

Numbers

BEREAN STANDARD BIBLE

Chapter 1

THE FIRST CENSUS OF ISRAEL

¹On the first day of the second month of the second year after the Israelites had come out of the land of Egypt, the LORD spoke to Moses in the Tent of Meeting in the Wilderness of Sinai. He said: ²“Take a census of the whole congregation of Israel by their clans and families, listing every man by name, one by one. ³You and Aaron are to number those who are twenty years of age or older by their divisions—everyone who can serve in Israel’s army. ⁴And one man from each tribe, the head of each family, must be there with you.

THE LEADERS OF THE TRIBES

⁵These are the names of the men who are to assist you: From the tribe of Reuben, Elizur son of Shedeur; ⁶from Simeon, Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai; ⁷from Judah, Nahshon son of Amminadab; ⁸from Issachar, Nethanel son of Zuar; ⁹from Zebulun, Eliab son of Helon; ¹⁰from the sons of Joseph: from Ephraim, Elishama son of Ammihud, and from Manasseh, Gamaliel son of Pedahzur; ¹¹from Benjamin, Abidan son of Gideoni; ¹²from Dan, Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai; ¹³from Asher, Pagiel son of Ocran; ¹⁴from Gad, Eliasaph son of Deuel; ¹⁵and from Naphtali, Ahira son of Enan.” ¹⁶These men were appointed from the congregation; they were the leaders of the tribes of their fathers, the heads of the clans of Israel.

THE NUMBER OF EVERY TRIBE

¹⁷So Moses and Aaron took these men who had been designated by name, ¹⁸and on the first day of the second month they assembled the whole congregation and recorded their ancestry by clans and families, counting one by one the names of those twenty years of age or older, ¹⁹just as the LORD had commanded Moses. So Moses numbered them in the Wilderness of Sinai: ²⁰From the sons of Reuben, the firstborn of Israel, according to the records of their clans and families, counting one by one the names of every male twenty years of age or older who could serve in the army, ²¹those registered to the tribe of Reuben numbered 46,500. ²²From the sons of Simeon, according to the records of their clans and families, counting one by one the names of every male twenty years of age or older who could serve in the army, ²³those registered to the tribe of Simeon num-

bered 59,300. ²⁴From the sons of Gad, according to the records of their clans and families, counting the names of all those twenty years of age or older who could serve in the army, ²⁵those registered to the tribe of Gad numbered 45,650. ²⁶From the sons of Judah, according to the records of their clans and families, counting the names of all those twenty years of age or older who could serve in the army, ²⁷those registered to the tribe of Judah numbered 74,600. ²⁸From the sons of Issachar, according to the records of their clans and families, counting the names of all those twenty years of age or older who could serve in the army, ²⁹those registered to the tribe of Issachar numbered 54,400. ³⁰From the sons of Zebulun, according to the records of their clans and families, counting the names of all those twenty years of age or older who could serve in the army, ³¹those registered to the tribe of Zebulun numbered 57,400. ³²From the sons of Joseph: From the sons of Ephraim, according to the records of their clans and families, counting the names of all those twenty years of age or older who could serve in the army, ³³those registered to the tribe of Ephraim numbered 40,500. ³⁴And from the sons of Manasseh, according to the records of their clans and families, counting the names of all those twenty years of age or older who could serve in the army, ³⁵those registered to the tribe of Manasseh numbered 32,200. ³⁶From the sons of Benjamin, according to the records of their clans and families, counting the names of all those twenty years of age or older who could serve in the army, ³⁷those registered to the tribe of Benjamin numbered 35,400. ³⁸From the sons of Dan, according to the records of their clans and families, counting the names of all those twenty years of age or older who could serve in the army, ³⁹those registered to the tribe of Dan numbered 62,700. ⁴⁰From the sons of Asher, according to the records of their clans and families, counting the names of all those twenty years of age or older who could serve in the army, ⁴¹those registered to the tribe of Asher numbered 41,500. ⁴²From the sons of Naphtali, according to the records of their clans and families, counting the names of all those twenty years of age or older who could serve in the army, ⁴³those registered to the tribe of Naphtali numbered 53,400. ⁴⁴These were the men numbered by Moses and Aaron, with the assistance of the twelve leaders of Israel, each one representing his family. ⁴⁵So all the Israelites twenty years of age or older who

could serve in Israel's army were counted according to their families. ⁴⁶And all those counted totaled 603,550.

THE EXEMPTION OF THE LEVITES

⁴⁷The Levites, however, were not numbered along with them by the tribe of their fathers. ⁴⁸For the LORD had said to Moses: ⁴⁹"Do not number the tribe of Levi in the census with the other Israelites. ⁵⁰Instead, you are to appoint the Levites over the tabernacle of the Testimony, all its furnishings, and everything in it. They shall carry the tabernacle and all its articles, care for it, and camp around it. ⁵¹Whenever the tabernacle is to move, the Levites are to take it down, and whenever it is to be pitched, the Levites are to set it up. Any outsider who goes near it must be put to death. ⁵²The Israelites are to camp by their divisions, each man in his own camp and under his own standard. ⁵³But the Levites are to camp around the tabernacle of the Testimony and watch over it, so that no wrath will fall on the congregation of Israel. So the Levites are responsible for the tabernacle of the Testimony." ⁵⁴Thus the Israelites did everything just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

Chapter 2

THE ORDER OF THE CAMPS

¹Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron: ²"The Israelites are to camp around the Tent of Meeting at a distance from it, each man under his standard, with the banners of his family. ³On the east side, toward the sunrise, the divisions of Judah are to camp under their standard: The leader of the Judahites is Nahshon son of Amminadab, ⁴and his division numbers 74,600. ⁵The tribe of Issachar will camp next to it. The leader of the Issacharites is Nethanel son of Zuar, ⁶and his division numbers 54,400. ⁷Next will be the tribe of Zebulun. The leader of the Zebulunites is Eliab son of Helon, ⁸and his division numbers 57,400. ⁹The total number of men in the divisions of the camp of Judah is 186,400; they shall set out first. ¹⁰On the south side, the divisions of Reuben are to camp under their standard: The leader of the Reubenites is Elizur son of Shedeur, ¹¹and his division numbers 46,500. ¹²The tribe of Simeon will camp next to it. The leader of the Simeonites is Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai, ¹³and his division numbers 59,300. ¹⁴Next will be the tribe of Gad. The leader of the Gadites is Eliasaph son of Deuel, ¹⁵and his division numbers 45,650. ¹⁶The total number of men in the divisions of the camp of Reuben is 151,450; they shall set out second. ¹⁷In the middle of the camps, the Tent of Meeting is to travel with the camp of the Levites. They are to set out in the order they encamped, each in his own place under his standard. ¹⁸On

the west side, the divisions of Ephraim are to camp under their standard: The leader of the Ephraimites is Elishama son of Ammihud, ¹⁹and his division numbers 40,500. ²⁰The tribe of Manasseh will be next to it. The leader of the Manassites is Gamaliel son of Pedahzur, ²¹and his division numbers 32,200. ²²Next will be the tribe of Benjamin. The leader of the Benjamites is Abidan son of Gideon, ²³and his division numbers 35,400. ²⁴The total number of men in the divisions of the camp of Ephraim is 108,100; they shall set out third. ²⁵On the north side, the divisions of Dan are to camp under their standard: The leader of the Danites is Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai, ²⁶and his division numbers 62,700. ²⁷The tribe of Asher will camp next to it. The leader of the Asherites is Pagiel son of Ocran, ²⁸and his division numbers 41,500. ²⁹Next will be the tribe of Naphtali. The leader of the Naphtalites is Ahira son of Enan, ³⁰and his division numbers 53,400. ³¹The total number of men in the camp of Dan is 157,600; they shall set out last, under their standards." ³²These are the Israelites, numbered according to their families. The total of those counted in the camps, by their divisions, was 603,550. ³³But the Levites were not counted among the other Israelites, as the LORD had commanded Moses. ³⁴So the Israelites did everything the LORD commanded Moses; they camped under their standards in this way and set out in the same way, each man with his clan and his family.

Chapter 3

THE SONS OF AARON

¹This is the account of Aaron and Moses at the time the LORD spoke with Moses on Mount Sinai. ²These are the names of the sons of Aaron: Nadab the firstborn, then Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. ³These were Aaron's sons, the anointed priests, who were ordained to serve as priests. ⁴Nadab and Abihu, however, died in the presence of the LORD when they offered unauthorized fire before the LORD in the Wilderness of Sinai. And since they had no sons, only Eleazar and Ithamar served as priests during the lifetime of their father Aaron.

THE DUTIES OF THE LEVITES

⁵Then the LORD said to Moses, ⁶"Bring the tribe of Levi and present them to Aaron the priest to assist him. ⁷They are to perform duties for him and for the whole congregation before the Tent of Meeting, attending to the service of the tabernacle. ⁸They shall take care of all the furnishings of the Tent of Meeting and fulfill obligations for the Israelites by attending to the service of the tabernacle. ⁹Assign the Levites to Aaron and his sons; they have been

given exclusively to him from among the Israelites. ¹⁰So you shall appoint Aaron and his sons to carry out the duties of the priesthood; but any outsider who approaches the tabernacle must be put to death.” ¹¹Again the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ¹²“Behold, I have taken the Levites from among the children of Israel in place of every firstborn Israelite from the womb. The Levites belong to Me, ¹³for all the firstborn are Mine. On the day I struck down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, I consecrated to Myself all the firstborn in Israel, both man and beast. They are Mine; I am the LORD.”

THE NUMBERING OF THE LEVITES

¹⁴Then the LORD spoke to Moses in the Wilderness of Sinai, saying, ¹⁵“Number the Levites by their families and clans. You are to count every male a month old or more.” ¹⁶So Moses numbered them according to the word of the LORD, as he had been commanded. ¹⁷These were the sons of Levi by name: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. ¹⁸These were the names of the sons of Gershon by their clans: Libni and Shimei. ¹⁹The sons of Kohath by their clans were Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel. ²⁰And the sons of Merari by their clans were Mahli and Mushi. These were the clans of the Levites, according to their families.

THE GERSHONITES

²¹From Gershon came the Libnite clan and the Shimeite clan; these were the Gershonite clans. ²²The number of all the males a month old or more was 7,500. ²³The Gershonite clans were to camp on the west, behind the tabernacle, ²⁴and the leader of the families of the Gershonites was Eliasaph son of Lael. ²⁵The duties of the Gershonites at the Tent of Meeting were the tabernacle and tent, its covering, the curtain for the entrance to the Tent of Meeting, ²⁶the curtains of the courtyard, the curtain for the entrance to the courtyard that surrounds the tabernacle and altar, and the cords—all the service for these items.

THE KOHATHITES

²⁷From Kohath came the clans of the Amramites, the Izharites, the Hebronites, and the Uzzielites; these were the clans of the Kohathites. ²⁸The number of all the males a month old or more was 8,600. They were responsible for the duties of the sanctuary. ²⁹The clans of the Kohathites were to camp on the south side of the tabernacle, ³⁰and the leader of the families of the Kohathites was Elizaphan son of Uzziel. ³¹Their duties were the ark, the table, the lampstand, the altars, the articles of the sanctuary used with them, and the curtain—all the service for these items. ³²The chief of the leaders of the Levites was Eleazar son of Aaron

the priest; he oversaw those responsible for the duties of the sanctuary.

THE MERARITES

³³From Merari came the clans of the Mahlites and Mushites; these were the Merarite clans. ³⁴The number of all the males a month old or more was 6,200. ³⁵The leader of the families of the Merarites was Zuriel son of Abihail; they were to camp on the north side of the tabernacle. ³⁶The duties assigned to the sons of Merari were the tabernacle’s frames, crossbars, posts, bases, and all its equipment—all the service for these items, ³⁷as well as the posts of the surrounding courtyard with their bases, tent pegs, and ropes.

MOSES AND AARON

³⁸Moses, Aaron, and Aaron’s sons were to camp to the east of the tabernacle, toward the sunrise, before the Tent of Meeting. They were to perform the duties of the sanctuary as a service on behalf of the Israelites; but any outsider who approached the sanctuary was to be put to death. ³⁹The total number of Levites that Moses and Aaron counted by their clans at the LORD’s command, including all the males a month old or more, was 22,000.

THE REDEMPTION OF THE FIRSTBORN

⁴⁰Then the LORD said to Moses, “Number every firstborn male of the Israelites a month old or more, and list their names. ⁴¹You are to take the Levites for Me—I am the LORD—in place of all the firstborn of Israel, and the livestock of the Levites in place of all the firstborn of the livestock of the Israelites.” ⁴²So Moses numbered all the firstborn of the Israelites, as the LORD had commanded him. ⁴³The total number of the firstborn males a month old or more, listed by name, was 22,273. ⁴⁴Again the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ⁴⁵“Take the Levites in place of all the firstborn of Israel, and the livestock of the Levites in place of their livestock. The Levites belong to Me; I am the LORD. ⁴⁶To redeem the 273 firstborn Israelites who outnumber the Levites, ⁴⁷you are to collect five shekels for each one, according to the sanctuary shekel of twenty gerahs. ⁴⁸Give the money to Aaron and his sons as the redemption price for the excess among the Israelites.” ⁴⁹So Moses collected the redemption money from those in excess of the number redeemed by the Levites. ⁵⁰He collected the money from the firstborn of the Israelites: 1,365 shekels, according to the sanctuary shekel. ⁵¹And Moses gave the redemption money to Aaron and his sons in obedience to the word of the LORD, just as the LORD had commanded him.

Chapter 4

THE DUTIES OF THE KOHATHITES

¹Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, ²“Take a census of the Kohathites among the Levites by their clans and families, ³men from thirty to fifty years old—everyone who is qualified to serve in the work at the Tent of Meeting. ⁴This service of the Kohathites at the Tent of Meeting regards the most holy things. ⁵Whenever the camp sets out, Aaron and his sons are to go in, take down the veil of the curtain, and cover the ark of the Testimony with it. ⁶They are to place over this a covering of fine leather, spread a solid blue cloth over it, and insert its poles. ⁷Over the table of the Presence they are to spread a blue cloth and place the plates and cups on it, along with the bowls and pitchers for the drink offering. The regular bread offering is to remain on it. ⁸And they shall spread a scarlet cloth over them, cover them with fine leather, and insert the poles. ⁹They are to take a blue cloth and cover the lampstand used for light, together with its lamps, wick trimmers, and trays, as well as the jars of oil with which to supply it. ¹⁰Then they shall wrap it and all its utensils inside a covering of fine leather and put it on the carrying frame. ¹¹Over the gold altar they are to spread a blue cloth, cover it with fine leather, and insert the poles. ¹²They are to take all the utensils for serving in the sanctuary, place them in a blue cloth, cover them with fine leather, and put them on the carrying frame. ¹³Then they shall remove the ashes from the bronze altar, spread a purple cloth over it, ¹⁴and place on it all the vessels used to serve there: the firepans, meat forks, shovels, and sprinkling bowls—all the equipment of the altar. They are to spread over it a covering of fine leather and insert the poles. ¹⁵When Aaron and his sons have finished covering the holy objects and all their equipment, as soon as the camp is ready to move, the Kohathites shall come and do the carrying. But they must not touch the holy objects, or they will die. These are the transportation duties of the Kohathites regarding the Tent of Meeting. ¹⁶Eleazar son of Aaron the priest shall oversee the oil for the light, the fragrant incense, the daily grain offering, and the anointing oil. He has oversight of the entire tabernacle and everything in it, including the holy objects and their utensils.” ¹⁷Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, ¹⁸“Do not allow the Kohathite tribal clans to be cut off from among the Levites. ¹⁹In order that they may live and not die when they come near the most holy things, do this for them: Aaron and his sons are to go in and assign each man his task and what he is to carry. ²⁰But the Kohathites are not to go in and look at the holy objects, even for a moment, or they will die.”

THE DUTIES OF THE GERSHONITES

²¹And the LORD said to Moses, ²²“Take a census of the Gershonites as well, by their families and clans, ²³from thirty to fifty years old, counting everyone who comes to serve in the work at the Tent of Meeting. ²⁴This is the service of the Gershonite clans regarding work and transport: ²⁵They are to carry the curtains of the tabernacle, the Tent of Meeting with the covering of fine leather over it, the curtains for the entrance to the Tent of Meeting, ²⁶the curtains of the courtyard, and the curtains for the entrance at the gate of the courtyard that surrounds the tabernacle and altar, along with their ropes and all the equipment for their service. The Gershonites will do all that needs to be done with these items. ²⁷All the service of the Gershonites—all their transport duties and other work—is to be done at the direction of Aaron and his sons; you are to assign to them all that they are responsible to carry. ²⁸This is the service of the Gershonite clans at the Tent of Meeting, and their duties shall be under the direction of Ithamar son of Aaron the priest.

THE DUTIES OF THE MERARITES

²⁹As for the sons of Merari, you are to number them by their clans and families, ³⁰from thirty to fifty years old, counting everyone who comes to serve in the work of the Tent of Meeting. ³¹This is the duty for all their service at the Tent of Meeting: to carry the frames of the tabernacle with its crossbars, posts, and bases, ³²and the posts of the surrounding courtyard with their bases, tent pegs, and ropes, including all their equipment and everything related to their use. You shall assign by name the items that they are responsible to carry. ³³This is the service of the Merarite clans according to all their work at the Tent of Meeting, under the direction of Ithamar son of Aaron the priest.”

