not yet realize that Egypt lies in ruins?”

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* **10:1 10:1** Or *made heavy*

8 So Moses and Aaron were brought back to
Pharaoh. “Go, worship the LORD your God,” he
said. “But who exactly will be going?”

9 “We will go with our young and old,” Moses
replied. “We will go with our sons and
daughters, and with our flocks and herds, for we
must hold a feast to the LORD.”

10 Then Pharaoh told them, “May the LORD be
with you if I ever let you go with your little ones.
Clearly you are bent on evil.

11 No, only the men may go and worship the
LORD, since that is what you have been
requesting.” And Moses and Aaron were driven
from Pharaoh’s presence.

12 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out
your hand over the land of Egypt, so that the
locusts may swarm over it and devour every
plant in the land—everything that the hail has
left behind.”

13 So Moses stretched out his staff over the
land of Egypt, and throughout that day and night
the LORD sent an east wind across the land. By
morning the east wind had brought the locusts.

14 The locusts swarmed across the land and
settled over the entire territory of Egypt. Never
before had there been so many locusts, and
never again will there be.

15 They covered the face of all the land until it
was black, and they consumed all the plants on
the ground and all the fruit on the trees that the
hail had left behind. Nothing green was left on
any tree or plant in all the land of Egypt.

16 Pharaoh quickly summoned Moses and
Aaron and said, “I have sinned against the LORD
your God and against you.
17 Now please forgive my sin once more and
appeal to the LORD your God, that he may
remove this death from me.”
18 So Moses left Pharaoh’s presence and
appealed to the LORD.
19 And the LORD changed the wind to a very
strong west wind that carried off the locusts and
blew them into the Sea of Reeds.† Not a single
locust remained anywhere in Egypt.
20 But the LORD stiffened‡ Pharaoh’s heart,
and he would not let the Israelites go.
21 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out
your hand toward heaven, so that darkness may
spread over the land of Egypt—a palpable
darkness.”
22 So Moses stretched out his hand toward
heaven, and total darkness covered all the land
of Egypt for three days.
23 No one could see anyone else, and for three
days no one left his place. Yet all the Israelites
had light in their dwellings.
24 Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and said,
“Go, worship the LORD. Even your little ones
may go with you; only your flocks and herds
must stay behind.”
25 But Moses replied, “You must also provide
us with sacrifices and burnt offerings to present
to the LORD our God.

† **10:19** **10:19** Or *the Red Sea*
‡ **10:20** **10:20** Or *hardened* or *strengthened*; also in verse 27

26 Even our livestock must go with us; not a
hoof will be left behind, for we will need some
of them to worship the LORD our God, and we
will not know how we are to worship the LORD
until we arrive."
27 But the LORD stiffened Pharaoh's heart, and
he was unwilling to let them go.
28 "Depart from me!" Pharaoh said to Moses.
"Make sure you never see my face again, for on
the day you see my face, you will die."
29 "As you say," Moses replied, "I will never see
your face again."

11

1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will bring
upon Pharaoh and Egypt one more plague. After
that, he will allow you to leave this place. And
when he lets you go, he will drive you out
completely.
2 Now announce to the people that men and
women alike should ask their neighbors for
articles of silver and gold."
3 And the LORD gave the people favor in the
sight of the Egyptians. Moreover, Moses himself
was highly regarded in Egypt by Pharaoh's
officials and by the people.
4 So Moses declared, "This is what the LORD
says: 'About midnight I will go throughout Egypt,
5 and every firstborn son in the land of Egypt
will die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits
on his throne, to the firstborn of the slave
woman behind the hand mill, as well as the
firstborn of all the cattle.

6 Then a great cry will go out over all the land
of Egypt. Such an outcry has never been heard
before and will never be heard again.
7 But among all the Israelites, not even a dog
will snarl at man or beast.'*
Then you will know that the LORD makes a
distinction between Egypt and Israel.
8 And all these officials of yours will come and
bow before me, saying, 'Go, you and all the
people who follow you!' After that, I will depart."
And hot with anger, Moses left Pharaoh's
presence.
9 The LORD said to Moses, "Pharaoh will not
listen to you, so that my wonders may be
multiplied in the land of Egypt."
10 Moses and Aaron did all these wonders
before Pharaoh, but the LORD stiffened†
Pharaoh's heart so that he would not let the
Israelites go out of his land.

12

1 Now the LORD said to Moses and Aaron in
the land of Egypt,
2 "This month is the beginning of months for
you; it shall be the first month of your year.
3 Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on
the tenth day of this month each man must
select a lamb* for his family, one per household.
4 If the household is too small for a whole
lamb, they are to share with the nearest

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* **11:7 11:7** Some translators close this quotation at the end of the verse. † **11:10 11:10** Or *hardened* or *strengthened* * **12:3 12:3** The Hebrew word can mean *lamb* or *kid*; also in verses 4 and 5.

neighbor based on the number of people, and
apportion the lamb according to what each
person will eat.
5 Your lamb must be an unblemished year-old
male, and you may take it from the sheep or the
goats.
6 You must keep it until the fourteenth day of
the month, when the whole assembly of the
congregation of Israel will slaughter the animals
at twilight.†
7 They are to take some of the blood and put it
on the two doorposts and on the lintel‡ of the
houses where they eat the lambs.
8 They are to eat the meat that night, roasted
over the fire, along with unleavened bread and
bitter herbs.
9 Do not eat any of the meat raw or cooked in
boiling water, but only roasted over the fire—its
head and legs and inner parts.
10 Do not leave any of it until morning; before
the morning you must burn up any part that is
left over.
11 This is how you are to eat it: You must be
fully dressed for travel,§ with your sandals on
your feet and your staff in your hand. You are to
eat in haste; it is the LORD's Passover.
12 On that night I will pass through the land of
Egypt and strike down every firstborn male,

† **12:6 12:6** Hebrew *between the two evenings* ‡ **12:7 12:7** Or *on the sides and tops of the doorframes*; verses 22 and 23 also refer to *the lintel and the two doorposts* § **12:11 12:11** Literally *Gird up your loins*

both man and beast, and I will execute judgment
against all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD.
13 The blood on the houses where you are
staying will be a sign; when I see the blood, I
will pass over you. No plague will fall on you to
destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.
14 And this day will be a memorial for you, and
you are to celebrate it as a feast to the LORD, as
a permanent statute for the generations to come.
15 For seven days you must eat unleavened
bread. On the first day you are to remove the
leaven from your houses. Whoever eats
anything leavened from the first day through
the seventh must be cut off from Israel.
16 On the first day you are to hold a sacred
assembly, and another on the seventh day. You
must not do any work on those days, except to
prepare the meals—that is all you may do.
17 So you are to keep the Feast of Unleavened
Bread,* for on this very day I brought your
divisions out of the land of Egypt. You must keep
this day as a permanent statute for the
generations to come.
18 In the first month you are to eat unleavened
bread, from the evening of the fourteenth day
until the evening of the twenty-first day.
19 For seven days there must be no leaven
found in your houses. If anyone eats something
leavened, that person, whether a foreigner or

* **12:17 12:17** That is, the seven-day period after the Passover during which no leaven may be eaten

native of the land, must be cut off from the congregation of Israel.
20 You are not to eat anything leavened; eat unleavened bread in all your homes."
21 Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and told them, "Go at once and select for yourselves a lamb for each family, and slaughter the Passover lamb.
22 Take a cluster of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin, and brush the blood on the lintel and the two doorposts. None of you shall go out the door of his house until morning.
23 When the LORD passes through to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the lintel and the two doorposts and will pass over that doorway; so he will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.
24 And you are to keep this command as a permanent statute for you and your descendants.
25 When you enter the land that the LORD will give you as he promised, you are to keep this service.
26 When your children ask you, 'What does this service mean to you?'
27 you are to reply, 'It is the Passover sacrifice to the LORD, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt when he struck down the Egyptians and spared our homes.' "
Then the people bowed down and worshiped.
28 And the Israelites went and did just what the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron.
29 Now at midnight the LORD struck down every firstborn male in the land of Egypt, from

the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on his throne,
to the firstborn of the prisoner in the dungeon,
as well as all the firstborn among the livestock.
30 During the night Pharaoh got up—he and all
his officials and all the Egyptians—and there
was loud wailing in Egypt; for there was no
house without someone dead.
31 Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron
by night and said, "Get up, leave my people, both
you and the Israelites! Go, worship the LORD as
you have requested.
32 Take your flocks and herds as well, just as
you have said, and depart! And bless me also."
33 And in order to send them out of the land
quickly, the Egyptians urged the people on. "For
otherwise," they said, "we are all going to die!"
34 So the people took their dough before it was
leavened, carrying it on their shoulders in
kneading bowls wrapped in clothing.
35 Furthermore, the Israelites acted on Moses'
word and asked the Egyptians for articles of
silver and gold, and for clothing.
36 And the LORD gave the people such favor in
the sight of the Egyptians that they granted their
request. In this way they plundered the
Egyptians.
37 The Israelites journeyed from Rameses to
Succoth† with about 600,000 men on foot,
besides women and children.
38 And a mixed multitude also went up with
them, along with great droves of livestock, both
flocks and herds.

† **12:37 12:37** *Succoth* means *booths* or *shelters* or *tabernacles.*

39 Since their dough had no leaven, the people
baked what they had brought out of Egypt into
unleavened loaves. For when they had been
driven out of Egypt, they could not delay and
had not prepared any provisions for themselves.
40 Now the duration of the Israelites' stay in
Egypt‡ was 430 years.
41 At the end of the 430 years, to the very day,
all the LORD's divisions went out of the land of
Egypt.
42 Because the LORD kept a vigil that night to
bring them out of the land of Egypt, this same
night is to be a vigil to the LORD, to be observed
by all the Israelites for the generations to come.
43 And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron,
"This is the statute of the Passover: No foreigner
is to eat of it.
44 But any slave who has been purchased may
eat of it, after you have circumcised him.
45 A temporary resident or hired hand shall
not eat the Passover.
46 It must be eaten inside one house. You are
not to take any of the meat outside the house,
and you may not break any of the bones.
47 The whole congregation of Israel must
celebrate it.
48 If a foreigner resides with you and wants to
celebrate the LORD's Passover, all the males in
the household must be circumcised; then he
may come near to celebrate it, and he shall be
like a native of the land. But no uncircumcised
man may eat of it.

‡ **12:40 12:40** SP *in Canaan and Egypt*; LXX *in Egypt and Canaan*

49 The same law shall apply to both the native
and the foreigner who resides among you."
50 Then all the Israelites did this—they did just
as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron.
51 And on that very day the LORD brought the
Israelites out of the land of Egypt by their
divisions.

13

1 Then the LORD said to Moses,
2 "Consecrate to me every firstborn male. The
firstborn from every womb among the Israelites
belongs to me, both of man and beast."
3 So Moses told the people, "Remember this
day, the day you came out of Egypt, out of the
house of slavery; for the LORD brought you out
of it by the strength of his hand. And nothing
leavened shall be eaten.
4 Today, in the month of Abib,* you are
leaving.
5 And when the LORD brings you into the land
of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Hivites,
and Jebusites—the land he swore to your fathers
that he would give you, a land flowing with milk
and honey—you shall keep this service in this
month.
6 For seven days you are to eat unleavened
bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a
feast to the LORD.
7 Unleavened bread shall be eaten during
those seven days. Nothing leavened may be

* **13:4 13:4** *Abib* was the first month of the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of March and April.

found among you, nor shall leaven be found anywhere within your borders.

8 And on that day you are to explain to your
son, ‘This is because of what the LORD did for
me when I came out of Egypt.’
9 It shall be a sign for you on your hand and a
reminder on your forehead that the Teaching of
the LORD is to be on your lips. For with a mighty
hand the LORD brought you out of Egypt.
10 Therefore you shall keep this statute at the
appointed time year after year.

11 And after the LORD brings you into the land
of the Canaanites and gives it to you, as he
swore to you and your fathers,
12 you are to present to the LORD the firstborn
male of every womb. All the firstborn males of
your livestock belong to the LORD.
13 You must redeem every firstborn donkey
with a lamb, and if you do not redeem it, you
are to break its neck. And every firstborn of
your sons you must redeem.

14 In the future, when your son asks you,
‘What does this mean?’ you are to tell him, ‘With
a mighty hand the LORD brought us out of
Egypt, out of the house of slavery.
15 And when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let
us go, the LORD killed every firstborn in the land
of Egypt, both of man and beast. This is why I
sacrifice to the LORD the firstborn male of every
womb, but I redeem all the firstborn of my sons.’
16 So it shall serve as a sign on your hand and
a symbol on your forehead, for with a mighty

hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt."

17 When Pharaoh let the people go, God did
not lead them along the road through the land
of the Philistines, though it was shorter. For God
said, "If the people face war, they might change
their minds and return to Egypt."

18 So God led the people around by the way of
the wilderness toward the Sea of Reeds.† And
the Israelites left the land of Egypt arrayed for
battle.‡

19 Moses took the bones of Joseph with him
because Joseph had made the sons of Israel
swear a solemn oath when he said, "God will
surely attend to you, and then you must carry
my bones with you from this place."§

20 They set out from Succoth and camped at
Etham on the edge of the wilderness.

21 And the LORD went before them in a pillar
of cloud to guide their way by day, and in a
pillar of fire to give them light by night, so that
they could travel by day or night.

22 Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the
pillar of fire by night left its place before the
people.

14

1 Then the LORD said to Moses,

2 "Tell the Israelites to turn back and encamp
before Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea.

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† **13:18 13:18** Or *the Red Sea* ‡ **13:18 13:18** LXX *left the land of Egypt in the fifth generation* § **13:19 13:19** Genesis 50:25

You are to encamp by the sea, directly opposite
Baal-zephon.
3 For Pharaoh will say of the Israelites, 'They
are wandering the land in confusion; the
wilderness has boxed them in.'
4 And I will stiffen* Pharaoh's heart so that he
will pursue them. But I will gain honor by
means of Pharaoh and all his army, and the
Egyptians will know that I am the LORD."
So this is what the Israelites did.
5 When the king of Egypt was told that the
people had fled, Pharaoh and his officials
changed their minds about them and said,
"What have we done? We have released Israel
from serving us."
6 So Pharaoh prepared his chariot and took his
army with him.
7 He took 600 of the best chariots, and all the
other chariots of Egypt, with officers over all of
them.
8 And the LORD stiffened the heart of Pharaoh
king of Egypt so that he pursued the Israelites,
who were marching out defiantly.†
9 The Egyptians—all Pharaoh's horses and
chariots, horsemen and troops—pursued the
Israelites and overtook them as they camped by
the sea near Pi-hahiroth, opposite Baal-zephon.
10 As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites
looked up and saw the Egyptians marching after
them, and they were terrified and cried out to
the LORD.

