Joshua

1 Now after the death of his servant Moses, the
LORD spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses'
assistant, saying,
2 "Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore
arise, you and all these people, and cross over
the Jordan into the land that I am giving to the
children of Israel.
3 I have given you every place where the sole
of your foot will tread, just as I promised to
Moses.
4 Your territory shall extend from the
wilderness and Lebanon to the great River
Euphrates—all the land of the Hittites—and west
as far as the Great Sea.*
5 No one shall stand against you all the days of
your life. As I was with Moses, so will I be with
you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.
6 Be strong and courageous, for you shall give
these people the inheritance of the land that I
swore to their fathers I would give them.
7 Above all, be strong and very courageous. Be
careful to observe all the law that my servant
Moses commanded you. Do not turn from it to
the right or to the left, so that you may prosper
wherever you go.
8 This Book of the Teaching must not depart
from your mouth; meditate on it day and night,

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* **1:4 1:4** That is, the Mediterranean Sea

so that you may be careful to do everything
written in it. For then you will prosper and
succeed in all you do.
9 Have I not commanded you to be strong and
courageous? Do not be afraid; do not be
discouraged, for the LORD your God is with you
wherever you go."
10 Then Joshua commanded the officers of the
people:
11 "Go through the camp and tell the people,
'Prepare your provisions, for within three days
you will cross the Jordan to go in and take
possession of the land that the LORD your God is
giving you to possess.' "
12 But to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the
half-tribe of Manasseh, Joshua said,
13 "Remember what Moses the servant of the
LORD commanded you when he said, 'The LORD
your God will give you rest, and he will give you
this land.'
14 Your wives, your young children, and your
livestock may remain in the land that Moses
gave you on this side of the Jordan. But all your
mighty men of valor must be armed for battle to
cross over ahead of your brothers and help
them,
15 until the LORD gives them rest as he has
done for you, and your brothers also possess the
land that the LORD your God is giving them.
Then you may return to the land of your
inheritance and take possession of that which
Moses the servant of the LORD gave you on the
east side of the Jordan."

16 So they answered Joshua, “Everything you
have commanded us we will do, and
everywhere you send us we will go.
17 Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so we
will obey you. And may the LORD your God be
with you, as he was with Moses.
18 Anyone who rebels against your order and
does not obey your words, all that you
command him, will be put to death. Above all,
be strong and courageous!”

2

1 Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two
spies from Shittim,* saying, “Go, inspect the
land, especially Jericho.” So they went and
entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab
and stayed there.
2 And it was reported to the king of Jericho:
“Behold, some men of Israel have come here
tonight to spy out the land.”
3 So the king of Jericho sent to Rahab and said,
“Bring out the men who came to you and
entered your house, for they have come to spy
out the whole land.”
4 But the woman had taken the two men and
hidden them. So she said, “Yes, the men did
come to me, but I did not know where they had
come from.
5 At dusk, when the gate was about to close,
the men went out, and I do not know which way
they went. Pursue them quickly, and you may
catch them!”

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* **2:1 2:1** Or *Acacia Grove*

6 (But Rahab had taken them up to the roof
and hidden them among the stalks of flax that
she had laid out there.)
7 So the king's men set out in pursuit of the
spies along the road to the fords of the Jordan,
and as soon as they had gone out, the gate was
shut.
8 Before the spies lay down for the night,
Rahab went up on the roof
9 and said to them, "I know that the LORD has
given you this land and that the fear of you has
fallen on us, so that all who dwell in the land are
melting in fear of you.
10 For we have heard how the LORD dried up
the waters of the Sea of Reeds† before you when
you came out of Egypt, and what you did to
Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites
across the Jordan, whom you devoted to
destruction.‡
11 When we heard this, our hearts melted and
everyone's courage failed because of you, for the
LORD your God is God in the heavens above and
on the earth below.
12 Now therefore, please swear to me by the
LORD that you will indeed show kindness to my
family, because I showed kindness to you. Give
me a sure sign
13 that you will spare the lives of my father
and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all

† **2:10 2:10** Or *the Red Sea* ‡ **2:10 2:10** 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.

who belong to them, and that you will deliver us
from death."
14 "Our lives for your lives!" the men agreed.
"If you do not report our mission, we will show
you kindness and faithfulness when the LORD
gives us the land."
15 Then Rahab let them down by a rope
through the window, since the house where she
lived was built into the wall of the city.
16 "Go to the hill country," she said, "so that
your pursuers will not find you. Hide yourselves
there for three days until they have returned;
then go on your way."
17 The men said to her, "We will not be bound
by this oath you made us swear
18 unless, when we enter the land, you have
tied this scarlet cord in the window through
which you let us down, and unless you have
brought your father and mother and brothers
and all your family into your house.
19 If anyone goes out the door of your house
into the street, his blood will be on his own
head, and we will be innocent. But if a hand is
laid on anyone with you in the house, his blood
will be on our heads.
20 And if you report our mission, we will be
released from the oath you made us swear."
21 "Let it be as you say," she replied, and she
sent them away. And when they had gone, she
tied the scarlet cord in the window.
22 So the spies went out into the hill country
and stayed there three days, until their pursuers

had returned without finding them, having searched all along the road.
23 Then the two men started back, came down from the hill country, and crossed the river. So they came to Joshua son of Nun and reported all that had happened to them.
24 “The LORD has surely delivered the entire land into our hands,” they said to Joshua. “Indeed, all who dwell in the land are melting in fear of us.”

3

1 Early the next morning Joshua got up and left Shittim* with all the Israelites. They went as far as the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over.
2 After three days the officers went through the camp
3 and commanded the people: “When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God being carried by the Levitical priests, you are to set out from your positions and follow it.
4 But keep a distance of about two thousand cubits† between yourselves and the ark. Do not go near it, so that you can see the way to go, since you have never traveled this way before.”
5 Then Joshua told the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.”
6 And he said to the priests, “Take the ark of the covenant and go on ahead of the people.” So

* **3:1 3:1** Or *Acacia Grove* † **3:4 3:4** *2,000 cubits* is approximately 3,000 feet or 914.4 meters.

they carried the ark of the covenant and went ahead of them.
7 Now the LORD said to Joshua, “Today I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you just as I was with Moses.
8 Command the priests carrying the ark of the covenant: ‘When you reach the edge of the waters, stand in the Jordan.’ ”
9 So Joshua told the Israelites, “Come here and listen to the words of the LORD your God.”
10 He continued, “This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will surely drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites.
11 Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go ahead of you into the Jordan.
12 Now choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe.
13 When the feet of the priests who carry the ark of the LORD—the Lord of all the earth—touch down in the waters of the Jordan, its flowing waters will be cut off and will stand up in a heap.”
14 So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carried the ark of the covenant ahead of them.
15 Now the Jordan overflows its banks throughout the harvest season. But as soon as the priests carrying the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water’s edge,

16 the flowing water stood still. It backed up as
far upstream as Adam,‡ a city in the area of
Zarethan, while the water flowing toward the
Sea of the Arabah (the Salt Sea§) was completely
cut off. So the people crossed over opposite
Jericho.
17 The priests carrying the ark of the covenant
of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the
middle of the Jordan, while all Israel crossed
over the dry ground, until the entire nation had
crossed the Jordan.

4

1 When the whole nation had finished crossing
the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua,
2 "Choose twelve men from among the people,
one from each tribe,
3 and command them: 'Take up for yourselves
twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan
where the priests were standing, carry them
with you, and set them down in the place where
you spend the night.' "
4 So Joshua summoned the twelve men he had
appointed from the Israelites, one from each
tribe,
5 and said to them, "Cross over before the ark
of the LORD your God into the middle of the
Jordan. Each of you is to take a stone upon his
shoulder, according to the number of the tribes
of Israel,

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‡ **3:16 3:16** Ketiv; Qere *from Adam* § **3:16 3:16** That is, the Dead Sea

6 to serve as a sign among you. In the future,
when your children ask, ‘What do these stones
mean to you?’
7 you are to tell them, ‘The waters of the
Jordan were cut off before the ark of the
covenant of the LORD. When it crossed the
Jordan, the waters were cut off.’ Therefore these
stones will be a memorial to the Israelites
forever.”
8 Thus the Israelites did as Joshua had
commanded them. They took up twelve stones
from the middle of the Jordan, one for each tribe
of Israel, just as the LORD had told Joshua; and
they carried them to the camp, where they set
them down.
9 Joshua also set up twelve stones in the
middle of the Jordan,* in the place where the
priests who carried the ark of the covenant
stood. And the stones are there to this day.
10 Now the priests who carried the ark
remained standing in the middle of the Jordan
until the people had completed everything the
LORD had commanded Joshua to tell them, just
as Moses had directed Joshua. The people
hurried across,
11 and after everyone had finished crossing,
the priests with the ark of the LORD crossed in
the sight of the people.
12 The Reubenites, the Gadites, and the
half-tribe of Manasseh crossed over before the

* **4:9 4:9** Some translators *And Joshua set up the twelve stones that had been in the middle of the Jordan*

Israelites, armed for battle as Moses had instructed them.
13 About 40,000 troops armed for battle crossed over before the LORD into the plains of Jericho.

14 On that day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel, and they revered him all the days of his life, just as they had revered Moses.

15 Then the LORD said to Joshua,

16 “Command the priests who carry the ark of the Testimony† to come up from the Jordan.”

17 So Joshua commanded the priests, “Come up from the Jordan.”

18 When the priests carrying the ark of the covenant of the LORD came up out of the Jordan and their feet touched the dry land, the waters of the Jordan returned to their course and overflowed all the banks as before.

19 On the tenth day of the first month the people went up from the Jordan and camped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho.

20 And there at Gilgal Joshua set up the twelve stones they had taken from the Jordan.

21 Then Joshua said to the Israelites, “In the future, when your children ask their fathers, ‘What is the meaning of these stones?’

22 you are to tell them, ‘Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.’

23 For the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed

† **4:16 4:16** That is, *the ark of the covenant*

over, just as he did to the Sea of Reeds,‡ which he
dried up before us until we had crossed over.
24 He did this so that all the peoples of the
earth may know that the hand of the LORD is
mighty, and so that you may always fear the
LORD your God."

