

Torah. Authors unknown. Revised Standard Version, translated by the Committee for Translation of the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Camden, New Jersey: Thomas Nelson & Sons, 1946 (NT), 1952 (OT).

The Torah, consisting of the Jewish scriptures commonly known in English as Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, Leviticus and Deuteronomy, were stitched together from ancient fragments, various law codes, and oral traditions extant during the prophetic period of ancient Israel (6th - 8th centuries B.C.). The text emerges from ideological contests between groups with two major views of the essence of Judaism: monarchists who emphasize the control of Palestine by Israeli rulers consistent with the Abrahamic covenant, and the priests, who emphasize lifestyle conformity (law) and ritual worship consistent with the laws of Moses.

A core concern in the Torah is to explain why Yahweh permitted Nebuchadrezzar of Babylon to destroy the Israeli monarchies and torch Jerusalem, including the Temple (586 B.C.). The Babylonians deported Israel's artisans and intelligentsia to the Mesopotamian valley in the Babylonian Exile of 587 B.C., with other deportations related to various Jewish uprisings. These dispersed Israelis were permitted to return to their land in 538 B.C. when Cyrus of Persia defeated Babylon (for which Cyrus is revered; see Isaiah 45:1-3). Not all the exiles returned; those remaining behind formed the first of the Jewish Diaspora communities.

Though these texts are sacred for Christians and Jews, and authoritative for Muslims, this epitome treats the Torah as evidence of the political and ethical development of the tribal communities comprising Israel during their transition from semi-nomadism to fixed royal and priestly governments in Palestine, whose indigenous peoples Israeli tribes conquered, in the midst of several epochs of significant external threats from the north (Assyrians and Hittites), the West (Babylon and Persia), and the south (Egypt).

GENESIS

Elohists Creation Myth.

Creation week. God (Elohim) creates the world in six days. The result pleases God. God creates man, both male and female, and grants them hegemony over earth and its creatures. God dedicates each seventh day to rest (Genesis 1:1-2:3).

Adam Cycle.

Garden of Eden. Yahweh forms man from earth, and establishes the territory. Yahweh puts man in charge of all things except man is not to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Yahweh's hand fashions all animals, but none are perfect companions for man, who is lonely. Yahweh forms woman from man's rib and establishes their permanent bonding. A serpent tempts woman to eat from the forbidden tree. The woman induces man to likewise eat. Yahweh evicts man and woman from his garden. Yahweh gives each their name, Adam and Eve, and skin clothing (Genesis 2:4-3:24).

Cain and Abel. Cain and Abel, sons of Adam and Eve, dispute when Yahweh prefers Abel's animal sacrifice. Yahweh chastises Cain. Cain murders Abel, then dissembles to Yahweh about it. Yahweh marks Cain and makes him a nomad, wandering east of Eden (Genesis 4:1-16). Cain's progeny are enumerated, the last being also a slayer as was Cain, his ancestor (Genesis 4:17-24). Seth is born to Adam and Eve, and men begin to worship Yahweh (Genesis 4:25-26).

The generations of Adam. The Elohist creation of man (Genesis 1) is recapitulated (Genesis 5:1-2). Adam's descendants are named and their lengthy lifespans enumerated, including Methuselah's 969 years (Genesis 5: 3-32).

Giants Among Men. Divine creatures mate with human women. The progeny are giants, who were famous (Genesis 6:1-4).

Noah. [This story weaves Yahwist and Elohist accounts without complete harmonization.] Yahweh finds all mankind wicked and condemns the race, along with the other animals, to death, except for Noah. Noah's sons are named (Genesis 6:5-10). The condemnation story begins anew. God (Elohist) gives Noah design specifications for building an ark. God instructs Noah to gather mating pairs of every animal, along with his own family and food,

into the ark, so that all might avoid the universal flood God plans. Noah complies. The ark loading instructions recommence; seven pairs of each animal are now required (Yahwist). The flood term is specified: forty days and nights of waters. The story bumps again to the original two-by-two plan for animal refugees. The flood lasts 850 days. The flood ensues, wiping out all life but Noah's refugees (Elohists). God withdraws the waters. Noah tests for land with a dove. Noah, his family, and the animals depart the ark. Noah builds an altar and offers animal sacrifice to Yahweh, which pleases him. Yahweh promises never again to destroy all life. God (Elohists) instructs Noah's family to fill the earth with mankind. Noah's progeny can eat of all things, but not flesh with blood in it. Causing injury or death to a man requires like response, because man is made in God's image. God sets the rainbow as a sign of his promise never to drown all life (Genesis 6:5-9:17).

Noah's son, Ham, sees Noah naked, when Noah has fainted in a drunken stupor. Shem and Japheth, Noah's two remaining sons, cover their father without looking. Noah condemns Ham's children, among them Canaan. Canaan will be the slave of the others. Noah dies at 950 years of age (Genesis 9:18-29). The descendants of Noah's sons are named. The sons of Japheth become the coastal peoples. The sons of Ham become Egypt and Palestine (Canaan) and Babylon, and Assyria. The sons of Canaan become the tribes of Palestine whom the Israelites would defeat in their conquest. The sons of Shem become the people east of Mesha [possibly related to Moabites, who had a king Mesha] (Genesis 9:18-10:32).

Babel. Mankind has one language with few words. The people of the Shinar plain decide to build a tower to heaven, and succeed. Yahweh disapproves of their hubris, for they see they are unstoppable. Yahweh confuses their language, driving them off from the city, which was named Babel because that is where man's many languages derived (Genesis 11:1-9).

Abram's Ancestors. Shem's descendants and their lifespans are named (Genesis 11:10-25).

Abraham Cycle.

Haran. Terah (Abram's father), Abram, Sarai (Abram's wife), and Lot (Terah's grandson) move from Ur to Haran, though they had planned to move as far as Canaan (Genesis 11:26-32).

Covenant. Yahweh blesses Abram and sends him to a land Yahweh will show him. Abram will be a blessing to all mankind. Lot accompanies Abram to Canaan, which land Yahweh promises to Abram's descendants. Abram builds an altar near Bethel and worships Yahweh there in Canaan (Genesis 12:1-9).

Egypt. Abram flees Canaan to Egypt to avoid a famine. Abram fears Egyptians may kill him because Sarai is beautiful. So Abram has Sarai say she is Abram's sister. Pharaoh's sons take Sarai, and plagues come on Pharaoh's house. Pharaoh gives Sarai back to Abram and sends Abram and his family away (Genesis 12:10-20). [Compare Genesis 26:1-11 and Genesis 20:1-18.]

Covenant. Abram returns to southern Palestine, growing rich, then travels to Bethel, to his first altar to Yahweh. Abram's and Lot's cattle are competing, so the two divide the land among them, Lot taking the Jordan Valley (which contains wicked Sodom), and Abram taking Canaan (Genesis 13:1-12). Yahweh promises all of Palestine to Abram's descendants (Genesis 13:14-18).

Rescuing Lot. Local kings of the Jordan Valley and Dead Sea regions war. The king of Sodom is one loser. Lot and his family and goods are taken as booty. Abram takes 318 men, chasing Lot's captors. He recovers all and brings them back to Sodom. Another local king praises Abram there, and Abram declines that king's bribe (Genesis 14:1-24).

Vision. Yahweh promises to protect Abram. Abram complains because he and Sarai have no son. Abram's heir will be a stranger. Yahweh promises Abram abundant offspring and a son. Abram offers animal sacrifices Yahweh specifies. In a dream, Yahweh says to Abram that his descendants will be deported for 400 years but will emerge wealthy after Yahweh intervenes. Yahweh promises Abram's descendants the land from the Nile to the Euphrates (Genesis 15:1-21).

Ishmael. Abram, at Sarai's request because she has borne no children, weds Hagar. Hagar lords her early pregnancy over Sarai. With Abram's consent, Sarai abuses Hagar, who flees. An angel intervenes, promises Hagar's son numerous descendants, and names the child Ishmael.