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* **14:4 14:4** Or *harden* or *strengthen*; similarly in verses 8 and 17
† **14:8 14:8** Or *marching out boldly*; literally *marching out with an upraised hand*

11 They said to Moses, “Was it because there
were no graves in Egypt that you brought us
into the wilderness to die? What have you done
to us by bringing us out of Egypt?
12 Did we not say to you in Egypt, ‘Leave us
alone so that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it
would have been better for us to serve the
Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.”
13 But Moses told the people, “Do not be afraid.
Stand firm and you will see the LORD’s
deliverance, which he will accomplish for you
today; for the Egyptians you see today, you will
never see again.
14 The LORD will fight for you; you need only
to be still.”
15 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Why are you
crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to go
forward.
16 And as for you, lift up your staff and stretch
out your hand over the sea and divide it, so that
the Israelites can go through the sea on dry
ground.
17 And I will stiffen the hearts of the Egyptians
so that they will go in after them. Then I will
gain honor by means of Pharaoh and all his
army and chariots and horsemen.
18 The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD
when I am honored through Pharaoh, his
chariots, and his horsemen.”
19 And the angel of God, who had gone before
the camp of Israel, withdrew and went behind
them. The pillar of cloud also moved from
before them and stood behind them,

20 so that it came between the camps of Egypt
and Israel. The cloud was there in the darkness,
but it lit up the night.‡ So all night long neither
camp went near the other.

21 Then Moses stretched out his hand over the
sea, and all that night the LORD drove back the
sea with a strong east wind that turned it into
dry land. So the waters were divided,

22 and the Israelites went through the sea on
dry ground, with walls of water on their right
and on their left.

23 And the Egyptians chased after them—all
Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and horsemen—and
followed them into the sea.

24 At morning watch, however, the LORD
looked down on the army of the Egyptians from
the pillar of fire and cloud, and he threw their
camp into confusion.

25 He caused their chariot wheels to come off,§
so that they had difficulty driving. "Let us flee
from the Israelites," said the Egyptians, "for the
LORD is fighting for them against Egypt!"

26 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out
your hand over the sea, so that the waters may
flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots
and horsemen."

27 So Moses stretched out his hand over the
sea, and at daybreak the sea returned to its
normal state. As the Egyptians were fleeing
toward it, the LORD swept them into the sea.

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‡ **14:20 14:20** LXX *and the night passed* § **14:25 14:25** Or *to swerve* or *to wobble*; SP, LXX, and Syriac *to bind*

28 The waters flowed back and covered the
chariots and horsemen—the entire army of
Pharaoh that had chased the Israelites into the
sea. Not one of them survived.
29 But the Israelites had walked through the
sea on dry ground, with walls of water on their
right and on their left.
30 That day the LORD saved Israel from the
hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the
Egyptians dead on the shore.
31 When Israel saw the great power that the
LORD had exercised over the Egyptians, the
people feared the LORD and believed in him and
in his servant Moses.

15

1 Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song
to the LORD:

"I will sing to the LORD,
for he is highly exalted.
The horse and rider
he has thrown into the sea.
2 The LORD is my strength and my song,
and he has become my deliverance.
He is my God, and I will praise him,
my father's God, and I will exalt him.

3 The LORD is a warrior,
the LORD is his name.
4 Pharaoh's chariots and army
he has cast into the sea;
the finest of his officers

are drowned in the Sea of Reeds.*
5 The depths have covered them;
they sank into the deep like a stone.

6 Your right hand, O LORD,
is majestic in power;
your right hand, O LORD,
has shattered the enemy.
7 You overthrew your adversaries
by your great majesty.
You unleashed your burning wrath;
it consumed them like stubble.
8 At the blast of your nostrils
the waters piled up;
like a wall the currents stood firm;
the depths congealed in the heart of the sea.

9 The enemy declared,
'I will pursue, I will overtake.
I will divide the spoils;
I will gorge myself on them.
I will draw my sword;
my hand will destroy them.'
10 But you blew with your breath,
and the sea covered them.
They sank like lead
in the mighty waters.

11 Who among the gods is like you, O LORD?
Who is like you—majestic in holiness,
revered with praises,
performing wonders?

* **15:4 15:4** Or *the Red Sea*; also in verse 22

12 You stretched out your right hand,
and the earth swallowed them up.
13 With loving devotion† you will lead
the people you have redeemed;
with your strength you will guide them
to your holy dwelling.

14 The nations will hear and tremble;
anguish will grip the dwellers of Philistia.
15 Then the chiefs of Edom will be dismayed;
trembling will seize the leaders of Moab;
those who dwell in Canaan will melt away,
16 and terror and dread will fall on them.
By the power of your arm
they will be as still as a stone
until your people pass by, O LORD,
until the people you have bought pass by.

17 You will bring them in and plant them
on the mountain of your inheritance—
the place, O LORD, you have prepared for your
dwelling,
the sanctuary, O Lord, your hands have
established.

18 The LORD will reign forever and ever!"
19 For when Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and
horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought

† **15:13 15:13** Forms of the Hebrew *chesed* are translated here and in most cases throughout the Scriptures as *loving devotion*; the range of meaning includes *love*, *goodness*, *kindness*, *faithfulness*, and *mercy*, as well as *loyalty to a covenant*.

the waters of the sea back over them. But the
Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground.
20 Then Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister,
took a tambourine in her hand, and all the
women followed her with tambourines and
dancing.
21 And Miriam sang back to them:

"Sing to the LORD,
for he is highly exalted;
the horse and rider
he has thrown into the sea."
22 Then Moses led Israel from the Sea of Reeds,
and they went out into the Desert of Shur. For
three days they walked in the desert without
finding water.
23 And when they came to Marah,‡ they could
not drink the water there because it was bitter.
(That is why it was named Marah.)
24 So the people grumbled against Moses,
saying, "What are we to drink?"
25 And Moses cried out to the LORD, and the
LORD showed him a log. And when he cast it
into the waters, they were sweetened.
There the LORD made for them a statute and
an ordinance, and there he tested them,
26 saying, "If you will listen carefully to the
voice of the LORD your God, and do what is right
in his eyes, and pay attention to his commands,
and keep all his statutes, then I will not bring on
you any of the diseases I inflicted on the
Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you."

‡ **15:23 15:23** *Marah* means *bitter*.

27 Then they came to Elim, where there were
twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees,
and they camped there by the waters.

16

1 On the fifteenth day of the second month
after they had left the land of Egypt, the whole
congregation of Israel set out from Elim and
came to the Desert of Sin,* which is between
Elim and Sinai.
2 And there in the desert the whole
congregation of Israel grumbled against Moses
and Aaron.
3 "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in
the land of Egypt!" they said. "There we sat by
pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, but you
have brought us into this desert to starve this
whole assembly to death!"
4 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will
rain down bread from heaven for you. Each day
the people are to go out and gather enough for
that day. In this way I will test whether or not
they will follow my instructions.
5 Then on the sixth day, when they prepare
what they bring in, it will be twice as much as
they gather on the other days."
6 So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites,
"This evening you will know that it was the
LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt,
7 and in the morning you will see the LORD's
glory, because he has heard your grumbling

* **16:1 16:1** The geographical name *Sin* is related to *Sinai* and should not be mistaken for the English word *sin*.

against him. For who are we, that you should
grumble against us?"
8 And Moses added, "The LORD will give you
meat to eat this evening and bread to fill you in
the morning, for he has heard your grumbling
against him. Who are we? Your grumblings are
not against us but against the LORD."
9 Then Moses said to Aaron, "Tell the whole
congregation of Israel, 'Come before the LORD,
for he has heard your grumbling.' "
10 And as Aaron was speaking to the whole
congregation of Israel, they looked toward the
desert, and there in a cloud the glory of the
LORD appeared.
11 Then the LORD said to Moses,
12 "I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites.
Tell them, 'At twilight† you will eat meat, and in
the morning you will be filled with bread. Then
you will know that I am the LORD your God.' "
13 That evening quail came and covered the
camp, and in the morning there was a layer of
dew around the camp.
14 When the layer of dew had evaporated,
there were thin flakes on the desert floor, as fine
as frost on the ground.
15 When the Israelites saw it, they asked one
another, "What is it?" For they did not know
what it was.
So Moses told them, "It is the bread that the
LORD has given you to eat.
16 This is what the LORD has commanded:
'Each one is to gather as much as he needs. You

† **16:12 16:12** Hebrew *Between the two evenings*

may take an omer‡ for each person in your
tent.' "
17 So the Israelites did this. Some gathered
more, and some less.
18 When they measured it by the omer, he who
gathered much had no excess, and he who
gathered little had no shortfall. Each one
gathered as much as he needed to eat.
19 Then Moses said to them, "No one may keep
any of it until morning."
20 But they did not listen to Moses; some
people left part of it until morning, and it
became infested with maggots and began to
smell. So Moses was angry with them.
21 Every morning each one gathered as much
as was needed, and when the sun grew hot, it
melted away.
22 On the sixth day, they gathered twice as
much food—two omers per person§—and all the
leaders of the congregation came and reported
this to Moses.
23 He told them, "This is what the LORD has
said: 'Tomorrow is to be a day of complete rest,
a holy Sabbath to the LORD. So bake what you
want to bake, and boil what you want to boil.
Then set aside whatever remains and keep it
until morning.' "
24 So they set it aside until morning as Moses
had commanded, and it did not smell or contain
any maggots.

‡ **16:16 16:16** *An omer* is approximately 2 dry quarts or 2.2 liters; also in verses 18, 32, 33, and 36. § **16:22 16:22** *2 omers* is approximately 4 dry quarts or 4.4 liters per person.

25 “Eat it today,” Moses said, “because today is a
Sabbath to the LORD. Today you will not find
anything in the field.
26 For six days you may gather, but on the
seventh day, the Sabbath, it will not be there.”

27 Yet on the seventh day some of the people
went out to gather, but they did not find
anything.
28 Then the LORD said to Moses, “How long
will you refuse to keep my commandments and
instructions?
29 Understand that the LORD has given you the
Sabbath; that is why on the sixth day he will
give you bread for two days. On the seventh day,
everyone must stay where he is; no one may
leave his place.”

30 So the people rested on the seventh day.

31 Now the house of Israel called the bread
manna.* It was white like coriander seed and
tasted like wafers made with honey.
32 Moses said, “This is what the LORD has
commanded: ‘Keep an omer of manna for the
generations to come, so that they may see the
bread I fed you in the wilderness when I
brought you out of the land of Egypt.’ ”

33 So Moses told Aaron, “Take a jar and fill it
with an omer of manna. Then place it before the
LORD to be preserved for the generations to
come.”

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* **16:31 16:31** *Manna* sounds like the Hebrew for *What is it?* (see verse 15).

34 And Aaron placed it in front of the
Testimony,† to be preserved just as the LORD
had commanded Moses.
35 The Israelites ate manna forty years, until
they came to a land where they could settle;
they ate manna until they reached the border of
Canaan.
36 (Now an omer is a tenth of an ephah.)‡

17

1 Then the whole congregation of Israel left the
Desert of Sin,* moving from place to place as the
LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim,
but there was no water for the people to drink.
2 So the people contended with Moses, "Give us
water to drink."
"Why do you contend with me?" Moses
replied. "Why do you test the LORD?"
3 But the people thirsted for water there, and
they grumbled against Moses: "Why have you
brought us out of Egypt—to make us and our
children and livestock die of thirst?"
4 Then Moses cried out to the LORD, "What
should I do with these people? A little more and
they will stone me!"
5 And the LORD said to Moses, "Walk on ahead
of the people and take some of the elders of

† **16:34 16:34** *The Testimony* refers to the stone tablets in the ark of the covenant inscribed with the Ten Commandments. ‡ **16:36 16:36** An *ephah* was a dry measure having the capacity of about 20 dry quarts or 22 liters. * **17:1 17:1** The geographical name *Sin* is related to *Sinai* and should not be mistaken for the English word *sin*.

Israel with you. Take along in your hand the
staff with which you struck the Nile, and go.
6 Behold, I will stand there before you by the
rock at Horeb.† And when you strike the rock,
water will come out of it for the people to drink."
So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of
Israel.
7 He named the place Massah‡ and Meribah§
because the Israelites quarreled, and because
they tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD
among us or not?"
8 After this, the Amalekites came and attacked
the Israelites at Rephidim.
9 So Moses said to Joshua, "Choose some of our
men and go out to fight the Amalekites.
Tomorrow I will stand on the hilltop with the
staff of God in my hand."
10 Joshua did as Moses had instructed him and
fought against the Amalekites, while Moses,
Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.
11 As long as Moses held up his hands, Israel
prevailed; but when he lowered them, Amalek
prevailed.
12 When Moses' hands grew heavy, they took a
stone and put it under him, and he sat on it.
Then Aaron and Hur held his hands up, one on
each side, so that his hands remained steady
until the sun went down.
13 So Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his
army with the sword.

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† **17:6 17:6** *Horeb* is another name for Sinai. ‡ **17:7 17:7** *Massah* means *testing*. § **17:7 17:7** *Meribah* means *quarreling*.

14 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Write this on
a scroll as a reminder and recite it to Joshua,
because I will utterly blot out the memory of
Amalek from under heaven.”
15 And Moses built an altar and named it The
LORD Is my Banner.*
16 “Indeed,” he said, “a hand was lifted up
toward the throne of the LORD. The LORD will
war against Amalek from generation to
generation.”

18

1 Now Moses’ father-in-law Jethro,* the priest
of Midian, heard about all that God had done for
Moses and his people Israel, and how the LORD
had brought Israel out of Egypt.
2 After Moses had sent back his wife Zipporah,
his father-in-law Jethro had received her,
3 along with her two sons. One son was named
Gershom,† for Moses had said, “I have been a
foreigner in a foreign land.”
4 The other son was named Eliezer,‡ for Moses
had said, “The God of my father was my helper
and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh.”
5 Moses’ father-in-law Jethro, along with
Moses’ wife and sons, came to him in the desert,
where he was encamped at the mountain of God.
6 He sent word to Moses, “I, your father-in-law
Jethro, am coming to you with your wife and her
two sons.”

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* **17:15 17:15** Hebrew *YHWH Nissi* * **18:1 18:1** Moses’ father-in-law *Jethro* was also called *Reuel*; see Exodus 2:18. † **18:3 18:3** *Gershom* sounds like the Hebrew for *sojourner*. ‡ **18:4 18:4** *Eliezer* means *God is my helper*.

7 So Moses went out to meet his father-in-law
and bowed down and kissed him. They greeted
each other and went into the tent.
8 Then Moses recounted to his father-in-law all
that the LORD had done to Pharaoh and the
Egyptians for Israel's sake, all the hardships they
had encountered along the way, and how the
LORD had delivered them.
9 And Jethro rejoiced over all the good things
the LORD had done for Israel, whom he had
rescued from the hand of the Egyptians.
10 Jethro declared, "Blessed be the LORD, who
has delivered you from the hand of the
Egyptians and of Pharaoh, and who has
delivered the people from the hand of the
Egyptians.
11 Now I know that the LORD is greater than
all other gods, for he did this when they treated
Israel with arrogance."
12 Then Moses' father-in-law Jethro brought a
burnt offering and sacrifices to God, and Aaron
came with all the elders of Israel to eat bread
with Moses' father-in-law in the presence of God.
13 The next day Moses took his seat to judge
the people, and they stood around him from
morning until evening.
14 When his father-in-law saw all that Moses
was doing for the people, he asked, "What is this
that you are doing for the people? Why do you
sit alone as judge, with all the people standing
around you from morning till evening?"
15 "Because the people come to me to inquire
of God," Moses replied.