5

1 Now when all the Amorite kings west of the
Jordan and all the Canaanite kings along the
coast* heard how the LORD had dried up the
waters of the Jordan before the Israelites until
they had crossed over,† their hearts melted and
their spirits failed for fear of the Israelites.
2 At that time the LORD said to Joshua, "Make
flint knives and circumcise the sons of Israel
once again.‡"
3 So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised
the sons of Israel at Gibeath-haaraloth.§
4 Now this is why Joshua circumcised them:
All the males who came out of Egypt—all the
men of war—had died on the journey in the
wilderness after they had left Egypt.
5 Though all who had come out were
circumcised, none of those born in the
wilderness on the journey from Egypt had been
circumcised.
6 For the Israelites had wandered in the
wilderness forty years, until all the nation's men

‡ **4:23 4:23** Or *the Red Sea* * **5:1 5:1** That is, along the Mediterranean coast; literally *along the sea* † **5:1 5:1** Qere; Ketiv *until we had crossed over* ‡ **5:2 5:2** Literally *again the second time* § **5:3 5:3** *Gibeath-haaraloth* means *the hill of the foreskins.*

of war who had come out of Egypt had died,
since they did not obey the LORD. So the LORD
vowed never to let them see the land he had
sworn to their fathers to give us, a land flowing
with milk and honey.
7 And he raised up their sons in their place,
and these were the ones Joshua circumcised.
Until this time they were still uncircumcised,
since they had not been circumcised along the
way.
8 And after all the nation had been
circumcised, they stayed there in the camp until
they were healed.
9 Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have
rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." So
that place has been called Gilgal* to this day.
10 On the evening of the fourteenth day of the
month, while the Israelites were camped at
Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, they kept the
Passover.
11 The day after the Passover, on that very day,
they ate unleavened bread and roasted grain
from the produce of the land.
12 And the day after they had eaten from the
produce of the land, the manna ceased. There
was no more manna for the Israelites, so that
year they began to eat the crops of the land of
Canaan.
13 Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he
looked up and saw a man standing in front of
him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua

* **5:9 5:9** *Gilgal* sounds like the Hebrew for *roll.*

approached him and asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?”

14 “Neither,” he replied. “I have now come as commander of the LORD’s army.”

Then Joshua fell facedown in reverence† and asked him, “What does my lord have to say to his servant?”

15 The commander of the LORD’s army replied, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.”

And Joshua did so.

6

1 Now Jericho was tightly shut up because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in.

2 And the LORD said to Joshua, “Behold, I have delivered Jericho into your hand, along with its king and its mighty men of valor.

3 March around the city with all the men of war, circling the city one time. Do this for six days.

4 Have seven priests carry seven rams’ horns in front of the ark. Then on the seventh day, march around the city seven times, while the priests blow the horns.

5 And when there is a long blast of the ram’s horn and you hear its sound, have all the people give a mighty shout. Then the wall of the city

† **5:14 5:14** Or *and paid homage* or *and worshiped*

will collapse* and the people will go up, every
man straight ahead.†"
6 So Joshua son of Nun summoned the priests
and said, "Take up the ark of the covenant and
have seven priests carry seven rams' horns in
front of the ark of the LORD."
7 And he told‡ the people, "Advance and march
around the city, with the armed troops going
ahead of the ark of the LORD."
8 After Joshua had spoken to the people, seven
priests carrying seven rams' horns before the
LORD advanced and blew the horns, and the ark
of the covenant of the LORD followed them.
9 While the horns continued to sound, the
armed troops marched ahead of the priests who
blew the horns, and the rear guard followed the
ark.
10 But Joshua had commanded the people: "Do
not give a battle cry or let your voice be heard;
do not let one word come out of your mouth
until the day I tell you to shout. Then you are to
shout!"
11 So he had the ark of the LORD carried
around the city, circling it once. And the people
returned to the camp and spent the night there.
12 Joshua got up early the next morning, and
the priests took the ark of the LORD.
13 And the seven priests carrying seven rams'
horns kept marching ahead of the ark of the
LORD and blowing the horns. The armed troops

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* **6:5 6:5** Or *fall under itself* or *fall flat*; similarly in verse 20
† **6:5 6:5** Or *and all your people will charge straight into the city*; similarly in verse 20 ‡ **6:7 6:7** Qere; Ketiv *they told*

went in front of them and the rear guard
followed the ark of the LORD, while the horns
kept sounding.
14 So on the second day they marched around
the city once and returned to the camp. They
did this for six days.
15 Then on the seventh day, they got up at
dawn and marched around the city seven times
in the same manner. That was the only day they
circled the city seven times.
16 After the seventh time around, the priests
blew the horns, and Joshua commanded the
people, “Shout! For the LORD has given you the
city!
17 Now the city and everything in it must be
devoted to the LORD for destruction.§ Only
Rahab the prostitute and all those with her in
her house will live, because she hid the spies we
sent.
18 But keep away from the things devoted to
destruction, lest you yourself be set apart for
destruction. If you take any of these, you will set
apart the camp of Israel for destruction and
bring disaster upon it.
19 For all the silver and gold and all the
articles of bronze and iron are holy to the LORD;
they must go into his treasury.”
20 So when the rams' horns sounded, the
people shouted. When they heard the blast of

§ **6:17 6:17** 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; also in verses 18 and 21.

the horn, the people gave a great shout, and the wall collapsed. Then all the people charged straight into the city and captured it.

21 With the edge of the sword they devoted to destruction everything in the city—man and woman, young and old, oxen, sheep, and donkeys.

22 Meanwhile, Joshua told the two men who had spied out the land, “Go into the house of the prostitute and bring out the woman and all who are with her, just as you promised her.”

23 So the young spies went in and brought out Rahab, her father and mother and brothers, and all who belonged to her. They brought out her whole family and settled them outside the camp of Israel.

24 Then the Israelites burned up the city and everything in it. However, they put the silver and gold and articles of bronze and iron into the treasury of the LORD's house.

25 And Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her father's household and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent to spy out Jericho. So she has lived among the Israelites to this day.

26 At that time Joshua invoked this solemn oath:

“Cursed before the LORD is the man who rises up
and rebuilds this city, Jericho;
at the cost of his firstborn
he will lay its foundations;
at the cost of his youngest

he will set up its gates."*
27 So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame
spread throughout the land.

7

1 The Israelites, however, acted unfaithfully
regarding the things devoted to destruction.*
Achan† son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi,‡ the son
of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of
what was set apart. So the anger of the LORD
burned against the Israelites.
2 Meanwhile, Joshua sent men from Jericho to
Ai, which is near Beth-aven to the east of Bethel,
and told them, "Go up and spy out the land." So
the men went up and spied out Ai.
3 On returning to Joshua, they reported, "There
is no need to send all the people; two or three
thousand men are enough to go up and attack
Ai. Since the people of Ai are so few, you need
not wear out all our people there."
4 So about three thousand men went up, but
they fled before the men of Ai.
5 And the men of Ai struck down about
thirty-six of them, chasing them from the gate as
far as Shebarim§ and striking them down on the

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* **6:26 6:26** See 1 Kings 16:34. * **7:1 7:1** 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; also in verses 11, 12, 13, and 15. † **7:1 7:1** *Achan* means *troubler*; also called *Achar* in 1 Chronicles 2:7. ‡ **7:1 7:1** *Zabdi* is a variant of *Zimri*; also in verses 17 and 18; see LXX and 1 Chronicles 2:6.
§ **7:5 7:5** Or *the quarries*

slopes. So the hearts of the people melted and
became like water.
6 Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell
facedown before the ark of the LORD until
evening, as did the elders of Israel; and they all
sprinkled dust on their heads.
7 “O, Lord GOD,” Joshua said, “why did you
ever bring this people across the Jordan to
deliver us into the hand of the Amorites to be
destroyed? If only we had been content to stay
on the other side of the Jordan!
8 O Lord, what can I say, now that Israel has
turned its back and run from its enemies?
9 When the Canaanites and all who live in the
land hear about this, they will surround us and
wipe out our name from the earth. Then what
will you do for your great name?”
10 But the LORD said to Joshua, “Stand up!
Why have you fallen on your face?
11 Israel has sinned; they have transgressed
my covenant that I commanded them, and they
have taken some of what was devoted to
destruction. Indeed, they have stolen and lied,
and they have put these things with their own
possessions.
12 This is why the Israelites cannot stand
against their enemies. They will turn their backs
and run from their enemies, because they
themselves have been set apart for destruction.
I will no longer be with you unless you remove
from among you whatever is devoted to
destruction.
13 Get up and consecrate the people, saying,
‘Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, for this is

what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Among you, O Israel, there are things devoted to destruction. You cannot stand against your enemies until you remove them.

14 In the morning you must present yourselves tribe by tribe. The tribe that the LORD selects shall come forward clan by clan, and the clan that the LORD selects shall come forward family by family, and the family that the LORD selects shall come forward man by man.

15 The one who is caught with the things devoted to destruction must be burned, along with all that belongs to him, because he has transgressed the covenant of the LORD and committed an outrage in Israel.' "

16 So Joshua arose early the next morning and had Israel come forward tribe by tribe, and the tribe of Judah was selected.

17 He had the clans of Judah come forward, and the clan of the Zerahites was selected. He had the clan of the Zerahites come forward, and the family of Zabdi was selected.

18 And he had the family of Zabdi come forward man by man, and Achan son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was selected.

19 So Joshua said to Achan, "My son, give glory to the LORD, the God of Israel, and make a confession to him. I urge you to tell me what you have done; do not hide it from me."

20 "It is true," Achan replied, "I have sinned against the LORD, the God of Israel. This is what I did:

21 When I saw among the spoils a beautiful
cloak from Shinar,* two hundred shekels of
silver,† and a bar of gold weighing fifty shekels,‡
I coveted them and took them. They are hidden
in the ground inside my tent, with the silver
underneath."
22 So Joshua sent messengers who ran to the
tent, and there it all was, hidden in his tent, with
the silver underneath.
23 They took the things from inside the tent,
brought them to Joshua and all the Israelites,
and spread them out before the LORD.

24 Then Joshua, together with all Israel, took
Achan son of Zerah, the silver, the cloak, the bar
of gold, his sons and daughters, his oxen and
donkeys and sheep, his tent, and everything else
he owned, and brought them to the Valley of
Achor.

25 "Why have you brought this trouble upon
us?" said Joshua. "Today the LORD will bring
trouble upon you!" And all Israel stoned him to
death. Then they stoned the others and burned
their bodies.
26 And they heaped over Achan a large pile of
rocks that remains to this day. So the LORD
turned from his burning anger. Therefore that
place is called the Valley of Achor§ to this day.

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* **7:21 7:21** That is, Babylonia † **7:21 7:21** *200 shekels* is approximately 5 pounds or 2.3 kilograms of silver. ‡ **7:21 7:21** *50 shekels* is approximately 1.26 pounds or 569.8 grams of gold.
§ **7:26 7:26** *Achor* means *trouble*.

8

1 Then the LORD said to Joshua, “Do not be
afraid or discouraged. Take the whole army
with you, and go up and attack Ai. See, I have
delivered into your hand the king of Ai, his
people, his city, and his land.
2 And you shall do to Ai and its king as you did
to Jericho and its king, except that you may
carry off their plunder and livestock for
yourselves. Set up an ambush behind the city.”

3 So Joshua and the whole army set out to
attack Ai. Joshua chose 30,000 mighty men of
valor and sent them out at night
4 with these orders: “Pay attention. You are to
lie in ambush behind the city, not too far from it.
All of you must be ready.
5 Then I and all the troops with me will
advance on the city. When they come out
against us as they did the first time, we will flee
from them.
6 They will pursue us until we have drawn
them away from the city, for they will say, ‘The
Israelites are running away from us as they did
before.’ So as we flee from them,
7 you are to rise from the ambush and seize
the city, for the LORD your God will deliver it
into your hand.
8 And when you have taken the city, set it on
fire. Do as the LORD has commanded! See, I
have given you orders.”