THE NUMBERING OF THE LEVITE CLANS

³⁴So Moses, Aaron, and the leaders of the congregation numbered the Kohathites by their clans and families, ³⁵everyone from thirty to fifty years old who came to serve in the work at the Tent of Meeting. ³⁶And those numbered by their clans totaled 2,750. ³⁷These were counted from the Kohathite clans, everyone who could serve at the Tent of Meeting. Moses and Aaron numbered them according to the command of the LORD through Moses. ³⁸Then the Gershonites were numbered by their clans and families, ³⁹everyone from thirty to fifty years old who came to serve in the work at the Tent of Meeting. ⁴⁰And those numbered by their clans and families totaled 2,630. ⁴¹These were counted from the Gershonite clans who served at the Tent of Meeting, whom Moses and Aaron counted at the LORD’s

command. ⁴²And the Merarites were numbered by their clans and families, ⁴³everyone from thirty to fifty years old who came to serve in the work at the Tent of Meeting. ⁴⁴The men registered by their clans numbered 3,200. ⁴⁵These were counted from the Merarite clans, whom Moses and Aaron numbered at the LORD's command through Moses. ⁴⁶So Moses, Aaron, and the leaders of Israel numbered by their clans and families all the Levites ⁴⁷from thirty to fifty years old who came to do the work of serving and carrying the Tent of Meeting. ⁴⁸And the number of men was 8,580. ⁴⁹At the LORD's command through Moses they were numbered, and each one was assigned his work and burden, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

Chapter 5

CLEANSING THE CAMPS

¹Then the LORD said to Moses, ²“Command the Israelites to send away from the camp anyone with a skin disease, anyone who has a bodily discharge, and anyone who is defiled by a dead body. ³You must send away male and female alike; send them outside the camp so they will not defile their camp, where I dwell among them.” ⁴So the Israelites did this, sending such people outside the camp. They did just as the LORD had instructed Moses.

CONFESSION AND RESTITUTION

⁵And the LORD said to Moses, ⁶“Tell the Israelites that when a man or woman acts unfaithfully against the LORD by committing any sin against another, that person is guilty ⁷and must confess the sin he has committed. He must make full restitution, add a fifth to its value, and give all this to the one he has wronged. ⁸But if the man has no relative to whom restitution can be made for the wrong, the restitution belongs to the LORD and must be given to the priest along with the ram of atonement, by which the atonement is made for him. ⁹Every sacred contribution the Israelites bring to the priest shall belong to him. ¹⁰Each man's sacred gifts are his own, but whatever he gives to the priest will belong to the priest.”

THE ADULTERY TEST

¹¹Then the LORD said to Moses, ¹²“Speak to the Israelites and tell them that if any man's wife goes astray and is unfaithful to him ¹³by sleeping with another man, and it is concealed from her husband and her impurity is undetected (since there is no witness against her and she was not caught in the act), ¹⁴and if a feeling of jealousy comes over her husband and he suspects his wife who has defiled herself—or if a feeling of jealousy comes over him and he suspects her even though she has not defiled herself— ¹⁵then

he is to bring his wife to the priest. He must also bring for her an offering of a tenth of an ephah of barley flour. He is not to pour oil over it or put frankincense on it, because it is a grain offering for jealousy, an offering of memorial as a reminder of iniquity. ¹⁶The priest is to bring the wife forward and have her stand before the LORD. ¹⁷Then he is to take some holy water in a clay jar and put some of the dust from the tabernacle floor into the water. ¹⁸After the priest has the woman stand before the LORD, he is to let down her hair and place in her hands the grain offering of memorial, which is the grain offering for jealousy. The priest is to hold the bitter water that brings a curse. ¹⁹And he is to put the woman under oath and say to her, ‘If no other man has slept with you and you have not gone astray and become defiled while under your husband's authority, may you be immune to this bitter water that brings a curse. ²⁰But if you have gone astray while under your husband's authority and have defiled yourself and lain carnally with a man other than your husband’— ²¹and the priest shall have the woman swear under the oath of the curse—‘then may the LORD make you an attested curse among your people by making your thigh shrivel and your belly swell. ²²May this water that brings a curse enter your stomach and cause your belly to swell and your thigh to shrivel.’ Then the woman is to say, ‘Amen, Amen.’ ²³And the priest shall write these curses on a scroll and wash them off into the bitter water. ²⁴He is to have the woman drink the bitter water that brings a curse, and it will enter her and may cause her bitter suffering. ²⁵The priest shall take from her hand the grain offering for jealousy, wave it before the LORD, and bring it to the altar. ²⁶Then the priest is to take a handful of the grain offering as a memorial portion and burn it on the altar; after that he is to have the woman drink the water. ²⁷When he has made her drink the water, if she has defiled herself and been unfaithful to her husband, then the water that brings a curse will enter her and cause bitter suffering; her belly will swell, her thigh will shrivel, and she will become accursed among her people. ²⁸But if the woman has not defiled herself and is clean, she will be unaffected and able to conceive children. ²⁹This is the law of jealousy when a wife goes astray and defiles herself while under her husband's authority, ³⁰or when a feeling of jealousy comes over a husband and he suspects his wife. He is to have the woman stand before the LORD, and the priest is to apply to her this entire law. ³¹The husband will be free from guilt, but the woman shall bear her iniquity.”

Chapter 6

THE NAZIRITE VOW

¹And the LORD said to Moses, ²“Speak to the Israelites and tell them that if a man or woman makes a special vow, the vow of a Nazirite, to separate himself to the LORD, ³he is to abstain from wine and strong drink. He must not drink vinegar made from wine or strong drink, and he must not drink any grape juice or eat fresh grapes or raisins. ⁴All the days of his separation, he is not to eat anything that comes from the grapevine, not even the seeds or skins. ⁵For the entire period of his vow of separation, no razor shall touch his head. He must be holy until the time of his separation to the LORD is complete; he must let the hair of his head grow long. ⁶Throughout the days of his separation to the LORD, he must not go near a dead body. ⁷Even if his father or mother or brother or sister should die, he is not to defile himself, because the symbol of consecration to his God is upon his head. ⁸Throughout the time of his separation, he is holy to the LORD. ⁹If someone suddenly dies in his presence and defiles his consecrated head of hair, he must shave his head on the day of his cleansing—the seventh day. ¹⁰On the eighth day he must bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons to the priest at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. ¹¹And the priest is to offer one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering to make atonement for him, because he has sinned by being in the presence of the dead body. On that day he must consecrate his head again. ¹²He must rededicate his time of separation to the LORD and bring a year-old male lamb as a guilt offering. But the preceding days shall not be counted, because his separation was defiled. ¹³Now this is the law of the Nazirite when his time of separation is complete: He must be brought to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting, ¹⁴and he is to present an offering to the LORD of an unblemished year-old male lamb as a burnt offering, an unblemished year-old female lamb as a sin offering, and an unblemished ram as a peace offering— ¹⁵together with their grain offerings and drink offerings—and a basket of unleavened cakes made from fine flour mixed with oil and unleavened wafers coated with oil. ¹⁶The priest is to present all these before the LORD and make the sin offering and the burnt offering. ¹⁷He shall also offer the ram as a peace offering to the LORD, along with the basket of unleavened bread. And the priest is to offer the accompanying grain offering and drink offering. ¹⁸Then at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting, the Nazirite is to shave his consecrated head, take the hair, and put it on the fire under the peace offering. ¹⁹And the priest is to take the boiled shoulder from the ram, one unleavened cake from the basket, and one unleavened wafer, and

put them into the hands of the Nazirite who has just shaved the hair of his consecration. ²⁰The priest shall then wave them as a wave offering before the LORD. This is a holy portion for the priest, in addition to the breast of the wave offering and the thigh that was presented. After that, the Nazirite may drink wine. ²¹This is the law of the Nazirite who vows his offering to the LORD for his separation, in addition to whatever else he can afford; he must fulfill whatever vow he makes, according to the law of his separation.”

AARON’S BLESSING

²²Then the LORD said to Moses, ²³“Tell Aaron and his sons: This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: ²⁴‘May the LORD bless you and keep you; ²⁵may the LORD cause His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; ²⁶may the LORD lift up His countenance toward you and give you peace.’ ²⁷So they shall put My name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.”

Chapter 7

OFFERINGS OF DEDICATION

¹On the day Moses finished setting up the tabernacle, he anointed and consecrated it and all its furnishings, along with the altar and all its utensils. ²And the leaders of Israel, the heads of their families, presented an offering. These men were the tribal leaders who had supervised the registration. ³They brought as their offering before the LORD six covered carts and twelve oxen—an ox from each leader and a cart from every two leaders—and presented them before the tabernacle. ⁴And the LORD said to Moses, ⁵“Accept these gifts from them, that they may be used in the work of the Tent of Meeting. And give them to the Levites, to each man according to his service.” ⁶So Moses took the carts and oxen and gave them to the Levites. ⁷He gave the Gershonites two carts and four oxen, as their service required, ⁸and he gave the Merarites four carts and eight oxen, as their service required, all under the direction of Ithamar son of Aaron the priest. ⁹But he did not give any to the Kohathites, since they were to carry on their shoulders the holy objects for which they were responsible. ¹⁰When the altar was anointed, the leaders approached with their offerings for its dedication and presented them before the altar. ¹¹And the LORD said to Moses, “Each day one leader is to present his offering for the dedication of the altar.” ¹²On the first day Nahshon son of Amminadab from the tribe of Judah drew near with his offering. ¹³His offering was one silver platter weighing a hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl weighing seventy shekels, both

according to the sanctuary shekel and filled with fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering; ¹⁴one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with incense; ¹⁵one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year old for a burnt offering; ¹⁶one male goat for a sin offering; ¹⁷and a peace offering of two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs a year old. This was the offering of Nahshon son of Amminadab. ¹⁸On the second day Nethanel son of Zuar, the leader of Issachar, drew near. ¹⁹The offering he presented was one silver platter weighing a hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl weighing seventy shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel and filled with fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering; ²⁰one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with incense; ²¹one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year old for a burnt offering; ²²one male goat for a sin offering; ²³and a peace offering of two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs a year old. This was the offering of Nethanel son of Zuar. ²⁴On the third day Eliab son of Helon, the leader of the Zebulunites, drew near. ²⁵His offering was one silver platter weighing a hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl weighing seventy shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel and filled with fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering; ²⁶one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with incense; ²⁷one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year old for a burnt offering; ²⁸one male goat for a sin offering; ²⁹and a peace offering of two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs a year old. This was the offering of Eliab son of Helon. ³⁰On the fourth day Elizur son of Shedeur, the leader of the Reubenites, drew near. ³¹His offering was one silver platter weighing a hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl weighing seventy shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel and filled with fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering; ³²one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with incense; ³³one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year old for a burnt offering; ³⁴one male goat for a sin offering; ³⁵and a peace offering of two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs a year old. This was the offering of Elizur son of Shedeur. ³⁶On the fifth day Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai, the leader of the Simeonites, drew near. ³⁷His offering was one silver platter weighing a hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl weighing seventy shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel and filled with fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering; ³⁸one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with incense; ³⁹one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year old for a burnt offering; ⁴⁰one male goat for a sin offering; ⁴¹and a peace offering of two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs a year old. This was the offering of

Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai. ⁴²On the sixth day Eliasaph son of Deuel, the leader of the Gadites, drew near. ⁴³His offering was one silver platter weighing a hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl weighing seventy shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel and filled with fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering; ⁴⁴one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with incense; ⁴⁵one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year old for a burnt offering; ⁴⁶one male goat for a sin offering; ⁴⁷and a peace offering of two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs a year old. This was the offering of Eliasaph son of Deuel. ⁴⁸On the seventh day Elishama son of Ammihud, the leader of the Ephraimites, drew near. ⁴⁹His offering was one silver platter weighing a hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl weighing seventy shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel and filled with fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering; ⁵⁰one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with incense; ⁵¹one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year old for a burnt offering; ⁵²one male goat for a sin offering; ⁵³and a peace offering of two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs a year old. This was the offering of Elishama son of Ammihud. ⁵⁴On the eighth day Gamaliel son of Pedahzur, the leader of the Manassites, drew near. ⁵⁵His offering was one silver platter weighing a hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl weighing seventy shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel and filled with fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering; ⁵⁶one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with incense; ⁵⁷one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year old for a burnt offering; ⁵⁸one male goat for a sin offering; ⁵⁹and a peace offering of two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs a year old. This was the offering of Gamaliel son of Pedahzur. ⁶⁰On the ninth day Abidan son of Gideoni, the leader of the Benjamites, drew near. ⁶¹His offering was one silver platter weighing a hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl weighing seventy shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel and filled with fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering; ⁶²one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with incense; ⁶³one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year old for a burnt offering; ⁶⁴one male goat for a sin offering; ⁶⁵and a peace offering of two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs a year old. This was the offering of Abidan son of Gideoni. ⁶⁶On the tenth day Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai, the leader of the Danites, drew near. ⁶⁷His offering was one silver platter weighing a hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl weighing seventy shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel and filled with fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering; ⁶⁸one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with incense; ⁶⁹one

young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year old for a burnt offering; ⁷⁰one male goat for a sin offering; ⁷¹and a peace offering of two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs a year old. This was the offering of Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai. ⁷²On the eleventh day Pagiel son of Ocran, the leader of the Asherites, drew near. ⁷³His offering was one silver platter weighing a hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl weighing seventy shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel and filled with fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering; ⁷⁴one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with incense; ⁷⁵one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year old for a burnt offering; ⁷⁶one male goat for a sin offering; ⁷⁷and a peace offering of two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs a year old. This was the offering of Pagiel son of Ocran. ⁷⁸On the twelfth day Ahira son of Enan, the leader of the Naphtalites, drew near. ⁷⁹His offering was one silver platter weighing a hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl weighing seventy shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel and filled with fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering; ⁸⁰one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with incense; ⁸¹one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb a year old for a burnt offering; ⁸²one male goat for a sin offering; ⁸³and a peace offering of two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs a year old. This was the offering of Ahira son of Enan. ⁸⁴So these were the offerings from the leaders of Israel for the dedication of the altar when it was anointed: twelve silver platters, twelve silver bowls, and twelve gold dishes. ⁸⁵Each silver platter weighed a hundred and thirty shekels, and each silver bowl seventy shekels. The total weight of the silver articles was two thousand four hundred shekels, according to the sanctuary shekel. ⁸⁶The twelve gold dishes filled with incense weighed ten shekels each, according to the sanctuary shekel. The total weight of the gold dishes was a hundred and twenty shekels. ⁸⁷All the livestock for the burnt offering totaled twelve bulls, twelve rams, and twelve male lambs a year old—together with their grain offerings—and twelve male goats for the sin offering. ⁸⁸All the livestock sacrificed for the peace offering totaled twenty-four bulls, sixty rams, sixty male goats, and sixty male lambs a year old. This was the dedication offering for the altar after it was anointed. ⁸⁹When Moses entered the Tent of Meeting to speak with the LORD, he heard the voice speaking to him from between the two cherubim above the mercy seat on the ark of the Testimony. Thus the LORD spoke to him.

Chapter 8

THE LAMPSTAND

¹Then the LORD said to Moses, ²“Speak to Aaron and tell him: ‘When you set up the seven lamps, they are to light the area in front of the lampstand.’” ³And Aaron did so; he set up the lamps facing toward the front of the lampstand, just as the LORD had commanded Moses. ⁴This is how the lampstand was constructed: it was made of hammered gold from its base to its blossoms, fashioned according to the pattern the LORD had shown Moses.

CLEANSING THE LEVITES

⁵Again the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ⁶“Take the Levites from among the Israelites and make them ceremonially clean. ⁷This is what you must do to cleanse them: Sprinkle them with the water of purification. Have them shave their whole bodies and wash their clothes, and so purify themselves. ⁸Then have them take a young bull with its grain offering of fine flour mixed with oil, and you are to take a second young bull for a sin offering. ⁹Bring the Levites before the Tent of Meeting and assemble the whole congregation of Israel. ¹⁰You are to present the Levites before the LORD and have the Israelites lay their hands upon them. ¹¹Aaron is to present the Levites before the LORD as a wave offering from the sons of Israel, so that they may perform the service of the LORD. ¹²And the Levites are to lay their hands on the heads of the bulls, and offer to the LORD one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering, to make atonement for the Levites. ¹³You are to have the Levites stand before Aaron and his sons and then present them before the LORD as a wave offering. ¹⁴In this way you shall separate the Levites from the rest of the Israelites, and the Levites will belong to Me. ¹⁵After you have cleansed them and presented them as a wave offering, they may come to serve at the Tent of Meeting. ¹⁶For the Levites have been wholly given to Me from among the sons of Israel. I have taken them for Myself in place of all who come first from the womb, the firstborn of all the sons of Israel. ¹⁷For every firstborn male in Israel is Mine, both man and beast. I set them apart for Myself on the day I struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt. ¹⁸But I have taken the Levites in place of all the firstborn among the sons of Israel. ¹⁹And I have given the Levites as a gift to Aaron and his sons from among the Israelites, to perform the service for the Israelites at the Tent of Meeting and to make atonement on their behalf, so that no plague will come against the Israelites when they approach the sanctuary.” ²⁰So Moses, Aaron, and the whole congregation of Israel did with the Levites everything that the LORD had

commanded Moses they should do. ²¹The Levites purified themselves and washed their clothes, and Aaron presented them as a wave offering before the LORD. Aaron also made atonement for them to cleanse them. ²²After that, the Levites came to perform their service at the Tent of Meeting in the presence of Aaron and his sons. Thus they did with the Levites just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

RETIREMENT FOR LEVITES

²³And the LORD said to Moses, ²⁴“This applies to the Levites: Men twenty-five years of age or older shall enter to perform the service in the work at the Tent of Meeting. ²⁵But at the age of fifty, they must retire from performing the work and no longer serve. ²⁶After that, they may assist their brothers in fulfilling their duties at the Tent of Meeting, but they themselves are not to do the work. This is how you are to assign responsibilities to the Levites.”