16 “Whenever they have a dispute, it is brought
to me to judge between one man and another,
and I make known to them the statutes and laws
of God.”
17 But Moses’ father-in-law said to him, “What
you are doing is not good.
18 Surely you and these people with you will
wear yourselves out, because the task is too
heavy for you. You cannot handle it alone.
19 Now listen to me; I will give you some
advice, and may God be with you. You must be
the people’s representative before God and
bring their causes to him.
20 Teach them the statutes and laws, and show
them the way to live and the work they must do.
21 Furthermore, select capable men from
among the people—God-fearing, trustworthy
men who are averse to dishonest gain. Appoint
them over the people as leaders of thousands, of
hundreds, of fifties, and of tens.
22 Have these men judge the people at all
times. Then they can bring you any major issue,
but all minor cases they can judge on their own,
so that your load may be lightened as they share
it with you.
23 If you follow this advice and God so directs
you, then you will be able to endure, and all
these people can go home in peace.”
24 Moses listened to his father-in-law and did
everything he said.
25 So Moses chose capable men from all Israel
and made them heads over the people as leaders
of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens.

26 And they judged the people at all times; they
would bring the difficult cases to Moses, but any
minor issue they would judge themselves.
27 Then Moses sent his father-in-law on his
way, and Jethro returned to his own land.

19

1 In the third month, on the same day of the
month* that the Israelites had left the land of
Egypt, they came to the Wilderness of Sinai.
2 After they had set out from Rephidim, they
entered the Wilderness of Sinai, and Israel
camped there in front of the mountain.
3 Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD
called to him from the mountain, “This is what
you are to tell the house of Jacob and explain to
the sons of Israel:
4 ‘You have seen for yourselves what I did to
Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings
and brought you to myself.
5 Now if you will indeed obey my voice and
keep my covenant, you will be my treasured
possession out of all the nations—for the whole
earth is mine.
6 And unto me you shall be a kingdom of
priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words
that you are to speak to the Israelites.”
7 So Moses went back and summoned the
elders of the people and set before them all these
words that the LORD had commanded him.

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* **19:1 19:1** Hebrew *In the third month, on the same day*; that is, two months after leaving Egypt; see Numbers 33:3.

8 And all the people answered together, “We
will do everything that the LORD has spoken.”
So Moses brought their words back to the
LORD.
9 The LORD said to Moses, “Behold, I will come
to you in a dense cloud, so that the people will
hear when I speak with you, and they will
always put their trust in you.”
And Moses relayed to the LORD what the
people had said.
10 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go to the
people and consecrate them today and
tomorrow. They must wash their clothes
11 and be prepared by the third day, for on the
third day the LORD will come down on Mount
Sinai in the sight of all the people.
12 And you are to set up a boundary for the
people around the mountain and tell them, ‘Be
careful not to go up on the mountain or touch its
base. Whoever touches the mountain shall
surely be put to death.
13 No hand shall touch him, but he shall surely
be stoned or shot with arrows—whether man or
beast, he must not live.’
Only when the ram’s horn sounds a long blast
may they go up on the mountain.†”
14 When Moses came down from the mountain
to the people, he consecrated them, and they
washed their clothes.
15 “Be prepared for the third day,” he said to
the people. “Do not draw near to a woman.”

† **19:13 19:13** Or *may they approach the mountain*

16 On the third day, when morning came, there
was thunder and lightning. A thick cloud was
upon the mountain, and a very loud blast of the
ram's horn went out, so that all the people in the
camp trembled.
17 Then Moses brought the people out of the
camp to meet with God, and they stood at the
foot of the mountain.
18 Mount Sinai was completely enveloped in
smoke, because the LORD had descended on it in
fire. And the smoke rose like the smoke of a
furnace, and the whole mountain quaked
violently.
19 And as the sound of the ram's horn grew
louder and louder, Moses spoke and God
answered him in the thunder.
20 The LORD descended to the top of Mount
Sinai and called Moses to the summit. So Moses
went up,
21 and the LORD said to him, "Go down and
warn the people not to break through to see the
LORD, lest many of them perish.
22 Even the priests who approach the LORD
must consecrate themselves, or the LORD will
break out against them."
23 But Moses said to the LORD, "The people
cannot come up Mount Sinai, for you solemnly
warned us, 'Put a boundary around the
mountain and set it apart as holy.' "
24 And the LORD replied, "Go down, and then
come back up, you and Aaron with you. But the
priests and the people must not break through

to come up to the LORD, or he will break out
against them."
25 So Moses went down to the people and
spoke to them.

20

1 And God spoke all these words:
2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you
out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of
slavery.

3 You shall have no other gods besides me.*
4 You shall not make for yourself an idol in the
form of anything in the heavens above, on
the earth below, or in the waters beneath.
5 You shall not bow down to them or worship
them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous
God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on their
children to the third and fourth generations of
those who hate me,
6 but showing loving devotion to a thousand
generations† of those who love me and keep my
commandments.
7 You shall not take the name of the LORD
your God in vain, for the LORD will not
leave anyone unpunished who takes his
name in vain.
8 Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it
holy.
9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work,
10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the
LORD your God, on which you must not do any

* **20:3 20:3** Or *before me* † **20:6 20:6** Or *to thousands*

work—neither you, nor your son or daughter,
nor your male or female slave or livestock, nor
the foreigner within your gates.
11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens
and the earth and the sea and all that is in them,
but on the seventh day he rested. Therefore the
LORD blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as
holy.
12 Honor your father and mother, so that your
days may be long in the land that the LORD
your God is giving you.
13 You shall not murder.
14 You shall not commit adultery.
15 You shall not steal.
16 You shall not bear false witness against your
neighbor.
17 You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or
his male or female slave, or his ox or
donkey, or anything that belongs to your
neighbor."
18 When all the people witnessed the thunder
and lightning, the sounding of the ram's horn,
and the mountain enveloped in smoke, they
trembled and stood at a distance.
19 "Speak to us yourself and we will listen,"
they said to Moses. "But do not let God speak to
us, or we will die."
20 "Do not be afraid," Moses replied. "For God
has come to test you, so that the fear of him may
be before you, to keep you from sinning."
21 And the people stood at a distance as Moses
approached the thick darkness where God was.

22 Then the LORD said to Moses, “This is what
you are to tell the Israelites: ‘You have seen for
yourselves that I have spoken to you from
heaven.
23 You are not to make any gods alongside me;
you are not to make for yourselves gods of silver
or gold.

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

25 Now if you make an altar of stones for me,
you must not build it with stones shaped by
tools; for if you use a chisel on it, you will defile
it.
26 And you must not go up to my altar on
steps, lest your nakedness be exposed on it.’

21

1 “These are the ordinances that you are to set
before them:

2 If you buy a Hebrew slave, he is to serve you
for six years. But in the seventh year, he shall go
free without paying anything.
3 If he arrived alone, he is to leave alone; if he
arrived with a wife, she is to leave with him.
4 If his master gives him a wife and she bears
him sons or daughters, the woman and her
children shall belong to her master, and only the
man shall go free.

5 But if the slave declares, ‘I love my master
and my wife and children; I do not want to go
free,’
6 then his master is to bring him before God.*
And he shall take him to the door or doorpost
and pierce his ear with an awl. Then he shall
serve his master for life.
7 And if a man sells his daughter as a slave,
she is not to go free as the male slaves do.
8 If she is displeasing in the eyes of her master
who had designated her for himself,† he must
allow her to be redeemed. He has no right to sell
her to foreigners, since he has broken faith with
her.
9 And if he chooses her for his son, he must
deal with her as with a daughter.
10 If he takes another wife, he must not reduce
the food, clothing, or marital rights of his first
wife.
11 If, however, he does not provide her with
these three things, she is free to go without
monetary payment.
12 Whoever strikes and kills a man must
surely be put to death.
13 If, however, he did not lie in wait, but God
allowed it to happen, then I will appoint for you
a place where he may flee.
14 But if a man schemes and acts willfully
against his neighbor to kill him, you must take
him away from my altar to be put to death.
15 Whoever strikes his father or mother must
surely be put to death.

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* **21:6 21:6** Or *before the judges* † **21:8 21:8** Qere; Ketiv *so that he does not designate her*

16 Whoever kidnaps another man must be put
to death, whether he sells him or the man is
found in his possession.
17 Anyone who reviles‡ his father or mother
must surely be put to death.
18 If men are quarreling and one strikes the
other with a stone or a fist, and he does not die
but is confined to bed,
19 then the one who struck him shall go
unpunished, as long as the other can get up and
walk around outside with his staff. Nevertheless,
he must compensate the man for his lost work
and see that he is completely healed.
20 If a man strikes his male or female slave
with a rod, and the slave dies by his hand, he
shall surely be punished.
21 However, if the servant gets up after a day
or two, the owner shall not be punished, since
the servant is his property.
22 If men who are fighting strike a pregnant
woman and she has a miscarriage,§ but there is
no further injury, he shall surely be fined as the
woman's husband demands and as the court
allows.
23 But if a serious injury results, then you must
require a life for a life—
24 eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand,
foot for foot,
25 burn for burn, wound for wound, and stripe
for stripe.

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‡ **21:17 21:17** Or *dishonors* or *curses* § **21:22 21:22** Literally *and her children come out*; or *and her child is born prematurely*

26 If a man strikes and blinds the eye of his
male or female slave, he must let the slave go
free as compensation for the eye.
27 And if he knocks out the tooth of his male or
female slave, he must let the slave go free as
compensation for the tooth.
28 If an ox* gores a man or woman to death,
the ox must surely be stoned, and its meat must
not be eaten. But the owner of the ox shall not
be held responsible.
29 But if the ox has a habit of goring, and its
owner has been warned yet does not restrain it,
and it kills a man or woman, then the ox must be
stoned and its owner must also be put to death.
30 If payment is demanded of him instead, he
may redeem his life by paying the full amount
demanded of him.
31 If the ox gores a son or a daughter, it shall
be done to him according to the same rule.
32 If the ox gores a male or female slave, the
owner must pay thirty shekels of silver† to the
master of that slave, and the ox must be stoned.
33 If a man opens or digs a pit and fails to
cover it, and an ox or a donkey falls into it,
34 the owner of the pit shall make restitution;
he must pay its owner, and the dead animal will
be his.
35 If a man's ox injures his neighbor's ox and it
dies, they must sell the live one and divide the
proceeds; they also must divide the dead animal.

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* **21:28 21:28** Or *a bull*; also in verses 29–36 † **21:32 21:32** *30 shekels* is approximately 12 ounces or 342 grams of silver.

36 But if it was known that the ox had a habit
of goring, yet its owner failed to restrain it, he
shall pay full compensation, ox for ox, and the
dead animal will be his.
37 "If a man steals an ox‡ or a sheep and
slaughters or sells it, he must repay five oxen for
an ox and four sheep for a sheep.

22

1 If a thief is caught breaking in and is beaten
to death, no one shall be guilty of bloodshed.
2 But if it happens after sunrise, there is guilt
for his bloodshed.
A thief must make full restitution; if he has
nothing, he himself shall be sold for his theft.
3 If what was stolen is actually found alive in
his possession—whether ox or donkey or
sheep—he must pay back double.
4 If a man grazes his livestock in a field or
vineyard and allows them to stray so that they
graze in someone else's field, he must make
restitution from the best of his own field or
vineyard.
5 If a fire breaks out and spreads to
thornbushes so that it consumes stacked or
standing grain, or the whole field, the one who
started the fire must make full restitution.
6 If a man gives his neighbor money or goods
for safekeeping and they are stolen from the
neighbor's house, the thief, if caught, must pay
back double.

‡ **21:37 21:37** Or *a bull* or *a cow*; also in 22:3, 22:8, and 22:9

7 If the thief is not found, the owner of the
house must appear before God* to determine
whether he has taken his neighbor's property.
8 In all cases of illegal possession of an ox, a
donkey, a sheep, a garment, or any lost item that
someone claims, 'This is mine,' both parties shall
bring their cases before God. The one whom
God condemns† must pay back double to his
neighbor.
9 If a man gives a donkey, an ox, a sheep, or
any other animal to be cared for by his neighbor,
but it dies or is injured or stolen while no one is
watching,
10 an oath before the LORD shall be made
between the parties to determine whether or
not the man has taken his neighbor's property.
The owner must accept the oath and require no
restitution.
11 But if the animal was actually stolen from
the neighbor, he must make restitution to the
owner.
12 If the animal was torn to pieces, he shall
bring it as evidence; he need not make
restitution for the torn carcass.
13 If a man borrows an animal from his
neighbor and it is injured or dies while its owner
is not present, he must make full restitution.
14 If the owner was present, no restitution is
required. If the animal was rented, the fee
covers the loss.

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* **22:7 22:7** Or *before the judges*; also in verse 8 † **22:8 22:8** Or *whom the judges find guilty*

15 If a man seduces a virgin who is not pledged
in marriage and sleeps with her, he must pay the
full dowry for her to be his wife.
16 If her father absolutely refuses to give her
to him, the man still must pay an amount
comparable to the bridal price of a virgin.
17 You must not allow a sorceress to live.
18 Whoever lies with an animal must surely be
put to death.
19 If anyone sacrifices to any god other than
the LORD alone, he must be set apart for
destruction.‡
20 You must not exploit or oppress a foreign
resident, for you yourselves were foreigners in
the land of Egypt.
21 You must not mistreat any widow or
orphan.
22 If you do mistreat them, and they cry out to
me in distress, I will surely hear their cry.
23 My anger will be kindled, and I will kill you
with the sword; then your wives will become
widows and your children will be fatherless.
24 If you lend money to one of my people
among you who is poor, you must not act as a
creditor to him; you are not to charge him
interest.
25 If you take your neighbor's cloak as
collateral, return it to him by sunset,
26 because his cloak is the only covering he
has for his body. What else will he sleep in? And

‡ **22:19 22:19** Forms of the Hebrew *cherem* refer to the giving over of things or persons to the LORD, either by destroying them or by giving them as an offering.

if he cries out to me, I will hear, for I am
compassionate.
27 You must not blaspheme God or curse the
ruler of your people.§
28 You must not hold back offerings from your
granaries or vats. You are to give me the
firstborn of your sons.
29 You shall do likewise with your cattle and
your sheep. Let them stay with their mothers for
seven days, but on the eighth day you are to give
them to me.
30 You are to be my holy people. You must not
eat the meat of a mauled animal found in the
field; you are to throw it to the dogs.