The angel foresees Ishmael's contentiousness. When Ishmael is born, Abram is eighty-six years old (Genesis 16:1-16).

Covenant of Circumcision. Yahweh appears to Abram, again promises him many descendants, and changes his name to Abraham. This covenant, that from Abraham will come many kings and nations, is to be everlasting. Yahweh promises loyalty to Abraham. Yahweh will deliver Canaan to Abraham's descendants. Yahweh commands that all of Abraham's descendants shall be circumcised, as a sign of this covenant. Yahweh changes Sarai's name to Sarah, and promises her a son. Abraham scoffs about the age of this child's father and mother; he thanks Yahweh for Ishmael. God corrects Abraham; he speaks of Isaac and promises him many descendants. Abraham circumcises all the males of his household (Genesis 17:1-27).

Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham entertains three divine men at Mamre, who promise on behalf of Yahweh that Sarah will bear a son, though ninety years old. Sarah laughs, but denies it when challenged. The men leave to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah for their wickedness. Abraham bargains with Yahweh that for the sake of a few good men, the cities should be spared. Yahweh accedes. The Sodomites abuse Lot when they demand sexual intercourse with the "men" who are being entertained by Lot. Lot offers the locals his daughters, to no avail. The men strike the rioters blind. The men remove Lot and his family from Sodom, and tell them to flee without looking back. Lot's wife looks, and becomes a pillar of salt. Sodom and Gomorrah are destroyed by brimstone and fire from heaven (Genesis 18:1-19:29).

Lot's Incest. Lot's daughters lack husbands. They get Lot drunk and have intercourse with him. The two resulting children become the Moabites and the Ammonites (Genesis 19:30-38).

Abraham's Self-Serving Lie. Abraham tells King Abimelech that Sarah is his sister. Abimelech weds Sarah. God intervenes, condemning Abimelech with illness, relenting when Abimelech protests his innocence if only Abimelech will restore Sarah and get Abraham to intercede on Abimelech's behalf. Abimelech confronts Abraham about his lie. Abraham discloses that Sarah is his half-sister. Abimelech returns Sarah with funds and livestock. Abraham prays for Abimelech and his family, who are healed (Genesis 20:1-18). [Compare Genesis 12:6-20 and Genesis 26:1-11.]

Isaac. Yahweh visits Sarah, who bears Isaac. Abraham is 100 years old at the time (Genesis 21:1-7).

Ishmael Cast Out. Ishmael mocks Isaac. Sarah complains. Abraham casts Hagar and Ishmael out of the family. Hagar and Ishmael wander in the desert, and Hagar despairs. They will die of thirst. God intervenes and she sees a well and survives (Genesis 21:8-21). [Note similarities with Genesis 16.]

Well Agreement. Abimelech seeks Abraham's promise to deal squarely with him, because God favors Abraham. Abraham consents. Abraham contests use of a well. He gives Abimelech seven lambs in exchange for sole use of the well. Abraham lives peacefully with the Philistines (Genesis 21:22-34).

Sacrifice of Isaac. God commands Abraham to take Isaac to Moriah and kill him as a burnt sacrifice. Abraham takes Isaac to the Moriah, binds him on the wood for the burnt offering, and takes his knife to kill Isaac. An angel intervenes, and tells him God is just testing his loyalty. A ram is caught nearby in a thicket, and Abraham sacrifices that animal in Isaac's stead. Yahweh blesses Abraham, and promises that all nations shall be blessed by Abraham (Genesis 22:1-19).

Nahor's Children. Milcah bears children to Nahor, one of whom is the father of Rebekah (Genesis 22:20-24).

Sarah's Burial. Sarah dies. Abraham asks the Hittites for a burial place for his family members. Abraham requests the cave of Machpelah, which he purchases and buries Sarah there (Genesis 23:1-20).

Rebekah. Abraham sends a servant to find a wife for Isaac from Abraham's people, so Isaac will not marry a Canaanite woman. At Nahor in Mesopotamia, the servant waters camels, and Rebekah assists him. The servant goes to Sarah's family home and tells his errand. Bethuel, her father, gives Rebekah as Isaac's wife. The servant gives Abraham's gifts to the family. Rebekah consents to go to Isaac as wife. When they arrive, Isaac makes Rebekah his wife (Genesis 24:1-67). [Compare Genesis 29:1-14.]

Abraham's Death. Abraham marries Keturah, who bears him sons. Abraham sends them away from Isaac with gifts, and gives all he has to Isaac. Abraham dies at age 175. He is buried with Sarah (Genesis 25:1-11).

Abraham's Descendants. Ishmael's descendants are named. Isaac's descendants are named: Esau and Jacob (Genesis 25:19-20).

Jacob Cycle.

Esau and Jacob. Yahweh intervenes to make barren Rebekah conceive. Esau and Jacob are born, Esau first, struggling from the beginning. Esau is a hunter, and Jacob a quiet man. Isaac loves Esau; Rebekah loves Jacob. Esau sells his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of lentil pottage and some bread (Genesis 25:21-34).

Isaac's Self-Serving Lie. [Compare Genesis 20:1-7 and 12:1-20] Yahweh tells Isaac to stay in Palestine, despite the famine, and promises to Isaac what Yahweh promised to Abram. [Note that Abraham kept Yahweh's "charge, commandments statutes and laws," not merely obeyed Yahweh. Compare Deuteronomy 4.] Isaac represents Rebekah as his sister and Abimelech saw him fondling her. Abimelech confronts Isaac because someone could have had sex with Rebekah (Genesis 26:1-11).

Gerar Wells. Philistines fill Abraham's wells, jealous of Isaac's wealth, and send Isaac away. Isaac moves to Gerar and redigs Abraham's wells. Isaac finds a springing well, and the Philistines want it. So Isaac digs another, which the Philistines also want. So Isaac digs a third well, and that well the Philistines do not claim (Genesis 26:12-25).

Appearance at Beersheba. Yahweh appears to Isaac and reiterates his promise of many descendants and blessing. Isaac worships and digs a well (Genesis 26:23-25).

Agreement with Abimelech. Abimelech comes to Isaac seeking a promise that Isaac will not harm his people, because Yahweh is with Isaac. They feast. Isaac digs a well and finds water. Again, Beersheba is named (Genesis 26:26-33). [Compare Genesis 21:22-34. On Beersheba, compare Genesis 21:31.]

Esau weds Judith. Esau weds Judith, who made life bitter for Esau (Genesis 26:34-35).

Jacob Defrauds Esau. Isaac goes blind with age. Isaac bids Esau to prepare a meat meal for him, so he can bless Esau. Rebekah overhears, and sends Jacob to kill a kid and prepare it for Isaac. Esau is hairy, and Jacob is not, so Rebekah puts the kid skin on Jacob's hands and back, and dresses Jacob in Esau's clothes. Jacob takes his meal to Isaac, claims to be Esau, and seeks the blessing. Isaac is suspicious, because the voice is that of Jacob, but the hands those of Esau. Isaac asks again if he is Esau. Jacob lies again. Isaac draws Jacob near for a kiss, and smells Esau's scent on the clothing. Satisfied, Isaac blesses Jacob, believing him to be Esau. Esau returns from hunting. Isaac is furious to have been fooled, but cannot undo his blessing. Esau wept. Esau plans to kill Jacob when Isaac dies. Rebekah learns of this plan, warns Jacob, and sends Jacob away to Haran until Esau relents (Genesis 27:1-45).