9 So Joshua sent them out, and they went to
the place of ambush and lay in wait between

Bethel and Ai, to the west of Ai. But Joshua spent
that night among the people.
10 Joshua got up early the next morning and
mobilized his men, and he and the elders of
Israel marched before them up to Ai.
11 Then all the troops who were with him
marched up and approached the city. They
arrived in front of Ai and camped to the north of
it, with the valley between them and the city.
12 Now Joshua had taken about five thousand
men and set up an ambush between Bethel and
Ai, to the west of the city.
13 So the forces were stationed with the main
camp to the north of the city and the rear guard
to the west of the city. And that night Joshua
went into the valley.
14 When the king of Ai saw the Israelites, he
hurried out early in the morning with the men
of the city to engage them in battle at an
appointed place overlooking the Arabah. But he
did not know that an ambush had been set up
against him behind the city.
15 Joshua and all Israel let themselves be
beaten back before them, and they fled toward
the wilderness.
16 Then all the people in the city* were
summoned to pursue them, and they followed
Joshua and were drawn away from the city.
17 Not a man was left in Ai or Bethel who did
not go out after Israel, leaving the city wide
open while they pursued Israel.

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* **8:16 8:16** Ketiv; Qere *in Ai*

18 Then the LORD said to Joshua, “Hold out
your javelin† toward Ai, for into your hand I will
deliver the city.” So Joshua held out his javelin
toward Ai,
19 and as soon as he did so, the men in ambush
rose quickly from their position. They rushed
forward, entered the city, captured it, and
immediately set it on fire.
20 When the men of Ai turned and looked
back, the smoke of the city was rising into the
sky. They could not escape in any direction, and
the troops who had fled to the wilderness now
turned against their pursuers.
21 When Joshua and all Israel saw that the
men in ambush had captured the city and that
smoke was rising from it, they turned around
and struck down the men of Ai.
22 Meanwhile, those in the ambush came out
of the city against them, and the men of Ai were
trapped between the Israelite forces on both
sides. So Israel struck them down until no
survivor or fugitive remained.
23 But they took the king of Ai alive and
brought him to Joshua.
24 When Israel had finished killing all the men
of Ai who had pursued them into the field and
wilderness, and when every last one of them
had fallen by the sword, all the Israelites
returned to Ai and put it to the sword as well.
25 A total of twelve thousand men and women
fell that day—all the people of Ai.

† **8:18 8:18** Or *battle lance*; twice in this verse, and also in verse 26

26 Joshua did not draw back the hand that held
his javelin until he had devoted to destruction‡
all who lived in Ai.
27 Israel took for themselves only the cattle
and plunder of that city, as the LORD had
commanded Joshua.

28 So Joshua burned Ai§ and made it a
permanent heap of ruins, a desolation to this
day.

29 He impaled the king of Ai on a pole* until
evening, and at sunset Joshua commanded that
they take down the body from the pole and
throw it down at the entrance of the city gate.
And over it they raised a large pile of rocks,
which remains to this day.

30 At that time Joshua built an altar on Mount
Ebal to the LORD, the God of Israel,
31 just as Moses the servant of the LORD had
commanded the Israelites. He built it according
to what is written in the Book of the Teaching of
Moses: "an altar of uncut stones on which no
iron tool has been used."† And on it they offered
burnt offerings to the LORD, and they sacrificed
peace offerings.

32 And there in the presence of the Israelites,
Joshua inscribed on the stones a copy of the law
of Moses, which he had written.

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‡ **8:26 8:26** 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. § **8:28 8:28** *Ai* means *ruin.* * **8:29 8:29** Or *he hung the king of Ai on a tree* † **8:31 8:31** Exodus 20:25; Deuteronomy 27:5

33 All Israel, foreigners and citizens alike, with
their elders, officers, and judges, stood on both
sides of the ark of the covenant of the LORD
facing the Levitical priests who carried it. Half
of the people stood in front of Mount Gerizim
and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, as
Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded
earlier, to bless the people of Israel.

34 Afterward, Joshua read aloud all the words
of the law—the blessings and the
curses—according to all that is written in the
Book of the Teaching.

35 There was not a word of all that Moses had
commanded that Joshua failed to read before
the whole assembly of Israel, including the
women, the little ones, and the foreigners who
lived among them.

9

1 Now when news of this reached all the kings
west of the Jordan—those in the hill country, the
foothills,* and all along the coast of the Great
Sea† toward Lebanon (the Hittites, Amorites,
Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites)—

2 they came together to wage war against
Joshua and Israel.

3 But the people of Gibeon, having heard what
Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai,

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* **9:1 9:1** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea † **9:1 9:1** That is, the Mediterranean Sea

4 acted deceptively and set out as envoys,‡
carrying on their donkeys worn-out sacks and
old wineskins, cracked and mended.
5 They put worn, patched sandals on their feet
and threadbare clothing on their bodies, and
their whole supply of bread was dry and moldy.
6 They went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal
and said to him and the men of Israel, "We have
come from a distant land; please make a treaty§
with us."
7 But the men of Israel said to the Hivites,
"Perhaps you dwell near us. How can we make a
treaty with you?"
8 "We are your servants," they said to Joshua.
Then Joshua asked them, "Who are you and
where have you come from?"
9 "Your servants have come from a very
distant land," they replied, "because of the fame
of the LORD your God. For we have heard the
reports about him: all that he did in Egypt,
10 and all that he did to the two kings of the
Amorites beyond the Jordan—Sihon king of
Heshbon and Og king of Bashan, who reigned in
Ashtaroth.
11 So the elders and inhabitants of our land
told us, 'Take provisions for your journey; go to
meet them and say to them: We are your
servants. Please make a treaty with us.'

‡ **9:4 9:4** Some Hebrew manuscripts and LXX *set out with provisions* § **9:6 9:6** Forms of the Hebrew *berit* are translated in most passages as *covenant*; also in verses 7, 11, 15, and 16.

12 This bread of ours was warm when we
packed it at home on the day we left to come to
you. But look, it is now dry and moldy.
13 These wineskins were new when we filled
them, but look, they are cracked. And these
clothes and sandals are worn out from our very
long journey."

14 Then the men of Israel sampled their
provisions but did not seek the counsel of the
LORD.
15 And Joshua made a treaty of peace with
them to let them live, and the leaders of the
congregation swore an oath to them.

16 Three days after they had made the treaty
with the Gibeonites, the Israelites learned that
they were neighbors, living among them.
17 So the Israelites set out and on the third day
arrived at their cities—Gibeon, Chephirah,
Beeroth, and Kiriath-jearim.
18 But the Israelites did not attack them,
because the leaders of the congregation had
sworn an oath to them by the LORD, the God of
Israel. And the whole congregation grumbled
against the leaders.

19 All the leaders answered, "We have sworn
an oath to them by the LORD, the God of Israel,
and now we cannot touch them.
20 This is how we will treat them: We will let
them live, so that no wrath will fall on us
because of the oath we swore to them."
21 They continued, "Let them live, but let them
be woodcutters and water carriers for the whole
congregation." So the leaders kept their promise.

22 Then Joshua summoned the Gibeonites and
said, “Why did you deceive us by telling us you
live far away from us, when in fact you live
among us?
23 Now therefore you are under a curse and
will perpetually serve as woodcutters and water
carriers for the house of my God.”
24 The Gibeonites answered, “Your servants
were told clearly that the LORD your God had
commanded his servant Moses to give you all
the land and wipe out all its inhabitants before
you. So we greatly feared for our lives because
of you, and that is why we have done this.
25 Now we are in your hands. Do to us
whatever seems good and right to you.”
26 So Joshua did this and delivered them from
the hands of the Israelites, and they did not kill
the Gibeonites.
27 On that day he made them woodcutters and
water carriers, as they are to this day for the
congregation of the LORD and for the altar at
the place he would choose.

10

1 Now Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem heard
that Joshua had captured Ai and devoted it to
destruction*—doing to Ai and its king as he had
done to Jericho and its king—and that the

* **10:1 10:1** 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; also in verses 28, 35, 37, 39, and 40.

people of Gibeon had made peace with Israel
and were living near them.
2 So Adoni-zedek and his people were greatly
alarmed, because Gibeon was a great city, like
one of the royal cities; it was larger than Ai, and
all its men were mighty.
3 Therefore Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem
sent word to Hoham king of Hebron, Piram king
of Jarmuth, Japhia king of Lachish, and Debir
king of Eglon, saying,
4 "Come up and help me. We will attack
Gibeon, because they have made peace with
Joshua and the Israelites."
5 So the five kings of the Amorites—the kings
of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish, and
Eglon—joined forces and advanced with all
their armies. They camped before Gibeon and
made war against it.
6 Then the men of Gibeon sent word to Joshua
in the camp at Gilgal: "Do not abandon your
servants. Come quickly and save us! Help us,
because all the kings of the Amorites from the
hill country have joined forces against us."
7 So Joshua and his whole army, including all
the mighty men of valor, came from Gilgal.
8 The LORD said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid of
them, for I have delivered them into your hand.
Not one of them shall stand against you."
9 After marching all night from Gilgal, Joshua
caught them by surprise.
10 And the LORD threw them into confusion
before Israel, who defeated them in a great
slaughter at Gibeon, pursued them along the

ascent to Beth-horon, and struck them down as
far as Azekah and Makkedah.
11 As they fled before Israel along the descent
from Beth-horon to Azekah, the LORD cast down
on them large hailstones from the sky, and more
of them were killed by the hailstones than by
the swords of the Israelites.
12 On the day that the LORD gave the Amorites
over to the Israelites, Joshua spoke to the LORD
in the presence of Israel:

"O sun, stand still over Gibeon,
O moon, over the Valley of Aijalon."

13 So the sun stood still
and the moon stopped
until the nation took vengeance
upon its enemies.†
Is this not written in the Book of Jashar?‡

"So the sun stopped
in the middle of the sky
and delayed going down
about a full day."
14 There has been no day like it before or
since, when the LORD listened to the voice of a
man, because the LORD fought for Israel.
15 Then Joshua returned with all Israel to the
camp at Gilgal.
16 Now the five kings had fled and hidden in
the cave at Makkedah.

† **10:13 10:13** Or *triumphed over its enemies* ‡ **10:13 10:13** Or *the Book of the Upright One*

17 And Joshua was informed: “The five kings
have been found; they are hiding in the cave at
Makkedah.”
18 So Joshua said, “Roll large stones against the
mouth of the cave, and post men there to guard
them.
19 But you, do not stop there. Pursue your
enemies and attack them from behind. Do not
let them reach their cities, for the LORD your
God has delivered them into your hand.”

20 So Joshua and the Israelites continued to
inflict a terrible slaughter until they had
finished them off, and the remaining survivors
retreated to the fortified cities.
21 The whole army returned safely to Joshua
in the camp at Makkedah, and no one dared to
utter a word against the Israelites.