23

1 "You shall not spread a false report. Do not
join the wicked by being a malicious witness.
2 You shall not follow the crowd in
wrongdoing. When you testify in a lawsuit, do
not pervert justice by siding with the crowd.
3 And do not show favoritism to a poor man in
his lawsuit.
4 If you encounter your enemy's stray ox or
donkey, you must return it to him.
5 If you see the donkey of one who hates you
fallen under its load, do not leave it there; you
must help him with it.
6 You shall not deny justice to the poor in their
lawsuits.

§ **22:27 22:27** LXX *or speak evil about the ruler of your people*

7 Stay far away from a false accusation. Do not
kill the innocent or the just, for I will not acquit
the guilty.
8 Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds those
who see and twists the words of the righteous.
9 Do not oppress a foreign resident, since you
yourselves know how it feels to be foreigners;*
for you were foreigners in the land of Egypt.
10 For six years you are to sow your land and
gather its produce,
11 but in the seventh year you must let it rest
and lie fallow, so that the poor among your
people may eat from the field and the wild
animals may consume what they leave. Do the
same with your vineyard and olive grove.
12 For six days you are to do your work, but on
the seventh day you must cease, so that your ox
and your donkey may rest and the son of your
female slave may be refreshed, as well as the
foreign resident.
13 Pay close attention to everything I have said
to you. You must not invoke the names of other
gods; they must not be heard on your lips.
14 Three times a year you are to celebrate a
feast to me.
15 You are to keep the Feast of Unleavened
Bread† as I commanded you: At the appointed

* **23:9 23:9** Hebrew *you know the soul of the foreigner* † **23:15 23:15** That is, the seven-day period after the Passover during which no leaven may be eaten; see Exodus 12:14–20.

time in the month of Abib‡ you are to eat
unleavened bread for seven days, because that
was the month you came out of Egypt. No one
may appear before me empty-handed.
16 You are also to keep the Feast of Harvest§
with the firstfruits of the produce from what
you sow in the field.
And keep the Feast of Ingathering* at the end
of the year, when you gather your produce from
the field.
17 Three times a year all your males are to
appear before the Lord GOD.
18 You must not offer the blood of my sacrifices
with anything leavened, nor may the fat of my
feast remain until morning.
19 Bring the best of the firstfruits of your soil
to the house of the LORD your God.
You must not cook a young goat in its mother's
milk.
20 Behold, I am sending an angel before you to
protect you along the way and to bring you to
the place I have prepared.
21 Pay attention to him and listen to his voice;
do not defy him, for he will not forgive
rebellion, since my Name is in him.

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‡ **23:15 23:15** *Abib* was the first month of the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of March and April. § **23:16 23:16** That is, Shavuot, the late spring feast of pilgrimage to Jerusalem; it is also known as *the Feast of Weeks* (see Exodus 34:22) or *the Feast of Pentecost*. * **23:16 23:16** That is, Sukkot, the autumn feast of pilgrimage to Jerusalem; it is later called *the Feast of Tabernacles* (or *Booths* or *Shelters*).

22 But if you will listen carefully to his voice
and do everything I say, I will be an enemy to
your enemies and a foe to your foes.
23 For my angel will go before you and bring
you into the land of the Amorites, Hittites,
Perizzites, Canaanites, Hivites, and Jebusites,
and I will annihilate them.
24 You must not bow down to their gods or
serve them or follow their practices. Instead,
you are to demolish them and smash their
sacred stones to pieces.

25 So you shall serve the LORD your God, and
he will bless† your bread and your water. And I
will take away sickness from among you.
26 No woman in your land will miscarry or be
barren; I will fulfill the number of your days.

27 I will send my terror ahead of you and
throw into confusion every nation you
encounter. I will make all your enemies turn
and run.
28 I will send the hornet before you to drive
the Hivites and Canaanites and Hittites out of
your way.

29 I will not drive them out before you in a
single year; otherwise the land would become
desolate and wild animals would multiply
against you.
30 Little by little I will drive them out ahead of
you, until you become fruitful and possess the
land.

† **23:25 23:25** LXX and Vulgate *I will bless*

31 And I will establish your borders from the
Sea of Reeds‡ to the Sea of the Philistines, and
from the desert to the Euphrates.§ For I will
deliver the inhabitants into your hand, and you
will drive them out before you.
32 You shall make no covenant with them or
with their gods.
33 They must not remain in your land, lest
they cause you to sin against me. For if you
serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you."

24

1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Come up to
the LORD—you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu,
and seventy of Israel's elders—and you are to
worship at a distance.
2 Moses alone shall approach the LORD, but
the others must not come near. And the people
may not go up with him."
3 When Moses came and told the people all the
words and ordinances of the LORD, they all
responded with one voice: "All the words that
the LORD has spoken, we will do."
4 And Moses wrote down all the words of the
LORD.
Early the next morning he got up and built an
altar at the base of the mountain, along with
twelve pillars for the twelve tribes of Israel.
5 Then he sent out some young men of Israel,
and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed
young bulls as peace offerings to the LORD.

‡ **23:31 23:31** Or *the Red Sea* § **23:31 23:31** Hebrew *the River*

6 Moses took half of the blood and put it in
bowls, and the other half he splattered on the
altar.
7 Then he took the Book of the Covenant and
read it to the people, who replied, “All that the
LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be
obedient.”
8 So Moses took the blood, splattered it on the
people, and said, “This is the blood of the
covenant that the LORD has made with you in
accordance with all these words.”
9 Then Moses went up with Aaron, Nadab and
Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel,
10 and they saw the God of Israel. Under his
feet was a work like a pavement made of
sapphire, as clear as the sky itself.
11 But God did not lay his hand on the nobles
of Israel; they saw him, and they ate and drank.
12 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Come up to
me on the mountain and stay here, so that I may
give you the tablets of stone, with the law and
commandments I have written for their
instruction.”
13 So Moses set out with Joshua his attendant
and went up on the mountain of God.
14 And he said to the elders, “Wait here for us
until we return to you. Aaron and Hur are here
with you. Whoever has a dispute can go to
them.”
15 When Moses went up on the mountain, the
cloud covered it,
16 and the glory of the LORD settled on Mount
Sinai. For six days the cloud covered it, and on

the seventh day the LORD called to Moses from
within the cloud.
17 And the sight of the glory of the LORD was
like a consuming fire on the mountaintop in the
eyes of the Israelites.
18 Moses entered the cloud as he went up on
the mountain, and he remained on the
mountain forty days and forty nights.

25

1 Then the LORD said to Moses,
2 "Tell the Israelites to bring me an offering.
You are to receive my offering from every man
whose heart compels him.
3 This is the offering you are to accept from
them:

gold, silver, and bronze;
4 blue, purple, and scarlet yarn;
fine linen and goat hair;
5 ram skins dyed red and fine leather;*
acacia wood;
6 olive oil for the light;
spices for the anointing oil and for the
fragrant incense;
7 and onyx stones and gemstones to be
mounted on the ephod and breastpiece.
8 And they are to make a sanctuary for me, so
that I may dwell among them.
9 You must make the tabernacle and design all
its furnishings according to the pattern I show
you.

* **25:5 25:5** Possibly the hides of large aquatic mammals

10 And they are to construct an ark of acacia
wood, two and a half cubits long, a cubit and a
half wide, and a cubit and a half high.†
11 Overlay it with pure gold both inside and
out, and make a gold molding around it.
12 Cast four gold rings for it and fasten them to
its four feet, two rings on one side and two on
the other.
13 And make poles of acacia wood and overlay
them with gold.
14 Insert the poles into the rings on the sides of
the ark, in order to carry it.
15 The poles are to remain in the rings of the
ark; they must not be removed.
16 And place inside the ark the Testimony,‡
which I will give you.
17 And you are to construct a cover§ of pure
gold, two and a half cubits long and a cubit and
a half wide.*
18 Make two cherubim of hammered gold at
the ends of the cover,
19 one cherub on one end and one on the
other, all made of one piece with the cover at its
two ends.

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† **25:10 25:10** The ark was approximately 3.75 feet long, 2.25 feet wide, and 2.25 feet high (114.3 centimeters long, 68.6 centimeters wide, and 68.6 centimeters high). ‡ **25:16 25:16** *The Testimony* refers to the stone tablets in the ark of the covenant inscribed with the Ten Commandments; also in verses 21 and 22. § **25:17 25:17** Or *an atonement cover* or *a mercy seat*; Hebrew *kapporet*; here and throughout Exodus * **25:17 25:17** The cover was approximately 3.75 feet long and 2.25 feet wide (114.3 centimeters long and 68.6 centimeters wide).

20 And the cherubim are to have wings that
spread upward, overshadowing the cover. The
cherubim are to face each other, looking toward
the cover.
21 Set the cover atop the ark and put the
Testimony that I will give you into the ark.
22 And I will meet with you there above the
cover, between the two cherubim that are over
the ark of the Testimony;† I will speak with you
about all that I command you regarding the
Israelites.
23 You are also to make a table of acacia wood
two cubits long, a cubit wide, and a cubit and a
half high.‡
24 Overlay it with pure gold and make a gold
molding around it.
25 And make a rim around it a handbreadth
wide§ and put a gold molding on the rim.
26 Make four gold rings for the table and
fasten them to the four corners at its four legs.
27 The rings are to be close to the rim, to serve
as holders for the poles used to carry the table.
28 Make the poles of acacia wood and overlay
them with gold, so that the table may be carried
with them.
29 You are also to make the plates and dishes,
as well as the pitchers and bowls for pouring
drink offerings. Make them out of pure gold.

† **25:22 25:22** That is, *the ark of the covenant* ‡ **25:23 25:23** The table was approximately 3 feet long, 1.5 feet wide, and 2.25 feet high (91.4 centimeters long, 45.7 centimeters wide, and 68.6 centimeters high). § **25:25 25:25** *A handbreadth* is approximately 2.9 inches or 7.4 centimeters.

30 And place the Bread of the Presence on the
table before me at all times.
31 Then you are to make a lampstand of pure,
hammered gold. It shall be made of one piece,
including its base and shaft, its cups, and its
buds and petals.
32 Six branches are to extend from the sides of
the lampstand—three on one side and three on
the other.
33 There are to be three cups shaped like
almond blossoms on the first branch, each with
buds and petals, three on the next branch, and
the same for all six branches that extend from
the lampstand.
34 And on the lampstand there shall be four
cups shaped like almond blossoms with buds
and petals.
35 For the six branches that extend from the
lampstand, a bud must be under the first pair of
branches, a bud under the second pair, and a
bud under the third pair.
36 The buds and branches are to be all of one
piece with the lampstand, hammered out of
pure gold.
37 Make seven lamps and set them up on the
lampstand so that they illuminate the area in
front of it.
38 The wick trimmers and their trays must be
of pure gold.
39 The lampstand and all these utensils shall
be made from a talent of pure gold.*

* **25:39 25:39** *A talent* is approximately 75.4 pounds or 34.2 kilograms of gold.

40 See to it that you make everything according
to the pattern shown you on the mountain.

26

1 “You are to construct the tabernacle itself
with ten curtains of finely spun linen, each with
blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and cherubim
skillfully worked into them.
2 Each curtain shall be twenty-eight cubits
long and four cubits wide*—all curtains the
same size.
3 Five of the curtains are to be joined together,
and the other five joined as well.
4 Make loops of blue material on the edge of
the end curtain in the first set, and do the same
for the end curtain in the second set.
5 Make fifty loops on one curtain and fifty
loops on the end curtain of the second set, so
that the loops line up opposite one another.
6 Make fifty gold clasps as well, and join the
curtains together with the clasps, so that the
tabernacle will be a unit.
7 You are to make curtains of goat hair for the
tent over the tabernacle—eleven curtains in all.
8 Each of the eleven curtains is to be the same
size—thirty cubits long and four cubits wide.†
9 Join five of the curtains into one set and the
other six into another. Then fold the sixth
curtain over double at the front of the tent.

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* **26:2 26:2** Each of the ten curtains was approximately 42 feet long and 6 feet wide (12.8 meters long and 1.8 meters wide).
† **26:8 26:8** Each of the eleven curtains was approximately 45 feet long and 6 feet wide (13.7 meters long and 1.8 meters wide).

10 Make fifty loops along the edge of the end
curtain in the first set, and fifty loops along the
edge of the corresponding curtain in the second
set.
11 Make fifty bronze clasps and put them
through the loops to join the tent together as a
unit.
12 As for the overlap that remains of the tent
curtains, the half curtain that is left over shall
hang down over the back of the tabernacle.
13 And the tent curtains will be a cubit‡ longer
on either side, and the excess will hang over the
sides of the tabernacle to cover it.
14 Also make a covering for the tent out of ram
skins dyed red, and over that a covering of fine
leather.§
15 You are to construct upright frames of
acacia wood for the tabernacle.
16 Each frame is to be ten cubits long and a
cubit and a half wide.*
17 Two tenons† must be connected to each
other for each frame. Make all the frames of the
tabernacle in this way.
18 Construct twenty frames for the south side
of the tabernacle,
19 with forty silver bases under the twenty
frames—two bases for each frame, one under
each tenon.

‡ **26:13 26:13** *A cubit* is approximately 18 inches or 45.7 centimeters. § **26:14 26:14** Possibly the hides of large aquatic mammals * **26:16 26:16** Each frame was approximately 15 feet long and 2.25 feet wide (4.6 meters long and 68.6 centimeters wide). † **26:17 26:17** That is, projecting pieces of wood made for insertion into another piece; similarly in verse 19.

20 For the second side of the tabernacle, the
north side, make twenty frames
21 and forty silver bases—two bases under
each frame.

22 Make six frames for the rear of the
tabernacle, the west side,
23 and two frames for the two back corners of
the tabernacle,
24 coupled together from bottom to top and
fitted into a single ring. These will serve as the
two corners.
25 So there are to be eight frames and sixteen
silver bases—two under each frame.

26 You are also to make five crossbars of acacia
wood for the frames on one side of the
tabernacle,
27 five for those on the other side, and five for
those on the rear side of the tabernacle, to the
west.

28 The central crossbar in the middle of the
frames shall extend from one end to the other.
29 Overlay the frames with gold and make gold
rings to hold the crossbars. Also overlay the
crossbars with gold.

30 So you are to set up the tabernacle
according to the pattern shown you on the
mountain.

31 Make a veil of blue, purple, and scarlet
yarn, and finely spun linen, with cherubim
skillfully worked into it.
32 Hang it with gold hooks on four posts of
acacia wood, overlaid with gold and standing on
four silver bases.

33 And hang the veil from the clasps and place
the ark of the Testimony‡ behind the veil. So the
veil will separate the Holy Place from the Holy
of Holies.§
34 Put the cover on the ark of the Testimony in
the Holy of Holies.
35 And place the table outside the veil on the
north side of the tabernacle, and put the
lampstand opposite the table, on the south side.
36 For the entrance to the tent, you are to make
a curtain embroidered with blue, purple, and
scarlet yarn, and finely spun linen.
37 Make five posts of acacia wood for the
curtain, overlay them with gold, use hooks of
gold, and cast five bronze bases for them.