Chapter 9

THE SECOND PASSOVER

¹In the first month of the second year after Israel had come out of the land of Egypt, the LORD spoke to Moses in the Wilderness of Sinai: ²“The Israelites are to observe the Passover at its appointed time. ³You are to observe it at the appointed time, at twilight on the fourteenth day of this month, in accordance with its statutes and ordinances.” ⁴So Moses told the Israelites to observe the Passover, ⁵and they did so in the Wilderness of Sinai, at twilight on the fourteenth day of the first month. The Israelites did everything just as the LORD had commanded Moses. ⁶But there were some men who were unclean due to a dead body, so they could not observe the Passover on that day. And they came before Moses and Aaron that same day ⁷and said to Moses, “We are unclean because of a dead body, but why should we be excluded from presenting the LORD’s offering with the other Israelites at the appointed time?” ⁸“Wait here until I find out what the LORD commands concerning you,” Moses replied. ⁹Then the LORD said to Moses, ¹⁰“Tell the Israelites: ‘When any one of you or your descendants is unclean because of a dead body, or is away on a journey, he may still observe the Passover to the LORD. ¹¹Such people are to observe it at twilight on the fourteenth day of the second month. They are to eat the lamb, together with unleavened bread and bitter herbs; ¹²they may not leave any of it until morning or break any of its bones. They must observe the Passover according to all its statutes. ¹³But if a man who is ceremonially clean and is not on a journey still fails to observe the Passover, he must be cut off from his

people, because he did not present the LORD’s offering at its appointed time. That man will bear the consequences of his sin. ¹⁴If a foreigner dwelling among you wants to observe the Passover to the LORD, he is to do so according to the Passover statute and its ordinances. You are to apply the same statute to both the foreigner and the native of the land.”

THE CLOUD ABOVE THE TABERNACLE

¹⁵On the day that the tabernacle, the Tent of the Testimony, was set up, the cloud covered it and appeared like fire above the tabernacle from evening until morning. ¹⁶It remained that way continually; the cloud would cover the tabernacle by day, and at night it would appear like fire. ¹⁷Whenever the cloud was lifted from above the Tent, the Israelites would set out, and wherever the cloud settled, there the Israelites would camp. ¹⁸At the LORD’s command the Israelites set out, and at the LORD’s command they camped. As long as the cloud remained over the tabernacle, they remained encamped. ¹⁹Even when the cloud lingered over the tabernacle for many days, the Israelites kept the LORD’s charge and did not set out. ²⁰Sometimes the cloud remained over the tabernacle for only a few days, and they would camp at the LORD’s command and set out at the LORD’s command. ²¹Sometimes the cloud remained only from evening until morning, and when it lifted in the morning, they would set out. Whether it was by day or by night, when the cloud was taken up, they would set out. ²²Whether the cloud lingered for two days, a month, or longer, the Israelites camped and did not set out as long as the cloud remained over the tabernacle; but when it was lifted, they would set out. ²³They camped at the LORD’s command, and they set out at the LORD’s command; they carried out the LORD’s charge according to His command through Moses.

Chapter 10

THE TWO SILVER TRUMPETS

¹Then the LORD said to Moses, ²“Make two trumpets of hammered silver to be used for calling the congregation and for having the camps set out. ³When both are sounded, the whole congregation is to assemble before you at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. ⁴But if only one is sounded, then the leaders, the heads of the clans of Israel, are to gather before you. ⁵When you sound short blasts, the camps that lie on the east side are to set out. ⁶When you sound the short blasts a second time, the camps that lie on the south side are to set out. The blasts are to signal them to set out. ⁷To convene the assembly, you are to sound long

blasts, not short ones. ⁸The sons of Aaron, the priests, are to sound the trumpets. This shall be a permanent statute for you and the generations to come. ⁹When you enter into battle in your land against an adversary who attacks you, sound short blasts on the trumpets, and you will be remembered before the LORD your God and saved from your enemies. ¹⁰And on your joyous occasions, your appointed feasts, and the beginning of each month, you are to blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings and peace offerings to serve as a reminder for you before your God. I am the LORD your God.”

FROM SINAI TO PARAN

¹¹On the twentieth day of the second month of the second year, the cloud was lifted from above the tabernacle of the Testimony, ¹²and the Israelites set out from the Wilderness of Sinai, traveling from place to place until the cloud settled in the Wilderness of Paran. ¹³They set out this first time according to the LORD’s command through Moses. ¹⁴First, the divisions of the camp of Judah set out under their standard, with Nahshon son of Amminadab in command. ¹⁵Nethanel son of Zuar was over the division of the tribe of Issachar, ¹⁶and Eliab son of Helon was over the division of the tribe of Zebulun. ¹⁷Then the tabernacle was taken down, and the Gershonites and the Merarites set out, transporting it. ¹⁸Then the divisions of the camp of Reuben set out under their standard, with Elizur son of Shedeur in command. ¹⁹Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai was over the division of the tribe of Simeon, ²⁰and Eliasaph son of Deuel was over the division of the tribe of Gad. ²¹Then the Kohathites set out, transporting the holy objects; the tabernacle was to be set up before their arrival. ²²Next, the divisions of the camp of Ephraim set out under their standard, with Elishama son of Ammihud in command. ²³Gamaliel son of Pedahzur was over the division of the tribe of Manasseh, ²⁴and Abidan son of Gideon was over the division of the tribe of Benjamin. ²⁵Finally, the divisions of the camp of Dan set out under their standard, serving as the rear guard for all units, with Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai in command. ²⁶Pagiel son of Ocran was over the division of the tribe of Asher, ²⁷and Ahira son of Enan was over the division of the tribe of Naphtali. ²⁸This was the order of march for the Israelite divisions as they set out. ²⁹Then Moses said to Hobab, the son of Moses’ father-in-law Reuel the Midianite, “We are setting out for the place of which the LORD said: ‘I will give it to you.’ Come with us, and we will treat you well, for the LORD has promised good things to Israel.” ³⁰“I will not go,” Hobab replied. “Instead, I am going back to my own land and my own people.” ³¹“Please do not leave us,” Moses said, “since you know where we

should camp in the wilderness, and you can serve as our eyes. ³²If you come with us, we will share with you whatever good things the LORD gives us.” ³³So they set out on a three-day journey from the mountain of the LORD, with the ark of the covenant of the LORD traveling ahead of them for those three days to seek a resting place for them. ³⁴And the cloud of the LORD was over them by day when they set out from the camp. ³⁵Whenever the ark set out, Moses would say, “Rise up, O LORD! May Your enemies be scattered; may those who hate You flee before You.” ³⁶And when it came to rest, he would say: “Return, O LORD, to the countless thousands of Israel.”

Chapter 11

THE COMPLAINTS OF THE PEOPLE

¹Soon the people began to complain about their hardship in the hearing of the LORD, and when He heard them, His anger was kindled, and fire from the LORD blazed among them and consumed the outskirts of the camp. ²And the people cried out to Moses, and he prayed to the LORD, and the fire died down. ³So that place was called Taberah, because the fire of the LORD had burned among them. ⁴Meanwhile, the rabble among them had a strong craving for other food, and again the Israelites wept and said, “Who will feed us meat? ⁵We remember the fish we ate freely in Egypt, along with the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic. ⁶But now our appetite is gone; there is nothing to see but this manna!” ⁷Now the manna resembled coriander seed, and its appearance was like that of gum resin. ⁸The people walked around and gathered it, ground it on a handmill or crushed it in a mortar, then boiled it in a cooking pot or shaped it into cakes. It tasted like pastry baked with fine oil. ⁹When the dew fell on the camp at night, the manna would fall with it.

THE COMPLAINT OF MOSES

¹⁰Then Moses heard the people of family after family weeping at the entrances to their tents, and the anger of the LORD was kindled greatly, and Moses was also displeased. ¹¹So Moses asked the LORD, “Why have You brought this trouble on Your servant? Why have I not found favor in Your sight, that You have laid upon me the burden of all these people? ¹²Did I conceive all these people? Did I give them birth, so that You should tell me, ‘Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries an infant,’ to the land that You swore to give their fathers? ¹³Where can I get meat for all these people? For they keep crying out to me, ‘Give us meat to eat!’ ¹⁴I cannot carry all these people by myself; it is too burdensome for me. ¹⁵If this is how You are going to treat

me, please kill me right now—if I have found favor in Your eyes—and let me not see my own wretchedness.”

SEVENTY ELDERS ANOINTED

¹⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, “Bring Me seventy of the elders of Israel known to you as leaders and officers of the people. Bring them to the Tent of Meeting and have them stand there with you. ¹⁷And I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take some of the Spirit that is on you and put that Spirit on them. They will help you bear the burden of the people, so that you do not have to bear it by yourself. ¹⁸And say to the people: Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you will eat meat, because you have cried out in the hearing of the LORD, saying: ‘Who will feed us meat? For we were better off in Egypt!’ Therefore the LORD will give you meat, and you will eat. ¹⁹You will eat it not for one or two days, nor for five or ten or twenty days, ²⁰but for a whole month—until it comes out of your nostrils and makes you nauseous—because you have rejected the LORD, who is among you, and have cried out before Him, saying, ‘Why did we ever leave Egypt?’” ²¹But Moses replied, “Here I am among 600,000 men on foot, yet You say, ‘I will give them meat, and they will eat for a month.’” ²²If all our flocks and herds were slaughtered for them, would they have enough? Or if all the fish in the sea were caught for them, would they have enough?” ²³The LORD answered Moses, “Is the LORD’s arm too short? Now you will see whether or not My word will come to pass.” ²⁴So Moses went out and relayed to the people the words of the LORD, and he gathered seventy of the elders of the people and had them stand around the tent. ²⁵Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and He took some of the Spirit that was on Moses and placed that Spirit on the seventy elders. As the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied—but they never did so again. ²⁶Two men, however, had remained in the camp—one named Eldad and the other Medad—and the Spirit rested on them. They were among those listed, but they had not gone out to the tent, and they prophesied in the camp. ²⁷A young man ran and reported to Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” ²⁸Joshua son of Nun, the attendant to Moses since youth, spoke up and said, “Moses, my lord, stop them!” ²⁹But Moses replied, “Are you jealous on my account? I wish that all the LORD’s people were prophets and that the LORD would place His Spirit on them!” ³⁰Then Moses returned to the camp, along with the elders of Israel.

THE QUAIL AND THE PLAGUE

³¹Now a wind sent by the LORD came up, drove in quail from the sea, and brought them near the camp, about two

cubits above the surface of the ground, for a day’s journey in every direction around the camp. ³²All that day and night, and all the next day, the people stayed up gathering the quail. No one gathered less than ten homers, and they spread them out all around the camp. ³³But while the meat was still between their teeth, before it was chewed, the anger of the LORD burned against the people, and the LORD struck them with a severe plague. ³⁴So they called that place Kibroth-hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had craved other food. ³⁵From Kibroth-hattaavah the people moved on to Hazeroth, where they remained for some time.

Chapter 12

THE COMPLAINT OF MIRIAM AND AARON

¹Then Miriam and Aaron criticized Moses because of the Cushite woman he had married, for he had taken a Cushite wife. ²“Does the LORD speak only through Moses?” they said. “Does He not also speak through us?” And the LORD heard this. ³Now Moses was a very humble man, more so than any man on the face of the earth. ⁴And suddenly the LORD said to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, “You three, come out to the Tent of Meeting.” So the three went out, ⁵and the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud, stood at the entrance to the Tent, and summoned Aaron and Miriam. When both of them had stepped forward, ⁶He said, “Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, will reveal Myself to him in a vision; I will speak to him in a dream. ⁷But this is not so with My servant Moses; he is faithful in all My house. ⁸I speak with him face to face, clearly and not in riddles; he sees the form of the LORD. Why then were you unafraid to speak against My servant Moses?” ⁹So the anger of the LORD burned against them, and He departed. ¹⁰As the cloud lifted from above the Tent, suddenly Miriam became leprous, white as snow. Aaron turned toward her, saw that she was leprous, ¹¹and said to Moses, “My lord, please do not hold against us this sin we have so foolishly committed. ¹²Please do not let her be like a stillborn infant whose flesh is half consumed when he comes out of his mother’s womb.” ¹³So Moses cried out to the LORD, “O God, please heal her!” ¹⁴But the LORD answered Moses, “If her father had but spit in her face, would she not have been in disgrace for seven days? Let her be confined outside the camp for seven days; after that she may be brought back in.” ¹⁵So Miriam was confined outside the camp for seven days, and the people did not move on until she was brought in again. ¹⁶After that, the people set out from Hazeroth and camped in the Wilderness of Paran.

Chapter 13

THE SPIES EXPLORE CANAAN

¹And the LORD said to Moses, ²“Send out for yourself men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. From each of their fathers’ tribes send one man who is a leader among them.” ³So at the command of the LORD, Moses sent them out from the Wilderness of Paran. All the men were leaders of the Israelites, ⁴and these were their names: From the tribe of Reuben, Shammua son of Zaccur; ⁵from the tribe of Simeon, Shaphat son of Hori; ⁶from the tribe of Judah, Caleb son of Jephunneh; ⁷from the tribe of Issachar, Igal son of Joseph; ⁸from the tribe of Ephraim, Hoshea son of Nun; ⁹from the tribe of Benjamin, Palti son of Raphu; ¹⁰from the tribe of Zebulun, Gaddiel son of Sodi; ¹¹from the tribe of Manasseh (a tribe of Joseph), Gaddi son of Susi; ¹²from the tribe of Dan, Ammiel son of Gemalli; ¹³from the tribe of Asher, Sethur son of Michael; ¹⁴from the tribe of Naphtali, Nahbi son of Vophsi; ¹⁵and from the tribe of Gad, Geuel son of Machi. ¹⁶These were the names of the men Moses sent to spy out the land; and Moses gave to Hoshea son of Nun the name Joshua. ¹⁷When Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, he told them, “Go up through the Negev and into the hill country. ¹⁸See what the land is like and whether its people are strong or weak, few or many. ¹⁹Is the land where they live good or bad? Are the cities where they dwell open camps or fortifications? ²⁰Is the soil fertile or unproductive? Are there trees in it or not? Be courageous and bring back some of the fruit of the land.” (It was the season for the first ripe grapes.) ²¹So they went up and spied out the land from the Wilderness of Zin as far as Rehob, toward Lebo-hamath. ²²They went up through the Negev and came to Hebron, where Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmi, the descendants of Anak, dwelled. It had been built seven years before Zoan in Egypt. ²³When they came to the Valley of Eshcol, they cut down a branch with a single cluster of grapes, which they carried on a pole between two men. They also took some pomegranates and figs. ²⁴Because of the cluster of grapes the Israelites cut there, that place was called the Valley of Eshcol.

THE REPORTS OF THE SPIES

²⁵After forty days the men returned from spying out the land, ²⁶and they went back to Moses, Aaron, and the whole congregation of Israel in the Wilderness of Paran at Kadesh. They brought back a report for the whole congregation and showed them the fruit of the land. ²⁷And they gave this account to Moses: “We went into the land to which you sent us, and indeed, it is flowing with milk and

honey. Here is some of its fruit! ²⁸Nevertheless, the people living in the land are strong, and the cities are large and fortified. We even saw the descendants of Anak there. ²⁹The Amalekites live in the land of the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites, and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live by the sea and along the Jordan.” ³⁰Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, “We must go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly conquer it!” ³¹But the men who had gone up with him replied, “We cannot go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are!” ³²So they gave the Israelites a bad report about the land that they had spied out: “The land we explored devours its inhabitants, and all the people we saw there are great in stature. ³³We even saw the Nephilim there—the descendants of Anak that come from the Nephilim! We seemed like grasshoppers in our own sight, and we must have seemed the same to them!”