Jacob Weds Leah and Rachel. Rebekah does not want Jacob to marry a Hittite woman. Isaac sends Jacob to his uncle's house to select a cousin to marry. Esau sees what Isaac did with Jacob, and weds Mahalath, daughter of Ishmael. On his trip to find a wife, Jacob dreams. A ladder rises from earth to heaven with angels going up and down. Yahweh reiterates his promise of many descendants who will be a blessing to mankind. Yahweh promises to travel with Jacob wherever he goes and to bring Jacob back to the land (Genesis 28:10-17). Jacob takes the rock he used as a pillow, and sets it up. He calls the place Bethel, and vows that if Yahweh does as he promises, providing for Jacob and bringing him back to the land, then Jacob will worship Yahweh his whole life and dedicate one-tenth of his possessions to God (Genesis 28:18-22). Jacob arrives in the east at a well. Inquiring, he learns that a daughter of Laban, Rachel, is watering animals there. [Compare Genesis 24:1-67.] Jacob kisses Rachel and told her who he is. Laban hires Jacob, and introduces his elder daughter, Leah, whose sight is poor. Jacob serves Laban for seven years for Rachel's dowry. Laban, however, when the wedding night occurs, gives Jacob Leah, not Rachel. Jacob does not notice until morning. Jacob receives Rachel as wife, but he serves another seven years to earn her. Leah, whom Jacob does not prefer, bears him three sons, but Rachel remains barren. Rachel has Jacob impregnate her maid, Bilhah, so Bilhah can bear Rachel's children in Rachel's place. Leah gives Jacob her maid, Zilpah, who bears Jacob sons. [Compare Genesis 16:1-6.] Rachel

wants some mandrake (aphrodisiacal herb, which root promotes conception in African folklore), and so bargains with Leah: herbs in exchange for sex with Jacob. Leah bears more sons. God makes Rachel fertile, and Joseph is born (Genesis 27:46-30:24).

Jacob and Laban Defraud One Another. Jacob asks for his wages for his fourteen years of labor. Laban promises Jacob all the spotted sheep and black lambs, then removes such from the flock and sends them away with a son. Jacob artificially puts spots on the strongest of the flock and takes the best animals from Laban. Jacob and Laban fall out, and Jacob returns to Canaan with Rachel and Leah and his household and possessions. Rachel steals Laban's household gods. Laban chases Jacob, but God warns him not to speak with Jacob. Laban complains of the stolen gods, and Jacob promises that the thief will be killed, not knowing the thief was Rachel. Rachel hides the gods in a saddle and then sits on them, claiming to be menstruating. Laban does not find his gods. Jacob complains about his hard service for Laban. Laban refuses to acknowledge that Jacob deserves his wages and daughters. The two make a covenant for Yahweh to decide between them if they break their promises. They sacrifice and feast, then Laban goes home (Genesis 30:25-31:55).

Jacob's Homecoming. Jacob sees an army of angels. Messengers report that Esau approaches Jacob's company with 400 men. Jacob fears Esau, and so, splits his group into two so that if Esau intends ill, one might survive. Jacob asks Yahweh for protection. Jacob sends waves of gifts for Esau before him, hoping to appease Esau. Jacob sends his wives and children across the Jabbok ford. That night, Jacob wrestles with a man until dawn, the man putting Jacob's hip out of joint. Jacob refuses to yield unless the stranger blesses him. The man changes Jacob's name to "Israel." The man is God. For this reason Israelites do not eat the sinew of the hip in the hollow of the thigh to this day. Jacob leads his family to Esau, prostrating himself. Esau embraces Jacob and they weep. Jacob introduces his family. Esau tries to return Jacob's gifts, but Jacob insists, and promises to meet Esau at Seir. After Esau's departure, Jacob takes his group to Succoth instead and settles (Genesis 32:1-33:20).

Shechem Rapes Diana. A Canaanite prince rapes Leah's daughter Dinah, and then wants to marry her. [Note anachronism at 34:7: "in Israel."] Shechem asks forgiveness, and his father wants Jacob's family to marry among the Canaanites and join the people. Jacob deceives Shechem. He says he will consent to join the people and let Shechem marry Dinah only if all the males of the city are circumcised. They agree. On the third day after circumcision, when none could fight, Jacob's sons kill all the city's males, including Shechem and his father, Hamor. They take the city's flocks and wives and children as booty. Jacob complains because the excess of their revenge will make trouble with the surrounding Canaanites (Genesis 34:1-31).

Worship at Bethel. God sends Jacob to Bethel to worship him. Jacob has his family members put away their foreign gods and purify themselves. [Note polytheism.] God terrorizes the surrounding cities so they do not attack Jacob. At Bethel, Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, dies. God appears to Jacob and renames him Israel [compare Genesis 32:28] (Genesis 35:1-15).

Rachel Dies in Childbirth. Rachel gives birth to Benjamin, and dies. Rachel is buried in Bethlehem (Genesis 35:16-21).

Reuben's Offense. Jacob's son, Reuben, has sex with Bilhah, Jacob's concubine. Jacob finds out (Genesis 35:22).

Jacob's Descendants. Jacob's descendants are named, twelve in all (Genesis 35:22-26).

Jacob Dies. Jacob dies at 180 years of age. Esau buries him (Genesis 35:27-29).

Esau's Descendants. Esau's descendants are named (Genesis 36:1-5).

Repetition of Genesis 13:5ff. The story of Jacob and Esau dividing the land east and west is recapitulated (Genesis 36:6-9).

Recapitulation of Esau's Descendant, and List of Edom's Kings. Esau's descendants are again named, their chiefs identified, along with the kings of Edom, who ruled before any Israeli kings ruled (Genesis 36:9-43).

Joseph Cycle.

Attempted Murder of Joseph. Jacob's favoritism toward Joseph, the son of Jacob's old age, causes rifts between Joseph and his brothers. Jacob makes Joseph a long robe. Joseph dreams of sheaves and heavenly bodies, implying that Joseph will become head of the family, though young. Joseph joins his brothers in tending flocks. The brothers conspire to kill Joseph.

They throw him in a pit to die, but relent and sell Joseph to traders passing by (for twenty shekels of silver). They spatter Joseph's coat with blood; Jacob assumes Joseph has been eaten. Joseph is sold to Potiphar, Pharaoh's guard captain (Genesis 37:1-36).

Tamar and Onan. Judah has children by a Canaanite woman, Shua: Er and Onan. Er dies, being wicked. Judah asks Onan to impregnate Er's wife Tamar; Onan has sex with her, but withdraws his penis before ejaculation to prevent pregnancy. Yahweh is displeased and kills Onan. Judah promises his youngest son as Tamar's husband. Tamar grows impatient. She dresses herself as a prostitute and seduces Judah. In payment, Judah promises a goat, leaving his staff in pledge of payment. Judah sends the goat to the harlot, but she is gone. Tamar conceives twins. When the family learns she is pregnant, they move to burn her. She fingers Judah, who confesses that he did not give her his youngest son as a husband. The twins juggle in birth which is first out, one protruding a hand to which a scarlet string is tied, the other then emerging (Genesis 38:1-30).

Joseph Imprisoned. Yahweh makes Joseph prosper in Egypt. Joseph becomes Potiphar's household overseer. Joseph is handsome and Potiphar's wife repeatedly attempts to seduce Joseph, which advances Joseph refuses. One day she grabs Joseph, who flees, losing a garment in the process. Potiphar's wife claims Joseph sexually assaulted her. Potiphar imprisons Joseph. Yahweh makes the jailkeeper favor Joseph, putting Joseph in charge of the jail (Genesis 39:1-23).

Joseph's Dream Interpretations. Pharaoh's baker and butler are imprisoned with Joseph. The butler dreams and Joseph correctly interprets it; he will be released. Joseph asks the butler to speak to Pharaoh of Joseph's plight when he is released. Pharaoh's butler dreams and Joseph correctly interprets it; the butler will be hanged. The butler forgets his promise to Joseph when he receives his freedom (Genesis 40:1-23).