27

1 "You are to build an altar of acacia wood. The
altar must be square, five cubits long, five cubits
wide, and three cubits high.*
2 Make a horn on each of its four corners, so
that the horns are of one piece, and overlay it
with bronze.
3 Make all its utensils of bronze—its pots for
removing ashes, its shovels, its sprinkling bowls,
its meat forks, and its firepans.

‡ **26:33 26:33** That is, *the ark of the covenant*; also in verse 34
§ **26:33 26:33** Or *the Most Holy Place*; also in verse 34 * **27:1 27:1** The altar was approximately 7.5 feet in length and width, and 4.5 feet high (2.3 meters in length and width, and 1.4 meters high).

4 Construct for it a grate of bronze mesh, and
make a bronze ring at each of the four corners
of the mesh.
5 Set the grate beneath the ledge of the altar, so
that the mesh comes halfway up the altar.

6 Additionally, make poles of acacia wood for
the altar and overlay them with bronze.
7 The poles are to be inserted into the rings so
that the poles are on two sides of the altar when
it is carried.

8 Construct the altar with boards so that it is
hollow. It is to be made just as you were shown
on the mountain.

9 You are also to make a courtyard for the
tabernacle. On the south side of the courtyard
make curtains of finely spun linen, a hundred
cubits long† on one side,
10 with twenty posts and twenty bronze bases,
and silver hooks and bands on the posts.

11 Likewise there are to be curtains on the
north side, a hundred cubits long, with twenty
posts and twenty bronze bases, and with silver
hooks and bands on the posts.
12 The curtains on the west side of the
courtyard shall be fifty cubits wide,‡ with ten
posts and ten bases.

13 The east side of the courtyard, toward the
sunrise, is to be fifty cubits wide.

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† **27:9 27:9** *100 cubits* is approximately 150 feet or 45.7 meters; also in verse 11. ‡ **27:12 27:12** *50 cubits* is approximately 75 feet or 22.9 meters; also in verse 13.

14 Make the curtains on one side fifteen cubits
long,§ with three posts and three bases,
15 and the curtains on the other side fifteen
cubits long, with three posts and three bases.
16 The gate of the courtyard shall be twenty
cubits long,* with a curtain embroidered with
blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and finely spun
linen. It shall have four posts and four bases.
17 All the posts around the courtyard shall
have silver bands, silver hooks, and bronze
bases.
18 The entire courtyard shall be a hundred
cubits long and fifty cubits wide,† with curtains
of finely spun linen five cubits high,‡ and with
bronze bases.
19 All the utensils of the tabernacle for every
use, including all its tent pegs and the tent pegs
of the courtyard, shall be made of bronze.
20 And you are to command the Israelites to
bring you pure oil of pressed olives for the light,
to keep the lamps burning continually.
21 In the Tent of Meeting, outside the veil that
is in front of the Testimony,§ Aaron and his sons
are to tend the lamps before the LORD from
evening until morning. This is to be a

§ **27:14 27:14** *15 cubits* is approximately 22.5 feet or 6.9 meters; also in verse 15. * **27:16 27:16** *20 cubits* is approximately 30 feet or 9.1 meters. † **27:18 27:18** The courtyard was approximately 150 feet long and 75 feet wide (45.7 meters long and 22.9 meters wide). ‡ **27:18 27:18** *5 cubits* is approximately 7.5 feet or 2.3 meters. § **27:21 27:21** *The Testimony* refers to the stone tablets in the ark of the covenant inscribed with the Ten Commandments.

permanent statute for the Israelites for the generations to come.

28

1 “Next, have your brother Aaron brought to you from among the Israelites, along with his sons Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar, to serve me as priests.

2 Make holy garments for your brother Aaron, to give him glory and splendor.

3 You are to instruct all the skilled craftsmen, whom I have filled with a spirit of wisdom, to make garments for Aaron’s consecration, so that he may serve me as priest.

4 These are the garments that they shall make: a breastpiece, an ephod, a robe, a woven tunic, a turban, and a sash. They are to make these holy garments for your brother Aaron and his sons, so that they may serve me as priests.

5 They shall use gold, along with blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and fine linen.

6 They are to make the ephod of finely spun linen embroidered with gold, and with blue, purple, and scarlet yarn.

7 It shall have two shoulder pieces attached at two of its corners, so it can be fastened.

8 And the skillfully woven waistband of the ephod must be of one piece, of the same workmanship—with gold, with blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and with finely spun linen.

9 Take two onyx stones and engrave on them the names of the sons of Israel:

10 six of their names on one stone and the
remaining six on the other, in the order of their
birth.
11 Engrave the names of the sons of Israel on
the two stones the way a gem cutter engraves a
seal. Then mount the stones in gold filigree
settings.
12 Fasten both stones on the shoulder pieces of
the ephod as memorial stones for the sons of
Israel. Aaron is to bear their names on his two
shoulders as a memorial before the LORD.
13 Fashion gold filigree settings
14 and two chains of pure gold, made of
braided cord work; and attach these chains to
the settings.
15 You are also to make a breastpiece of
judgment with the same workmanship as the
ephod. Construct it with gold, with blue, purple,
and scarlet yarn, and with finely spun linen.
16 It must be square when folded over double,
a span long and a span wide.*
17 And mount on it a setting of gemstones, four
rows of stones:†

In the first row there shall be a ruby, a topaz,
and an emerald;
18 in the second row a turquoise, a sapphire,
and a diamond;
19 in the third row a jacinth, an agate, and an
amethyst;

* **28:16 28:16** The breastpiece, when folded over, was approximately 9 inches or 22.9 centimeters in both length and width.
† **28:17 28:17** The precise identification of some of these gemstones is uncertain.

20 and in the fourth row a beryl, an onyx, and
a jasper.
Mount these stones in gold filigree settings.
21 The twelve stones are to correspond to the
names of the sons of Israel, each engraved like a
seal with the name of one of the twelve tribes.
22 For the breastpiece, make braided chains
like cords of pure gold.
23 You are also to make two gold rings and
fasten them to the two corners of the
breastpiece.
24 Then fasten the two gold chains to the two
gold rings at the corners of the breastpiece,
25 and fasten the other ends of the two chains
to the two filigree settings, attaching them to the
shoulder pieces of the ephod at the front.
26 Make two more gold rings and attach them
to the other two corners of the breastpiece, on
the inside edge next to the ephod.
27 Make two additional gold rings and attach
them to the bottom of the two shoulder pieces of
the ephod, on its front, near its seam just above
its woven waistband.
28 The rings‡ of the breastpiece shall be tied to
the rings of the ephod with a cord of blue yarn,
so that the breastpiece is above the waistband of
the ephod and does not swing out from the
ephod.
29 Whenever Aaron enters the Holy Place, he
shall bear the names of the sons of Israel over
his heart on the breastpiece of judgment, as a
continual reminder before the LORD.

‡ **28:28 28:28** Qere; Ketiv *ring*

30 And place the Urim and Thummim§ in the
breastpiece of judgment, so that they will also be
over Aaron's heart whenever he comes before
the LORD. Aaron will continually carry the
judgment of the sons of Israel over his heart
before the LORD.
31 You are to make the robe of the ephod
entirely of blue cloth,
32 with an opening at its top in the center.
Around the opening shall be a woven collar with
an opening like that of a garment,* so that it will
not tear.
33 Make pomegranates of blue, purple, and
scarlet yarn all the way around the lower hem,
with gold bells between them,
34 alternating the gold bells and pomegranates
around the lower hem of the robe.
35 Aaron must wear the robe whenever he
ministers, and its sound will be heard when he
enters or exits the sanctuary before the LORD,
so that he will not die.
36 You are to make a plate of pure gold and
engrave on it as on a seal:
HOLY TO THE LORD.†
37 Fasten to it a blue cord to mount it on the
turban; it shall be on the front of the turban.
38 And it will be worn on Aaron's forehead, so
that he may bear the iniquity of the holy things
that the sons of Israel consecrate with regard to
all their holy gifts. It shall always be on his

§ **28:30 28:30** Literally *Lights and Perfections* * **28:32 28:32** The meaning of the Hebrew word is uncertain; possibly *a coat of mail.*
† **28:36 28:36** That is, *the LORD*

forehead, so that they may be acceptable before the LORD.

39 You are to weave the tunic with fine linen,
make the turban of fine linen, and fashion an
embroidered sash.
40 Make tunics, sashes, and headbands for
Aaron's sons, to give them glory and splendor.

41 After you put these garments on your
brother Aaron and his sons, anoint them, ordain
them, and consecrate them so that they may
serve me as priests.

42 Make linen undergarments to cover their
bare flesh, extending from waist to thigh.

43 Aaron and his sons must wear them
whenever they enter the Tent of Meeting or
approach the altar to minister in the Holy Place,
so that they will not incur guilt and die. This is
to be a permanent statute for Aaron and his
descendants.

29

1 "Now this is what you are to do to consecrate
Aaron and his sons to serve me as priests: Take
a young bull and two rams without blemish,
2 along with unleavened bread, unleavened
cakes mixed with oil, and unleavened wafers
anointed with oil. Make them out of fine wheat
flour,
3 put them in a basket, and present them in
the basket, along with the bull and the two rams.

4 Then present Aaron and his sons at the
entrance to the Tent of Meeting and wash them
with water.

5 Take the garments and clothe Aaron with the
tunic, the robe of the ephod, the ephod itself,
and the breastplate. Fasten the ephod on him
with its woven waistband.
6 Put the turban on his head and attach the
holy diadem to the turban.
7 Then take the anointing oil and anoint him
by pouring it on his head.

8 Present his sons as well and clothe them with
tunics.
9 Wrap the sashes around Aaron and his sons
and tie headbands on them. The priesthood
shall be theirs by a permanent statute. In this
way you are to ordain Aaron and his sons.

10 You are to present the bull at the front of the
Tent of Meeting, and Aaron and his sons are to
lay their hands on its head.
11 And you shall slaughter the bull before the
LORD at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.
12 Take some of the blood of the bull and put it
on the horns of the altar with your finger; then
pour out the rest of the blood at the base of the
altar.
13 Take all the fat that covers the entrails and
the lobe of the liver, and both kidneys with the
fat on them, and burn them on the altar.
14 But burn the flesh of the bull and its hide
and dung outside the camp; it is a purification
offering.*

15 Take one of the rams, and Aaron and his
sons shall lay their hands on its head.

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* **29:14 29:14** Or *sin offering*; also in verse 36

16 You are to slaughter the ram, take its blood,
and splatter it on all sides of the altar.
17 Cut the ram into pieces, wash the entrails
and legs, and place them with its head and other
pieces.
18 Then burn the entire ram on the altar; it is a
burnt offering to the LORD, a pleasing aroma, a
food offering to the LORD.
19 Take the second ram, and Aaron and his
sons are to lay their hands on its head.
20 Slaughter the ram, take some of its blood,
and put it on the right earlobes of Aaron and his
sons, on the thumbs of their right hands, and on
the big toes of their right feet. Splatter the
remaining blood on all sides of the altar.
21 And take some of the blood on the altar and
some of the anointing oil and sprinkle it on
Aaron and his garments, as well as on his sons
and their garments. Then he and his garments
will be consecrated, as well as his sons and their
garments.
22 Take the fat from the ram, the fat tail, the fat
covering the entrails, the lobe of the liver, both
kidneys with the fat on them, and the right thigh
(since this is a ram for ordination),
23 along with one loaf of bread, one cake of
bread made with oil, and one wafer from the
basket of unleavened bread that is before the
LORD.
24 Put all these in the hands of Aaron and his
sons and wave them before the LORD as a wave
offering.
25 Then take them from their hands and burn
them on the altar atop the burnt offering as a

pleasing aroma before the LORD; it is a food
offering to the LORD.

26 Take the breast of the ram of Aaron's
ordination and wave it before the LORD as a
wave offering, and it will be your portion.
27 Consecrate for Aaron and his sons the
breast of the wave offering that is waved and
the thigh of the heave offering that is lifted up
from the ram of ordination.
28 This will belong to Aaron and his sons as a
regular portion from the Israelites, for it is the
heave offering the Israelites will make to the
LORD from their peace offerings.

29 The holy garments that belong to Aaron will
belong to his sons after him, so they can be
anointed and ordained in them.
30 The son who succeeds him as priest and
enters the Tent of Meeting to minister in the
Holy Place must wear them for seven days.

31 You are to take the ram of ordination and
boil its flesh in a holy place.
32 At the entrance to the Tent of Meeting,
Aaron and his sons are to eat the meat of the
ram and the bread that is in the basket.
33 They must eat those things by which
atonement was made for their ordination and
consecration. But no outsider may eat them,
because these things are sacred.
34 And if any of the meat of ordination or any
bread is left until the morning, you are to burn
up the remainder. It must not be eaten, because
it is sacred.

35 This is what you are to do for Aaron and his
sons based on all that I have commanded you,
taking seven days to ordain them.
36 Sacrifice a bull as a purification offering
each day for atonement. Purify the altar by
making atonement for it, and anoint it to
consecrate it.
37 For seven days you shall make atonement
for the altar and consecrate it. Then the altar
will become most holy; whatever touches the
altar will be holy.
38 This is what you are to offer regularly on the
altar, each day: two lambs that are a year old.
39 Offer one lamb in the morning and the
other at twilight.†
40 With the first lamb offer a tenth of an ephah
of fine flour,‡ mixed with a quarter hin of oil
from pressed olives,§ and a drink offering of a
quarter hin of wine.
41 And offer the second lamb at twilight with
the same grain offering and drink offering as in
the morning, as a pleasing aroma, a food
offering to the LORD.
42 For the generations to come, this burnt
offering shall be made regularly at the entrance
to the Tent of Meeting before the LORD, where I
will meet you to speak with you.

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† **29:39 29:39** Hebrew *between the two evenings*; also in verse 41 ‡ **29:40 29:40** *A tenth of an ephah* is approximately 2 dry quarts or 2.2 liters (probably about 2.6 pounds or 1.2 kilograms of flour). § **29:40 29:40** Hebrew *a quarter hin of pressed oil*; that is, approximately 0.97 quarts or 0.92 liters

43 I will also meet with the Israelites there, and
that place will be consecrated by my glory.
44 So I will consecrate the Tent of Meeting and
the altar, and I will consecrate Aaron and his
sons to serve me as priests.
45 Then I will dwell among the Israelites and
be their God.
46 And they will know that I am the LORD
their God, who brought them out of the land of
Egypt so that I might dwell among them.
I am the LORD their God.