22 Then Joshua said, “Open the mouth of the
cave and bring those five kings out to me.”
23 So they brought the five kings out of the
cave—the kings of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth,
Lachish, and Eglon.

24 When they had brought the kings to Joshua,
he summoned all the men of Israel and said to
the army commanders who had accompanied
him, “Come here and put your feet on the necks
of these kings.”

So the commanders came forward and put
their feet on their necks.
25 “Do not be afraid or discouraged,” Joshua
said. “Be strong and courageous, for the LORD
will do this to all the enemies you fight.”

26 After this, Joshua struck down and killed the
kings, and he impaled their bodies on five poles§
and left them there until evening.
27 At sunset Joshua ordered that they be taken
down from the poles and thrown into the cave
in which they had hidden. Then large stones
were placed against the mouth of the cave, and
the stones are there to this day.
28 On that day Joshua captured Makkedah and
put it to the sword, along with its king. He
devoted to destruction everyone in the city,
leaving no survivors. So he did to the king of
Makkedah as he had done to the king of Jericho.
29 Then Joshua and all Israel with him moved
on from Makkedah to Libnah and fought against
Libnah.
30 And the LORD also delivered that city and
its king into the hand of Israel, and Joshua put
all the people to the sword, leaving no survivors.
And he did to the king of Libnah as he had done
to the king of Jericho.
31 And Joshua and all Israel with him moved
on from Libnah to Lachish. They laid siege to it
and fought against it.
32 And the LORD delivered Lachish into the
hand of Israel, and Joshua captured it on the
second day. He put all the people to the sword,
just as he had done to Libnah.
33 At that time Horam king of Gezer went to
help Lachish, but Joshua struck him down along
with his people, leaving no survivors.

§ **10:26 10:26** Or *hung their bodies on five trees*; similarly in verse 27

34 So Joshua moved on from Lachish to Eglon,
and all Israel with him. They laid siege to it and
fought against it.
35 That day they captured Eglon and put it to
the sword, and Joshua devoted to destruction
everyone in the city, just as he had done to
Lachish.
36 Then Joshua and all Israel with him went up
from Eglon to Hebron and fought against it.
37 They captured it and put to the sword its
king, all its villages, and all the people. Joshua
left no survivors, just as he had done at Eglon;
he devoted to destruction Hebron and everyone
in it.
38 Finally Joshua and all Israel with him
turned toward Debir and fought against it.
39 And they captured Debir, its king, and all its
villages. They put them to the sword and
devoted to destruction everyone in the city,
leaving no survivors. Joshua did to Debir and its
king as he had done to Hebron and as he had
done to Libnah and its king.
40 So Joshua conquered the whole region—the
hill country, the Negev, the foothills,* and the
slopes, together with all their kings—leaving no
survivors. He devoted to destruction everything
that breathed, just as the LORD, the God of
Israel, had commanded.
41 Joshua conquered the area from
Kadesh-barnea to Gaza, and the whole region of
Goshen as far as Gibeon.

* **10:40 10:40** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea

42 And because the LORD, the God of Israel,
fought for Israel, Joshua captured all these kings
and their land in one campaign.
43 Then Joshua returned with all Israel to the
camp at Gilgal.

11

1 Now when Jabin king of Hazor heard about
these things, he sent word to Jobab king of
Madon; to the kings of Shimron and Achshaph;
2 to the kings of the north in the mountains, in
the Arabah south of Chinnereth, in the
foothills,* and in Naphoth-dor† to the west;
3 to the Canaanites in the east and west; to the
Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, and Jebusites in
the hill country; and to the Hivites at the foot of
Hermon in the land of Mizpah.

4 So these kings came out with all their armies,
a multitude as numerous as the sand on the
seashore, along with a great number of horses
and chariots.
5 All these kings joined forces and encamped
at the waters of Merom to fight against Israel.

6 Then the LORD said to Joshua, “Do not be
afraid of them, for by this time tomorrow I will
deliver all of them slain before Israel. You are to
hamstring their horses and burn up their
chariots.”

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* **11:2 11:2** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea; also in verse 16 † **11:2 11:2** Or *in the heights of Dor*; *Naphoth-dor* is a variant of *Naphath-dor*; see Joshua 12:23.

7 So by the waters of Merom, Joshua and his
whole army came upon them suddenly and
attacked them,
8 and the LORD delivered them into the hand
of Israel, who struck them down and pursued
them all the way to Greater Sidon and
Misrephoth-maim, and eastward as far as the
Valley of Mizpeh. They struck them down,
leaving no survivors.
9 Joshua treated them as the LORD had told
him; he hamstrung their horses and burned up
their chariots.
10 At that time Joshua turned back and
captured Hazor and put its king to the sword,
because Hazor was formerly the head of all
these kingdoms.
11 The Israelites put everyone in Hazor to the
sword, devoting them to destruction.‡ Nothing
that breathed remained, and Joshua burned
down Hazor itself.
12 Joshua captured all these kings and their
cities and put them to the sword. He devoted
them to destruction, as Moses the LORD's
servant had commanded.
13 Yet Israel did not burn any of the cities built
on their mounds, except Hazor, which Joshua
burned.
14 The Israelites took for themselves all the
plunder and livestock of these cities, but they
put all the people to the sword until they had

‡ **11:11 11:11** 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; also in verses 12, 20, and 21.

completely destroyed them, not sparing anyone who breathed.
15 As the LORD had commanded his servant
Moses, so Moses commanded Joshua. That is
what Joshua did, leaving nothing undone of all
that the LORD had commanded Moses.
16 So Joshua took this entire region: the hill
country, all the Negev, all the land of Goshen, the
western foothills, the Arabah, and the
mountains of Israel and their foothills,
17 from Mount Halak, which rises toward Seir,
as far as Baal-gad in the Valley of Lebanon at the
foot of Mount Hermon. He captured all their
kings and struck them down, putting them to
death.
18 Joshua waged war against all these kings for
a long period of time.
19 No city made peace with the Israelites
except the Hivites living in Gibeon; all others
were taken in battle.
20 For it was of the LORD to stiffen§ their
hearts to engage Israel in battle, so that they
would be set apart for destruction and would
receive no mercy, being annihilated as the LORD
had commanded Moses.
21 At that time Joshua proceeded to eliminate
the Anakim from the hill country of Hebron,
Debir, and Anab, and from all the hill country of
Judah and of Israel. Joshua devoted them to
destruction, along with their cities.
22 No Anakim were left in the land of the
Israelites; only in Gaza, Gath, and Ashdod did
any survive.

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§ **11:20 11:20** Or *harden* or *strengthen*

23 So Joshua took the entire land, in keeping
with all that the LORD had spoken to Moses.
And Joshua gave it as an inheritance to Israel
according to the allotments to their tribes. Then
the land had rest from war.

12

1 Now these are the kings of the land whom
the Israelites struck down and whose lands they
took beyond the Jordan to the east, from the
Arnon Valley to Mount Hermon, including all
the Arabah eastward:

2 Sihon king of the Amorites, who lived in
Heshbon. He ruled from Aroer on the rim of
the Arnon Valley, along the middle of the
valley, up to the Jabbok River (the border of
the Ammonites), that is, half of Gilead,
3 as well as the Arabah east of the Sea of
Chinnereth* to the Sea of the Arabah (the Salt
Sea†), eastward through Beth-jeshimoth, and
southward below the slopes of Pisgah.
4 And the territory of Og king of Bashan,‡ one
of the remnant of the Rephaim, who lived in
Ashtaroth and Edrei.
5 He ruled over Mount Hermon, Salecah, all of
Bashan up to the border of the Geshurites and
Maacathites, and half of Gilead to the border of
Sihon king of Heshbon.
6 Moses, the servant of the LORD, and the
Israelites had struck them down and given their

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* **12:3 12:3** That is, the Sea of Galilee † **12:3 12:3** That is, the Dead Sea ‡ **12:4 12:4** LXX *And Og king of Bashan*

land as an inheritance to the Reubenites, the
Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh.
7 And these are the kings of the land that
Joshua and the Israelites conquered beyond the
Jordan to the west, from Baal-gad in the Valley
of Lebanon to Mount Halak, which rises toward
Seir (according to the allotments to the tribes of
Israel, Joshua gave them as an inheritance
8 the hill country, the foothills,§ the Arabah,
the slopes, the wilderness, and the Negev—the
lands of the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites,
Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites):

9 the king of Jericho, one;
the king of Ai, which is near Bethel, one;
10 the king of Jerusalem, one;
the king of Hebron, one;
11 the king of Jarmuth, one;
the king of Lachish, one;
12 the king of Eglon, one;
the king of Gezer, one;
13 the king of Debir, one;
the king of Geder, one;
14 the king of Hormah, one;
the king of Arad, one;
15 the king of Libnah, one;
the king of Adullam, one;
16 the king of Makkedah, one;
the king of Bethel, one;
17 the king of Tappuah, one;
the king of Hepher, one;

§ **12:8 12:8** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea

18 the king of Aphek, one;
the king of Lasharon, one;
19 the king of Madon, one;
the king of Hazor, one;
20 the king of Shimron-meron, one;
the king of Achshaph, one;
21 the king of Taanach, one;
the king of Megiddo, one;
22 the king of Kedesh, one;
the king of Jokneam in Carmel, one;
23 the king of Dor in Naphath-dor,* one;
the king of Goiim in Gilgal,† one;
24 and the king of Tirzah, one.
So there were thirty-one kings in all.

13

1 Now Joshua was old and well along in years,
and the LORD said to him, "You are old and well
along in years, but very much of the land
remains to be possessed.
2 This is the land that remains:

All the territory of the Philistines and the
Geshurites,
3 from the Shihor east of Egypt to the territory
of Ekron on the north (considered to be
Canaanite territory)—that of the five Philistine
rulers of Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gath, and
Ekron, as well as that of the Avvites;

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* **12:23 12:23** Or *in the heights of Dor*; *Naphath-dor* is a variant of *Naphoth-dor*; see Joshua 11:2. † **12:23 12:23** LXX *Goyim in Galilee*

4 to the south, all the land of the Canaanites,
from Mearah* of the Sidonians to Aphek, as
far as the border of the Amorites;
5 the land of the Gebalites;†
and all Lebanon to the east, from Baal-gad
below Mount Hermon to Lebo-hamath.
6 All the inhabitants of the hill country from
Lebanon to Misrephoth-maim—all the
Sidonians—I myself will drive out before the
Israelites. Be sure to divide it by lot as an
inheritance to Israel, as I have commanded you.
7 Now therefore divide this land as an
inheritance to the nine tribes and the half-tribe
of Manasseh."
8 The other half of Manasseh, along with the
Reubenites and Gadites, had received the
inheritance Moses had given them beyond the
Jordan to the east, just as Moses the servant of
the LORD had assigned to them:

9 The area from Aroer on the rim of the Arnon
Valley, along with the city in the middle of
the valley, the whole plateau of Medeba as
far as Dibon,
10 and all the cities of Sihon king of the
Amorites who reigned in Heshbon, as far as the
border of the Ammonites;
11 also Gilead and the territory of the
Geshurites and Maacathites, all of Mount
Hermon, and all Bashan as far as Salecah—
12 the whole kingdom of Og in Bashan, who
had reigned in Ashtaroth and Edrei and had

* **13:4 13:4** Or *Arah* † **13:5 13:5** Or *the area of Byblos*

remained as a remnant of the Rephaim.