Chapter 14

ISRAEL’S REBELLION

¹Then the whole congregation lifted up their voices and cried out, and that night the people wept. ²All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, “If only we had died in the land of Egypt, or if only we had died in this wilderness! ³Why is the LORD bringing us into this land to fall by the sword? Our wives and children will become plunder. Would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?” ⁴So they said to one another, “Let us appoint a leader and return to Egypt.” ⁵Then Moses and Aaron fell facedown before the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel. ⁶Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes ⁷and said to the whole congregation of Israel, “The land we passed through and explored is an exceedingly good land. ⁸If the LORD delights in us, He will bring us into this land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and He will give it to us. ⁹Only do not rebel against the LORD, and do not be afraid of the people of the land, for they will be like bread for us. Their protection has been removed, and the LORD is with us. Do not be afraid of them!” ¹⁰But the whole congregation threatened to stone Joshua and Caleb. Then the glory of the LORD appeared to all the Israelites at the Tent of Meeting. ¹¹And the LORD said to Moses, “How long will this people treat Me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in Me, despite all the signs I have performed among them? ¹²I will strike them with a plague and destroy them—and I will make you into a nation greater and mightier than they are.”

MOSES INTERCEDES FOR ISRAEL

¹³But Moses said to the LORD, “The Egyptians will hear of it, for by Your strength You brought this people from among them. ¹⁴And they will tell it to the inhabitants of this land. They have already heard that You, O LORD, are in the midst of this people, that You, O LORD, have been seen face to face, that Your cloud stands over them, and that You go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. ¹⁵If You kill this people as one man, the nations who have heard of Your fame will say, ¹⁶‘Because the LORD was unable to bring this people into the land He swore to give them, He has slaughtered them in the wilderness.’ ¹⁷So now I pray, may the power of my Lord be magnified, just as You have declared: ¹⁸‘The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in loving devotion, forgiving iniquity and transgression. Yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished; He will visit the iniquity of the fathers upon their children to the third and fourth generation.’ ¹⁹Pardon, I pray, the iniquity of this people, in keeping with the greatness of Your loving devotion, just as You have forgiven them ever since they left Egypt.”

GOD’S FORGIVENESS AND JUDGMENT

²⁰“I have pardoned them as you requested,” the LORD replied. ²¹“Yet as surely as I live and as surely as the whole earth is filled with the glory of the LORD, ²²not one of the men who have seen My glory and the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness—yet have tested Me and disobeyed Me these ten times— ²³not one will ever see the land that I swore to give their fathers. None of those who have treated Me with contempt will see it. ²⁴But because My servant Caleb has a different spirit and has followed Me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he has entered, and his descendants will inherit it. ²⁵Now since the Amalekites and Canaanites are living in the valleys, turn back tomorrow and head for the wilderness along the route to the Red Sea.” ²⁶Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, ²⁷“How long will this wicked congregation grumble against Me? I have heard the complaints that the Israelites are making against Me. ²⁸So tell them: As surely as I live, declares the LORD, I will do to you exactly as I heard you say. ²⁹Your bodies will fall in this wilderness—all who were numbered in the census, everyone twenty years of age or older—because you have grumbled against Me. ³⁰Surely none of you will enter the land in which I swore to settle you, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun. ³¹But I will bring your children, whom you said would become plunder, into the land you have rejected—and they will enjoy it. ³²As for you, however, your bodies will fall in this wilderness. ³³Your children will be shepherds in the

wilderness for forty years, and they will suffer for your unfaithfulness until the last of your bodies lies in the wilderness. ³⁴In keeping with the forty days you spied out the land, you shall bear your guilt forty years—a year for each day—and you will experience My alienation. ³⁵I, the LORD, have spoken, and I will surely do these things to this entire wicked congregation, which has conspired against Me. They will meet their end in the wilderness, and there they will die.”

THE PLAGUE ON THE TEN SPIES

³⁶So the men Moses had sent to spy out the land, who had returned and made the whole congregation grumble against him by bringing out a bad report about the land— ³⁷those men who had brought out the bad report about the land—were struck down by a plague before the LORD. ³⁸Of those men who had gone to spy out the land, only Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh remained alive. ³⁹And when Moses relayed these words to all the Israelites, the people mourned bitterly.

THE DEFEAT AT HORMAH

⁴⁰Early the next morning they got up and went up toward the ridge of the hill country. “We have indeed sinned,” they said, “but we will go to the place the LORD has promised.” ⁴¹But Moses said, “Why are you transgressing the commandment of the LORD? This will not succeed! ⁴²Do not go up, lest you be struck down by your enemies, because the LORD is not among you. ⁴³For there the Amalekites and Canaanites will face you, and you will fall by the sword. Because you have turned away from the LORD, He will not be with you.” ⁴⁴But they dared to go up to the ridge of the hill country, though neither Moses nor the ark of the covenant of the LORD moved from the camp. ⁴⁵Then the Amalekites and Canaanites who lived in that part of the hill country came down, attacked them, and routed them all the way to Hormah.

Chapter 15

LAWS ABOUT OFFERINGS

¹Then the LORD said to Moses, ²“Speak to the Israelites and tell them: After you enter the land that I am giving you as a home ³and you present a food offering to the LORD from the herd or flock to produce a pleasing aroma to the LORD—either a burnt offering or a sacrifice, for a special vow or freewill offering or appointed feast— ⁴then the one presenting his offering to the LORD shall also present a grain offering of a tenth of an ephah of fine flour mixed with a quarter hin of olive oil. ⁵With the burnt offering or sacrifice of each lamb, you are to prepare a quarter hin of

wine as a drink offering. ⁶With a ram you are to prepare a grain offering of two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with a third of a hin of olive oil, ⁷and a third of a hin of wine as a drink offering, a pleasing aroma to the LORD. ⁸When you prepare a young bull as a burnt offering or sacrifice to fulfill a vow or as a peace offering to the LORD, ⁹present with the bull a grain offering of three-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with half a hin of olive oil. ¹⁰Also present half a hin of wine as a drink offering. It is a food offering, a pleasing aroma to the LORD. ¹¹This is to be done for each bull, ram, lamb, or goat. ¹²This is how you must prepare each one, no matter how many. ¹³Everyone who is native-born shall prepare these things in this way when he presents a food offering as a pleasing aroma to the LORD. ¹⁴And for the generations to come, if a foreigner residing with you or someone else among you wants to prepare a food offering as a pleasing aroma to the LORD, he is to do exactly as you do. ¹⁵The assembly is to have the same statute both for you and for the foreign resident; it is a permanent statute for the generations to come. You and the foreigner shall be the same before the LORD. ¹⁶The same law and the same ordinance will apply both to you and to the foreigner residing with you.” ¹⁷Then the LORD said to Moses, ¹⁸“Speak to the Israelites and tell them: When you enter the land to which I am bringing you ¹⁹and you eat the food of the land, you shall lift up an offering to the LORD. ²⁰From the first of your dough, you are to lift up a cake as a contribution; offer it just like an offering from the threshing floor. ²¹Throughout your generations, you are to give the LORD an offering from the first of your dough.

OFFERINGS FOR UNINTENTIONAL SINS

²²Now if you stray unintentionally and do not obey all these commandments that the LORD has spoken to Moses— ²³all that the LORD has commanded you through Moses from the day the LORD gave them and continuing through the generations to come— ²⁴and if it was done unintentionally without the knowledge of the congregation, then the whole congregation is to prepare one young bull as a burnt offering, a pleasing aroma to the LORD, with its grain offering and drink offering according to the regulation, and one male goat as a sin offering. ²⁵The priest is to make atonement for the whole congregation of Israel, so that they may be forgiven; for the sin was unintentional and they have brought to the LORD a food offering and a sin offering, presented before the LORD for their unintentional sin. ²⁶Then the whole congregation of Israel and the foreigners residing among them will be forgiven, since it happened to all the people unintentionally. ²⁷Also, if one person sins unintentionally, he is to present a year-old female goat as a

sin offering. ²⁸And the priest shall make atonement before the LORD on behalf of the person who erred by sinning unintentionally; and when atonement has been made for him, he will be forgiven. ²⁹You shall have the same law for the one who acts in error, whether he is a native-born Israelite or a foreigner residing among you. ³⁰But the person who sins defiantly, whether a native or foreigner, blasphemes the LORD. That person shall be cut off from among his people. ³¹He shall certainly be cut off, because he has despised the word of the LORD and broken His commandment; his guilt remains on him.”

A SABBATH-BREAKER STONED

³²While the Israelites were in the wilderness, a man was found gathering wood on the Sabbath day. ³³Those who found the man gathering wood brought him to Moses, Aaron, and the whole congregation, ³⁴and because it had not been declared what should be done to him, they placed him in custody. ³⁵And the LORD said to Moses, “The man must surely be put to death. The whole congregation is to stone him outside the camp.” ³⁶So the whole congregation took the man outside the camp and stoned him to death, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

THE LAW OF TASSELS

³⁷And the LORD said to Moses, ³⁸“Speak to the Israelites and tell them that throughout the generations to come they are to make for themselves tassels for the corners of their garments, with a blue cord on each tassel. ³⁹These will serve as tassels for you to look at, so that you may remember all the commandments of the LORD, that you may obey them and not prostitute yourselves by following your own heart and your own eyes. ⁴⁰Then you will remember and obey all My commandments, and you will be holy to your God. ⁴¹I am the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God. I am the LORD your God.”

Chapter 16

KORAH’S REBELLION

¹Now Korah son of Izhar, the son of Kohath son of Levi, along with some Reubenites—Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab, and On son of Peleth—conducted ²a rebellion against Moses, along with 250 men of Israel renowned as leaders of the congregation and representatives in the assembly. ³They came together against Moses and Aaron and told them, “You have taken too much upon yourselves! For everyone in the entire congregation is holy, and the LORD is in their midst. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?” ⁴When Moses heard this, he

fell facedown. ⁵Then he said to Korah and all his followers, “Tomorrow morning the LORD will reveal who belongs to Him and who is holy, and He will bring that person near to Himself. The one He chooses He will bring near to Himself. ⁶You, Korah, and all your followers are to do as follows: Take censers, ⁷and tomorrow you are to place fire and incense in them in the presence of the LORD. Then the man the LORD chooses will be the one who is holy. It is you sons of Levi who have taken too much upon yourselves!” ⁸Moses also said to Korah, “Now listen, you sons of Levi! ⁹Is it not enough for you that the God of Israel has separated you from the congregation of Israel and brought you near to Himself to perform the work at the LORD’s tabernacle, and to stand before the congregation to minister to them? ¹⁰He has brought you near, you and all your fellow Levites, but you are seeking the priesthood as well. ¹¹Therefore, it is you and all your followers who have conspired against the LORD! As for Aaron, who is he that you should grumble against him?” ¹²Then Moses summoned Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, but they said, “We will not come! ¹³Is it not enough that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey to kill us in the wilderness? Must you also appoint yourself as ruler over us? ¹⁴Moreover, you have not brought us into a land flowing with milk and honey or given us an inheritance of fields and vineyards. Will you gouge out the eyes of these men? No, we will not come!” ¹⁵Then Moses became very angry and said to the LORD, “Do not regard their offering. I have not taken one donkey from them or mistreated a single one of them.” ¹⁶And Moses said to Korah, “You and all your followers are to appear before the LORD tomorrow—you and they and Aaron. ¹⁷Each man is to take his censer, place incense in it, and present it before the LORD—250 censers. You and Aaron are to present your censers as well.” ¹⁸So each man took his censer, put fire and incense in it, and stood with Moses and Aaron at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. ¹⁹When Korah had gathered his whole assembly against them at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting, the glory of the LORD appeared to the whole congregation. ²⁰And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, ²¹“Separate yourselves from this congregation so that I may consume them in an instant.” ²²But Moses and Aaron fell facedown and said, “O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, when one man sins, will You be angry with the whole congregation?”

MOSES SEPARATES THE PEOPLE

²³Then the LORD said to Moses, ²⁴“Tell the congregation to move away from the dwellings of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.” ²⁵So Moses got up and went to Dathan and

Abiram, and the elders of Israel followed him. ²⁶And he warned the congregation, “Move away now from the tents of these wicked men. Do not touch anything that belongs to them, or you will be swept away because of all their sins.” ²⁷So they moved away from the dwellings of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. Meanwhile, Dathan and Abiram had come out and stood at the entrances to their tents with their wives and children and infants.

THE EARTH SWALLOWS KORAH

²⁸Then Moses said, “This is how you will know that the LORD has sent me to do all these things, for it was not my own doing: ²⁹If these men die a natural death, or if they suffer the fate of all men, then the LORD has not sent me. ³⁰But if the LORD brings about something unprecedented, and the earth opens its mouth and swallows them and all that belongs to them so that they go down alive into Sheol, then you will know that these men have treated the LORD with contempt.” ³¹As soon as Moses had finished saying all this, the ground beneath them split open, ³²and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them and their households—all Korah’s men and all their possessions. ³³They went down alive into Sheol with all they owned. The earth closed over them, and they vanished from the assembly. ³⁴At their cries, all the people of Israel who were around them fled, saying, “The earth may swallow us too!” ³⁵And fire came forth from the LORD and consumed the 250 men who were offering the incense.

THE CENSERS RESERVED FOR HOLY USE

³⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, ³⁷“Tell Eleazar son of Aaron the priest to remove the censers from the flames and to scatter the coals far away, because the censers are holy. ³⁸As for the censers of those who sinned at the cost of their own lives, hammer them into sheets to overlay the altar, for these were presented before the LORD, and so have become holy. They will serve as a sign to the Israelites.” ³⁹So Eleazar the priest took the bronze censers brought by those who had been burned up, and he had them hammered out to overlay the altar, ⁴⁰just as the LORD commanded him through Moses. This was to be a reminder to the Israelites that no outsider who is not a descendant of Aaron should approach to offer incense before the LORD, lest he become like Korah and his followers.

MURMURING AND PLAGUE

⁴¹The next day the whole congregation of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron, saying, “You have killed the LORD’s people!” ⁴²But when the congregation gathered against them, Moses and Aaron turned toward the Tent of Meeting, and suddenly the cloud covered it and the glory of

the LORD appeared. ⁴³Then Moses and Aaron went to the front of the Tent of Meeting, ⁴⁴and the LORD said to Moses, ⁴⁵“Get away from this congregation so that I may consume them in an instant.” And Moses and Aaron fell facedown. ⁴⁶Moses said to Aaron, “Take your censer, place fire from the altar in it, and add incense. Go quickly to the congregation and make atonement for them, because wrath has come out from the LORD; the plague has begun.” ⁴⁷So Aaron took the censer as Moses had ordered and ran into the midst of the assembly. And seeing that the plague had begun among the people, he offered the incense and made atonement for the people. ⁴⁸He stood between the living and the dead, and the plague was halted. ⁴⁹But those who died from the plague numbered 14,700, in addition to those who had died on account of Korah. ⁵⁰Then Aaron returned to Moses at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting, since the plague had been halted.

Chapter 17

AARON’S STAFF BUDS

¹And the LORD said to Moses, ²“Speak to the Israelites and take from them twelve staffs, one from the leader of each tribe. Write each man’s name on his staff, ³and write Aaron’s name on the staff of Levi, because there must be one staff for the head of each tribe. ⁴Place the staffs in the Tent of Meeting in front of the Testimony, where I meet with you. ⁵The staff belonging to the man I choose will sprout, and I will rid Myself of the constant grumbling of the Israelites against you.” ⁶So Moses spoke to the Israelites, and each of their leaders gave him a staff—one for each of the leaders of their tribes, twelve staffs in all. And Aaron’s staff was among them. ⁷Then Moses placed the staffs before the LORD in the Tent of the Testimony. ⁸The next day Moses entered the Tent of the Testimony and saw that Aaron’s staff, representing the house of Levi, had sprouted, put forth buds, blossomed, and produced almonds. ⁹Then Moses brought out all the staffs from the LORD’s presence to all the Israelites. They saw them, and each man took his own staff. ¹⁰The LORD said to Moses, “Put Aaron’s staff back in front of the Testimony, to be kept as a sign for the rebellious, so that you may put an end to their grumbling against Me, lest they die.” ¹¹So Moses did as the LORD had commanded him. ¹²Then the Israelites declared to Moses, “Look, we are perishing! We are lost; we are all lost! ¹³Anyone who comes near the tabernacle of the LORD will die. Are we all going to perish?”

Chapter 18

DUTIES OF PRIESTS AND LEVITES

¹So the LORD said to Aaron, “You and your sons and your father’s house must bear the iniquity involving the sanctuary. And you and your sons alone must bear the iniquity involving your priesthood. ²But bring with you also your brothers from the tribe of Levi, the tribe of your father, that they may join you and assist you and your sons before the Tent of the Testimony. ³And they shall attend to your duties and to all the duties of the Tent; but they must not come near to the furnishings of the sanctuary or the altar, or both they and you will die. ⁴They are to join you and attend to the duties of the Tent of Meeting, doing all the work at the Tent; but no outsider may come near you. ⁵And you shall attend to the duties of the sanctuary and of the altar, so that wrath may not fall on the Israelites again. ⁶Behold, I Myself have selected your fellow Levites from the Israelites as a gift to you, dedicated to the LORD to perform the service for the Tent of Meeting. ⁷But only you and your sons shall attend to your priesthood for everything concerning the altar and what is inside the veil, and you are to perform that service. I am giving you the work of the priesthood as a gift, but any outsider who comes near the sanctuary must be put to death.”