30

1 "You are also to make an altar of acacia wood
for the burning of incense.
2 It is to be square, a cubit long, a cubit wide,
and two cubits high.* Its horns must be of one
piece.
3 Overlay with pure gold the top and all the
sides and horns, and make a molding of gold
around it.
4 And make two gold rings below the molding
on opposite sides to hold the poles used to carry
it.
5 Make the poles of acacia wood and overlay
them with gold.
6 Place the altar in front of the veil that is
before the ark of the Testimony†—before the
cover that is over the Testimony—where I will
meet with you.

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* **30:2 30:2** The altar was approximately 1.5 feet in length and width, and 3 feet high (45.7 centimeters in length and width, and 91.4 centimeters high). † **30:6 30:6** That is, *the ark of the covenant*; also in verse 26

7 And Aaron is to burn fragrant incense on it
every morning when he tends the lamps.
8 When Aaron sets up the lamps at twilight,‡
he must burn the incense perpetually before the
LORD for the generations to come.
9 On this altar you must not offer strange§
incense or a burnt offering or grain offering; nor
are you to pour a drink offering on it.
10 Once a year Aaron shall make atonement on
the horns of the altar. Throughout your
generations he shall make atonement on it
annually with the blood of the purification
offering* of atonement. The altar is most holy to
the LORD."
11 Then the LORD said to Moses,
12 "When you take a census of the Israelites to
number them, each man must pay the LORD a
ransom for his life when he is counted. Then no
plague will come upon them when they are
numbered.
13 Everyone who crosses over to those counted
must pay a half shekel,† according to the
sanctuary shekel, which weighs twenty gerahs.‡
This half shekel is an offering to the LORD.
14 Everyone twenty years of age or older who
crosses over to those counted must give this
offering to the LORD.

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‡ **30:8 30:8** Hebrew *between the two evenings* § **30:9 30:9** Or *unauthorized* * **30:10 30:10** Or *sin offering* † **30:13 30:13** *A half shekel* is approximately 0.2 ounces or 5.7 grams; also in verse 15. ‡ **30:13 30:13** *20 gerahs* is equivalent to one shekel (approximately 0.4 ounces or 11.4 grams).

15 In making the offering to the LORD to atone
for your lives, the rich shall not give more than
a half shekel, nor shall the poor give less.
16 Take the atonement money from the
Israelites and use it for the service of the Tent of
Meeting. It will serve as a memorial for the
Israelites before the LORD to make atonement
for your lives."

17 And the LORD said to Moses,
18 "You are to make a bronze basin with a
bronze stand for washing. Set it between the
Tent of Meeting and the altar, and put water in it,
19 with which Aaron and his sons are to wash
their hands and feet.
20 Whenever they enter the Tent of Meeting or
approach the altar to minister by presenting a
food offering to the LORD, they must wash with
water so that they will not die.
21 Thus they are to wash their hands and feet
so that they will not die; this shall be a
permanent statute for Aaron and his
descendants for the generations to come."

22 Then the LORD said to Moses,
23 "Take the finest spices: 500 shekels of liquid
myrrh,§ half that amount (250 shekels) of
fragrant cinnamon,* 250 shekels of fragrant
cane,†

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§ **30:23** **30:23** *500 shekels* is approximately 12.6 pounds or 5.7 kilograms of myrrh. * **30:23** **30:23** *250 shekels* is approximately 6.3 pounds or 2.9 kilograms of cinnamon. † **30:23** **30:23** *250 shekels* is approximately 6.3 pounds or 2.9 kilograms of cane.

24 500 shekels of cassia‡—all according to the
sanctuary shekel—and a hin of olive oil.§
25 Prepare from these a sacred anointing oil, a
fragrant blend, the work of a perfumer; it will
be a sacred anointing oil.

26 Use this oil to anoint the Tent of Meeting,
the ark of the Testimony,
27 the table and all its utensils, the lampstand
and its utensils, the altar of incense,
28 the altar of burnt offering and all its
utensils, and the basin with its stand.
29 You are to consecrate them so that they will
be most holy. Whatever touches them shall be
holy.
30 Anoint Aaron and his sons and consecrate
them to serve me as priests.

31 And you are to tell the Israelites, 'This will
be my sacred anointing oil for the generations to
come.
32 It must not be used to anoint an ordinary
man, and you must not make anything like it
with the same formula. It is holy, and it must be
holy to you.
33 Anyone who mixes perfume like it or puts it
on an outsider shall be cut off from his people.' "

34 The LORD also said to Moses, "Take fragrant
spices—gum resin, onycha, galbanum, and pure
frankincense—in equal measures,

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‡ **30:24 30:24** *500 shekels* is approximately 12.6 pounds or 5.7 kilograms of cassia. § **30:24 30:24** *A hin* is approximately 0.97 gallons or 3.67 liters of olive oil.

35 and make a fragrant blend of incense, the
work of a perfumer, seasoned with salt, pure
and holy.
36 Grind some of it into fine powder and place
it in front of the Testimony* in the Tent of
Meeting, where I will meet with you. It shall be
most holy to you.
37 You are never to use this formula to make
incense for yourselves; you shall regard it as
holy to the LORD.
38 Anyone who makes something like it to
enjoy its fragrance shall be cut off from his
people."

31

1 Then the LORD said to Moses,
2 "See, I have called by name Bezalel son of
Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah.
3 And I have filled him with the spirit of God,
with skill, ability, and knowledge in all kinds of
craftsmanship,
4 to design artistic works in gold, silver, and
bronze,
5 to cut gemstones for settings, and to carve
wood, so that he may be a master of every craft.
6 Moreover, I have selected Oholiab son of
Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, as his assistant.
I have also given skill to all the craftsmen, that
they may fashion all that I have commanded
you:

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* **30:36 30:36** *The Testimony* refers to the stone tablets in the ark of the covenant inscribed with the Ten Commandments.

7 the Tent of Meeting, the ark of the
Testimony* and the cover upon it, and all the
other furnishings of the tent—
8 the table with its utensils, the pure gold
lampstand with all its utensils, the altar of
incense,
9 the altar of burnt offering with all its
utensils, and the basin with its stand—
10 as well as the woven garments, both the
holy garments for Aaron the priest and the
garments for his sons to serve as priests,
11 in addition to the anointing oil and fragrant
incense for the Holy Place. They are to make
them according to all that I have commanded
you."
12 And the LORD said to Moses,
13 "Tell the Israelites, 'Surely you must keep my
Sabbaths, for this will be a sign between me and
you for the generations to come, so that you may
know that I am the LORD who sanctifies you.
14 Keep the Sabbath, for it is holy to you.
Anyone who profanes it must surely be put to
death. Whoever does any work on that day must
be cut off from among his people.
15 For six days work may be done, but the
seventh day is a Sabbath of complete rest, holy
to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the
Sabbath day must surely be put to death.
16 The Israelites must keep the Sabbath,
celebrating it as a permanent covenant for the
generations to come.

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* **31:7 31:7** That is, *the ark of the covenant*

17 It is a sign between me and the Israelites
forever; for in six days the LORD made the
heavens and the earth, but on the seventh day
he rested and was refreshed.' "
18 When the LORD had finished speaking with
Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him the two
tablets of the Testimony, tablets of stone
inscribed by the finger of God.

32

1 Now when the people saw that Moses was
delayed in coming down from the mountain,
they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come,
make us gods who will go before us. As for this
Moses who brought us up out of the land of
Egypt, we do not know what has happened to
him!"
2 So Aaron told them, "Take off the gold
earrings that are on your wives and sons and
daughters, and bring them to me."
3 Then all the people took off their gold
earrings and brought them to Aaron.
4 He took the gold from their hands, and with
an engraving tool he fashioned it into a molten
calf. And they said, "These, O Israel, are your
gods, who brought you up out of the land of
Egypt!"
5 When Aaron saw this, he built an altar
before the calf and proclaimed: "Tomorrow shall
be a feast to the LORD."
6 So the next day they arose, offered burnt
offerings, and presented peace offerings. And

the people sat down to eat and drink and got up
to indulge in revelry.*
7 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go down at
once, for your people, whom you brought up out
of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves.
8 How quickly they have turned aside from the
way that I commanded them! They have made
for themselves a molten calf and have bowed
down to it. They have sacrificed to it and said,
‘These, O Israel, are your gods, who brought you
up out of the land of Egypt.’ ”
9 The LORD also said to Moses, “I have seen
this people, and they are indeed a stiff-necked
people.
10 Now leave me alone, so that my anger may
burn against them and consume them. Then I
will make you into a great nation.”
11 But Moses sought the favor of the LORD his
God, saying, “O LORD, why does your anger burn
against your people, whom you brought out of
the land of Egypt with great power and a mighty
hand?
12 Why should the Egyptians declare, ‘He
brought them out with evil intent, to kill them in
the mountains and wipe them from the face of
the earth’? Turn from your fierce anger and
relent from doing harm to your people.
13 Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac,
and Israel, to whom you swore by your very self
when you declared, ‘I will make your
descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky,
and I will give your descendants all this land

* **32:6 32:6** Or *to play*

that I have promised, and it shall be their
inheritance forever.' "
14 So the LORD relented from the calamity he
had threatened to bring on his people.
15 Then Moses turned and went down the
mountain with the two tablets of the Testimony
in his hands. They were inscribed on both sides,
front and back.
16 The tablets were the work of God, and the
writing was the writing of God, engraved on the
tablets.
17 When Joshua heard the sound of the people
shouting, he said to Moses, "The sound of war is
in the camp."
18 But Moses replied:

"It is neither the cry of victory nor the cry of
defeat;
I hear the sound of singing!"

19 As Moses approached the camp and saw the
calf and the dancing, he burned with anger and
threw the tablets out of his hands,† shattering
them at the base of the mountain.
20 Then he took the calf they had made,
burned it in the fire, ground it to powder, and
scattered the powder over the face of the water.
Then he forced the Israelites to drink it.
21 "What did this people do to you," Moses
asked Aaron, "that you have led them into so
great a sin?"

† **32:19 32:19** Qere; Ketiv *his hand*

22 “Do not be enraged, my lord,” Aaron replied.
“You yourself know that the people are intent on
evil.
23 They told me, ‘Make us gods who will go
before us. As for this Moses who brought us up
out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what
has happened to him!’
24 So I said to them, ‘Whoever has gold, let him
take it off,’ and they gave it to me. And when I
threw it into the fire, out came this calf!”
25 Moses saw that the people were out of
control, for Aaron had let them run wild and
become a laughingstock‡ to their enemies.
26 So Moses stood at the entrance to the camp
and said, “Whoever is for the LORD, come to me.”
And all the Levites gathered around him.
27 He told them, “This is what the LORD, the
God of Israel, says: ‘Each of you men is to fasten
his sword to his side, go back and forth through
the camp from gate to gate, and slay his brother,
his friend, and his neighbor.’ ”
28 The Levites did as Moses commanded, and
that day about three thousand of the people fell
dead.
29 Afterward, Moses said, “Ordain yourselves
today§ for service to the LORD, since each man
went against his son and his brother, so that the
LORD may bestow a blessing on you this day.”
30 The next day Moses said to the people, “You
have committed a great sin. Now I will go up to

‡ **32:25 32:25** Or *and become an object of derision* § **32:29 32:29** Literally *Fill your hands today*; LXX and Vulgate *Today you have ordained yourselves*

the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin."

31 So Moses returned to the LORD and said,
"Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made gods of gold for themselves.
32 Yet now, if you would only forgive their sin.... But if not, please blot me out of the book that you have written."

33 The LORD replied to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against me, I will blot out of my book.
34 Now go, lead the people to the place I described. Behold, my angel shall go before you. But on the day I settle accounts, I will punish them for their sin."
35 And the LORD sent a plague on the people because of what they had done with the calf that Aaron had made.

33

1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Leave this place, you and the people you brought up out of the land of Egypt, and go to the land that I promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob when I said, 'I will give it to your descendants.'
2 And I will send an angel before you, and I will drive out the Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites.
3 Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey. But I will not go with you, because you are a stiff-necked people; otherwise, I might destroy you on the way."

4 When the people heard this bad news, they
went into mourning, and no one put on any of
his jewelry.
5 For the LORD had said to Moses, “Tell the
Israelites, ‘You are a stiff-necked people. If I
should go with you for a single moment, I would
destroy you. Now take off your jewelry, and I
will decide what to do with you.’ ”
6 So the Israelites stripped themselves of their
jewelry from Mount Horeb onward.*
7 Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it
at a distance outside the camp. He called it the
Tent of Meeting, and anyone inquiring of the
LORD would go to the Tent of Meeting outside
the camp.
8 Then, whenever Moses went out to the tent,
all the people would stand at the entrances to
their own tents and watch Moses until he
entered the tent.
9 As Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud
would come down and remain at the entrance,
and the LORD would speak with Moses.
10 When all the people saw the pillar of cloud
standing at the entrance to the tent, they would
stand up and worship, each one at the entrance
to his own tent.
11 Thus the LORD would speak to Moses face
to face, as a man speaks to his friend. Then
Moses would return to the camp, but his young
assistant Joshua son of Nun would not leave the
tent.

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* **33:6 33:6** That is, from Mount Sinai onward, or possibly a mountain in the range containing Mount Sinai

12 Then Moses said to the LORD, “Look, you
have been telling me, ‘Lead this people up,’ but
you have not let me know whom you will send
with me. Yet you have said, ‘I know you by
name, and you have found favor in my sight.’
13 Now if indeed I have found favor in your
sight, please let me know your ways, that I may
know you and find favor in your sight.
Remember that this nation is your people.”
14 And the LORD answered, “My Presence will
go with you, and I will give you rest.”
15 “If your Presence does not go with us,”
Moses replied, “do not lead us up from here.
16 For how then can it be known that your
people and I have found favor in your sight,
unless you go with us? How else will we be
distinguished from all the other people on the
face of the earth?”
17 So the LORD said to Moses, “I will do this
very thing you have asked, for you have found
favor in my sight, and I know you by name.”
18 Then Moses said, “Please show me your
glory.”
19 “I will cause all my goodness to pass before
you,” the LORD replied, “and I will proclaim my
name—the LORD—in your presence. I will have
mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have
compassion on whom I have compassion.”
20 But he added, “You cannot see my face, for
no one can see me and live.”
21 The LORD continued, “There is a place near
me where you are to stand upon a rock,

22 and when my glory passes by, I will put you
in a cleft of the rock and cover you with my
hand until I have passed by.
23 Then I will take my hand away, and you will
see my back; but my face must not be seen."