Moses had struck them down and
dispossessed them,
13 but the Israelites did not drive out the
Geshurites or the Maacathites. So Geshur and
Maacath dwell among the Israelites to this day.
14 To the tribe of Levi, however, Moses had
given no inheritance. The food offerings to the
LORD, the God of Israel, are their inheritance,
just as he had promised them.
15 This is what Moses had given to the clans of
the tribe of Reuben:

16 The territory from Aroer on the rim of the
Arnon Valley, along with the city in the
middle of the valley, to the whole plateau
beyond Medeba,
17 to Heshbon and all its cities on the plateau,
including Dibon, Bamoth-baal, Beth-baal-meon,
18 Jahaz, Kedemoth, Mephaath,
19 Kiriathaim, Sibmah, Zereth-shahar on the
hill in the valley,
20 Beth-peor, the slopes of Pisgah, and
Beth-jeshimoth—
21 all the cities of the plateau and all the
kingdom of Sihon king of the Amorites, who
reigned in Heshbon until Moses killed him and
the chiefs of Midian (Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur, and
Reba), the princes of Sihon who lived in the land.
22 The Israelites also killed the diviner Balaam
son of Beor along with the others they put to
the sword.
23 And the border of the Reubenites was the
bank of the Jordan.

This was the inheritance of the clans of the
Reubenites, including the cities and villages.
24 This is what Moses had given to the clans of
the tribe of Gad:

25 The territory of Jazer, all the cities of Gilead,
and half the land of the Ammonites as far as
Aroer, near Rabbah;
26 the territory from Heshbon to
Ramath-mizpeh and Betonim, and from
Mahanaim to the border of Lidebir;‡
27 and in the valley, Beth-haram, Beth-nimrah,
Succoth, and Zaphon, with the rest of the
kingdom of Sihon king of Heshbon (the
territory on the east side of the Jordan up to
the edge of the Sea of Chinnereth§).
28 This was the inheritance of the clans of the
Gadites, including the cities and villages.
29 This is what Moses had given to the clans of
the half-tribe of Manasseh, that is, to half the
tribe of the descendants of Manasseh:
30 The territory from Mahanaim through all
Bashan—all the kingdom of Og king of Bashan,
including all the towns of Jair that are in
Bashan, sixty cities;
31 half of Gilead; and Ashtaroth and Edrei, the
royal cities of Og in Bashan.

All this was for the clans of the descendants of
Machir son of Manasseh, that is, half of the
descendants of Machir.

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‡ **13:26 13:26** A variant of *Lo-debar* (see 2 Samuel 9:4, 2 Samuel 17:27, and Amos 6:13); LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate *Debir* § **13:27 13:27** That is, the Sea of Galilee

32 These were the portions Moses had given
them on the plains of Moab beyond the Jordan,
east of Jericho.
33 To the tribe of Levi, however, Moses had
given no inheritance. The LORD, the God of
Israel, is their inheritance, just as he had
promised them.

14

1 Now these are the portions that the Israelites
inherited in the land of Canaan, as distributed
by Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun, and the
heads of the families of the tribes of Israel.
2 Their inheritance was assigned by lot for the
nine and a half tribes, as the LORD had
commanded through Moses.
3 For Moses had given the inheritance east of
the Jordan to the other two and a half tribes. But
he granted no inheritance among them to the
Levites.
4 The descendants of Joseph became two
tribes, Manasseh and Ephraim. And no portion
of the land was given to the Levites, except for
cities in which to live, along with pasturelands
for their flocks and herds.
5 So the Israelites did as the LORD had
commanded Moses, and they divided the land.
6 Then the sons of Judah approached Joshua at
Gilgal, and Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite
said to him, “You know what the LORD said to
Moses the man of God at Kadesh-barnea about
you and me.
7 I was forty years old when Moses the servant
of the LORD sent me from Kadesh-barnea to spy

out the land, and I brought back to him an
honest report.
8 Although my brothers who went with me
made the hearts of the people melt with fear, I
remained loyal to the LORD my God.
9 On that day Moses swore to me, saying,
'Surely the land on which you have set foot will
be an inheritance to you and your children
forever, because you have wholly followed the
LORD my God.'
10 Now behold, as the LORD promised, he has
kept me alive these forty-five years since he
spoke this word to Moses, while Israel wandered
in the wilderness. So here I am today, eighty-five
years old,
11 still as strong today as I was the day Moses
sent me out. As my strength was then, so it is
now for war, for going out, and for coming in.
12 Now therefore give me this hill country that
the LORD promised me on that day, for you
yourself heard then that the Anakim were there,
with great and fortified cities. Perhaps with the
LORD's help I will drive them out, as the LORD
has spoken."
13 Then Joshua blessed Caleb son of Jephunneh
and gave him Hebron as his inheritance.
14 Therefore Hebron belongs to Caleb son of
Jephunneh the Kenizzite as an inheritance to
this day, because he wholly followed the LORD,
the God of Israel.
15 (Hebron used to be called Kiriath-arba, after
Arba, the greatest man among the Anakim.)
Then the land had rest from war.

15

1 Now the allotment for the clans of the tribe
of Judah extended to the border of Edom, to the
Wilderness of Zin at the extreme southern
boundary:

2 Their southern border started at the bay on
the southern tip of the Salt Sea,*
3 proceeded south of the Ascent of Akrabbim,†
continued on to Zin, went over to the south of
Kadesh-barnea, ran past Hezron up to Addar,
and curved toward Karka.
4 It proceeded to Azmon, joined the Brook of
Egypt, and ended at the Sea.‡ This was your§
southern border.
5 The eastern border was the Salt Sea as far as
the mouth of the Jordan.
The northern border started from the bay of
the sea at the mouth of the Jordan,
6 went up to Beth-hoglah, proceeded north of
Beth-arabah, and went up to the Stone of Bohan
son of Reuben.
7 Then the border went up to Debir from the
Valley of Achor, turning north to Gilgal, which
faces the Ascent of Adummim south of the
ravine. It continued along the waters of
En-shemesh and came out at En-rogel.
8 From there the border went up the Valley of
Ben-hinnom along the southern slope of the
Jebusites (that is, Jerusalem) and ascended to the

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* **15:2 15:2** That is, the Dead Sea; also in verse 5 † **15:3 15:3** Or *the Ascent of Scorpions* or *Scorpion Pass* ‡ **15:4 15:4** That is, the Mediterranean Sea, also called the Great Sea; also in verses 11, 12, and 47 § **15:4 15:4** LXX *their*

top of the hill that faces the Valley of Hinnom on
the west, at the northern end of the Valley of
Rephaim.
9 From the hilltop the border curved to the
spring of the Waters of Nephtoah, proceeded to
the cities of Mount Ephron, and then bent
around toward Baalah (that is, Kiriath-jearim).
10 The border curled westward from Baalah to
Mount Seir, ran along the northern slope of
Mount Jearim (that is, Chesalon), went down to
Beth-shemesh, and crossed to Timnah.
11 Then it went out to the northern slope of
Ekron, curved toward Shikkeron, proceeded to
Mount Baalah, went on to Jabneel, and ended at
the Sea.
12 And the western border was the coastline of
the Great Sea.

These are the boundaries around the clans of
the descendants of Judah.

13 According to the LORD's command to him,
Joshua gave Caleb son of Jephunneh a portion
among the sons of Judah—Kiriath-arba, that is,
Hebron. (Arba was the forefather of Anak.)
14 And Caleb drove out from there the three
sons of Anak—the descendants of Sheshai,
Ahiman, and Talmai, the children of Anak.

15 From there he marched against the
inhabitants of Debir (formerly known as
Kiriath-sepher).
16 And Caleb said, "To the man who strikes
down Kiriath-sepher and captures it, I will give
my daughter Acsah in marriage."

17 So Othniel son of Caleb's brother Kenaz
captured the city, and Caleb gave his daughter
Acsah to him in marriage.
18 One day Acsah came to Othniel and urged
him* to ask her father for a field. When she got
off her donkey, Caleb asked her, "What do you
desire?"
19 "Give me a blessing," she answered. "Since
you have given me land in the Negev, give me
springs of water as well."
So Caleb gave her both the upper and lower
springs.
20 This is the inheritance of the clans of the
tribe of Judah.
21 These were the southernmost cities of the
tribe of Judah in the Negev toward the border of
Edom:

Kabzeel, Eder, Jagur,
22 Kinah, Dimonah, Adadah,
23 Kedesh, Hazor, Ithnan,
24 Ziph, Telem, Bealoth,
25 Hazor-hadattah, Kerioth-hezron (that is,
Hazor),
26 Amam, Shema, Moladah,
27 Hazar-gaddah, Heshmon, Beth-pelet,
28 Hazar-shual, Beersheba, Biziothiah,
29 Baalah, Iim, Ezem,
30 Eltolad, Chesil, Hormah,
31 Ziklag, Madmannah, Sansannah,

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* **15:18 15:18** Hebrew and some LXX manuscripts; other LXX manuscripts *and he urged her*; see Judges 1:14.

32 Lebaoth, Shilhim, Ain, and
Rimmon—twenty-nine cities in all, along with
their villages.
33 These were in the foothills:†

Eshtaol, Zorah, Ashnah,
34 Zanoah, En-gannim, Tappuah, Enam,
35 Jarmuth, Adullam, Socoh, Azekah,
36 Shaaraim, Adithaim, Gederah, and
Gederothaim‡—fourteen cities, along with their
villages.
37 Zenan, Hadashah, Migdal-gad,
38 Dilan, Mizpeh, Joktheel,
39 Lachish, Bozkath, Eglon,
40 Cabbon, Lahmas, Chitlish,
41 Gederoth, Beth-dagon, Naamah, and
Makkedah—sixteen cities, along with their
villages.
42 Libnah, Ether, Ashan,
43 Iphtah, Ashnah, Nezib,
44 Keilah, Achzib, and Mareshah—nine cities,
along with their villages.
45 Ekron, with its towns and villages;
46 from Ekron to the sea, all the cities near
Ashdod, along with their villages;
47 Ashdod, with its towns and villages; Gaza,
with its towns and villages, as far as the Brook
of Egypt and the coastline of the Great Sea.§
48 These were in the hill country:

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† **15:33 15:33** Hebrew *Shephelah* or *lowlands*; that is, the western foothills of Judea ‡ **15:36 15:36** Or *Gederah, that is, Gederothaim*
§ **15:47 15:47** Qere; Ketiv *the sea, the border*

Shamir, Jattir, Socoh,
49 Dannah, Kiriath-sannah (that is, Debir),
50 Anab, Eshtemoh, Anim,
51 Goshen, Holon, and Giloh—eleven cities, along with their villages.
52 Arab, Dumah, Eshan,
53 Janum,* Beth-tappuah, Aphekah,
54 Humtah, Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron), and Zior—nine cities, along with their villages.
55 Maon, Carmel, Ziph, Juttah,
56 Jezreel, Jokdeam, Zanoah,
57 Kain, Gibeah, and Timnah—ten cities, along with their villages.
58 Halhul, Beth-zur, Gedor,
59 Maarath, Beth-anoth, and Eltekon—six cities, along with their villages.
60 Kiriath-baal (that is, Kiriath-jearim), and Rabbah—two cities, along with their villages.
61 These were in the wilderness:

Beth-arabah, Middin, Secacah,
62 Nibshan, the City of Salt, and En-gedi—six cities, along with their villages.
63 But the descendants of Judah could not drive out the Jebusites living in Jerusalem. So to this day the Jebusites live there among the descendants of Judah.