Two years later, Pharaoh dreams. Pharaoh dreams of fat and thin cows emerging from the Nile. The butler remembers that Joseph interprets dreams, and refers Pharaoh to Joseph. Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dream as predicting seven prosperous years followed by seven years of famine. Joseph recommends that Pharaoh set aside a significant reserve during the prosperous years for the lean years coming. Pharaoh puts Joseph in charge of his household and Egypt. The store of grain grows large. Famine arrives, and only Egypt has bread (Genesis 41:1-57).

Jacob's Family Moves to Egypt. Jacob sends ten of his sons to Egypt to buy grain; Benjamin stays behind. Joseph recognizes them, but they fail to recognize him. Joseph accuses them of spying on Egypt. Joseph demands that they produce Benjamin. Joseph holds Simeon hostage, and lets the other brothers return to Canaan with grain. Joseph puts the grain money in their sacks. Jacob refuses to let Benjamin go to Egypt for fear he will be killed. When the grain runs out, Jacob sends the brothers, with Benjamin (reluctantly), to Egypt for more. They take gifts and double the money. Joseph makes a feast for the brothers. The brothers fear, and tell Joseph's steward of the error regarding the money on their first trip. The steward says he received their money last trip. Joseph greets Benjamin, then weeps in his chamber. They eat and drink. Joseph gives them grain, their money again, and puts a silver chalice in Benjamin's sack. The brothers depart. Joseph sends men after the brothers, asking why they have stolen. The chalice is discovered, and the brothers return to Joseph. Joseph releases the brother's, except for Benjamin. Judah asks Joseph to release Benjamin because of Judah's promise to Jacob regarding his safety. Judah asks to replace Benjamin. Joseph reveals himself to his brothers. Joseph says that God sent Joseph to Egypt ahead of the famine to prepare a way for the family to survive. Joseph asks Jacob and all the clan to come to Egypt. God speaks to Jacob at Beersheba, telling him to move to Egypt, and promising to bring Jacob back up from Egypt after death. Jacob and his family move to Egypt. The family members who move to Egypt are named, seventy members in all. Joseph and his father are reunited. Pharaoh settles the family in Goshen. Jacob blesses Pharaoh (Genesis 42:1-47:12).

Joseph Enslaves Egypt. As the famine worsens, the Egyptians and their neighbors lack funds to buy grain. So, Joseph barter with them for their cattle, then their land, then their persons as slaves. Joseph establishes the rule that twenty percent of all harvests belong to Pharaoh (Genesis 47:13-26).

Jacob's Death. Jacob's family prospers in Egypt. Joseph swears that Jacob's body will not be left in Egypt, but will be carried back to Canaan. Jacob adopts Joseph's sons as his own. Jacob blesses Joseph's sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, but out of birth order. Jacob insists, despite Joseph's objections. Jacob predicts the histories of his sons, emphasizing the preeminence of Judah. Jacob reiterates his desire to be buried in the family cave at Machpelah. Jacob dies (Genesis 47:27-49:33).

Jacob's Interment. Pharaoh lets Joseph and his retinue take Jacob's body to Machpelah for burial. Joseph's brothers fear that now that Jacob has died, Joseph will exact vengeance upon them. Joseph reassures them (Genesis 50:1-21).

Joseph's Death. Joseph sees his great grandchildren born, then dies. He exacts a promise from his brothers to carry his body back to Canaan when God takes them from Egypt (Genesis 50:22-26).

EXODUS

Persecution in Egypt.

Political Threat. The descendants of Jacob are enumerated by tribe. They experience a great increase in population as time passes (Exodus 1:1-7). The Egyptian administration fears the Hebrews because of their numbers and dubious political loyalty. So, Jacob's descendants do hard labor. Still, they grow in number. The administration tells the midwives to kill all the Hebrew sons. The midwives refuse and God blesses them. Finally, Pharaoh orders that all Hebrew sons shall be thrown into the Nile. Only the daughters shall live (Exodus 1:8-22).

Moses's Childhood. A Hebrew couple bears a son. The mother hides him for three months from officials. Then she makes a basket and sets him adrift on the Nile. Pharaoh's daughter discovers the child. She hires the Hebrew mother to nurse him and Pharaoh's daughter adopts the child and names him Moses (Exodus 2:1-10).

Murder. Moses murders an Egyptian who beat a Hebrew, then hides the body. Moses learns that he had been seen in the act. Pharaoh learns of the murder. Moses flees to Midian [Saudi Arabia along the Gulf of Aqaba] and hides there. Moses helps some women water their flock, and ingratiates himself to their father, Jethro. Moses marries Zipporah, Jethro's daughter, who bears him a son (Exodus 2:11-22).

God Hears. Israel groans in its slavery. God recalls his covenant with the patriarchs, and sees their plight (Exodus 2:23-25).

Yahweh Sends Moses to Pharaoh. While Moses tends sheep, Yahweh appears to him as a flame in a bush at Mt. Horeb [southern Sinai peninsula]. Yahweh commands Moses to remove his shoes, for the place where he stands is sacred. Moses refuses to look. Yahweh tells Moses that Yahweh will fulfill his promise to Israel to give them Canaan, a land of milk and honey. Yahweh will send Moses to Pharaoh to bring the Hebrews out of Egypt. Moses quibbles. God commands him to deliver the people back to Horeb, where Moses shall again serve Yahweh. Moses asks who he should tell the Hebrews sent him. Yahweh says his name is "I am who I am." [Possibly a play on the Hebrew word "hayah," which means "to be" and the tetragrammaton YHWH.] (Exodus 3:1-17). Yahweh tells Moses to have the Hebrews tell Pharaoh they need to go three days into the desert to sacrifice to Yahweh. Though Pharaoh will refuse, Yahweh will compel Pharaoh to let the Hebrews go into the desert. All the Hebrew women are to steal silver and gold and clothing from their masters. Moses objects that the people will disbelieve him. Yahweh turns his staff into a snake, Moses hand becomes leprous and then normal again, and Nile water will become blood. Moses continues to quibble, saying that he speaks poorly. Yahweh grows angry with Moses, but gives him his brother, Aaron the Levite, as mouthpiece (Exodus 3:18-4:17). Moses returns to Egypt with his family and the blessing of Jethro (Exodus 4:18-20). Yahweh tells Moses to tell Pharaoh that Yahweh will kill his first-born son, if Pharaoh refuses to release Israel. But Yahweh will harden Pharaoh's heart so he refuses to let the Hebrews go (Exodus 4:21-23). Zipporah circumcises her son, and touches Moses's feet with the foreskin (Exodus 4:24-26). Yahweh sends Aaron into the wilderness to meet Moses. Moses tells Aaron all that Yahweh commanded, and shows him the signs provided (Exodus 4:27-28).

Escape from Egypt.

Hebrew Consent. Moses and Aaron tell the Hebrews what Yahweh said and show them the signs. They believe and worship Yahweh (Exodus 4:29-31).

Confrontation with Pharaoh (First Version). Moses and Aaron ask Pharaoh's permission to let the Hebrews worship in the wilderness. He refuses and increases their burdens, denying them straw for their brickmaking without reducing their daily quota. The people complain to Pharaoh, to no avail. They turn on Moses and Aaron, and Moses complains to Yahweh. Yahweh reassures Moses that he will intervene. Yahweh tells Moses to reiterate Yahweh's promises to deliver them and give them Canaan as their own. The people ignore Moses. Their spirit is broken. Yahweh commands Moses to go again to Pharaoh. Moses objects that the people are not listening to Moses. Yahweh insists (Exodus 5:1-6:13).

The Levi Tribe Named. The members of Moses's and Aaron's family are named, identifying Moses and Aaron (Exodus 6:14-27).