OFFERINGS FOR PRIESTS AND LEVITES

⁸Then the LORD said to Aaron, “Behold, I have put you in charge of My offerings. As for all the sacred offerings of the Israelites, I have given them to you and your sons as a portion and a permanent statute. ⁹A portion of the most holy offerings reserved from the fire will be yours. From all the offerings they render to Me as most holy offerings, whether grain offerings or sin offerings or guilt offerings, that part belongs to you and your sons. ¹⁰You are to eat it as a most holy offering, and every male may eat it. You shall regard it as holy. ¹¹And this is yours as well: the offering of their gifts, along with all the wave offerings of the Israelites. I have given this to you and your sons and daughters as a permanent statute. Every ceremonially clean person in your household may eat it. ¹²I give you all the freshest olive oil and all the finest new wine and grain that the Israelites give to the LORD as their firstfruits. ¹³The firstfruits of everything in their land that they bring to the LORD will belong to you. Every ceremonially clean person in your household may eat them. ¹⁴Every devoted thing in Israel belongs to you. ¹⁵The firstborn of every womb, whether man or beast, that is offered to the LORD belongs to you. But you must surely redeem every firstborn son and every firstborn male of unclean animals. ¹⁶You are to pay the re-

demption price for a month-old male according to your valuation: five shekels of silver, according to the sanctuary shekel, which is twenty gerahs. ¹⁷But you must not redeem the firstborn of an ox, a sheep, or a goat; they are holy. You are to splatter their blood on the altar and burn their fat as a food offering, a pleasing aroma to the LORD. ¹⁸And their meat belongs to you, just as the breast and right thigh of the wave offering belong to you. ¹⁹All the holy offerings that the Israelites present to the LORD I give to you and to your sons and daughters as a permanent statute. It is a permanent covenant of salt before the LORD for you and your offspring.” ²⁰Then the LORD said to Aaron, “You will have no inheritance in their land, nor will you have any portion among them. I am your portion and your inheritance among the Israelites. ²¹Behold, I have given to the Levites all the tithes in Israel as an inheritance in return for the work they do, the service of the Tent of Meeting. ²²No longer may the Israelites come near to the Tent of Meeting, or they will incur guilt and die. ²³The Levites are to perform the work of the Tent of Meeting, and they must bear their iniquity. This is a permanent statute for the generations to come. The Levites will not receive an inheritance among the Israelites. ²⁴For I have given to the Levites as their inheritance the tithe that the Israelites present to the LORD as a contribution. That is why I told them that they would not receive an inheritance among the Israelites.” ²⁵And the LORD instructed Moses, ²⁶“Speak to the Levites and tell them: ‘When you receive from the Israelites the tithe that I have given you as your inheritance, you must present part of it as an offering to the LORD—a tithe of the tithe. ²⁷Your offering will be reckoned to you as grain from the threshing floor or juice from the winepress. ²⁸So you are to present an offering to the LORD from all the tithes you receive from the Israelites, and from these you are to give the LORD’s offering to Aaron the priest. ²⁹You must present the offering due the LORD from all the best of every gift, the holiest part of it.’ ³⁰Therefore say to the Levites, ‘When you have presented the best part, it will be reckoned to you as the produce of the threshing floor or winepress. ³¹And you and your households may eat the rest of it anywhere; it is the compensation for your work at the Tent of Meeting. ³²Once you have presented the best part of it, you will not incur guilt because of it. But you must not defile the sacred offerings of the Israelites, or else you will die.’”

Chapter 19

THE RED HEIFER

¹Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, ²“This is the statute of the law that the LORD has commanded: Instruct the Israelites to bring you an unblemished red heifer that has no defect and has never been placed under a yoke. ³Give it to Eleazar the priest, and he will have it brought outside the camp and slaughtered in his presence. ⁴Eleazar the priest is to take some of its blood on his finger and sprinkle it seven times toward the front of the Tent of Meeting. ⁵Then the heifer must be burned in his sight. Its hide, its flesh, and its blood are to be burned, along with its dung. ⁶The priest is to take cedar wood, hyssop, and scarlet wool and throw them onto the burning heifer. ⁷Then the priest must wash his clothes and bathe his body in water; after that he may enter the camp, but he will be ceremonially unclean until evening. ⁸The one who burned the heifer must also wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and he too will be ceremonially unclean until evening. ⁹Then a man who is ceremonially clean is to gather up the ashes of the heifer and store them in a ceremonially clean place outside the camp. They must be kept by the congregation of Israel for preparing the water of purification; this is for purification from sin. ¹⁰The man who has gathered up the ashes of the heifer must also wash his clothes, and he will be ceremonially unclean until evening. This is a permanent statute for the Israelites and for the foreigner residing among them.

PURIFICATION OF THE UNCLEAN

¹¹Whoever touches any dead body will be unclean for seven days. ¹²He must purify himself with the water on the third day and on the seventh day; then he will be clean. But if he does not purify himself on the third and seventh days, he will not be clean. ¹³Anyone who touches a human corpse and fails to purify himself defiles the tabernacle of the LORD. That person must be cut off from Israel. He remains unclean, because the water of purification has not been sprinkled on him, and his uncleanness is still on him. ¹⁴This is the law when a person dies in a tent: Everyone who enters the tent and everyone already in the tent will be unclean for seven days, ¹⁵and any open container without a lid fastened on it is unclean. ¹⁶Anyone in the open field who touches someone who has been killed by the sword or has died of natural causes, or anyone who touches a human bone or a grave, will be unclean for seven days. ¹⁷For the purification of the unclean person, take some of the ashes of the burnt sin offering, put them in a jar, and pour fresh water over them. ¹⁸Then a man who is ceremonially clean

is to take some hyssop, dip it in the water, and sprinkle the tent, all the furnishings, and the people who were there. He is also to sprinkle the one who touched a bone, a grave, or a person who has died or been slain. ¹⁹The man who is ceremonially clean is to sprinkle the unclean person on the third day and on the seventh day. After he purifies the unclean person on the seventh day, the one being cleansed must wash his clothes and bathe in water, and that evening he will be clean. ²⁰But if a person who is unclean does not purify himself, he will be cut off from the assembly, because he has defiled the sanctuary of the LORD. The water of purification has not been sprinkled on him; he is unclean. ²¹This is a permanent statute for the people: The one who sprinkles the water of purification must wash his clothes, and whoever touches the water of purification will be unclean until evening. ²²Anything the unclean person touches will become unclean, and anyone who touches it will be unclean until evening.”

Chapter 20

WATER FROM THE ROCK

¹In the first month, the whole congregation of Israel entered the Wilderness of Zin and stayed in Kadesh. There Miriam died and was buried. ²Now there was no water for the congregation, so they gathered against Moses and Aaron. ³The people quarreled with Moses and said, “If only we had perished with our brothers before the LORD! ⁴Why have you brought the LORD’s assembly into this wilderness for us and our livestock to die here? ⁵Why have you led us up out of Egypt to bring us to this wretched place? It is not a place of grain, figs, vines, or pomegranates—and there is no water to drink!” ⁶Then Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. They fell facedown, and the glory of the LORD appeared to them. ⁷And the LORD said to Moses, ⁸“Take the staff and assemble the congregation. You and your brother Aaron are to speak to the rock while they watch, and it will pour out its water. You will bring out water from the rock and provide drink for the congregation and their livestock.” ⁹So Moses took the staff from the LORD’s presence, just as he had been commanded. ¹⁰Then Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly in front of the rock, and Moses said to them, “Listen now, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?” ¹¹Then Moses raised his hand and struck the rock twice with his staff, so that a great amount of water gushed out, and the congregation and their livestock were able to drink. ¹²But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not trust Me to show My holiness in the sight of the Israelites, you will not

bring this assembly into the land that I have given them.” ¹³These were the waters of Meribah, where the Israelites quarreled with the LORD, and He showed His holiness among them.

EDOM REFUSES PASSAGE

¹⁴From Kadesh, Moses sent messengers to tell the king of Edom, “This is what your brother Israel says: You know all the hardship that has befallen us, ¹⁵how our fathers went down to Egypt, where we lived many years. The Egyptians mistreated us and our fathers, ¹⁶and when we cried out to the LORD, He heard our voice, sent an angel, and brought us out of Egypt. Now look, we are in Kadesh, a city on the edge of your territory. ¹⁷Please let us pass through your land. We will not go through any field or vineyard, or drink water from any well. We will stay on the King’s Highway; we will not turn to the right or to the left until we have passed through your territory.” ¹⁸But Edom answered, “You may not travel through our land, or we will come out and confront you with the sword.” ¹⁹“We will stay on the main road,” the Israelites replied, “and if we or our herds drink your water, we will pay for it. There will be no problem; only let us pass through on foot.” ²⁰But Edom insisted, “You may not pass through.” And they came out to confront the Israelites with a large army and a strong hand. ²¹So Edom refused to allow Israel to pass through their territory, and Israel turned away from them.

THE DEATH OF AARON

²²After they had set out from Kadesh, the whole congregation of Israel came to Mount Hor. ²³And at Mount Hor, near the border of the land of Edom, the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, ²⁴“Aaron will be gathered to his people; he will not enter the land that I have given the Israelites, because both of you rebelled against My command at the waters of Meribah. ²⁵Take Aaron and his son Eleazar and bring them up Mount Hor. ²⁶Remove Aaron’s priestly garments and put them on his son Eleazar. Aaron will be gathered to his people and will die there.” ²⁷So Moses did as the LORD had commanded, and they climbed Mount Hor in the sight of the whole congregation. ²⁸After Moses had removed Aaron’s garments and put them on his son Eleazar, Aaron died there on top of the mountain. Then Moses and Eleazar came down from the mountain. ²⁹When the whole congregation saw that Aaron had died, the entire house of Israel mourned for him thirty days.

Chapter 21

THE DEFEAT OF ARAD

¹When the Canaanite king of Arad, who lived in the Negev, heard that Israel was coming along the road to Atharim, he attacked Israel and captured some prisoners. ²So Israel made a vow to the LORD: “If You will deliver this people into our hands, we will devote their cities to destruction.” ³And the LORD heard Israel’s plea and delivered up the Canaanites. Israel devoted them and their cities to destruction; so they named the place Hormah.

THE BRONZE SERPENT

⁴Then they set out from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, in order to bypass the land of Edom. But the people grew impatient on the journey ⁵and spoke against God and against Moses: “Why have you led us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread or water, and we detest this wretched food!” ⁶So the LORD sent venomous snakes among the people, and many of the Israelites were bitten and died. ⁷Then the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you. Intercede with the LORD so He will take the snakes away from us.” So Moses interceded for the people. ⁸Then the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and mount it on a pole. When anyone who is bitten looks at it, he will live.” ⁹So Moses made a bronze snake and mounted it on a pole. If anyone who was bitten looked at the bronze snake, he would live.

THE JOURNEY TO MOAB

¹⁰Then the Israelites set out and camped at Oboth. ¹¹They journeyed from Oboth and camped at Iye-abarim in the wilderness opposite Moab to the east. ¹²From there they set out and camped in the Valley of Zered. ¹³From there they moved on and camped on the other side of the Arnon, in the wilderness that extends into the Amorite territory. Now the Arnon is the border between the Moabites and the Amorites. ¹⁴Therefore it is stated in the Book of the Wars of the LORD: “Waheb in Suphah and the wadis of the Arnon, ¹⁵even the slopes of the wadis that extend to the site of Ar and lie along the border of Moab.” ¹⁶From there they went on to Beer, the well where the LORD said to Moses, “Gather the people so that I may give them water.” ¹⁷Then Israel sang this song: “Spring up, O well, all of you sing to it! ¹⁸The princes dug the well; the nobles of the people followed it out with their scepters and with their staffs.” From the wilderness the Israelites went on to Mattanah, ¹⁹and from Mattanah to Nahaliel, and from Nahaliel to Bamoth, ²⁰and from Bamoth to the valley in Moab where the top of Pisgah overlooks the wasteland.

THE DEFEAT OF SIHON

²¹Then Israel sent messengers to Sihon king of the Amorites, saying, ²²“Let us pass through your land. We will not turn aside into any field or vineyard, or drink water from any well. We will stay on the King’s Highway until we have passed through your territory.” ²³But Sihon would not let Israel pass through his territory. Instead, he gathered his whole army and went out to confront Israel in the wilderness. When he came to Jahaz, he fought against Israel. ²⁴And Israel put him to the sword and took possession of his land, from the Arnon to the Jabbok—but only up to the border of the Ammonites, because it was fortified. ²⁵Israel captured all the cities of the Amorites and occupied them, including Heshbon and all its villages. ²⁶Heshbon was the city of Sihon king of the Amorites, who had fought against the former king of Moab and taken all his land as far as the Arnon. ²⁷That is why the poets say: “Come to Heshbon, let it be rebuilt; let the city of Sihon be restored.” ²⁸For a fire went out from Heshbon, a blaze from the city of Sihon. It consumed Ar of Moab, the rulers of Arnon’s heights. ²⁹Woe to you, O Moab! You are destroyed, O people of Chemosh! He gave up his sons as refugees, and his daughters into captivity to Sihon king of the Amorites. ³⁰But we have overthrown them; Heshbon is destroyed as far as Dibon. We demolished them as far as Nophah, which reaches to Medeba.”

THE DEFEAT OF OG

³¹So Israel lived in the land of the Amorites. ³²After Moses had sent spies to Jazer, Israel captured its villages and drove out the Amorites who were there. ³³Then they turned and went up the road to Bashan, and Og king of Bashan and his whole army came out to meet them in battle at Edrei. ³⁴But the LORD said to Moses, “Do not fear him, for I have delivered him into your hand, along with all his people and his land. Do to him as you did to Sihon king of the Amorites, who lived in Heshbon.” ³⁵So they struck down Og, along with his sons and his whole army, until no remnant was left. And they took possession of his land.

Chapter 22

BALAK SUMMONS BALAAM

¹Then the Israelites traveled on and camped in the plains of Moab near the Jordan, across from Jericho. ²Now Balak son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites, ³and Moab was terrified of the people because they were numerous. Indeed, Moab dreaded the Israelites. ⁴So the Moabites said to the elders of Midian, “This horde will devour everything around us, as an ox licks up the grass of

the field.” Since Balak son of Zippor was king of Moab at that time, ⁵he sent messengers to summon Balaam son of Beor at Pethor, which is by the Euphrates in the land of his people. “Behold, a people has come out of Egypt,” said Balak. “They cover the face of the land and have settled next to me. ⁶So please come now and put a curse on this people, because they are too mighty for me. Perhaps I may be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land; for I know that those you bless are blessed, and those you curse are cursed.” ⁷The elders of Moab and Midian departed with the fees for divination in hand. They came to Balaam and relayed to him the words of Balak. ⁸“Spend the night here,” Balaam replied, “and I will give you the answer that the LORD speaks to me.” So the princes of Moab stayed with Balaam. ⁹Then God came to Balaam and asked, “Who are these men with you?” ¹⁰And Balaam said to God, “Balak son of Zippor, king of Moab, sent me this message: ¹¹‘Behold, a people has come out of Egypt, and they cover the face of the land. Now come and put a curse on them for me. Perhaps I may be able to fight against them and drive them away.’” ¹²But God said to Balaam, “Do not go with them. You are not to curse this people, for they are blessed.” ¹³So Balaam got up the next morning and said to Balak’s princes, “Go back to your homeland, because the LORD has refused to let me go with you.” ¹⁴And the princes of Moab arose, returned to Balak, and said, “Balaam refused to come with us.” ¹⁵Then Balak sent other princes, more numerous and more distinguished than the first messengers. ¹⁶They came to Balaam and said, “This is what Balak son of Zippor says: ‘Please let nothing hinder you from coming to me, ¹⁷for I will honor you richly and do whatever you say. So please come and put a curse on this people for me!’” ¹⁸But Balaam replied to the servants of Balak, “If Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not do anything small or great to go beyond the command of the LORD my God. ¹⁹So now, please stay here overnight as the others did, that I may find out what else the LORD has to tell me.” ²⁰That night God came to Balaam and said, “Since these men have come to summon you, get up and go with them, but you must only do what I tell you.” ²¹So in the morning Balaam got up, saddled his donkey, and went with the princes of Moab.

THE ANGEL AND BALAAM’S DONKEY

²²Then God’s anger was kindled because Balaam was going along, and the angel of the LORD stood in the road to oppose him. Balaam was riding his donkey, and his two servants were with him. ²³When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road with a drawn sword in his hand, she turned off the path and went into a field. So

Balaam beat her to return her to the path. ²⁴Then the angel of the LORD stood in a narrow passage between two vineyards, with walls on either side. ²⁵And the donkey saw the angel of the LORD and pressed herself against the wall, crushing Balaam’s foot against it. So he beat her once again. ²⁶And the angel of the LORD moved on ahead and stood in a narrow place where there was no room to turn to the right or left. ²⁷When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, she lay down under Balaam, and he became furious and beat her with his staff. ²⁸Then the LORD opened the donkey’s mouth, and she said to Balaam, “What have I done to you that you have beaten me these three times?” ²⁹Balaam answered the donkey, “You have made a fool of me! If I had a sword in my hand, I would kill you right now!” ³⁰But the donkey said to Balaam, “Am I not the donkey you have ridden all your life until today? Have I ever treated you this way before?” “No,” he replied. ³¹Then the LORD opened Balaam’s eyes, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road with a drawn sword in his hand. And Balaam bowed low and fell facedown. ³²The angel of the LORD asked him, “Why have you beaten your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to oppose you, because your way is perverse before me. ³³The donkey saw me and turned away from me these three times. If she had not turned away, then by now I would surely have killed you and let her live.” ³⁴“I have sinned,” Balaam said to the angel of the LORD, “for I did not realize that you were standing in the road to confront me. And now, if this is displeasing in your sight, I will go back home.” ³⁵But the angel of the LORD said to Balaam, “Go with the men, but you are to speak only what I tell you.” So Balaam went with the princes of Balak. ³⁶When Balak heard that Balaam was coming, he went out to meet him at the Moabite city on the Arnon border, at the edge of his territory. ³⁷And he said to Balaam, “Did I not send you an urgent summons? Why did you not come to me? Am I really not able to reward you richly?” ³⁸“See, I have come to you,” Balaam replied, “but can I say just anything? I must speak only the word that God puts in my mouth.” ³⁹So Balaam accompanied Balak, and they came to Kiriath-huzoth. ⁴⁰Balak sacrificed cattle and sheep, and he gave portions to Balaam and the princes who were with him. ⁴¹The next morning, Balak took Balaam and brought him up to Bamoth-baal. From there he could see the outskirts of the camp of the people.