34

1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Chisel out two
stone tablets like the originals, and I will write
on them the words that were on the first tablets,
which you broke.
2 Be ready in the morning, and come up on
Mount Sinai to present yourself before me on
the mountaintop.
3 No one may go up with you; in fact, no one
may be seen anywhere on the mountain—not
even the flocks or herds may graze in front of
the mountain."
4 So Moses chiseled out two stone tablets like
the originals. He rose early in the morning, and
taking the two stone tablets in his hands, he
went up Mount Sinai as the LORD had
commanded him.
5 And the LORD descended in a cloud, stood
with him there, and proclaimed his name, the
LORD.
6 Then the LORD passed in front of Moses and
called out:
"The LORD, the LORD God,
is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger,
abounding in loving devotion and
faithfulness,

7 maintaining loving devotion to a thousand
generations,*
forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin.
Yet he will by no means leave the guilty
unpunished;
he will visit the iniquity of the fathers
on their children and grandchildren
to the third and fourth generations."
8 Moses immediately bowed down to the
ground and worshiped.
9 "O Lord," he said, "if I have indeed found
favor in your sight, my Lord, please go with us.
Although this is a stiff-necked people, forgive
our iniquity and sin, and take us as your
inheritance."
10 And the LORD said, "Behold, I am making a
covenant. Before all your people I will perform
wonders that have never been done in any
nation in all the world. All the people among
whom you live will see the LORD's work, for it is
an awesome thing that I am doing with you.
11 Observe what I command you this day. I will
drive out before you the Amorites, Canaanites,
Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites.
12 Be careful not to make a treaty† with the
inhabitants of the land you are entering, lest
they become a snare in your midst.
13 Rather, you must tear down their altars,
smash their sacred stones, and chop down their
Asherah poles.

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* **34:7 34:7** Hebrew *to thousands* † **34:12 34:12** Forms of the Hebrew *berit* are translated in most passages as *covenant*.

14 For you must not worship any other god, for
the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous
God.
15 Do not make a covenant with the
inhabitants of the land, for when they prostitute
themselves to their gods and sacrifice to them,
they will invite you, and you will eat their
sacrifices.
16 And when you take some of their daughters
as brides for your sons, their daughters will
prostitute themselves to their gods and cause
your sons to do the same.
17 You shall make no molten gods for
yourselves.
18 You are to keep the Feast of Unleavened
Bread.‡ For seven days at the appointed time in
the month of Abib,§ you are to eat unleavened
bread as I commanded you. For in the month of
Abib you came out of Egypt.
19 The first offspring of every womb belongs to
me, including all the firstborn males among
your livestock, whether cattle or sheep.
20 You must redeem the firstborn of a donkey
with a lamb; but if you do not redeem it, you are
to break its neck. You must redeem all the
firstborn of your sons. No one shall appear
before me empty-handed.

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‡ **34:18 34:18** That is, the seven-day period after the Passover during which no leaven may be eaten; see Exodus 12:14–20.

§ **34:18 34:18** *Abib* was the first month of the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar, usually occurring within the months of March and April; twice in this verse.

21 Six days you shall labor, but on the seventh
day you shall rest; even in the seasons of
plowing and harvesting, you must rest.
22 And you are to celebrate the Feast of Weeks*
with the firstfruits of the wheat harvest, and the
Feast of Ingathering† at the turn of the year.
23 Three times a year all your males are to
appear before the Lord GOD, the God of Israel.
24 For I will drive out the nations before you
and enlarge your borders, and no one will covet
your land when you go up three times a year to
appear before the LORD your God.
25 Do not offer the blood of a sacrifice to me
along with anything leavened, and do not let
any of the sacrifice from the Passover Feast
remain until morning.
26 Bring the best of the firstfruits of your soil
to the house of the LORD your God.
You must not cook a young goat in its mother's
milk."
27 The LORD also said to Moses, "Write down
these words, for in accordance with these words
I have made a covenant with you and with
Israel."
28 So Moses was there with the LORD forty
days and forty nights without eating bread or
drinking water. He wrote on the tablets the

* **34:22 34:22** That is, Shavuot, the late spring feast of pilgrimage to Jerusalem; it is also known as *the Feast of Harvest* (see Exodus 23:16) or *the Feast of Pentecost*. † **34:22 34:22** That is, Sukkot, the autumn feast of pilgrimage to Jerusalem; it is later called *the Feast of Tabernacles* (or *Booths* or *Shelters*).

words of the covenant—the Ten
Commandments.‡
29 And when Moses came down from Mount
Sinai with the two tablets of the Testimony in his
hands, he was unaware that his face had
become radiant from speaking with the LORD.
30 Aaron and all the Israelites looked at Moses,
and behold, his face was radiant. And they were
afraid to approach him.
31 But Moses called out to them; so Aaron and
all the leaders of the congregation returned to
him, and Moses spoke to them.
32 And after this all the Israelites came near,
and Moses commanded them to do everything
that the LORD had told him on Mount Sinai.
33 When Moses had finished speaking with
them, he put a veil over his face.
34 But whenever Moses went in before the
LORD to speak with him, he would remove the
veil until he came out. And when he came out,
he would tell the Israelites what he had been
commanded,
35 and the Israelites would see that the face of
Moses was radiant. So Moses would put the veil
back over his face until he went in to speak with
the LORD.

35

1 Then Moses assembled the whole
congregation of Israel and said to them, “These
are the things that the LORD has commanded
you to do:

‡ **34:28 34:28** Hebrew *the Ten Words*

2 For six days work may be done, but the
seventh day shall be your holy day, a Sabbath of
complete rest to the LORD. Whoever does any
work on that day must be put to death.
3 Do not light a fire in any of your dwellings on
the Sabbath day."
4 Moses also told the whole congregation of
Israel, "This is what the LORD has commanded:
5 Take from among you an offering to the
LORD. Let everyone whose heart is willing bring
an offering to the LORD:

gold, silver, and bronze;
6 blue, purple, and scarlet yarn;
fine linen and goat hair;
7 ram skins dyed red and fine leather;*
acacia wood;
8 olive oil for the light;
spices for the anointing oil and for the
fragrant incense;
9 and onyx stones and gemstones to be
mounted on the ephod and breastpiece.
10 Let every skilled craftsman among you
come and make everything that the LORD has
commanded:

11 the tabernacle with its tent and covering, its
clasps and frames, its crossbars, posts, and
bases;
12 the ark with its poles and the cover, and the
veil to shield it;

* **35:7 35:7** Possibly the hides of large aquatic mammals; also in verse 23

13 the table with its poles, all its utensils, and
the Bread of the Presence;
14 the lampstand for light with its accessories
and lamps and oil for the light;
15 the altar of incense with its poles;
the anointing oil and fragrant incense;
the curtain for the doorway at the entrance to
the tabernacle;
16 the altar of burnt offering with its bronze
grate, its poles, and all its utensils;
the basin with its stand;
17 the curtains of the courtyard with its posts
and bases, and the curtain for the gate of
the courtyard;
18 the tent pegs for the tabernacle and for the
courtyard, along with their ropes;
19 and the woven garments for ministering in
the holy place—both the holy garments for
Aaron the priest and the garments for his
sons to serve as priests."

20 Then the whole congregation of Israel withdrew from the presence of Moses.
21 And everyone whose heart stirred him and whose spirit prompted him came and brought an offering to the LORD for the work on the Tent of Meeting, for all its services, and for the holy garments.

22 So all who had willing hearts, both men and women, came and brought brooches and earrings, rings and necklaces, and all kinds of gold jewelry. And they all presented their gold as a wave offering to the LORD.

23 Everyone who had blue, purple, or scarlet
yarn, or fine linen, goat hair, ram skins dyed red,
or articles of fine leather, brought them.
24 And all who could present an offering of
silver or bronze brought it as a contribution to
the LORD. Also, everyone who had acacia wood
for any part of the service brought it.

25 Every skilled woman spun with her hands
and brought what she had spun: blue, purple, or
scarlet yarn, or fine linen.
26 And all the skilled women whose hearts
were stirred spun the goat hair.

27 The leaders brought onyx stones and
gemstones to mount on the ephod and
breastpiece,
28 as well as spices and olive oil for the light,
for the anointing oil, and for the fragrant
incense.

29 So all the men and women of the Israelites
whose hearts prompted them brought a freewill
offering to the LORD for all the work that the
LORD through Moses had commanded them to
do.

30 Then Moses said to the Israelites, “See, the
LORD has called by name Bezalel son of Uri, the
son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah.
31 And he has filled him with the spirit of God,
with skill, ability, and knowledge in all kinds of
craftsmanship,
32 to design artistic works in gold, silver, and
bronze,

33 to cut gemstones for settings, and to carve
wood, so that he may be a master of every
artistic craft.
34 And the LORD has given both him and
Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan,
the ability to teach others.
35 He has filled them with skill to do all kinds
of work as engravers, designers, embroiderers
in blue, purple, and scarlet yarn and fine linen,
and as weavers—as artistic designers of every
kind of craft.

36

1 "So Bezalel, Oholiab, and every skilled
person are to carry out everything commanded
by the LORD, who has given them skill and
ability to know how to perform all the work of
constructing the sanctuary."
2 Then Moses summoned Bezalel, Oholiab, and
every skilled person whom the LORD had
gifted—everyone whose heart stirred him to
come and do the work.
3 They received from Moses all the
contributions that the Israelites had brought to
carry out the service of constructing the
sanctuary.
Meanwhile, the people continued to bring
freewill offerings morning after morning,
4 so that all the skilled craftsmen who were
doing all the work on the sanctuary left their
work
5 and said to Moses, "The people are bringing
more than enough for doing the work the LORD
has commanded us to do."

6 After Moses had given an order, they sent a
proclamation throughout the camp: “No man or
woman should make anything else as an
offering for the sanctuary.” So the people were
restrained from bringing more,
7 since what they already had was more than
enough to perform all the work.

8 All the skilled craftsmen among the
workmen made the ten curtains for the
tabernacle. They were made of finely spun
linen, as well as blue, purple, and scarlet yarn,
with cherubim skillfully worked into them.
9 Each curtain was twenty-eight cubits long
and four cubits wide;* all the curtains were the
same size.
10 And he joined five of the curtains together,
and the other five he joined as well.

11 He made loops of blue material on the edge
of the end curtain in the first set, and also on the
end curtain in the second set.
12 He made fifty loops on one curtain and fifty
loops on the end curtain of the second set, so
that the loops lined up opposite one another.
13 He also made fifty gold clasps to join the
curtains together, so that the tabernacle was a
unit.

14 He then made curtains of goat hair for the
tent over the tabernacle—eleven curtains in all.

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* **36:9 36:9** Each of the ten curtains was approximately 42 feet long and 6 feet wide (12.8 meters long and 1.8 meters wide).

15 Each of the eleven curtains was the same
size—thirty cubits long and four cubits wide.†
16 He joined five of the curtains into one set
and the other six into another.
17 He made fifty loops along the edge of the
end curtain in the first set, and fifty loops along
the edge of the corresponding curtain in the
second set.
18 He also made fifty bronze clasps to join the
tent together as a unit.
19 Additionally, he made for the tent a
covering of ram skins dyed red, and over that a
covering of fine leather.‡
20 Next, he constructed upright frames of
acacia wood for the tabernacle.
21 Each frame was ten cubits long and a cubit
and a half wide.§
22 Two tenons* were connected to each other
for each frame. He made all the frames of the
tabernacle in this way.
23 He constructed twenty frames for the south
side of the tabernacle,
24 with forty silver bases to put under the
twenty frames—two bases for each frame, one
under each tenon.
25 For the second side of the tabernacle, the
north side, he made twenty frames

† **36:15 36:15** Each of the eleven curtains was approximately 45 feet long and 6 feet wide (13.7 meters long and 1.8 meters wide). ‡ **36:19 36:19** Possibly the hides of large aquatic mammals § **36:21 36:21** Each frame was approximately 15 feet long and 2.25 feet wide (4.6 meters long and 68.6 centimeters wide). * **36:22 36:22** That is, projecting pieces of wood made for insertion into another piece; similarly in verse 24.

26 and forty silver bases—two bases under
each frame.
27 He made six frames for the rear of the
tabernacle, the west side,
28 and two frames for the two back corners of
the tabernacle,
29 coupled together from bottom to top and
fitted into a single ring. He made both corners in
this way.
30 So there were eight frames and sixteen
silver bases—two under each frame.
31 He also made five crossbars of acacia wood
for the frames on one side of the tabernacle,
32 five for those on the other side, and five for
those on the rear side of the tabernacle, to the
west.
33 He made the central crossbar to run
through the center of the frames, from one end
to the other.
34 And he overlaid the frames with gold and
made gold rings to hold the crossbars. He also
overlaid the crossbars with gold.
35 Next, he made the veil of blue, purple, and
scarlet yarn, and finely spun linen, with
cherubim skillfully worked into it.
36 He also made four posts of acacia wood for
it and overlaid them with gold, along with gold
hooks; and he cast four silver bases for the posts.
37 For the entrance to the tent, he made a
curtain embroidered with blue, purple, and
scarlet yarn, and finely spun linen,
38 together with five posts and their hooks.

He overlaid the tops of the posts and their
bands with gold, and their five bases were
bronze.

37

1 Bezalel went on to construct the ark of acacia
wood, two and a half cubits long, a cubit and a
half wide, and a cubit and a half high.*
2 He overlaid it with pure gold, both inside
and out, and made a gold molding around it.
3 And he cast four gold rings for its four feet,
two rings on one side and two on the other.
4 Then he made poles of acacia wood and
overlaid them with gold.
5 He inserted the poles into the rings on the
sides of the ark in order to carry it.
6 He constructed a cover of pure gold, two and
a half cubits long and a cubit and a half wide.†
7 He made two cherubim of hammered gold at
the ends of the cover,
8 one cherub on one end and one on the other,
all made of one piece with the cover at its two
ends.
9 And the cherubim had wings that spread
upward, overshadowing the cover. The
cherubim faced each other, looking toward the
cover.

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* **37:1 37:1** The ark was approximately 3.75 feet long, 2.25 feet wide, and 2.25 feet high (114.3 centimeters long, 68.6 centimeters wide, and 68.6 centimeters high). † **37:6 37:6** The cover was approximately 3.75 feet long and 2.25 feet wide (114.3 centimeters long and 68.6 centimeters wide).

10 He also made the table of acacia wood two
cubits long, a cubit wide, and a cubit and a half
high.‡
11 He overlaid it with pure gold and made a
gold molding around it.
12 And he made a rim around it a handbreadth
wide§ and put a gold molding on the rim.

13 He cast four gold rings for the table and
fastened them to the four corners at its four legs.
14 The rings were placed close to the rim, to
serve as holders for the poles used to carry the
table.
15 He made the poles of acacia wood for
carrying the table and overlaid them with gold.

16 He also made the utensils for the table out
of pure gold: its plates and dishes, as well as its
bowls and pitchers for pouring drink offerings.

17 Then he made the lampstand out of pure
hammered gold, all of one piece: its base and
shaft, its cups, and its buds and petals.
18 Six branches extended from the sides, three
on one side and three on the other.
19 There were three cups shaped like almond
blossoms on the first branch, each with buds
and petals, three on the next branch, and the
same for all six branches that extended from the
lampstand.

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‡ **37:10 37:10** The table was approximately 3 feet long, 1.5 feet wide, and 2.25 feet high (91.4 centimeters long, 45.7 centimeters wide, and 68.6 centimeters high). § **37:12 37:12** *A handbreadth* is approximately 2.9 inches or 7.4 centimeters.