Confrontation with Pharaoh (Second Version). Yahweh tells Moses to command Pharaoh to let the Hebrews go. Moses objects about his speaking deficits, and is given Aaron to speak on his behalf. Yahweh will harden Pharaoh's heart, and Yahweh will make great signs and release the Hebrews from the Egyptians. *Rod Transformation.* Before Pharaoh, Moses casts down his rod and it becomes a snake. Egyptian sorcerers do the same, but Moses's rod eats the magicians' snakes (Exodus 6:28-7:13). *Nile Blood.* Moses turns the Nile and other waterways to blood before Pharaoh. Pharaoh's sorcerers do the same, and so Pharaoh refuses to let the Hebrews go. *Frogs.* Moses brings a plague of frogs from the Nile, but again the magicians do the same, and so Pharaoh still refuses. Pharaoh asks for leave to comply with Yahweh's demand on the following day, and Yahweh kills the frogs. But Pharaoh breaks his promise to let the Hebrews go into the wilderness to serve Yahweh. *Gnats.* Moses brings a plague of gnats [or possibly lice], and Pharaoh's sorcerers cannot match this feat. Still, Pharaoh persists. *Flies.* Moses brings swarms of flies on the land, which is ruined by them. Pharaoh tells Moses to take the people and go to sacrifice, but to do so nearby. Moses says the people must go three days into the wilderness. Moses consents to ask Yahweh to remove the flies, and Yahweh does so. But Pharaoh again refuses to make good his promise. *Cattle deaths.* Yahweh promises to make Pharaoh's cattle die, but none of the cattle of the Hebrews. Still, Pharaoh refuses. *Boils.* Moses throws ashes in the air before Pharaoh, which causes boils on man and beast throughout Egypt. Still, Pharaoh persists. *Hail.* Yahweh sends heavy hail, and only sheltered men and cattle survive. The crops and trees are destroyed by hail and lightning. There is no hail on the Hebrews. Pharaoh promises to release the Hebrews, but when the hail and lightning stop, he changes his mind. Yahweh tells Moses to tell Pharaoh that Yahweh has hardened Pharaoh's heart, so Pharaoh can learn Yahweh's abilities. *Locusts.* Moses promises to bring locusts, so Pharaoh bargains: the men may go worship, but the flocks and women and children stay behind. The locusts come, and Pharaoh relents. Yahweh removes the locusts, but Pharaoh changes his mind. *Darkness.* Moses brings darkness over Egypt, except for the Hebrews, for three days. Pharaoh promises to kill Moses if he sees him again. Yahweh asks the Hebrews to seek silver and gold from neighbors so that when they leave Egypt they will leave with Egyptian wealth. (See Exodus 12:35-36.) *Passover: Death of the First-Born.* Yahweh promises that he will kill the first-born children of the Egyptians and their cattle, except for the Hebrews. Yahweh instructs the people of Israel: this month is the first month of your year. Each household shall sacrifice a one-year old male lamb. Put some of the lamb's blood on the doorposts and lintel of your house, eat all of the lamb roasted with unleavened bread. Eat with your clothes and shoes on, staff in hand, in haste. For Yahweh will pass through Egypt killing the first born, but will pass over houses with blood on their doorways. The day shall be a memorial of the Exodus forever. Eat unleavened bread for seven days and those who eat leaven shall be cut off from Israel. Moses instructs the Hebrews. Israel complies. Yahweh strikes the first-born dead. Egypt mourns, and Pharaoh expels the Hebrews (Exodus 6:14-12:36).

Principle of Redemption. 600,000 of Jacob's descendants leave Egypt, after 430 years in that country. Yahweh watches over Israel, and so the people keep the night of watching forever. Yahweh reiterates the Passover rules: no foreigners shall eat the meal unless circumcised, all the sacrificed lamb must be consumed in one house only, and no one can break the bones of

the lamb. This rule applies to all Israelis and all strangers as well. Yahweh demands consecration of the first-borns, man and beast. Redemption of the first-born sons and asses is possible, if redeemed by sacrifice of a lamb. [This principle takes a fundamental place in Christian soteriology.] Moses prescribes the requirements of the feast of unleavened bread which commemorates Yahweh bringing the people out of the land of Egypt. The historical root of phylacteries is described (Exodus 12:37-13:16).

Sinai.

Red Sea. Yahweh leads Israel toward the Red Sea, not directly toward Canaan, fearing the people would anticipate war and flee back to Egypt. Moses takes Joseph's remains with him. Yahweh leads the people as a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day. Yahweh again hardens Pharaoh's heart so Yahweh can get glory over Pharaoh. Pharaoh pursues the Hebrews with an army. The Israelis fear as Pharaoh's troops drew near, and complain to Moses. Moses encourages the people that Yahweh will fight for them. The pillar of cloud stands between Pharaoh and the Egyptians. Yahweh divides the waters of the Red Sea by a strong east wind, and the Hebrews go through on dry land. Pharaoh pursues with his troops. Yahweh brings the waters back and drowns Pharaoh's army. The Hebrews see the dead Egyptians on the seashore, fear Yahweh, and believe in Yahweh and Moses (Exodus 13:17-14:31). Israel and Moses sing a song: Yahweh is a great man of war; he destroyed the Egyptians; who is like Yahweh among the gods? [Note polytheist backdrop.] The people of Canaan tremble for Israel comes; Yahweh will be pre-eminent forever. The defeat of Pharaoh's army is recapitulated, and Miriam sings to Yahweh (Exodus 15:1-21).

Into Sinai. Moses leads Israel into the Sinai. The water at Marah is not potable; Yahweh gives Moses a stick to purify it (Exodus 15:22-25). Yahweh promises that, if the people obey Yahweh's laws, he will not strike them with the illnesses which he inflicted on the Egyptians. [Note the progression in the terms of Yahweh's covenant with Israel; compare Genesis 12:1-3, with Genesis 26:3-5, with Exodus 15:26 for their increasing emphasis on fidelity to laws, rather than land and descendants.] (Exodus 15:26-27).

Israel Complains. The Hebrews complain about hunger, accusing Moses of dragging them into the wilderness only to starve. Yahweh promises to rain bread on the Hebrews daily, to test their willingness to obey Yahweh's laws. On the sixth day, there will be twice as much to gather, so that the people may rest on the seventh day. Moses tells the people and Aaron instructs them. In the evening quails invade the camp and in the morning edible hoarfrost covers the ground. Every person gathers according to their needs, and what is left spoils by the next morning. When the sixth day arrives, twice as much bread appears, and Yahweh commands them to take a solemn rest. The bread and quail do not spoil on the Sabbath day, though it does so on other days. Some of the people go out to gather on the seventh day. Yahweh castigates them for working on the Sabbath, and commands every man to stay in his place on the Sabbath. Israel calls the daily bread manna. Moses keeps a jar of manna to remind the people of Yahweh's care for them throughout the generations. Israel eats manna for forty years, until they come to the border of Canaan (Exodus 16:1-36). The people move camp, and they lack water. Israel complains to Moses. Yahweh tells Moses to strike a rock at Horeb with the staff he used on Pharaoh, and water will gush. Moses does so, and then criticizes the people for asking if Yahweh is among them. The place is called Meribah (Exodus 17:1-7) [Compare Numbers 10:2-13].

Battle with Amalek. The tribe of Amalek attacks Israel. [Amalekites live in the Negeb of southern Palestine, per Numbers 13:29.] Moses sends Joshua to fight the Amalekites. When Moses holds up his staff, Israel prevails. When the staff falls, Amalek prevails. Aaron and Hur help Moses hold up the staff, and Israel wins. Yahweh promises that war with Amalek will last forever (Exodus 17:8-16).

Jethro's Advice. Moses's father-in-law visits, bringing Zipporah and Moses's two sons. Moses relates all Yahweh has done to Pharaoh and for Israel. They sacrifice to Yahweh. Moses sits judging the disputes of the people from morning to evening. Jethro offers advice: You will wear yourself out. Appoint trustworthy men to decide most cases, and you take the

difficult ones to Yahweh. Moses sets up such an administration of the people. Jethro goes home (Exodus 18:1-27).

Moses on the Mountain (First Version).