16

1 The allotment for the descendants of Joseph extended from the Jordan at Jericho to the

* **15:53 15:53** Qere; Ketiv *Janim*

waters of Jericho on the east, through the
wilderness that goes up from Jericho into the
hill country of Bethel.
2 It went on from Bethel to Luz* and
proceeded to the border of the Archites in
Ataroth.
3 Then it descended westward to the border of
the Japhletites as far as the border of Lower
Beth-horon and on to Gezer, and it ended at the
Sea.†
4 So Ephraim and Manasseh, the sons of
Joseph, received their inheritance.
5 This was the territory of the descendants of
Ephraim by their clans:
The border of their inheritance went from
Ataroth-addar in the east to Upper Beth-horon
6 and out toward the Sea. From Michmethath
on the north it turned eastward toward
Taanath-shiloh and passed by it to Janoah on the
east.
7 From Janoah it went down to Ataroth and
Naarah, and then reached Jericho and came out
at the Jordan.
8 From Tappuah the border went westward to
the Brook of Kanah and ended at the Sea.
This was the inheritance of the clans of the
tribe of Ephraim,
9 along with all the cities and villages set apart
for the descendants of Ephraim within the
inheritance of Manasseh.
10 But they did not drive out the Canaanites
who lived in Gezer. So the Canaanites dwell

* **16:2 16:2** LXX (see also Joshua 18:13) *from Bethel (that is, Luz)*
† **16:3 16:3** That is, the Mediterranean Sea, also called the Great Sea; also in verses 6 and 8

among the Ephraimites to this day, but they are forced laborers.

17

1 Now this was the allotment for the tribe of Manasseh as Joseph's firstborn son, namely for Machir the firstborn of Manasseh and father of the Gileadites, who had received Gilead and Bashan because Machir was a man of war.
2 So this allotment was for the rest of the descendants of Manasseh—the clans of Abiezer,* Helek, Asriel, Shechem, Hepher, and Shemida. These are the other male descendants of the clans of Manasseh son of Joseph.
3 But Zelophehad son of Hepher (the son of Gilead, the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh) had no sons but only daughters. These are the names of his daughters: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.
4 They approached Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun, and the leaders, and said, "The LORD commanded Moses to give us an inheritance among our brothers."

So Joshua gave them an inheritance among their father's brothers, in keeping with the command of the LORD.
5 Thus ten shares fell to Manasseh, in addition to the land of Gilead and Bashan beyond the Jordan,
6 because the daughters of Manasseh received an inheritance among his sons. And the land of Gilead belonged to the rest of the sons of Manasseh.

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* **17:2 17:2** *Abiezer* is a variant of *Iezer*; see Numbers 26:30.

7 Now the border of Manasseh went from
Asher to Michmethath near Shechem, then
southward to include the inhabitants of
En-tappuah.
8 The region of Tappuah belonged to
Manasseh, but Tappuah itself, on the border of
Manasseh, belonged to Ephraim.
9 From there the border continued southward
to the Brook of Kanah. There were cities
belonging to Ephraim among the cities of
Manasseh, but the border of Manasseh was on
the north side of the brook and ended at the
Sea.†
10 Ephraim's territory was to the south, and
Manasseh's was to the north, having the Sea as
its border and adjoining Asher on the north and
Issachar on the east.
11 Within Issachar and Asher, Manasseh was
assigned Beth-shean, Ibleam, Dor (that is,
Naphath), Endor, Taanach, and Megiddo,
each with their surrounding settlements.
12 But the descendants of Manasseh were
unable to occupy these cities, because the
Canaanites were determined to stay in this land.
13 However, when the Israelites grew stronger,
they put the Canaanites to forced labor; but they
failed to drive them out completely.
14 Then the sons of Joseph said to Joshua, "Why
have you given us only one allotment and one
portion as an inheritance? We have many
people, because the LORD has blessed us
abundantly."

† **17:9 17:9** That is, the Mediterranean Sea, also called the Great Sea; also in verse 10

15 Joshua answered them, “If you have so
many people that the hill country of Ephraim is
too small for you, go to the forest and clear for
yourself an area in the land of the Perizzites and
the Rephaim.”
16 “The hill country is not enough for us,” they
replied, “and all the Canaanites who live in the
valley have iron chariots, both in Beth-shean
with its towns and in the Valley of Jezreel.”
17 So Joshua said to the house of Joseph—to
Ephraim and Manasseh—“You have many
people and great strength. You shall not have
just one allotment,
18 because the hill country will be yours as
well. It is a forest; clear it, and its farthest limits
will be yours. Although the Canaanites have
iron chariots and although they are strong, you
can drive them out.”

18

1 Then the whole congregation of Israel
assembled at Shiloh and set up the Tent of
Meeting there. And though the land was
subdued before them,
2 there were still seven tribes of Israel who
had not yet received their inheritance.
3 So Joshua said to the Israelites, “How long
will you put off entering and possessing the land
that the LORD, the God of your fathers, has
given you?
4 Appoint three men from each tribe, and I
will send them out to survey the land and map it

out, according to the inheritance of each. Then they will return to me
5 and divide the land into seven portions.
Judah shall remain in their territory in the
south, and the house of Joseph shall remain in
their territory in the north.
6 When you have mapped out the seven
portions of land and brought it to me, I will cast
lots for you here in the presence of the LORD
our God.
7 The Levites, however, have no portion
among you, because their inheritance is the
priesthood of the LORD. And Gad, Reuben, and
half the tribe of Manasseh have already received
the inheritance that Moses the servant of the
LORD gave them beyond the Jordan to the east."
8 As the men got up to go out, Joshua
commanded them to map out the land, saying,
"Go and survey the land, map it out, and return
to me. Then I will cast lots for you here in Shiloh
in the presence of the LORD."
9 So the men departed and went throughout
the land, mapping it city by city into seven
portions. Then they returned with the document
to Joshua at the camp in Shiloh.
10 And Joshua cast lots for them in the
presence of the LORD at Shiloh, where he
distributed the land to the Israelites according to
their divisions.
11 The first lot came up for the clans of the
tribe of Benjamin. Their allotted territory lay
between the tribes of Judah and Joseph:

12 On the north side their border began at the
Jordan, went up past the northern slope of
Jericho, headed west through the hill
country, and came out at the wilderness of
Beth-aven.
13 From there the border crossed over to the
southern slope of Luz (that is, Bethel) and went
down to Ataroth-addar on the hill south of
Lower Beth-horon.
14 On the west side the border curved
southward from the hill facing Beth-horon
on the south and came out at Kiriath-baal
(that is, Kiriath-jearim), a city of the sons of
Judah. This was the western side.
15 On the south side the border began at the
outskirts of Kiriath-jearim and extended
westward to the spring at the Waters of
Nephtoah.
16 Then it went down to the foot of the hill that
faces the Valley of Ben-hinnom at the northern
end of the Valley of Rephaim and ran down the
Valley of Hinnom toward the southern slope of
the Jebusites and downward to En-rogel.
17 From there it curved northward and
proceeded to En-shemesh and on to Geliloth
facing the Ascent of Adummim, and continued
down to the Stone of Bohan son of Reuben.
18 Then it went on to the northern slope facing
the Arabah* and went down into the valley.
19 The border continued to the northern slope
of Beth-hoglah and came out at the northern bay
of the Salt Sea,† at the mouth of the Jordan. This

* **18:18 18:18** LXX *slope of Beth-arabah* † **18:19 18:19** That is, the Dead Sea

was the southern border.
20 On the east side the border was the Jordan.
These were the borders around the
inheritance of the clans of the tribe of Benjamin.
21 These were the cities of the clans of the
tribe of Benjamin:

Jericho, Beth-hoglah, Emek-keziz,
22 Beth-arabah, Zemaraim, Bethel,
23 Avvim, Parah, Ophrah,
24 Chephar-ammonah,‡ Ophni, and
Geba—twelve cities, along with their villages.
25 Gibeon, Ramah, Beeroth,
26 Mizpeh, Chephirah, Mozah,
27 Rekem, Irpeel, Taralah,
28 Zelah, Haeleph, the Jebusite§ (that is,
Jerusalem), Gibeah,* and Kiriath†—fourteen
cities, along with their villages.
This was the inheritance of the clans of the
tribe of Benjamin.

19

1 The second lot came out for the clans of the
tribe of Simeon:

Their inheritance lay within the territory of
Judah
2 and included Beersheba, Sheba,* Moladah,
3 Hazar-shual, Balah, Ezem,

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‡ **18:24 18:24** Qere; Ketiv *Chephar-ammoni* § **18:28 18:28** LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate *Jebus* * **18:28 18:28** Hebrew *Gibeath*
† **18:28 18:28** LXX *Kiriath-jearim* * **19:2 19:2** Or *Beersheba, that is, Sheba;* compare 1 Chronicles 4:28

4 Eltolad, Bethul, Hormah,
5 Ziklag, Beth-marcaboth, Hazar-susah,
6 Beth-lebaoth, and Sharuhen—thirteen cities,
along with their villages.
7 Ain, Rimmon, Ether, and Ashan—four cities,
along with their villages,
8 and all the villages surrounding these cities
as far as Baalath-beer (Ramah of the Negev).

This was the inheritance of the clans of the
tribe of Simeon.
9 The inheritance of the Simeonites was taken
from the territory of Judah, because the share
for Judah's descendants was too large for them.
So the Simeonites received an inheritance
within Judah's portion.

10 The third lot came up for the clans of the
tribe of Zebulun:

The border of their inheritance stretched as
far as Sarid.
11 It went up westward to Maralah, reached
Dabbesheth, and met the brook east of Jokneam.
12 From Sarid it turned eastward along the
border of Chisloth-tabor and went on to
Daberath and up to Japhia.
13 From there it crossed eastward to
Gath-hepher and to Eth-kazin; it extended to
Rimmon and curved around toward Neah.
14 Then the border circled around the north
side of Neah to Hannathon and ended at the
Valley of Iphtah-el.
15 It also included Kattath, Nahalal, Shimron,
Idalah, and Bethlehem. There were twelve
cities, along with their villages.