Chapter 23

BALAAM'S FIRST ORACLE

¹Then Balaam said to Balak, "Build for me seven altars here, and prepare for me seven bulls and seven rams." ²So Balak did as Balaam had instructed, and Balak and Balaam offered a bull and a ram on each altar. ³"Stay here by your burnt offering while I am gone," Balaam said to Balak. "Perhaps the LORD will meet with me. And whatever He reveals to me, I will tell you." So Balaam went off to a barren height, ⁴and God met with him. "I have set up seven altars," Balaam said, "and on each altar I have offered a bull and a ram." ⁵Then the LORD put a message in Balaam's mouth, saying, "Return to Balak and give him this message." ⁶So he returned to Balak, who was standing there beside his burnt offering, with all the princes of Moab. ⁷And Balaam lifted up an oracle, saying: "Balak brought me from Aram, the king of Moab from the mountains of the east. 'Come,' he said, 'put a curse on Jacob for me; come and denounce Israel!' ⁸How can I curse those whom God has not cursed? How can I denounce those whom the LORD has not denounced? ⁹For I see them from atop the rocky cliffs, and I watch them from the hills. Behold, a people dwelling apart, not reckoning themselves among the nations. ¹⁰Who can count the dust of Jacob or number even a fourth of Israel? Let me die the death of the righteous; let my end be like theirs!" ¹¹Then Balak said to Balaam, "What have you done to me? I brought you here to curse my enemies, and behold, you have only blessed them!" ¹²But Balaam replied, "Should I not speak exactly what the LORD puts in my mouth?"

BALAAM'S SECOND ORACLE

¹³Then Balak said to him, "Please come with me to another place where you can see them. You will only see the outskirts of their camp—not all of them. And from there, curse them for me." ¹⁴So Balak took him to the field of Zophim, to the top of Pisgah, where he built seven altars and offered a bull and a ram on each altar. ¹⁵Balaam said to Balak, "Stay here beside your burnt offering while I meet the LORD over there." ¹⁶And the LORD met with Balaam and put a message in his mouth, saying, "Return to Balak and speak what I tell you." ¹⁷So he returned to Balak, who was standing there by his burnt offering with the princes of Moab. "What did the LORD say?" Balak asked. ¹⁸Then Balaam lifted up an oracle, saying: "Arise, O Balak, and listen; give ear to me, O son of Zippor. ¹⁹God is not a man, that He should lie, or a son of man, that He should change His mind. Does He speak and not act? Does He promise and not fulfill? ²⁰I have indeed received a command to

bless; He has blessed, and I cannot change it. ²¹He considers no disaster for Jacob; He sees no trouble for Israel. The LORD their God is with them, and the shout of the King is among them. ²²God brought them out of Egypt with strength like a wild ox. ²³For there is no spell against Jacob and no divination against Israel. It will now be said of Jacob and Israel, 'What great things God has done!' ²⁴Behold, the people rise like a lioness; they rouse themselves like a lion, not resting until they devour their prey and drink the blood of the slain." ²⁵Now Balak said to Balaam, "Then neither curse them at all nor bless them at all!" ²⁶But Balaam replied, "Did I not tell you that whatever the LORD says, I must do?" ²⁷"Please come," said Balak, "I will take you to another place. Perhaps it will please God that you curse them for me from there." ²⁸And Balak took Balaam to the top of Peor, which overlooks the wasteland. ²⁹Then Balaam said, "Build for me seven altars here, and prepare for me seven bulls and seven rams." ³⁰So Balak did as Balaam had instructed, and he offered a bull and a ram on each altar.

Chapter 24

BALAAM'S THIRD ORACLE

¹And when Balaam saw that it pleased the LORD to bless Israel, he did not seek omens as on previous occasions, but he turned his face toward the wilderness. ²When Balaam looked up and saw Israel encamped tribe by tribe, the Spirit of God came upon him, ³and he lifted up an oracle, saying: "This is the prophecy of Balaam son of Beor, the prophecy of a man whose eyes are open, ⁴the prophecy of one who hears the words of God, who sees a vision from the Almighty, who bows down with eyes wide open: ⁵How lovely are your tents, O Jacob, your dwellings, O Israel! ⁶They spread out like palm groves, like gardens beside a stream, like aloes the LORD has planted, like cedars beside the waters. ⁷Water will flow from his buckets, and his seed will have abundant water. His king will be greater than Agag, and his kingdom will be exalted. ⁸God brought him out of Egypt with strength like a wild ox, to devour hostile nations and crush their bones, to pierce them with arrows. ⁹He crouches, he lies down like a lion, like a lioness—who dares to rouse him? Blessed are those who bless you and cursed are those who curse you."

BALAK DISMISSES BALAAM

¹⁰Then Balak's anger burned against Balaam, and he struck his hands together and said to Balaam, "I summoned you to curse my enemies, but behold, you have persisted in blessing them these three times. ¹¹Therefore, flee at once to

your home! I said I would reward you richly, but instead the LORD has denied your reward.” ¹²Balaam answered Balak, “Did I not already tell the messengers you sent me ¹³that even if Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not do anything of my own accord, good or bad, to go beyond the command of the LORD? I must speak whatever the LORD says. ¹⁴Now I am going back to my people, but come, let me warn you what this people will do to your people in the days to come.”

BALAAM’S FOURTH ORACLE

¹⁵Then Balaam lifted up an oracle, saying, “This is the prophecy of Balaam son of Beor, the prophecy of a man whose eyes are open, ¹⁶the prophecy of one who hears the words of God, who has knowledge from the Most High, who sees a vision from the Almighty, who bows down with eyes wide open: ¹⁷I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come forth from Jacob, and a scepter will arise from Israel. He will crush the skulls of Moab and strike down all the sons of Sheth. ¹⁸Edom will become a possession, as will Seir, his enemy; but Israel will perform with valor. ¹⁹A ruler will come from Jacob and destroy the survivors of the city.”

BALAAM’S FINAL THREE ORACLES

²⁰Then Balaam saw Amalek and lifted up an oracle, saying: “Amalek was first among the nations, but his end is destruction.” ²¹Next he saw the Kenites and lifted up an oracle, saying: “Your dwelling place is secure, and your nest is set in a cliff. ²²Yet Kain will be destroyed when Asshur takes you captive.” ²³Once more Balaam lifted up an oracle, saying: “Ah, who can live unless God has ordained it? ²⁴Ships will come from the coasts of Cyprus; they will subdue Asshur and Eber, but they too will perish forever.” ²⁵Then Balaam arose and returned to his homeland, and Balak also went on his way.

Chapter 25

MOAB SEDUCES ISRAEL

¹While Israel was staying in Shittim, the men began to indulge in sexual immorality with the daughters of Moab, ²who also invited them to the sacrifices for their gods. And the people ate and bowed down to these gods. ³So Israel joined in worshiping Baal of Peor, and the anger of the LORD burned against them. ⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, “Take all the leaders of the people and execute them in broad daylight before the LORD, so that His fierce anger may turn away from Israel.” ⁵So Moses told the judges of Israel, “Each of you must kill all of his men who have joined in worshiping Baal of Peor.”

THE ZEAL OF PHINEHAS

⁶Just then an Israelite man brought to his family a Midianite woman in the sight of Moses and the whole congregation of Israel while they were weeping at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. ⁷On seeing this, Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, got up from the assembly, took a spear in his hand, ⁸followed the Israelite into the tent, and drove the spear through both of them—through the Israelite and on through the belly of the woman. So the plague against the Israelites was halted, ⁹but those who died in the plague numbered 24,000. ¹⁰Then the LORD said to Moses, ¹¹“Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned My wrath away from the Israelites; for he was zealous for My sake among them, so that I did not consume the Israelites in My zeal. ¹²Declare, therefore, that I am granting him My covenant of peace. ¹³It will be a covenant of permanent priesthood for him and his descendants, because he was zealous for his God and made atonement for the Israelites.” ¹⁴The name of the Israelite who was slain with the Midianite woman was Zimri son of Salu, the leader of a Simeonite family. ¹⁵And the name of the slain Midianite woman was Cozbi, the daughter of Zur, a tribal chief of a Midianite family. ¹⁶And the LORD said to Moses, ¹⁷“Attack the Midianites and strike them dead. ¹⁸For they assailed you deceitfully when they seduced you in the matter of Peor and their sister Cozbi, the daughter of the Midianite leader, the woman who was killed on the day the plague came because of Peor.”

Chapter 26

THE SECOND CENSUS OF ISRAEL

¹After the plague had ended, the LORD said to Moses and Eleazar son of Aaron the priest, ²“Take a census of the whole congregation of Israel by the houses of their fathers—all those twenty years of age or older who can serve in the army of Israel.” ³So on the plains of Moab by the Jordan, across from Jericho, Moses and Eleazar the priest issued the instruction, ⁴“Take a census of the men twenty years of age or older, as the LORD has commanded Moses.” And these were the Israelites who came out of the land of Egypt:

THE TRIBE OF REUBEN

⁵Reuben was the firstborn of Israel. These were the descendants of Reuben: The Hanochite clan from Hanoch, the Palluite clan from Pallu, ⁶the Hezronite clan from Hezron, and the Carmite clan from Carmi. ⁷These were the clans of Reuben, and their registration numbered 43,730. ⁸Now the son of Pallu was Eliab, ⁹and the sons of Eliab were Nemuel,

Dathan, and Abiram. It was Dathan and Abiram, chosen by the congregation, who rebelled against Moses and Aaron with the followers of Korah who rebelled against the LORD. ¹⁰And the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them along with Korah, whose followers died when the fire consumed 250 men. They serve as a warning sign. ¹¹However, the line of Korah did not die out.

THE TRIBE OF SIMEON

¹²These were the descendants of Simeon by their clans: The Nemuelite clan from Nemuel, the Jaminite clan from Jamin, the Jachinite clan from Jachin, ¹³the Zerahite clan from Zerah, and the Shaulite clan from Shaul. ¹⁴These were the clans of Simeon, and there were 22,200 men.

THE TRIBE OF GAD

¹⁵These were the descendants of Gad by their clans: The Zephonite clan from Zephon, the Haggite clan from Haggi, the Shunite clan from Shuni, ¹⁶the Oznite clan from Ozni, the Erite clan from Eri, ¹⁷the Arodite clan from Arod, and the Arelite clan from Areli. ¹⁸These were the clans of Gad, and their registration numbered 40,500.

THE TRIBE OF JUDAH

¹⁹The sons of Judah were Er and Onan, but they died in the land of Canaan. ²⁰These were the descendants of Judah by their clans: The Shelanite clan from Shelah, the Perezite clan from Perez, and the Zerahite clan from Zerah. ²¹And these were the descendants of Perez: the Hezronite clan from Hezron and the Hamulite clan from Hamul. ²²These were the clans of Judah, and their registration numbered 76,500.

THE TRIBE OF ISSACHAR

²³These were the descendants of Issachar by their clans: The Tolaite clan from Tola, the Punite clan from Puvah, ²⁴the Jashubite clan from Jashub, and the Shimronite clan from Shimron. ²⁵These were the clans of Issachar, and their registration numbered 64,300.

THE TRIBE OF ZEBULUN

²⁶These were the descendants of Zebulun by their clans: The Sereditite clan from Sered, the Elonite clan from Elon, and the Jahleelite clan from Jahleel. ²⁷These were the clans of Zebulun, and their registration numbered 60,500.

THE TRIBE OF MANASSEH

²⁸The descendants of Joseph included the clans of Manasseh and Ephraim. ²⁹These were the descendants of Manasseh: The Machirite clan from Machir, the father of Gilead, and the Gileadite clan from Gilead. ³⁰These were the descendants of Gilead: the Iezerite clan from Iezer, the

Helekite clan from Helek, ³¹the Asrielite clan from Asriel, the Shechemite clan from Shechem, ³²the Shemidaite clan from Shemida, and the Hephherite clan from Hephher. ³³Now Zelophehad son of Hephher had no sons but only daughters. The names of his daughters were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. ³⁴These were the clans of Manasseh, and their registration numbered 52,700.

THE TRIBE OF EPHRAIM

³⁵These were the descendants of Ephraim by their clans: The Shuthelahite clan from Shuthelah, the Becherite clan from Becher, and the Tahanite clan from Tahan. ³⁶And the descendants of Shuthelah were the Eranite clan from Eran. ³⁷These were the clans of Ephraim, and their registration numbered 32,500. These clans were the descendants of Joseph.

THE TRIBE OF BENJAMIN

³⁸These were the descendants of Benjamin by their clans: The Belaite clan from Bela, the Ashbelite clan from Ashbel, the Ahiramite clan from Ahiram, ³⁹the Shuphamite clan from Shupham, and the Huphamite clan from Hupham. ⁴⁰And the descendants of Bela from Ard and Naaman were the Ardite clan from Ard and the Naamite clan from Naaman. ⁴¹These were the clans of Benjamin, and their registration numbered 45,600.

THE TRIBE OF DAN

⁴²These were the descendants of Dan by their clans: The Shuhamite clan from Shuham. These were the clans of Dan. ⁴³All of them were Shuhamite clans, and their registration numbered 64,400.

THE TRIBE OF ASHER

⁴⁴These were the descendants of Asher by their clans: The Imnite clan from Imnah, the Ishvite clan from Ishvi, and the Beriite clan from Beriah. ⁴⁵And these were the descendants of Beriah: the Heberite clan from Heber and the Malchielite clan from Malchiel. ⁴⁶And the name of Asher's daughter was Serah. ⁴⁷These were the clans of Asher, and their registration numbered 53,400.

THE TRIBE OF NAPHTALI

⁴⁸These were the descendants of Naphtali by their clans: The Jahzeelite clan from Jahzeel, the Gunitite clan from Guni, ⁴⁹the Jezerite clan from Jezer, and the Shillemite clan from Shillem. ⁵⁰These were the clans of Naphtali, and their registration numbered 45,400. ⁵¹These men of Israel numbered 601,730 in all.

INHERITANCE BY LOT

⁵²Then the LORD said to Moses, ⁵³“The land is to be divided among the tribes as an inheritance, according to the number of names. ⁵⁴Increase the inheritance for a large tribe and decrease it for a small one; each tribe is to receive its inheritance according to the number of those registered. ⁵⁵Indeed, the land must be divided by lot; they shall receive their inheritance according to the names of the tribes of their fathers. ⁵⁶Each inheritance is to be divided by lot among the larger and smaller tribes.”

THE LEVITES NUMBERED

⁵⁷Now these were the Levites numbered by their clans: The Gershonite clan from Gershon, the Kohathite clan from Kohath, and the Merarite clan from Merari. ⁵⁸These were the families of the Levites: The Libnite clan, the Hebronite clan, the Mahlite clan, the Mushite clan, and the Korahite clan. Now Kohath was the father of Amram, ⁵⁹and Amram’s wife was named Jochebed. She was also a daughter of Levi, born to Levi in Egypt. To Amram she bore Aaron, Moses, and their sister Miriam. ⁶⁰Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar were born to Aaron, ⁶¹but Nadab and Abihu died when they offered unauthorized fire before the LORD. ⁶²The registration of the Levites totaled 23,000, every male a month old or more; they were not numbered among the other Israelites, because no inheritance was given to them among the Israelites.

ONLY CALEB AND JOSHUA REMAIN

⁶³These were the ones numbered by Moses and Eleazar the priest when they counted the Israelites on the plains of Moab by the Jordan, across from Jericho. ⁶⁴Among all these, however, there was not one who had been numbered by Moses and Aaron the priest when they counted the Israelites in the Wilderness of Sinai. ⁶⁵For the LORD had told them that they would surely die in the wilderness. Not one was left except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.

Chapter 27

THE DAUGHTERS OF ZELOPHEHAD

¹Now the daughters of Zelophehad son of Hepher, the son of Gilead, the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, belonged to the clans of Manasseh son of Joseph. These were the names of his daughters: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. They approached ²the entrance to the Tent of Meeting, stood before Moses, Eleazar the priest, the leaders, and the whole congregation, and said, ³“Our father died in the wilderness, but he was not among the followers of Korah who gathered together against the LORD.