Three months after leaving Egypt, Israel crosses the Sinai to the mountain, where they camp. Yahweh appears to Moses, and tells him to tell Israel to keep Yahweh's covenant by obeying his laws. If they do so, Israel will be God's special possession and they will be a sacred kingdom of priests. [Note the continuing drift of the covenant terms.] Moses tells the people. Yahweh will present himself as a cloud on the mountain in three days. Let the people wash their clothes and prepare, but none are to touch the mountain on pain of stoning. Sex is forbidden until the divine encounter. On the third day, Yahweh appears on Mount Sinai in fire and smoke. Moses goes up on the mountain. Yahweh shows some confusion about his previous commands to the people, which he and Moses straighten out. Moses is to bring Aaron back up the mountain with him, after Moses instructs the people.

DECALOGUE (EXODUS VERSION). [Compare Exodus 20:1-17, Leviticus 19:3-18, and Deuteronomy 5:6-21.] God speaks the Decalogue to Moses, ten core rules for attitude and action: worship Yahweh only, no manmade gods, no frivolous oaths, keep the Sabbath, honor parents, avoid murder, avoid adultery, avoid theft, avoid lying about neighbors, avoid envy of the lives of others (Exodus 20:2-17). The people fear, and Moses comforts them. God tells Moses that he has shown himself to the people so that they will not make little gods or fancy altars from which their genitalia can be seen (Exodus 20:1-25).

Ordinances. Further laws are specified concerning: Hebrew slaves and manumission, selling daughters into slavery, penalties for killing men and sanctuaries for murderers, striking parents, death for stealing slaves, death for cursing parents, paying the costs of assault, penalties for injuring slaves, penalty of equal harm for injury to a pregnant woman ("eye for eye"), manumission if owner puts out eye or tooth of his slave, rules for ox goring, open pits, and ox assaults on oxen, penalties for stealing ox or sheep, killing thieves, animal grazing trespass, negligent fire, theft from bailors of personal property, breaches of trust, lost bailed goods, loss of borrowed goods, marriage for seducing virgins, death for sorceresses, death for bestiality, death for worshipping others than Yahweh, death for harming strangers, widows, or orphans, usury and credit security, reviling God, cursing rulers, making tithes, offering the first-born, eating dead flesh, making false reports, collaborating with the wicked, following crowds to do evil, perverting courts of justice, showing partiality to the poor in courts, returning lost or endangered property of enemies, showing partiality to the rich in courts, avoiding bribes, oppressing strangers, fallow fields every seventh year, resting on the seventh day, speaking the names of other gods, keeping the three feasts (unleavened bread, harvest, and planting), no sacrificed blood to be offered with leavened bread, leave no sacrificed fat until morning, offer first-fruits of the fields, and boiling kids in mother's milk (Exodus 21:1-23:19).

Conquering Canaan. Yahweh will send an angel before Israel. If Israel obeys him, then Israel shall take Canaan a little at a time over a period of years as the people grow in number. Israel shall possess land from the Red Sea to Palestine, from the desert to the Euphrates. Israel must drive out the natives before them, and make no agreements with them. Their gods will be a snare to Israel (Exodus 23:20-33). Yahweh invites all the elders of Israel onto the mountain, but only Moses can come near to God (Exodus 24:1-2).

Book of the Covenant. Moses writes down Yahweh's instructions, making a book of the covenant with Yahweh. Moses sets up twelve pillars representing the tribes of Israel. Half the blood of sacrifices is thrown on the altars. Moses reads the book of the covenant to Israel, who swear obedience. Then Moses throws the other half of the sacrificial blood on the people, declaring it to be the blood of the covenant with Yahweh (Exodus 24:2-8).

Moses on the Mountain (Second Version).

Elders on the Mountain. Moses and the seventy elders of Israel go up on the mountain. All see the God of Israel standing on a clear sapphire pavement. Yahweh calls Moses to give him the stone tablets of his laws, written by God. Moses asks the elders to wait for him, and puts Aaron and Hur in charge. Cloud covers Mount Sinai for six days. On the seventh day,

Yahweh calls Moses up. Yahweh manifests as fire atop the mount. Moses is gone forty days (Exodus 24:9-18).

Tabernacle Instructions. Yahweh instructs Moses to seek voluntary contributions of valuables from the people as material for Yahweh's sanctuary. The sanctuary will be called the tabernacle. The tabernacle shall contain an ark holding the law tablets, a table on which sits the bread of the Presence, and a lampstand and snuffers. The inner sanctuary of the tabernacle shall be ten curtains, all set within a larger tent with a wood frame. Inside the inner sanctuary, a veil of fine linen shall segregate the ark and mercy seat from the holy inner sanctuary, and that place shall separate the holy from the most holy place. A wooden screen overlaid in gold shall be the door. The tabernacle shall contain an altar, ash pots, and a grating. The tabernacle shall contain a courtyard with a perpetually-lit lamp, tended by Aaron and his sons forever (Exodus 25:1-27:21).

Aaronic Priesthood. Aaron's male descendants shall be priests to Yahweh. Aaron shall wear holy garments, including a breastpiece, ephod [elaborate linen apron], robe, plate, and coat. Aaron, as high priest, shall bear the divine condemnation of Israel upon his heart. The sons of Aaron shall wear coats, girdles and caps of great beauty, with linen breeches (Exodus 28:1-43). [Consecration: First Version] The protocol for consecrating Aaron and his family is specified: clothe them as instructed, then sacrifice a bull and two rams before the altar. Aaron's costume shall descend to his sons (Exodus 29:1-34). [Consecration: Second Version] A seven-day protocol for consecrating Aaron and his descendants as priests is specified: sacrifice a bull daily for seven days; a lamb shall be offered every morning and every evening forever. Yahweh shall consecrate Aaron and his sons. Yahweh shall dwell with Israel and be their God (Exodus 29:35-46). Aaron shall burn incense morning and evening on the incense altar (Exodus 30:1-10). All of the Hebrews, rich and poor alike, shall pay one-half shekel at the time of census to support the tabernacle, which sum shall be called atonement money. A bronze washing laver shall stand near the altar for priests to wash themselves. Make a unique sacred washing perfume to anoint the tent and its contents and the priests, but for no other purposes. The formula for incense is specified (Exodus 30:11-38). Yahweh appoints Bezalel and Oholiab to make the tabernacle and its contents (Exodus 31:1-11).

Keep the Sabbath. Hebrews who decline to observe the Sabbath shall be put to death. As God rested on the seventh day, so shall the people, so they know that Yahweh makes them holy (Exodus 31:12-17).

Tablets of Law. Yahweh gives Moses two stone tablets on which Yahweh has, with his own finger, written the law (Exodus 31:18).

Golden Calf.

Apostasy. Moses's long stay on the mountain makes the people fearful. They fashion a golden calf and worship it, saying the calf brought them up out of Egypt. Aaron leads this apostasy. Yahweh tells Moses to go down to the people. Yahweh wishes to destroy Israel, but Moses reminds Yahweh of his covenants with Abram, Isaac, and Jacob. So Yahweh relents. Joshua says he hears singing in the camp. When Moses arrives, he is furious. Moses breaks the tablets of the law. He burns the golden calf, grinds it down, mixes it with water, and makes the people drink it. [Compare Deuteronomy 9:16-21.] Moses confronts Aaron, who says the evil in the Hebrews made him fashion the calf. Moses sends the sons of Levi out to kill three thousand men, which they did. Moses blesses the Levites. In the morning, Moses offers to ask Yahweh's forgiveness. Yahweh declines to kill Moses, but promises to settle accounts with those who worshipped the calf. Yahweh sends a plague upon the people (Exodus 32:1-35).

Moses Pleads for the Hebrews. Yahweh sends the people on, but does not go with them. His anger is too great. Israel grieves, and refuses to adorn themselves. Moses pitches the tent of meeting, and Yahweh's presence enters there. Yahweh and Moses speak as a man and his friend, face to face. Moses pleads for Israel. Yahweh agrees to keep faith with the people. Moses asks to see Yahweh. Yahweh says no man can see his face and live. Yahweh hides Moses in a rock cleft and shows Moses his back (Exodus 33:1-23).