16 This was the inheritance of the clans of the
tribe of Zebulun, including these cities and their
villages.
17 The fourth lot came out for the clans of the
tribe of Issachar:

18 Their territory included Jezreel, Chesulloth,
Shunem,
19 Hapharaim, Shion, Anaharath,
20 Rabbith, Kishion, Ebez,
21 Remeth, En-gannim, En-haddah, and
Beth-pazzez.
22 The border reached Tabor, Shahazumah,
and Beth-shemesh, and ended at the Jordan.
There were sixteen cities, along with their
villages.
23 This was the inheritance of the clans of the
tribe of Issachar, including these cities and their
villages.
24 The fifth lot came out for the clans of the
tribe of Asher:

25 Their territory included Helkath, Hali,
Beten, Achshaph,
26 Allammelech, Amad, and Mishal. On the
west the border touched Carmel and
Shihor-libnath,
27 then turned eastward toward Beth-dagon,
touched Zebulun and the Valley of Iphtah-el, and
went north to Beth-emek and Neiel, passing
Cabul on the left.
28 It went on to Ebron,† Rehob, Hammon, and
Kanah, as far as Greater Sidon.

† **19:28 19:28** Some Hebrew manuscripts *Abdon*; see Joshua 21:30.

29 The border then turned back toward Ramah
as far as the fortified city of Tyre, turned toward
Hosah, and came out at the Sea‡ in the region of
Achzib,
30 Ummah, Aphek, and Rehob. There were
twenty-two cities, along with their villages.

31 This was the inheritance of the clans of the
tribe of Asher, including these cities and their
villages.

32 The sixth lot came out for the clans of the
tribe of Naphtali:

33 Their border started at Heleph and the great
tree of Zaanannim, passing Adami-nekeb
and Jabneel as far as Lakkum and ending at
the Jordan.
34 Then the border turned westward to
Aznoth-tabor and ran from there to Hukkok,
touching Zebulun on the south side, Asher on
the west, and Judah at the Jordan§ on the east.
35 The fortified cities were Ziddim, Zer,
Hammath, Rakkath, Chinnereth,
36 Adamah, Ramah, Hazor,
37 Kedesh, Edrei, En-hazor,
38 Iron, Migdal-el, Horem, Beth-anath, and
Beth-shemesh. There were nineteen cities, along
with their villages.

39 This was the inheritance of the clans of the
tribe of Naphtali, including these cities and their
villages.

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‡ **19:29 19:29** That is, the Mediterranean Sea, also called the Great Sea § **19:34 19:34** LXX *west, and the Jordan*

40 The seventh lot came out for the clans of the
tribe of Dan:

41 The territory of their inheritance included
Zorah, Eshtaol, Ir-shemesh,
42 Shaalabbin, Aijalon, Ithlah,
43 Elon, Timnah, Ekron,
44 Eltekeh, Gibbethon, Baalath,
45 Jehud, Bene-berak, Gath-rimmon,
46 Me-jarkon, and Rakkon, including the
territory across from Joppa.
47 (Later, when the territory of the Danites was
lost to them, they went up and fought against
Leshem, captured it, and put it to the sword. So
they took possession of Leshem, settled there,
and renamed it after their father Dan.)
48 This was the inheritance of the clans of the
tribe of Dan, including these cities and their
villages.
49 When they had finished distributing the
land into its territories, the Israelites gave
Joshua son of Nun an inheritance among them,
50 as the LORD had commanded. They gave
him the city of Timnath-serah* in the hill
country of Ephraim, as he requested. He rebuilt
the city and settled in it.
51 These are the inheritances that Eleazar the
priest, Joshua son of Nun, and the heads of the
families distributed by lot to the tribes of Israel
at Shiloh before the LORD at the entrance to the
Tent of Meeting. So they finished dividing up the
land.

* **19:50 19:50** *Timnath-serah* is also known as *Timnath-heres*; see Judges 2:9.

20

1 Then the LORD said to Joshua,
2 “Tell the Israelites to designate the cities of refuge, as I instructed you through Moses,
3 so that anyone who kills another unintentionally or accidentally may flee there. These will be your refuge from the avenger of blood.
4 When someone flees to one of these cities, stands at the entrance of the city gate, and states his case before its elders, they are to bring him into the city and give him a place to live among them.
5 Now if the avenger of blood pursues him, they must not surrender the manslayer into his hand, because that man killed his neighbor accidentally without prior malice.
6 He is to stay in that city until he stands trial before the assembly and until the death of the high priest serving at that time. Then the manslayer may return to his own home in the city from which he fled.”
7 So they set apart Kedesh in Galilee in the hill country of Naphtali, Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim, and Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the hill country of Judah.
8 And beyond the Jordan, east of Jericho, they designated Bezer on the wilderness plateau from the tribe of Reuben, Ramoth in Gilead from the tribe of Gad, and Golan in Bashan from the tribe of Manasseh.
9 These are the cities appointed for all the Israelites and foreigners among them, so that

anyone who kills a person unintentionally may
flee there and not die by the hand of the avenger
of blood prior to standing trial before the
assembly.

21

1 Now the family heads of the Levites
approached Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of
Nun, and the heads of the other tribes of Israel
2 at Shiloh in the land of Canaan and said to
them, “The LORD commanded through Moses
that we be given cities in which to live, together
with pasturelands for our livestock.”

3 So by the command of the LORD, the
Israelites gave the Levites these cities and their
pasturelands out of their own inheritance:

4 The first lot came out for the Kohathite clans.
The Levites who were descendants of Aaron
the priest received thirteen cities by lot from
the tribes of Judah, Simeon, and Benjamin.
5 The remaining descendants of Kohath
received ten cities by lot from the tribes of
Ephraim, Dan, and the half-tribe of
Manasseh.
6 The descendants of Gershon received
thirteen cities by lot from the tribes of
Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, and the half-tribe
of Manasseh in Bashan.
7 And the descendants of Merari received
twelve cities from the tribes of Reuben, Gad,
and Zebulun.

8 So the Israelites allotted to the Levites these
cities, together with their pasturelands, as the
LORD had commanded through Moses.

9 From the tribes of Judah and Simeon, they
designated these cities by name
10 to the descendants of Aaron from the
Kohathite clans of the Levites, because the first
lot fell to them:

11 They gave them Kiriath-arba (that is,
Hebron), with its surrounding pasturelands,
in the hill country of Judah. (Arba was the
father of Anak.)
12 But they had given the fields and villages
around the city to Caleb son of Jephunneh as his
possession.
13 So to the descendants of Aaron the priest
they gave these cities, together with their
pasturelands: Hebron, a city of refuge for
the manslayer, Libnah,
14 Jattir, Eshtemoa,
15 Holon, Debir,
16 Ain, Juttah, and Beth-shemesh—nine cities
from these two tribes, together with their
pasturelands.

17 And from the tribe of Benjamin they gave
them Gibeon, Geba,
18 Anathoth, and Almon—four cities, together
with their pasturelands.

19 In all, thirteen cities, together with their
pasturelands, were given to the priests, the
descendants of Aaron.

20 The remaining Kohathite clans of the
Levites were allotted these cities:

From the tribe of Ephraim
21 they were given Shechem in the hill country
of Ephraim (a city of refuge for the manslayer),
Gezer,
22 Kibzaim, and Beth-horon—four cities,
together with their pasturelands.
23 From the tribe of Dan they were given
Elteke, Gibbethon,
24 Aijalon, and Gath-rimmon—four cities,
together with their pasturelands.
25 And from the half-tribe of Manasseh they
were given Taanach and Gath-rimmon—two
cities, together with their pasturelands.
26 In all, ten cities, together with their
pasturelands, were given to the rest of the
Kohathite clans.

27 This is what the Levite clans of the
Gershonites were given:

From the half-tribe of Manasseh they were
given Golan in Bashan, a city of refuge for
the manslayer, and Beeshterah—two cities,
together with their pasturelands.
28 From the tribe of Issachar they were given
Kishion, Daberath,
29 Jarmuth, and En-gannim—four cities,
together with their pasturelands.
30 From the tribe of Asher they were given
Mishal, Abdon,

31 Helkath, and Rehob—four cities, together
with their pasturelands.
32 And from the tribe of Naphtali they were
given Kedesh in Galilee (a city of refuge for
the manslayer), Hammoth-dor, and
Kartan—three cities, together with their
pasturelands.
33 In all, thirteen cities, together with their
pasturelands, were given to the Gershonite
clans.
34 This is what the Merarite clan (the rest of
the Levites) were given:

From the tribe of Zebulun they were given
Jokneam, Kartah,
35 Dimnah, and Nahalal—four cities, together
with their pasturelands.
36 From the tribe of Reuben they were given
Bezer, Jahaz,*
37 Kedemoth, and Mephaath—four cities,
together with their pasturelands.
38 And from the tribe of Gad they were given
Ramoth in Gilead, a city of refuge for the
manslayer, Mahanaim,
39 Heshbon, and Jazer—four cities in all,
together with their pasturelands.
40 In all, twelve cities were allotted to the clans
of Merari, the remaining Levite clans.

* **21:36 21:36** Verses 36–37 are lacking in the Leningrad and Aleppo codices and in many manuscripts; they are given here from other manuscripts and printed editions (compare 1 Chronicles 6:63–64).

41 For the Levites, then, there were forty-eight
cities in all, together with their pasturelands,
within the territory of the Israelites.
42 Each of these cities had its own surrounding
pasturelands; this was true for all the cities.
43 Thus the LORD gave Israel all the land he
had sworn to give their fathers, and they took
possession of it and settled in it.
44 And the LORD gave them rest on every side,
just as he had sworn to their fathers. None of
their enemies could stand against them, for the
LORD delivered all their enemies into their
hand.
45 Not one of all the LORD's good promises to
the house of Israel had failed; everything was
fulfilled.

22

1 Then Joshua summoned the Reubenites, the
Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh
2 and told them, "You have done all that Moses
the servant of the LORD commanded you, and
you have obeyed my voice in all that I
commanded you.
3 All this time you have not deserted your
brothers, up to this very day, but have kept the
charge given you by the LORD your God.
4 And now that the LORD your God has given
your brothers rest as he promised them, you
may return to your homes in the land that
Moses the servant of the LORD gave you across
the Jordan.