Instead, he died because of his own sin, and he had no sons. ⁴Why should the name of our father disappear from his clan because he had no sons? Give us property among our father’s brothers.” ⁵So Moses brought their case before the LORD, ⁶and the LORD answered him, ⁷“The daughters of Zelophehad speak correctly. You certainly must give them property as an inheritance among their father’s brothers and transfer their father’s inheritance to them. ⁸Furthermore, you shall say to the Israelites, ‘If a man dies and leaves no son, you are to transfer his inheritance to his daughter. ⁹If he has no daughter, give his inheritance to his brothers. ¹⁰If he has no brothers, give his inheritance to his father’s brothers. ¹¹And if his father has no brothers, give his inheritance to the next of kin from his clan, that he may take possession of it. This is to be a statutory ordinance for the Israelites, as the LORD has commanded Moses.”

MOSES REQUESTS A SUCCESSOR

¹²Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go up this mountain of the Abarim range and see the land that I have given the Israelites. ¹³After you have seen it, you too will be gathered to your people, as your brother Aaron was; ¹⁴for when the congregation contended in the Wilderness of Zin, both of you rebelled against My command to show My holiness in their sight regarding the waters.” Those were the waters of Meribah in Kadesh, in the Wilderness of Zin. ¹⁵So Moses appealed to the LORD, ¹⁶“May the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation ¹⁷who will go out and come in before them, and who will lead them out and bring them in, so that the congregation of the LORD will not be like sheep without a shepherd.”

JOSHUA TO SUCCEED MOSES

¹⁸And the LORD replied to Moses, “Take Joshua son of Nun, a man with the Spirit in him, and lay your hands on him. ¹⁹Have him stand before Eleazar the priest and the whole congregation, and commission him in their sight. ²⁰Confer on him some of your authority, so that the whole congregation of Israel will obey him. ²¹He shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who will seek counsel for him before the LORD by the judgment of the Urim. At his command, he and all the Israelites with him—the entire congregation—will go out and come in.” ²²Moses did as the LORD had commanded him. He took Joshua, had him stand before Eleazar the priest and the whole congregation, ²³and laid his hands on him and commissioned him, as the LORD had instructed through Moses.

Chapter 28

THE DAILY OFFERINGS

¹Then the LORD said to Moses, ²“Command the Israelites and say to them: See that you present to Me at its appointed time the food for My food offerings, as a pleasing aroma to Me. ³And tell them that this is the food offering you are to present to the LORD as a regular burnt offering each day: two unblemished year-old male lambs. ⁴Offer one lamb in the morning and the other at twilight, ⁵along with a tenth of an ephah of fine flour as a grain offering, mixed with a quarter hin of oil from pressed olives. ⁶This is a regular burnt offering established at Mount Sinai as a pleasing aroma, a food offering to the LORD. ⁷The drink offering accompanying each lamb shall be a quarter hin. Pour out the offering of fermented drink to the LORD in the sanctuary area. ⁸And offer the second lamb at twilight, with the same grain offering and drink offering as in the morning. It is a food offering, a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

THE SABBATH OFFERINGS

⁹On the Sabbath day, present two unblemished year-old male lambs, accompanied by a grain offering of two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, as well as a drink offering. ¹⁰This is the burnt offering for every Sabbath, in addition to the regular burnt offering and its drink offering.

THE MONTHLY OFFERINGS

¹¹At the beginning of every month, you are to present to the LORD a burnt offering of two young bulls, one ram, and seven male lambs a year old, all unblemished, ¹²along with three-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering with each bull, two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering with the ram, ¹³and a tenth of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering with each lamb. This is a burnt offering, a pleasing aroma, a food offering to the LORD. ¹⁴Their drink offerings shall be half a hin of wine with each bull, a third of a hin with the ram, and a quarter hin with each lamb. This is the monthly burnt offering to be made at each new moon throughout the year. ¹⁵In addition to the regular burnt offering with its drink offering, one male goat is to be presented to the LORD as a sin offering.

PASSOVER AND THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD

¹⁶The fourteenth day of the first month is the LORD's Passover. ¹⁷On the fifteenth day of this month, there shall be a feast; for seven days unleavened bread is to be eaten. ¹⁸On the first day there is to be a sacred assembly; you must not do any regular work. ¹⁹Present to the LORD a

food offering, a burnt offering of two young bulls, one ram, and seven male lambs a year old, all unblemished. ²⁰The grain offering shall consist of fine flour mixed with oil; offer three-tenths of an ephah with each bull, two-tenths of an ephah with the ram, ²¹and a tenth of an ephah with each of the seven lambs. ²²Include one male goat as a sin offering to make atonement for you. ²³You are to present these in addition to the regular morning burnt offering. ²⁴Offer the same food each day for seven days as a food offering, a pleasing aroma to the LORD. It is to be offered with its drink offering and the regular burnt offering. ²⁵On the seventh day you shall hold a sacred assembly; you must not do any regular work.

THE FEAST OF WEEKS

²⁶On the day of firstfruits, when you present an offering of new grain to the LORD during the Feast of Weeks, you are to hold a sacred assembly; you must not do any regular work. ²⁷Present a burnt offering of two young bulls, one ram, and seven male lambs a year old as a pleasing aroma to the LORD, ²⁸together with their grain offerings of fine flour mixed with oil—three-tenths of an ephah with each bull, two-tenths of an ephah with the ram, ²⁹and a tenth of an ephah with each of the seven lambs. ³⁰Include one male goat to make atonement for you. ³¹Offer them with their drink offerings in addition to the regular burnt offering and its grain offering. The animals must be unblemished.

Chapter 29

THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS

¹“On the first day of the seventh month, you are to hold a sacred assembly, and you must not do any regular work. This will be a day for you to sound the trumpets. ²As a pleasing aroma to the LORD, you are to present a burnt offering of one young bull, one ram, and seven male lambs a year old, all unblemished, ³together with their grain offerings of fine flour mixed with oil—three-tenths of an ephah with the bull, two-tenths of an ephah with the ram, ⁴and a tenth of an ephah with each of the seven male lambs. ⁵Include one male goat as a sin offering to make atonement for you. ⁶These are in addition to the monthly and daily burnt offerings with their prescribed grain offerings and drink offerings. They are a pleasing aroma, a food offering to the LORD.

THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

⁷On the tenth day of this seventh month, you are to hold a sacred assembly, and you shall humble yourselves; you must not do any work. ⁸Present as a pleasing aroma to the LORD a burnt offering of one young bull, one ram, and

seven male lambs a year old, all unblemished, ⁹together with their grain offerings of fine flour mixed with oil—three-tenths of an ephah with the bull, two-tenths of an ephah with the ram, ¹⁰and a tenth of an ephah with each of the seven lambs. ¹¹Include one male goat for a sin offering, in addition to the sin offering of atonement and the regular burnt offering with its grain offering and drink offerings.

THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

¹²On the fifteenth day of the seventh month, you are to hold a sacred assembly; you must not do any regular work, and you shall observe a feast to the LORD for seven days. ¹³As a pleasing aroma to the LORD, you are to present a food offering, a burnt offering of thirteen young bulls, two rams, and fourteen male lambs a year old, all unblemished, ¹⁴along with the grain offering of three-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil with each of the thirteen bulls, two-tenths of an ephah with each of the two rams, ¹⁵and a tenth of an ephah with each of the fourteen lambs. ¹⁶Include one male goat as a sin offering, in addition to the regular burnt offering with its grain offering and drink offering. ¹⁷On the second day you are to present twelve young bulls, two rams, and fourteen male lambs a year old, all unblemished, ¹⁸along with the grain and drink offerings for the bulls, rams, and lambs, according to the number prescribed. ¹⁹Include one male goat as a sin offering, in addition to the regular burnt offering with its grain offering and drink offering. ²⁰On the third day you are to present eleven bulls, two rams, and fourteen male lambs a year old, all unblemished, ²¹along with the grain and drink offerings for the bulls, rams, and lambs, according to the number prescribed. ²²Include one male goat as a sin offering, in addition to the regular burnt offering with its grain offering and drink offering. ²³On the fourth day you are to present ten bulls, two rams, and fourteen male lambs a year old, all unblemished, ²⁴along with the grain and drink offerings for the bulls, rams, and lambs, according to the number prescribed. ²⁵Include one male goat as a sin offering, in addition to the regular burnt offering with its grain offering and drink offering. ²⁶On the fifth day you are to present nine bulls, two rams, and fourteen male lambs a year old, all unblemished, ²⁷along with the grain and drink offerings for the bulls, rams, and lambs, according to the number prescribed. ²⁸Include one male goat as a sin offering, in addition to the regular burnt offering with its grain offering and drink offering. ²⁹On the sixth day you are to present eight bulls, two rams, and fourteen male lambs a year old, all unblemished, ³⁰along with the grain and drink offerings for the bulls, rams, and lambs, according to the number prescribed. ³¹Include one male goat as a sin offering, in addition

to the regular burnt offering with its grain offering and drink offering. ³²On the seventh day you are to present seven bulls, two rams, and fourteen male lambs a year old, all unblemished, ³³along with the grain and drink offerings for the bulls, rams, and lambs, according to the number prescribed. ³⁴Include one male goat as a sin offering, in addition to the regular burnt offering with its grain offering and drink offering. ³⁵On the eighth day you are to hold a solemn assembly; you must not do any regular work. ³⁶As a pleasing aroma to the LORD, you are to present a food offering, a burnt offering of one bull, one ram, and seven male lambs a year old, all unblemished, ³⁷along with the grain and drink offerings for the bulls, rams, and lambs, according to the number prescribed. ³⁸Include one male goat as a sin offering, in addition to the regular burnt offering with its grain offering and drink offering. ³⁹You are to present these offerings to the LORD at your appointed times, in addition to your vow and freewill offerings, whether burnt offerings, grain offerings, drink offerings, or peace offerings.” ⁴⁰So Moses spoke all this to the Israelites just as the LORD had commanded him.

Chapter 30

LAWS ABOUT VOWS

¹Then Moses said to the heads of the tribes of Israel, “This is what the LORD has commanded: ²If a man makes a vow to the LORD or swears an oath to obligate himself by a pledge, he must not break his word; he must do everything he has promised. ³And if a woman in her father’s house during her youth makes a vow to the LORD or obligates herself by a pledge, ⁴and her father hears about her vow or pledge but says nothing to her, then all the vows or pledges by which she has bound herself shall stand. ⁵But if her father prohibits her on the day he hears about it, then none of the vows or pledges by which she has bound herself shall stand. The LORD will absolve her because her father has prohibited her. ⁶If a woman marries while under a vow or rash promise by which she has bound herself, ⁷and her husband hears of it but says nothing to her on that day, then the vows or pledges by which she has bound herself shall stand. ⁸But if her husband prohibits her when he hears of it, he nullifies the vow that binds her or the rash promise she has made, and the LORD will absolve her. ⁹Every vow a widow or divorced woman pledges to fulfill is binding on her. ¹⁰If a woman in her husband’s house has made a vow or put herself under an obligation with an oath, ¹¹and her husband hears of it but says nothing to her and does not prohibit her, then all the vows or pledges by which she has bound herself shall stand. ¹²But if her hus-

band nullifies them on the day he hears of them, then nothing that came from her lips, whether her vows or pledges, shall stand. Her husband has nullified them, and the LORD will absolve her. ¹³Her husband may confirm or nullify any vow or any sworn pledge to deny herself. ¹⁴But if her husband says nothing to her from day to day, then he confirms all the vows and pledges that bind her. He has confirmed them, because he said nothing to her on the day he heard about them. ¹⁵But if he nullifies them after he hears of them, then he will bear her iniquity.” ¹⁶These are the statutes that the LORD commanded Moses concerning the relationship between a man and his wife, and between a father and a young daughter still in his home.

Chapter 31

VENGEANCE ON MIDIAN

¹And the LORD said to Moses, ²“Take vengeance on the Midianites for the Israelites. After that, you will be gathered to your people.” ³So Moses told the people, “Arm some of your men for war, that they may go against the Midianites and execute the LORD’s vengeance on them. ⁴Send into battle a thousand men from each tribe of Israel.” ⁵So a thousand men were recruited from each tribe of Israel—twelve thousand armed for war. ⁶And Moses sent the thousand from each tribe into battle, along with Phinehas son of Eleazar the priest, who took with him the vessels of the sanctuary and the trumpets for signaling. ⁷Then they waged war against Midian, as the LORD had commanded Moses, and they killed every male. ⁸Among the slain were Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur, and Reba—the five kings of Midian. They also killed Balaam son of Beor with the sword. ⁹The Israelites captured the Midianite women and their children, and they plundered all their herds, flocks, and goods. ¹⁰Then they burned all the cities where the Midianites had lived, as well as all their encampments, ¹¹and carried away all the plunder and spoils, both people and animals. ¹²They brought the captives, spoils, and plunder to Moses, to Eleazar the priest, and to the congregation of Israel at the camp on the plains of Moab, by the Jordan across from Jericho. ¹³And Moses, Eleazar the priest, and all the leaders of the congregation went to meet them outside the camp. ¹⁴But Moses was angry with the officers of the army—the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds—who were returning from the battle. ¹⁵“Have you spared all the women?” he asked them. ¹⁶“Look, these women caused the sons of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to turn unfaithfully against the LORD at Peor, so that the plague struck the congregation of the LORD. ¹⁷So now, kill all the boys, as well as every woman who has had

relations with a man, ¹⁸but spare for yourselves every girl who has never had relations with a man. ¹⁹All of you who have killed a person or touched the dead are to remain outside the camp for seven days. On the third day and the seventh day you are to purify both yourselves and your captives. ²⁰And purify every garment and leather good, everything made of goat’s hair, and every article of wood.” ²¹Then Eleazar the priest said to the soldiers who had gone into battle, “This is the statute of the law which the LORD has commanded Moses: ²²Only the gold, silver, bronze, iron, tin, and lead— ²³everything that can withstand the fire—must be put through the fire, and it will be clean. But it must still be purified with the water of purification. And everything that cannot withstand the fire must pass through the water. ²⁴On the seventh day you are to wash your clothes, and you will be clean. After that you may enter the camp.”

DIVISION OF THE SPOILS

²⁵The LORD said to Moses, ²⁶“You and Eleazar the priest and the family heads of the congregation are to take a count of what was captured, both of man and beast. ²⁷Then divide the captives between the troops who went out to battle and the rest of the congregation. ²⁸Set aside a tribute for the LORD from what belongs to the soldiers who went into battle: one out of every five hundred, whether persons, cattle, donkeys, or sheep. ²⁹Take it from their half and give it to Eleazar the priest as an offering to the LORD. ³⁰From the Israelites’ half, take one out of every fifty, whether persons, cattle, donkeys, sheep, or other animals, and give them to the Levites who keep charge of the tabernacle of the LORD.” ³¹So Moses and Eleazar the priest did as the LORD had commanded Moses, ³²and this plunder remained from the spoils the soldiers had taken: 675,000 sheep, ³³72,000 cattle, ³⁴61,000 donkeys, ³⁵and 32,000 women who had not slept with a man. ³⁶This was the half portion for those who had gone to war: 337,500 sheep, ³⁷including a tribute to the LORD of 675, ³⁸36,000 cattle, including a tribute to the LORD of 72, ³⁹30,500 donkeys, including a tribute to the LORD of 61, ⁴⁰and 16,000 people, including a tribute to the LORD of 32. ⁴¹Moses gave the tribute to Eleazar the priest as an offering for the LORD, as the LORD had commanded Moses. ⁴²From the Israelites’ half, which Moses had set apart from the men who had gone to war, ⁴³this half belonged to the congregation: 337,500 sheep, ⁴⁴36,000 cattle, ⁴⁵30,500 donkeys, ⁴⁶and 16,000 people. ⁴⁷From the Israelites’ half, Moses took one out of every fifty persons and animals and gave them to the Levites who kept charge of the tabernacle of the LORD, as the LORD had commanded him.

THE VOLUNTARY OFFERING

⁴⁸Then the officers who were over the units of the army—the commanders of thousands and of hundreds—approached Moses ⁴⁹and said, “Your servants have counted the soldiers under our command, and not one of us is missing. ⁵⁰So we have brought to the LORD an offering of the gold articles each man acquired—armlets, bracelets, rings, earrings, and necklaces—to make atonement for ourselves before the LORD.” ⁵¹So Moses and Eleazar the priest received from them all the articles made out of gold. ⁵²All the gold that the commanders of thousands and of hundreds presented as an offering to the LORD weighed 16,750 shekels. ⁵³Each of the soldiers had taken plunder for himself. ⁵⁴And Moses and Eleazar the priest received the gold from the commanders of thousands and of hundreds and brought it into the Tent of Meeting as a memorial for the Israelites before the LORD.