Yahweh Renews the Covenant. Moses cuts two new tablets of stone for Yahweh's use. Moses goes up the mountain alone. Yahweh proclaims himself patient and forgiving, but punishing the guilty to the fourth generation among sinners. Moses worships. Yahweh promises to do more marvels in Israel. Yahweh will drive out the tribes of Palestine and give the land to Israel, if only they will make no contracts to coexist with the natives. Tear down their altars. For Yahweh is jealous. Israel shall make no molten gods. Israel shall keep the feast of unleavened bread. First-born belong to Yahweh. Keep the seventh day for rest. Observe the feast of weeks, the wheat harvest, and the feast of in-gathering. All males must appear before Yahweh three times yearly. No leaven shall be offered with sacrifices. Boil no kid in its mother's milk. Offer first fruits of the ground. [Compare Exodus 21:1-23:19.] Moses writes the ten words on the tablets, and comes off the mountain after forty days. [Compare Exodus 31:18.] Moses's face shines from talking with God. The people fear Moses. Moses relates what Yahweh said on the mountain. Moses begins wearing a veil when among the people, except when telling them what Yahweh has said. Moses reiterates the importance of keeping the Sabbath holy for solemn rest. Those who work on the Sabbath shall be killed. One cannot even make a fire on the Sabbath (Exodus 34:1-35:3).

Fabricating the Tabernacle.

Tabernacle. Moses tells the people that Yahweh wants a voluntary offering for materials to build the tabernacle. The people respond generously, so much so that Moses has to tell them to stop. Moses gives Bezalel and Oholiab the task of fabricating the tabernacle, along with others who are moved to do so: curtains, framework, veil, ark, table lampstand, incense altar, anointing oil, burnt-offering altar, washing laver, and court (Exodus 35:4-38:20).

Materials. Moses sums the gold, silver, and bronze employed in the fabrication. The ephod, breastpiece, robe, coats, and Moses's crown are made. The tabernacle is completed. Moses blesses the people (Exodus 38:21-39:43).

Worship. Moses erects the tabernacle, at Yahweh's command. Sacrifices are offered. Yahweh's cloud covers the tent of meeting, and his glory fills the tabernacle. Even Moses cannot enter. When Yahweh's cloud moves on, the people follow it. Otherwise, they stay where the cloud of Yahweh hovers, cloud by day and fire by night (Exodus 40:1-38).

LEVITICUS

Rules Regarding Sacrifices.

Offerings (First Version). A burnt offering of an unblemished male from one's cattle makes atonement for the offeror. Blood of the bull is thrown around and on the altar, cut in pieces in order, the legs and entrails washed and then laid on the altar, and the entirety burned. Similar rules follow for burnt offerings of sheep or goats, and birds. These burnt offerings create an odor pleasing to Yahweh (Leviticus 1:1-17). Flour offerings must be seasoned with salt (unleavened only and without honey). Hebrews must not let the salt of the covenant with their God be absent from cereal offerings. From all, the priests take a memorial portion for themselves, but the best is for Yahweh (Leviticus 2:1-16). Peace offerings may be male or females from the herd. The offeror lays his hands on the animal's head, kills the animal himself at the door of the tent of meeting, and Aaronic priests administer the burning. If a peace offering is sheep or goat, males or females without blemish must be killed by the offeror before the tent of meeting. All fat belongs to Yahweh. Hebrews may not eat fat or blood (Leviticus 3:1-17). Sin offering for the high priest's unwitting sins is a young bull without blemish. The priest burns the fat, kidneys, and a portion of the liver. The remainder shall be burned outside the tent of meeting where the ashes are discarded. If all Israel sins unwittingly, the same process suffices. If a ruler sins unwittingly, a male goat without blemish is brought to the place of burnt offerings, the ruler places his hands on the goat's head, and the animal is sacrificed and its fat burned. If common people sin unwittingly, a female goat or lamb suffices in the same manner. Unwitting sins may proceed from failure to offer testimony when qualified, touching

unclean things, or uttering rash oaths. If too poor to afford a lamb, then the unwitting sinner may offer two turtle doves or pigeons, and if yet more poor, fine flour will suffice (Leviticus 4:1-5:13). Guilt offerings ensue for breach of faith. A ram without blemish and restitution to the person injured, plus twenty percent, atones. The same offering pertains to unwitting failure to follow laws (Leviticus 5:14-19). If one deceives a neighbor about money or property, or steals, or lies about found property, then one must make restitution plus twenty percent and offer a ram (Leviticus 6:1-7).

Offerings (Second Version). The fire of the altar must burn constantly, without lapse. The sacrifices burn all night long. A handful of cereal offerings is burned; the rest is for the males among Aaronic priests. High priests, upon appointment, shall offer fine flour, griddled; it shall be wholly burned. Sin offerings shall be killed before the Lord, then eaten by the priest offering it. The flesh is holy, and whatever touches it is holy [contagion theory of holiness]. Sin offerings differ from atonement offerings. All atonement offerings are burned in their entirety (Leviticus 6:8-30). Guilt offerings and sin offerings have the same rules. Peace offerings for thanksgiving, or just freewill sacrifices, shall be cakes of fine flour mixed with oil. It must all be eaten before the third day; any remainder must be burned. Eating peace offerings on the third day is an abomination. Flesh of peace offerings that touches unclean things may not be eaten. To do so cuts one off from the people (Leviticus 7:1-21). Israel may eat no fat or blood, on pain of exclusion from the people.

Peace Offerings (Third Version). From peace offerings, the priests take the breast and right thigh for themselves, which is their due. So much for the laws governing offerings (Leviticus 7:28-38).

Anointing Aaron and His Sons.

Consecrating Aaron. Moses gathers Israel at the tent of meeting. Moses washes Aaron and his sons with water. On Aaron, Moses puts the ritual garb. Then Moses anoints the tabernacle and its contents with oil, including Aaron. Moses clothes Aaron's sons. The priests lay their hands on the bull of sin offering. Moses kills it and burns the fat and kidneys. The remainder is burned outside the camp. Moses kills the ram of burnt offering, and burns it. Moses kills the ram of ordination. He puts some blood on the tip of Aaron and his sons' right ears. Then Moses burns the fat, kidneys, and right thigh, with a small portion of cereal offerings, after waving them before Yahweh. Moses sprinkles oil and blood on Aaron and his clothes, as well as his sons. Then Moses tells Aaron to boil the offerings and eat them, then burn the remainder. Aaron and his sons are commanded to sit at the door for seven days. On the eighth day, Moses tells Aaron to make sin offering of a bull calf and burnt offering of a ram, and other offerings. Moses addresses the people, saying that Yahweh will appear to them after these offerings. Aaron makes many sacrifices. Aaron blesses the people, then Moses and Aaron bless the people. Yahweh appears and burns the offerings and fat of the altar. Israel falls on their faces (Leviticus 8:1-9:24).

Rules for Priests.

Nadab and Abihu Die. Two priests, Nadab and Abihu, burn incense in a manner not prescribed. Yahweh incinerates them. Moses has relatives of Aaron carry away the charred corpses, and warns the family of Nadab and Abihu not to grieve. Israel may grieve, but not the family (Leviticus 10:1-7).

No Alcohol For Priests. Yahweh forbids Aaron to drink alcohol, and tells him to distinguish the holy from the common and to teach all Israel the difference (Leviticus 10:8-11).

Eating the Priest's Portion. Moses tells Aaron and his family to eat the cereal offering by the fire of Yahweh. The breast wave offerings Aaron's family can eat in any clean place (Leviticus 10:8-15).