20 And on the lampstand were four cups
shaped like almond blossoms with buds and
petals.
21 A bud was under the first pair of branches
that extended from the lampstand, a bud under
the second pair, and a bud under the third pair.
22 The buds and branches were all of one piece
with the lampstand, hammered out of pure gold.
23 He also made its seven lamps, its wick
trimmers, and trays of pure gold.
24 He made the lampstand and all its utensils
from a talent of pure gold.*
25 He made the altar of incense out of acacia
wood. It was square, a cubit long, a cubit wide,
and two cubits high.† Its horns were of one
piece.
26 And he overlaid with pure gold the top and
all the sides and horns. Then he made a molding
of gold around it.
27 He made two gold rings below the molding
on opposite sides to hold the poles used to carry
it.
28 And he made the poles of acacia wood and
overlaid them with gold.
29 He also made the sacred anointing oil and
the pure, fragrant incense, the work of a
perfumer.

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* **37:24 37:24** *A talent* is approximately 75.4 pounds or 34.2 kilograms of gold. † **37:25 37:25** The altar was approximately 1.5 feet in length and width, and 3 feet high (45.7 centimeters in length and width, and 91.4 centimeters high).

38

1 Bezalel constructed* the altar of burnt
offering from acacia wood. It was square, five
cubits long, five cubits wide, and three cubits
high.†
2 He made a horn at each of its four corners,
so that the horns and altar were of one piece,
and he overlaid the altar with bronze.
3 He made all the altar's utensils of bronze—its
pots, shovels, sprinkling bowls, meat forks, and
firepans.
4 He made a grate of bronze mesh for the altar
under its ledge, halfway up from the bottom.
5 At the four corners of the bronze grate he
cast four rings as holders for the poles.
6 And he made the poles of acacia wood and
overlaid them with bronze.
7 Then he inserted the poles into the rings on
the sides of the altar for carrying it. He made
the altar with boards so that it was hollow.
8 Next he made the bronze basin and its stand
from the mirrors of the women who served at
the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.
9 Then he constructed the courtyard. The
south side of the courtyard was a hundred cubits
long‡ and had curtains of finely spun linen,
10 with twenty posts and twenty bronze bases,
and with silver hooks and bands on the posts.
11 The north side was also a hundred cubits
long, with twenty posts and twenty bronze

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* **38:1 38:1** Literally *he constructed* † **38:1 38:1** The altar was approximately 7.5 feet in length and width, and 4.5 feet high (2.3 meters in length and width, and 1.4 meters high). ‡ **38:9 38:9** *100 cubits* is approximately 150 feet or 45.7 meters.

bases. The hooks and bands of the posts were
silver.
12 The west side was fifty cubits long§ and had
curtains, with ten posts and ten bases. The
hooks and bands of the posts were silver.
13 And the east side, toward the sunrise, was
also fifty cubits long.
14 The curtains on one side of the entrance
were fifteen cubits long,* with three posts and
three bases.
15 And the curtains on the other side were also
fifteen cubits long, with three posts and three
bases as well.
16 All the curtains around the courtyard were
made of finely spun linen.
17 The bases for the posts were bronze, the
hooks and bands were silver, and the plating for
the tops of the posts was silver. So all the posts
of the courtyard were banded with silver.
18 The curtain for the entrance to the
courtyard was embroidered with blue, purple,
and scarlet yarn, and finely spun linen. It was
twenty cubits long† and, like the curtains of the
courtyard, five cubits high,‡
19 with four posts and four bronze bases.
Their hooks were silver, as well as the bands and
the plating of their tops.
20 All the tent pegs for the tabernacle and for
the surrounding courtyard were bronze.

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§ **38:12 38:12** *50 cubits* is approximately 75 feet or 22.9 meters.
* **38:14 38:14** *15 cubits* is approximately 22.5 feet or 6.9 meters.
† **38:18 38:18** *20 cubits* is approximately 30 feet or 9.1 meters.
‡ **38:18 38:18** *5 cubits* is approximately 7.5 feet or 2.3 meters.

21 This is the inventory for the tabernacle, the
tabernacle of the Testimony, as recorded at
Moses' command by the Levites under the
direction of Ithamar son of Aaron the priest.
22 Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the
tribe of Judah, made everything that the LORD
had commanded Moses.
23 With him was Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of
the tribe of Dan, an engraver, designer, and
embroiderer in blue, purple, and scarlet yarn
and fine linen.
24 All the gold from the wave offering used for
the work on the sanctuary totaled 29 talents and
730 shekels,§ according to the sanctuary shekel.
25 The silver from those numbered among the
congregation totaled 100 talents and 1,775
shekels,* according to the sanctuary shekel—
26 a beka per person, that is, half a shekel,†
according to the sanctuary shekel, from
everyone twenty years of age or older who had
crossed over to be numbered, a total of 603,550
men.
27 The hundred talents of silver‡ were used to
cast the bases of the sanctuary and the bases of
the veil—100 bases from the 100 talents, one
talent per base.

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§ **38:24 38:24** The total weight of the gold was approximately 1.1 tons or 1 metric ton. * **38:25 38:25** The total weight of the silver was approximately 3.79 tons or 3.44 metric tons. † **38:26 38:26** *A beka* is half a shekel, or approximately 0.2 ounces or 5.7 grams. ‡ **38:27 38:27** *100 talents* is approximately 3.77 tons or 3.42 metric tons of silver.

28 With the 1,775 shekels of silver§ he made
the hooks for the posts, overlaid their tops, and
supplied bands for them.
29 The bronze from the wave offering totaled
70 talents and 2,400 shekels.*
30 He used it to make the bases for the
entrance to the Tent of Meeting, the bronze altar
and its bronze grating, all the utensils for the
altar,
31 the bases for the surrounding courtyard
and its gate, and all the tent pegs for the
tabernacle and its surrounding courtyard.

39

1 From the blue, purple, and scarlet yarn they
made specially woven garments for ministry in
the sanctuary, as well as the holy garments for
Aaron, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.
2 Bezalel made* the ephod of finely spun linen
embroidered with gold, and with blue, purple,
and scarlet yarn.
3 They hammered out thin sheets of gold and
cut threads from them to interweave with the
blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and fine
linen—the work of a skilled craftsman.
4 They made shoulder pieces for the ephod,
which were attached at two of its corners, so it
could be fastened.

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§ **38:28 38:28** *1,775 shekels* is approximately 44.6 pounds or 20.2 kilograms of silver. * **38:29 38:29** The total weight of the bronze was approximately 2.67 tons or 2.42 metric tons. * **39:2 39:2** Literally *he made*

5 And the skillfully woven waistband of the
ephod was of one piece with the ephod, of the
same workmanship—with gold, with blue,
purple, and scarlet yarn, and with finely spun
linen, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.
6 They mounted the onyx stones in gold
filigree settings, engraved like a seal with the
names of the sons of Israel.
7 Then they fastened them on the shoulder
pieces of the ephod as memorial stones for the
sons of Israel, as the LORD had commanded
Moses.
8 He made the breastpiece with the same
workmanship as the ephod, with gold, with
blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, and with finely
spun linen.
9 It was square when folded over double, a
span long and a span wide.†
10 And they mounted on it four rows of
gemstones:‡

The first row had a ruby, a topaz, and an
emerald;
11 the second row had a turquoise, a sapphire,
and a diamond;
12 the third row had a jacinth, an agate, and an
amethyst;
13 and the fourth row had a beryl, an onyx,
and a jasper.

† **39:9 39:9** The breastpiece, when folded over, was approximately 9 inches or 22.9 centimeters in both length and width.
‡ **39:10 39:10** The precise identification of some of these gemstones is uncertain.

These stones were mounted in gold filigree settings.

14 The twelve stones corresponded to the
names of the sons of Israel. Each stone was
engraved like a seal with the name of one of the
twelve tribes.

15 For the breastpiece they made braided
chains like cords of pure gold.

16 They also made two gold filigree settings
and two gold rings, and fastened the two rings
to the two corners of the breastpiece.

17 Then they fastened the two gold chains to
the two gold rings at the corners of the
breastpiece,

18 and they fastened the other ends of the two
chains to the two filigree settings, attaching
them to the shoulder pieces of the ephod at the
front.

19 They made two more gold rings and
attached them to the other two corners of the
breastpiece, on the inside edge next to the
ephod.

20 They made two additional gold rings and
attached them to the bottom of the two shoulder
pieces of the ephod, on its front, near the seam
just above its woven waistband.

21 Then they tied the rings of the breastpiece to
the rings of the ephod with a cord of blue yarn,
so that the breastpiece was above the waistband
of the ephod and would not swing out from the
ephod, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

22 They made the robe of the ephod entirely of
blue cloth, the work of a weaver,

23 with an opening in the center of the robe
like that of a garment,§ with a collar around the
opening so that it would not tear.
24 They made pomegranates of blue, purple,
and scarlet yarn and finely spun linen on the
lower hem of the robe.
25 They also made bells of pure gold and
attached them around the hem of the robe
between the pomegranates,
26 alternating the bells and pomegranates
around the lower hem of the robe to be worn for
ministry, just as the LORD had commanded
Moses.
27 For Aaron and his sons they made tunics of
fine linen, the work of a weaver,
28 as well as the turban of fine linen, the
ornate headbands and undergarments of finely
spun linen,
29 and the sash of finely spun linen,
embroidered with blue, purple, and scarlet
yarn, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.
30 They also made the plate of the holy crown
of pure gold, and they engraved on it, like an
inscription on a seal:

HOLY TO THE LORD.*

31 Then they fastened to it a blue cord to
mount it on the turban, just as the LORD had
commanded Moses.
32 So all the work for the tabernacle, the Tent
of Meeting, was completed. The Israelites did

§ **39:23** **39:23** The meaning of the Hebrew word is uncertain; possibly *a coat of mail.* * **39:30** **39:30** That is, *the LORD*

everything just as the LORD had commanded
Moses.
33 Then they brought the tabernacle to Moses:

the tent with all its furnishings, its clasps, its
frames, its crossbars,† and its posts and
bases;
34 the covering of ram skins dyed red, the
covering of fine leather,‡ and the veil of the
covering;
35 the ark of the Testimony§ with its poles and
the cover;
36 the table with all its utensils and the Bread
of the Presence;
37 the pure gold lampstand with its row of
lamps and all its utensils, as well as the oil
for the light;
38 the gold altar, the anointing oil, the fragrant
incense, and the curtain for the entrance to
the tent;
39 the bronze altar with its bronze grating, its
poles, and all its utensils;
the basin with its stand;
40 the curtains of the courtyard with its posts
and bases;
the curtain for the gate of the courtyard, its
ropes and tent pegs, and all the equipment
for the service of the tabernacle, the Tent of
Meeting;
41 and the woven garments for ministering in
the sanctuary, both the holy garments for

† **39:33 39:33** Qere; Ketiv *its crossbar* ‡ **39:34 39:34** Possibly the hides of large aquatic mammals § **39:35 39:35** That is, *the ark of the covenant*

Aaron the priest and the garments for his
sons to serve as priests.
42 The Israelites had done all the work just as
the LORD had commanded Moses.
43 And Moses inspected all the work and saw
that they had accomplished it just as the LORD
had commanded. So Moses blessed them.

40

1 Then the LORD said to Moses,
2 "On the first day of the first month you are to
set up the tabernacle, the Tent of Meeting.
3 Put the ark of the Testimony* in it and screen
off the ark with the veil.
4 Then bring in the table and set out its
arrangement; bring in the lampstand as well,
and set up its lamps.
5 Place the gold altar of incense in front of the
ark of the Testimony, and hang the curtain at the
entrance to the tabernacle.
6 Place the altar of burnt offering in front of
the entrance to the tabernacle, the Tent of
Meeting.
7 And place the basin between the Tent of
Meeting and the altar, and put water in it.
8 Set up the surrounding courtyard and hang
the curtain for the entrance to the courtyard.
9 Take the anointing oil and anoint the
tabernacle and everything in it; consecrate it
along with all its furnishings, and it shall be holy.

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* **40:3 40:3** That is, *the ark of the covenant*; also in verses 5 and 21

10 Anoint the altar of burnt offering and all its
utensils; consecrate the altar, and it shall be
most holy.
11 Anoint the basin and its stand and
consecrate them.
12 Then bring Aaron and his sons to the
entrance to the Tent of Meeting and wash them
with water.
13 And you are to clothe Aaron with the holy
garments, anoint him, and consecrate him, so
that he may serve me as a priest.
14 Bring his sons forward and clothe them
with tunics.
15 Anoint them just as you anointed their
father, so that they may also serve me as priests.
Their anointing will qualify them for a
permanent priesthood throughout their
generations."
16 Moses did everything just as the LORD had
commanded him.
17 So the tabernacle was set up on the first day
of the first month of the second year.
18 When Moses set up the tabernacle, he laid
its bases, positioned its frames, inserted its
crossbars, and set up its posts.
19 Then he spread the tent over the tabernacle
and put the covering over the tent, just as the
LORD had commanded him.
20 Moses took the Testimony and placed it in
the ark, attaching the poles to the ark; and he set
the cover atop the ark.
21 Then he brought the ark into the tabernacle,
put up the veil for the screen, and shielded off

the ark of the Testimony, just as the LORD had
commanded him.
22 Moses placed the table in the Tent of
Meeting on the north side of the tabernacle,
outside the veil.
23 He arranged the bread on it before the
LORD, just as the LORD had commanded him.
24 He also placed the lampstand in the Tent of
Meeting opposite the table on the south side of
the tabernacle
25 and set up the lamps before the LORD, just
as the LORD had commanded him.
26 Moses placed the gold altar in the Tent of
Meeting, in front of the veil,
27 and he burned fragrant incense on it, just as
the LORD had commanded him.
28 Then he put up the curtain at the entrance
to the tabernacle.
29 He placed the altar of burnt offering near
the entrance to the tabernacle, the Tent of
Meeting, and offered on it the burnt offering and
the grain offering, just as the LORD had
commanded him.
30 He placed the basin between the Tent of
Meeting and the altar and put water in it for
washing;
31 and from it Moses, Aaron, and his sons
washed their hands and feet.
32 They washed whenever they entered the
Tent of Meeting or approached the altar, just as
the LORD had commanded Moses.
33 And Moses set up the courtyard around the
tabernacle and the altar, and he hung the

curtain for the entrance to the courtyard. So
Moses finished the work.
34 Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting,
and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.
35 Moses was unable to enter the Tent of
Meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and
the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.
36 Whenever the cloud was lifted from above
the tabernacle, the Israelites would set out
through all the stages of their journey.
37 If the cloud was not lifted, they would not
set out until the day it was taken up.
38 For the cloud of the LORD was over the
tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by
night, in the sight of all the house of Israel
through all their journeys.

Masoretic English Tanakh

The Tanakh (Law, Prophets, and Writings) of the Holy Bible in English, conformed to the Masoretic Text.

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