5 But be very careful to observe the
commandment and the law that Moses the
servant of the LORD gave you: to love the LORD
your God, to walk in all his ways, to keep his
commandments, to hold fast to him, and to serve
him with all your heart and with all your soul."
6 So Joshua blessed them and sent them on
their way, and they went to their homes.
7 (To the half-tribe of Manasseh Moses had
given land in Bashan, and to the other half
Joshua gave land on the west side of the Jordan
among their brothers.) When Joshua sent them
to their homes he blessed them,
8 saying, "Return to your homes with your
great wealth, with immense herds of livestock,
with silver, gold, bronze, iron, and very many
clothes. Divide with your brothers the spoil of
your enemies."
9 So the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the
half-tribe of Manasseh left the Israelites at
Shiloh in the land of Canaan to return to their
own land of Gilead, which they had acquired
according to the command of the LORD through
Moses.
10 And when they came to the region* near the
Jordan in the land of Canaan, the Reubenites,
the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh built
an imposing altar there by the Jordan.
11 Then the Israelites received the report:
"Behold, the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the
half-tribe of Manasseh have built an altar on the

* **22:10 22:10** Or *to the circle of stones* or *to Geliloth*; similarly in verse 11

border of the land of Canaan, in the region near
the Jordan on the Israelite side."
12 And when they heard this, the whole
congregation of Israel assembled at Shiloh to go
to war against them.
13 The Israelites sent Phinehas son of Eleazar
the priest to the land of Gilead, to the
Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of
Manasseh.
14 With him they sent ten chiefs—one family
leader from each tribe of Israel, each the head of
a family among the clans of Israel.
15 They went to the Reubenites, the Gadites,
and the half-tribe of Manasseh in the land of
Gilead and said to them,
16 "This is what the whole congregation of the
LORD says: 'What is this breach of faith you
have committed today against the God of Israel
by turning away from the LORD and building
for yourselves an altar, that you might rebel
against the LORD this day?
17 Was not the sin of Peor enough for us, from
which we have not cleansed ourselves to this
day? It even brought a plague upon the
congregation of the LORD.
18 And now, would you turn away from the
LORD? If you rebel today against the LORD,
tomorrow he will be angry with the whole
congregation of Israel.
19 If indeed the land of your inheritance is
unclean, then cross over to the land of the
LORD's possession, where the LORD's tabernacle
stands, and take possession of it among us. But

do not rebel against the LORD or against us by
building for yourselves an altar other than the
altar of the LORD our God.
20 Was not Achan† son of Zerah unfaithful
regarding what was set apart for destruction,‡
bringing wrath upon the whole congregation of
Israel? Yet it was not only Achan who perished
because of his sin!' "
21 Then the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the
half-tribe of Manasseh answered the leaders of
the clans of Israel:
22 "The LORD, the Mighty One, is God! The
LORD, the Mighty One, is God! He knows, and
may Israel also know. If this was in rebellion or
breach of faith against the LORD, do not spare
us today.
23 If we have built for ourselves an altar to
turn away from him and to offer burnt offerings
and grain offerings on it, or to sacrifice peace
offerings on it, may the LORD himself hold us
accountable.
24 But in fact we have done this for fear that in
the future your descendants might say to ours,
'What have you to do with the LORD, the God of
Israel?
25 For the LORD has made the Jordan a border
between us and you Reubenites and Gadites.
You have no share in the LORD!' So your
descendants could cause ours to stop fearing the
LORD.

† **22:20 22:20** *Achan* means *troubler*; also called *Achar* in 1 Chronicles 2:7. ‡ **22:20 22:20** 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.

26 That is why we said, ‘Let us take action and
build an altar for ourselves, but not for burnt
offerings or sacrifices.
27 Rather, let it be a witness between us and
you and the generations to come, that we will
worship the LORD in his presence with our
burnt offerings, sacrifices, and peace offerings.’
Then in the future, your descendants cannot say
to ours, ‘You have no share in the LORD!’
28 Therefore we said, ‘If they ever say this to us
or to our descendants, we will answer: Look at
the replica of the altar of the LORD that our
fathers made, not for burnt offerings or
sacrifices, but as a witness between us and you.’
29 Far be it from us to rebel against the LORD
and turn away from him today by building an
altar for burnt offerings, grain offerings, or
sacrifices, other than the altar of the LORD our
God, which stands before his tabernacle."
30 When Phinehas the priest and the chiefs of
the congregation—the heads of Israel's clans
who were with him—heard what the
descendants of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh had
to say, they were satisfied.
31 Phinehas son of Eleazar the priest said to
the descendants of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh,
“Today we know that the LORD is among us,
because you have not committed this breach of
faith against him. Consequently, you have
delivered the Israelites from the hand of the
LORD.”
32 Then Phinehas son of Eleazar the priest,
together with the other leaders, returned to the
Israelites in the land of Canaan and brought

back a report regarding the Reubenites and
Gadites in the land of Gilead.
33 The Israelites were satisfied with the report,
and they blessed God and spoke no more about
going to war against them to destroy the land
where the Reubenites and Gadites lived.
34 So the Reubenites and Gadites named the
altar, for they said,§ “It is a witness between us
that the LORD is God.”

23

1 A long time after the LORD had given Israel
rest from all the enemies around them, when
Joshua was old and well along in years,
2 he summoned all Israel, including its elders,
leaders, judges, and officers. “I am old and well
along in years,” he said,
3 “and you have seen everything that the LORD
your God has done to all these nations for your
sake, because it was the LORD your God who
fought for you.
4 See, I have allotted as an inheritance to your
tribes these remaining nations, including all the
nations I have already cut off, from the Jordan
westward to the Great Sea.*
5 The LORD your God will push them out of
your way and drive them out before you, so that
you can take possession of their land, as the
LORD your God promised you.

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§ **22:34 22:34** The name is not given in the Hebrew; some Hebrew manuscripts and Syriac *named the altar Witness* * **23:4 23:4** That is, the Mediterranean Sea

6 Be very strong, then, so that you can keep
and obey all that is written in the Book of the
Teaching of Moses, not turning aside from it to
the right or to the left.
7 So you are not to associate with these nations
that remain among you. You must not call on
the names of their gods or swear by them, and
you must not serve them or bow down to them.
8 Instead, you shall hold fast to the LORD your
God, as you have done to this day.

9 The LORD has driven out great and powerful
nations before you, and to this day no one can
stand against you.
10 One of you can put a thousand to flight,
because the LORD your God fights for you, just
as he promised.
11 Therefore watch yourselves carefully, that
you love the LORD your God.
12 For if you turn away and cling to the rest of
these nations that remain among you, and if you
intermarry and associate with them,
13 know for sure that the LORD your God will
no longer drive out these nations before you.
Instead, they will become for you a snare and a
trap, a scourge in your sides and thorns in your
eyes, until you perish from this good land that
the LORD your God has given you.

14 Now behold, today I am going the way of all
the earth, and you know with all your heart and
soul that not one of the good promises the LORD
your God made to you has failed. Everything
was fulfilled for you; not one promise has failed.

15 But just as every good thing the LORD your
God promised you has come to pass, likewise the
LORD will bring upon you the calamity he has
threatened, until he has destroyed you from this
good land he has given you.
16 If you transgress the covenant of the LORD
your God, which he commanded you, and go
and serve other gods and bow down to them,
then the anger of the LORD will burn against
you, and you will quickly perish from this good
land he has given you."

24

1 Then Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel
at Shechem. He summoned the elders, leaders,
judges, and officers of Israel, and they presented
themselves before God.
2 And Joshua said to all the people, "This is
what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Long
ago your fathers, including Terah the father of
Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the
Euphrates* and worshiped other gods.
3 But I took your father Abraham from beyond
the Euphrates and led him through all the land
of Canaan, and I multiplied his descendants. I
gave him Isaac,
4 and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. I gave
Esau Mount Seir to possess, but Jacob and his
sons went down to Egypt.

* **24:2 24:2** Hebrew *the River*; also in verses 3, 14, and 15

5 Then I sent Moses and Aaron, and I afflicted
the Egyptians by what I did there, and afterward
I brought you out.
6 When I brought your fathers out of Egypt
and you reached the sea, the Egyptians pursued
them with chariots and horsemen as far as the
Sea of Reeds.
7 So your fathers cried out to the LORD, and he
put darkness between you and the Egyptians,
over whom he brought the sea and engulfed
them. Your very eyes saw what I did to the
Egyptians. Then you lived in the wilderness for
a long time.

8 Later, I brought you to the land of the
Amorites who lived beyond the Jordan. They
fought against you, but I delivered them into
your hand, that you should possess their land
when I destroyed them before you.
9 Then Balak son of Zippor, the king of Moab,
set out to fight against Israel. He sent for Balaam
son of Beor to curse you,
10 but I would not listen to Balaam. So he
blessed you again and again, and I delivered you
from his hand.

11 After this, you crossed the Jordan and came
to Jericho. The people of Jericho fought against
you, as did the Amorites, Perizzites, Canaanites,
Hittites, Girgashites, Hivites, and Jebusites, and I
delivered them into your hand.
12 I sent the hornet ahead of you, and it drove
out the two Amorite kings before you, but not by
your own sword or bow.

13 So I gave you a land on which you did not
toil and cities that you did not build, and now
you live in them and eat from vineyards and
olive groves that you did not plant.'

14 Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve
him in sincerity and truth; cast aside the gods
your fathers served beyond the Euphrates and
in Egypt, and serve the LORD.
15 But if it is unpleasing in your sight to serve
the LORD, then choose for yourselves this day
whom you will serve, whether the gods your
fathers served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods
of the Amorites in whose land you are living. As
for me and my house, we will serve the LORD!"

16 The people replied, "Far be it from us to
forsake the LORD to serve other gods!
17 For the LORD our God brought us and our
fathers out of the land of Egypt, out of the house
of slavery, and performed these great signs
before our eyes. He also protected us
throughout our journey and among all the
nations through which we traveled.
18 And the LORD drove out before us all the
nations, including the Amorites who lived in the
land. We too will serve the LORD, because he is
our God!"

19 But Joshua said to the people, "You are not
able to serve the LORD, for he is a holy God; he
is a jealous God; he will not forgive your
rebellion or your sins.
20 If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign
gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and

consume you, even after he has been good to you."

21 "No!" replied the people. "We will serve the LORD!"

22 Then Joshua told them, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the LORD."

"We are witnesses!" they said.

23 "Now, therefore," he said, "get rid of the foreign gods among you and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel."

24 So the people said to Joshua, "We will serve the LORD our God and obey his voice."

25 On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people, and there at Shechem he established for them a statute and ordinance.

26 Joshua recorded these things in the Book of the Teaching of God. Then he took a large stone and set it up there under the oak† that was near the sanctuary of the LORD.

27 And Joshua said to all the people, "You see this stone. It will be a witness against us, for it has heard all the words the LORD has spoken to us, and it will be a witness against you if you ever deny your God."

28 Then Joshua sent the people away, each to his own inheritance.

29 Some time later, Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died at the age of 110.

† **24:26 24:26** Or *terebinth*

30 And they buried him in the land of his
inheritance, at Timnath-serah‡ in the hill
country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash.
31 Israel had served the LORD throughout the
days of Joshua and of the elders who outlived
him and who had experienced all the works that
the LORD had done for Israel.
32 And the bones of Joseph, which the Israelites
had brought up out of Egypt, were buried at
Shechem in the plot of land that Jacob had
purchased from the sons of Hamor, Shechem's
father, for a hundred pieces of silver.§ So it
became an inheritance for Joseph's descendants.
33 Eleazar son of Aaron also died, and they
buried him at Gibeah, which had been given to
his son Phinehas in the hill country of Ephraim.

‡ **24:30 24:30** *Timnath-serah* is also known as *Timnath-heres*; see Judges 2:9. § **24:32 24:32** Hebrew *a hundred kesitahs*; the value or weight of the kesitah is no longer known.

Masoretic English Tanakh

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