Chapter 32

THE TRIBES EAST OF THE JORDAN

¹Now the Reubenites and Gadites, who had very large herds and flocks, surveyed the lands of Jazer and Gilead, and they saw that the region was suitable for livestock. ²So the Gadites and Reubenites came to Moses, Eleazar the priest, and the leaders of the congregation, and said, ³“Ataroth, Dibon, Jazer, Nimrah, Heshbon, Elealeh, Sebam, Nebo, and Beon, ⁴which the LORD conquered before the congregation of Israel, are suitable for livestock—and your servants have livestock.” ⁵“If we have found favor in your sight,” they said, “let this land be given to your servants as a possession. Do not make us cross the Jordan.” ⁶But Moses asked the Gadites and Reubenites, “Shall your brothers go to war while you sit here? ⁷Why are you discouraging the Israelites from crossing into the land that the LORD has given them? ⁸This is what your fathers did when I sent them from Kadesh-barnea to inspect the land. ⁹For when your fathers went up to the Valley of Eshcol and saw the land, they discouraged the Israelites from entering the land that the LORD had given them. ¹⁰So the anger of the LORD was kindled that day, and He swore an oath, saying, ¹¹“Because they did not follow Me wholeheartedly, not one of the men twenty years of age or older who came out of Egypt will see the land that I swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob— ¹²not one except Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite and Joshua son of Nun—because they did follow the LORD wholeheartedly.” ¹³The anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and He made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until the whole generation who had done evil in His sight was gone. ¹⁴Now behold, you, a brood

of sinners, have risen up in place of your fathers to further stoke the burning anger of the LORD against Israel. ¹⁵For if you turn away from following Him, He will once again leave this people in the wilderness, and you will be the cause of their destruction.” ¹⁶Then the Gadites and Reubenites approached Moses and said, “We want to build sheepfolds here for our livestock and cities for our little ones. ¹⁷But we will arm ourselves and be ready to go ahead of the Israelites until we have brought them into their place. Meanwhile, our little ones will remain in the fortified cities for protection from the inhabitants of the land. ¹⁸We will not return to our homes until every Israelite has taken possession of his inheritance. ¹⁹Yet we will not have an inheritance with them across the Jordan and beyond, because our inheritance has come to us on the east side of the Jordan.” ²⁰Moses replied, “If you will do this—if you will arm yourselves before the LORD for battle, ²¹and if every one of your armed men crosses the Jordan before the LORD, until He has driven His enemies out before Him, ²²then when the land is subdued before the LORD, you may return and be free of obligation to the LORD and to Israel. And this land will belong to you as a possession before the LORD. ²³But if you do not do this, you will certainly sin against the LORD—and be assured that your sin will find you out. ²⁴Build cities for your little ones and folds for your flocks, but do what you have promised.” ²⁵The Gadites and Reubenites said to Moses, “Your servants will do just as our lord commands. ²⁶Our children, our wives, our livestock, and all our animals will remain here in the cities of Gilead. ²⁷But your servants are equipped for war, and every man will cross over to the battle before the LORD, just as our lord says.” ²⁸So Moses gave orders about them to Eleazar the priest, to Joshua son of Nun, and to the family leaders of the tribes of Israel. ²⁹And Moses said to them, “If the Gadites and Reubenites cross the Jordan with you, with every man armed for battle before the LORD, and the land is subdued before you, then you are to give them the land of Gilead as a possession. ³⁰But if they do not arm themselves and go across with you, then they must accept their possession among you in the land of Canaan.” ³¹The Gadites and Reubenites replied, “As the LORD has spoken to your servants, so we will do. ³²We will cross over into the land of Canaan armed before the LORD, that we may have our inheritance on this side of the Jordan.” ³³So Moses gave to the Gadites, to the Reubenites, and to the half-tribe of Manasseh son of Joseph the kingdom of Sihon king of the Amorites and the kingdom of Og king of Bashan—the land including its cities and the territory surrounding them. ³⁴And the Gadites built up Dibon, Ataroth, Aroer, ³⁵Atroth-shophan, Jazer, Jogbehah, ³⁶Beth-nimrah, and

Beth-haran as fortified cities, and they built folds for their flocks. ³⁷The Reubenites built up Heshbon, Elealeh, Kiriathaim, ³⁸as well as Nebo and Baal-meon (whose names were changed), and Sibmah. And they renamed the cities they rebuilt. ³⁹The descendants of Machir son of Manasseh went to Gilead, captured it, and drove out the Amorites who were there. ⁴⁰So Moses gave Gilead to the clan of Machir son of Manasseh, and they settled there. ⁴¹Jair, a descendant of Manasseh, went and captured their villages and called them Havvoth-jair. ⁴²And Nobah went and captured Kenath and its villages and called it Nobah, after his own name.

Chapter 33

FORTY-TWO JOURNEYS OF THE ISRAELITES

¹These are the journeys of the Israelites when they came out of the land of Egypt by their divisions under the leadership of Moses and Aaron. ²At the LORD's command, Moses recorded the stages of their journey. These are the stages listed by their starting points: ³On the fifteenth day of the first month, on the day after the Passover, the Israelites set out from Rameses. They marched out defiantly in full view of all the Egyptians, ⁴who were burying all their firstborn, whom the LORD had struck down among them; for the LORD had executed judgment against their gods. ⁵The Israelites set out from Rameses and camped at Succoth. ⁶They set out from Succoth and camped at Etham, on the edge of the wilderness. ⁷They set out from Etham and turned back to Pi-hahiroth, opposite Baal-zephon, and they camped near Migdol. ⁸They set out from Pi-hahiroth and crossed through the sea, into the wilderness, and they journeyed three days into the Wilderness of Etham and camped at Marah. ⁹They set out from Marah and came to Elim, where there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees, and they camped there. ¹⁰They set out from Elim and camped by the Red Sea. ¹¹They set out from the Red Sea and camped in the Desert of Sin. ¹²They set out from the Desert of Sin and camped at Dophkah. ¹³They set out from Dophkah and camped at Alush. ¹⁴They set out from Alush and camped at Rephidim, where there was no water for the people to drink. ¹⁵They set out from Rephidim and camped in the Wilderness of Sinai. ¹⁶They set out from the Wilderness of Sinai and camped at Kibroth-hattaavah. ¹⁷They set out from Kibroth-hattaavah and camped at Hazeroth. ¹⁸They set out from Hazeroth and camped at Rithmah. ¹⁹They set out from Rithmah and camped at Rimmon-perez. ²⁰They set out from Rimmon-perez and camped at Libnah. ²¹They set out from Libnah and camped at Rissah. ²²They set out from Rissah and camped at

Kehelathah. ²³They set out from Kehelathah and camped at Mount Shepher. ²⁴They set out from Mount Shepher and camped at Haradah. ²⁵They set out from Haradah and camped at Makheloth. ²⁶They set out from Makheloth and camped at Tahath. ²⁷They set out from Tahath and camped at Terah. ²⁸They set out from Terah and camped at Mithkah. ²⁹They set out from Mithkah and camped at Hashmonah. ³⁰They set out from Hashmonah and camped at Moseroth. ³¹They set out from Moseroth and camped at Bene-jaakan. ³²They set out from Bene-jaakan and camped at Hor-haggidgad. ³³They set out from Hor-haggidgad and camped at Jotbathah. ³⁴They set out from Jotbathah and camped at Abronah. ³⁵They set out from Abronah and camped at Ezion-geber. ³⁶They set out from Ezion-geber and camped at Kadesh in the Wilderness of Zin. ³⁷They set out from Kadesh and camped at Mount Hor, on the outskirts of the land of Edom. ³⁸At the LORD's command, Aaron the priest climbed Mount Hor and died there on the first day of the fifth month, in the fortieth year after the Israelites had come out of the land of Egypt. ³⁹Aaron was 123 years old when he died on Mount Hor. ⁴⁰Now the Canaanite king of Arad, who lived in the Negev in the land of Canaan, heard that the Israelites were coming. ⁴¹And the Israelites set out from Mount Hor and camped at Zalmonah. ⁴²They set out from Zalmonah and camped at Punon. ⁴³They set out from Punon and camped at Oboth. ⁴⁴They set out from Oboth and camped at Iye-abarim on the border of Moab. ⁴⁵They set out from Iyim and camped at Dibon-gad. ⁴⁶They set out from Dibon-gad and camped at Almon-diblathaim. ⁴⁷They set out from Almon-diblathaim and camped in the mountains of Abarim facing Nebo. ⁴⁸They set out from the mountains of Abarim and camped on the plains of Moab by the Jordan across from Jericho. ⁴⁹And there on the plains of Moab they camped by the Jordan, from Beth-jeshimoth to Abel-shittim.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR OCCUPYING CANAAN

⁵⁰On the plains of Moab by the Jordan across from Jericho, the LORD said to Moses, ⁵¹"Speak to the Israelites and tell them: When you cross the Jordan into the land of Canaan, ⁵²you must drive out before you all the inhabitants of the land, destroy all their carved images and cast idols, and demolish all their high places. ⁵³You are to take possession of the land and settle in it, for I have given you the land to possess. ⁵⁴And you are to divide the land by lot according to your clans. Give a larger inheritance to a larger clan and a smaller inheritance to a smaller one. Whatever falls to each one by lot will be his. You will receive an inheritance according to the tribes of your fathers. ⁵⁵But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land before you, those you

allow to remain will become barbs in your eyes and thorns in your sides; they will harass you in the land where you settle. ⁵⁶And then I will do to you what I had planned to do to them.”

Chapter 34

THE BOUNDARIES OF CANAAN

¹Then the LORD said to Moses, ²“Command the Israelites and say to them: When you enter the land of Canaan, it will be allotted to you as an inheritance with these boundaries: ³Your southern border will extend from the Wilderness of Zin along the border of Edom. On the east, your southern border will run from the end of the Salt Sea, ⁴cross south of the Ascent of Akrabbim, continue to Zin, and go south of Kadesh-barnea. Then it will go on to Hazar-addar and proceed to Azmon, ⁵where it will turn from Azmon, join the Brook of Egypt, and end at the Sea. ⁶Your western border will be the coastline of the Great Sea; this will be your boundary on the west. ⁷Your northern border will run from the Great Sea directly to Mount Hor, ⁸and from Mount Hor to Lebo-hamath, then extend to Zedad, ⁹continue to Ziphron, and end at Hazar-enan. This will be your boundary on the north. ¹⁰And your eastern border will run straight from Hazar-enan to Shepham, ¹¹then go down from Shepham to Riblah on the east side of Ain and continue along the slopes east of the Sea of Chinnereth. ¹²Then the border will go down along the Jordan and end at the Salt Sea. This will be your land, defined by its borders on all sides.” ¹³So Moses commanded the Israelites, “Apportion this land by lot as an inheritance. The LORD has commanded that it be given to the nine and a half tribes. ¹⁴For the tribes of the Reubenites and Gadites, along with the half-tribe of Manasseh, have already received their inheritance. ¹⁵These two and a half tribes have received their inheritance across the Jordan from Jericho, toward the sunrise.”

LEADERS TO DIVIDE THE LAND

¹⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, ¹⁷“These are the names of the men who are to assign the land as an inheritance for you: Eleazar the priest and Joshua son of Nun. ¹⁸Appoint one leader from each tribe to distribute the land. ¹⁹These are their names: Caleb son of Jephunneh from the tribe of Judah; ²⁰Shemuel son of Ammihud from the tribe of Simeon; ²¹Elidad son of Chislon from the tribe of Benjamin; ²²Bukki son of Jogli, a leader from the tribe of Dan; ²³Hanniel son of Ephod, a leader from the tribe of Manasseh son of Joseph; ²⁴Kemuel son of Shiphtan, a leader from the tribe of Ephraim; ²⁵Eli-zaphan son of

Parnach, a leader from the tribe of Zebulun; ²⁶Paltiel son of Azzan, a leader from the tribe of Issachar; ²⁷Ahihud son of Shelomi, a leader from the tribe of Asher; ²⁸and Pedahel son of Ammihud, a leader from the tribe of Naphtali.” ²⁹These are the ones whom the LORD commanded to apportion the inheritance to the Israelites in the land of Canaan.

Chapter 35

FORTY-EIGHT CITIES FOR THE LEVITES

¹Again the LORD spoke to Moses on the plains of Moab by the Jordan across from Jericho: ²“Command the Israelites to give, from the inheritance they will possess, cities for the Levites to live in and pasturelands around the cities. ³The cities will be for them to live in, and the pasturelands will be for their herds, their flocks, and all their other livestock. ⁴The pasturelands around the cities you are to give the Levites will extend a thousand cubits from the wall on every side. ⁵You are also to measure two thousand cubits outside the city on the east, two thousand on the south, two thousand on the west, and two thousand on the north, with the city in the center. These areas will serve as larger pasturelands for the cities. ⁶Six of the cities you give the Levites are to be appointed as cities of refuge, to which a manslayer may flee. In addition to these, give the Levites forty-two other cities. ⁷The total number of cities you give the Levites will be forty-eight, with their corresponding pasturelands. ⁸The cities that you apportion from the territory of the Israelites should be given to the Levites in proportion to the inheritance of each tribe: more from a larger tribe and less from a smaller one.”

SIX CITIES OF REFUGE

⁹Then the LORD said to Moses, ¹⁰“Speak to the Israelites and tell them: When you cross the Jordan into the land of Canaan, ¹¹designate cities to serve as your cities of refuge, so that a person who kills someone unintentionally may flee there. ¹²You are to have these cities as a refuge from the avenger, so that the manslayer will not die until he stands trial before the assembly. ¹³The cities you select will be your six cities of refuge. ¹⁴Select three cities across the Jordan and three in the land of Canaan as cities of refuge. ¹⁵These six cities will serve as a refuge for the Israelites and for the foreigner or stranger among them, so that anyone who kills a person unintentionally may flee there. ¹⁶If, however, anyone strikes a person with an iron object and kills him, he is a murderer; the murderer must surely be put to death. ¹⁷Or if anyone has in his hand a stone of deadly size, and he strikes and kills another, he is a murderer; the mur-

derer must surely be put to death. ¹⁸If anyone has in his hand a deadly object of wood, and he strikes and kills another, he is a murderer; the murderer must surely be put to death. ¹⁹The avenger of blood is to put the murderer to death; when he finds him, he is to kill him. ²⁰Likewise, if anyone maliciously pushes another or intentionally throws an object at him and kills him, ²¹or if in hostility he strikes him with his hand and he dies, the one who struck him must surely be put to death; he is a murderer. When the avenger of blood finds the murderer, he is to kill him. ²²But if anyone pushes a person suddenly, without hostility, or throws an object at him unintentionally, ²³or without looking drops a heavy stone that kills him, but he was not an enemy and did not intend to harm him, ²⁴then the congregation must judge between the slayer and the avenger of blood according to these ordinances. ²⁵The assembly is to protect the manslayer from the hand of the avenger of blood. Then the assembly will return him to the city of refuge to which he fled, and he must live there until the death of the high priest, who was anointed with the holy oil. ²⁶But if the manslayer ever goes outside the limits of the city of refuge to which he fled ²⁷and the avenger of blood finds him outside of his city of refuge and kills him, then the avenger will not be guilty of bloodshed, ²⁸because the manslayer must remain in his city of refuge until the death of the high priest. Only after the death of the high priest may he return to the land he owns. ²⁹This will be a statutory ordinance for you for the generations to come, wherever you live. ³⁰If anyone kills a person, the murderer is to be put to death on the testimony of the witnesses. But no one is to be put to death based on the testimony of a lone witness. ³¹You are not to accept a ransom for the life of a murderer who deserves to die; he must surely be put to death. ³²Nor should you accept a ransom for the person who flees to a city of refuge and allow him to return and live on his own land before the death of the high priest. ³³Do not pollute the land where you live, for bloodshed pollutes the land, and no atonement can be made for the land on which the blood is shed, except by the blood of the one who shed it. ³⁴Do not defile the land where you live and where I dwell. For I, the LORD, dwell among the Israelites."

Chapter 36

ZELOPHEHAD'S DAUGHTERS MARRY

¹Now the family heads of the clan of Gilead son of Machir son of Manasseh, one of the clans of Joseph, approached Moses and the leaders who were the heads of the Israelite families and addressed them, ²saying, "When the LORD commanded my lord to give the land as an inheritance to the Israelites by lot, He also commanded him to give the inheritance of our brother Zelophehad to his daughters. ³But if they marry any of the men from the other tribes of Israel, their inheritance will be withdrawn from the portion of our fathers and added to the tribe into which they marry. So our allotted inheritance would be taken away. ⁴And when the Jubilee for the Israelites comes, their inheritance will be added to the tribe into which they marry and taken away from the tribe of our fathers." ⁵So at the word of the LORD, Moses commanded the Israelites: "The tribe of the sons of Joseph speaks correctly. ⁶This is what the LORD has commanded concerning the daughters of Zelophehad: They may marry anyone they please, provided they marry within a clan of the tribe of their father. ⁷No inheritance in Israel may be transferred from tribe to tribe, because each of the Israelites is to retain the inheritance of the tribe of his fathers. ⁸Every daughter who possesses an inheritance from any Israelite tribe must marry within a clan of the tribe of her father, so that every Israelite will possess the inheritance of his fathers. ⁹No inheritance may be transferred from one tribe to another, for each tribe of Israel must retain its inheritance." ¹⁰So the daughters of Zelophehad did as the LORD had commanded Moses. ¹¹Mahlah, Tirzah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Noah, the daughters of Zelophehad, were married to cousins on their father's side. ¹²They married within the clans of the descendants of Manasseh son of Joseph, and their inheritance remained within the tribe of their father's clan. ¹³These are the commandments and ordinances that the LORD gave the Israelites through Moses on the plains of Moab by the Jordan across from Jericho.