Burning What Should Be Eaten. Aaron burns a sin offering, which should have been eaten [per Leviticus 6:24-30]. Moses castigates Aaron, who equivocates, mollifying Moses (Leviticus 10:16-20).

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Ritual Purity Rules.

Pure and Impure Foods. Yahweh tells Israel that the people may eat animals with cloven hooves that chew cud. Take care not to eat camels, rock badgers, rabbits, or swine. Hebrews can eat all seafood with fins and scales; all other sea life is an abomination. Yahweh lists inedible birds and edible insects (Leviticus 11:1-23).

Uncleanness (First Version). Touching or carrying carcasses makes one unclean until sundown. Touching unclean animals makes one unclean. Animals with paws are unclean, as are swarming things (weasels, mice, lizards, geckos, crocodiles, lizards, chameleons). Items that touch the carcasses of unclean animals are unclean. If a pot or other food preparation tool touches an unclean animal, break it and do not use it. Touching unclean or dead unclean animals does not pollute springs or cisterns or dry sowing seed. For wet sowing seed, the result is opposite [note contagion theory of cleanness, with odd exceptions.] (Leviticus 11: 24-38).

Uncleanness (Second Version). Touching or eating the carcass of an edible animal makes one unclean until evening. Swarming things are an abomination, as are animals that go on their bellies, or have many feet. These animals make one unclean. Since Yahweh is Israel's god, Israel must keep itself holy and separate from crawling, swarming things. Israel must be holy as Yahweh is holy. These are the rules of edibility and uncleanness [note contagion theory of holiness] (Leviticus 11:39-45).

Female Uncleanness. Women who bear children are unclean for seven days, as at menstruation. Male children shall be circumcised on the eighth day. Then the woman who bore shall continue purification for thirty-three more days. If she bears a female child, she shall continue purification for sixty-six days. When purified, the mother shall take a lamb for burnt offering and a bird for sin offering to the priest. If poor, two birds suffice. Then she shall be clean (Leviticus 12:1-8).

Leprosy Uncleanness. If a man has skin blemishes and it becomes leprosy, a priest shall examine him to confirm the diagnosis. If uncertain, the person shall be quarantined for seven days and reexamined. If the disease has not spread, then the person shall be quarantined another seven days. If the disease has not spread, then the person shall be declared clean. If the disease spreads, the victim is unclean. If leprosy turns all of a man white, he is clean. But if raw flesh appears, he is unclean. If one has a boil, he is treated as a potential leper, subject to quarantine. If a burn on the skin shows some white, the priest shall treat the person as a potential leper, subject to quarantine. If one has thin yellow hair on head or beard with itchy spots, he is a potential leper, subject to quarantine. Dull white spots on the skin are not leprosy, but tetter [skin diseases such as ringworm, herpes, eczema]. Bald and partially bald men are clean, but if such a person has a reddish-white diseased scalp, he is a leper. Lepers must wear torn clothing, and not cut their hair. They announce their disease, crying "Unclean, unclean." Lepers live outside the camp. Garments may have leprosy as well, showing as green or red in the fabric. Such garments shall be burned. If the priest is uncertain, the garment is subject to rounds of quarantine, as are potential lepers. If leprous, the garment shall be burned. Clean lepers, after priestly examination, make elaborate sacrifices. If too poor for such expense, then less expensive sacrifices are employed. When the people take possession of Canaan, and a house has a disease, a priest shall inspect the house, and if uncertain, the priest shall quarantine the house, as with potential lepers. If it is leprous, the infected parts shall be removed and replaced. If the disease breaks out again, the house shall be destroyed and exported to an unclean place. If declared clean, the householder shall make elaborate sacrifices for the house using bird blood, and he shall release a living bird into the open field to make atonement for the house (Leviticus 13:1-14:57).

Discharge Uncleanness. If a man has bodily discharge, he and whatever he touches are unclean. When the discharge dissipates, he must wait seven days, and then follow a sacrificial regime (Leviticus 15:1-15).

Semen Uncleanness. If a man ejaculates, the semen is unclean, as are the man himself and his sexual partner (Leviticus 15:16-18).

Menstrual Uncleanness. If a woman menstruates, she and all she or her blood touches are unclean. If the discharge continues past normal menstruation, the woman shall remain

unclean. When the discharge is ended, the woman must sacrifice two birds (Leviticus 15:19-30).

Defiling the Tabernacle. Unclean persons or objects may defile the tabernacle, and so must be separated from the people (Leviticus 15:31-33).

Day of Atonement. The author recounts that two of Aaron's sons died in Yahweh's presence. [Compare Leviticus 10:1-3.] Once annually, Aaron shall make a sin and burnt offering for himself and for the tabernacle, then take two goats. One is sacrificed for the sins of the people, the other goat, after Aaron lays his hands on its head and confesses the sins of Israel, is sent into the wilderness to Azazel [an evil spirit or demon]. Then Aaron shall burn the sacrificed animals. Moses does as commanded (Leviticus 16:1-34).

Yahweh's Ordinances.

Priest Rules (First Version). Yahweh tells Moses to instruct Aaron and his sons. One who kills an ox or goat incurs bloodguilt for shedding blood, unless he offers it as a sacrifice at the tabernacle. Such a person shall be cut off. This is to prevent the people from sacrificing to satyrs. No sacrifices shall be tolerated, except those to Yahweh. Blood is for atonement; blood is the life of the flesh. Any person who eats blood shall be cut off. If one eats what dies naturally or is killed by animals, that person shall be unclean until evening if he washes his body (Leviticus 17:1-16).

Forbidden Sexual and Sacrifice Habits of Neighboring Peoples (First Version). Yahweh is Israel's god. Israel shall not follow the rules given in Egypt or in Canaan, but rather Yahweh's rules. No person shall have sex with his father, mother, father's wife, sister, step-sister, niece, step-niece, paternal or maternal aunts, daughter-in-law, or sister-in-law. A man shall not have sex with a mother and her daughter, or that woman's grandchild. A man shall not wed a woman's sister, while the woman lives. No one may have sex during menstruation. One may not have sex with a neighbor's wife. No man shall burn his children as sacrifices to Molech. No male may have sex with a male, nor with beasts. No female may lie with beasts. These are the practices of the people of Canaan. Yahweh makes Canaan vomit out its inhabitants because of their practices. If Israel does as did the inhabitants of Canaan, then the land may vomit out Israel as well [Note this interpretative gloss concerning the Babylonian Exile.] (Leviticus 18:1-30).

DECALOGUE (LEVITICAL VERSION). [Compare Exodus 20:1-17, Leviticus 19:3-18, and Deuteronomy 5:6-21.] Israel must be holy as Yahweh is holy (Leviticus 19:1-2). Revere parents, mind the Sabbaths, make no idols or molten gods. Make peace offerings properly and eat them timely, on pain of exclusion from the people. Do not strip your fields or vineyards at harvest, but leave gleanings for the poor and travelers. Do not steal. Do not defraud. Do not lie. Do not use Yahweh's name to prop up lies. Do not oppress neighbors. Do not steal from neighbors. Pay wages owed promptly. Be kind to the deaf and blind. Judge fairly, without bowing to the rich or favoring the poor. Do not slander people. Do not condemn your neighbors, especially in serious matters. Do not hate your neighbors. Reason with them when you have disputes. Do not take vengeance against Hebrews. Love your neighbor as you love yourself [Note Jesus's use of the Levitical Decalogue and the Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4-10) and Deuteronomy 11:13 several hundred years later at Mark 12:29-31, Matthew 22:34-40, Luke 10:25-28.] (Leviticus 19:3-18).

Further Rules for the People. Do not let cattle breed with other animals. Do not plant two kinds of seed in a field. Do not wear clothing made of two different materials. If a man has sex with a betrothed slave, he shall bring a ram as a guilt offering to the tabernacle. When planting fruit trees, eat no fruit from the new trees until the fourth year. Do not eat flesh with blood in it. Do not foretell the future or cast spells. Do not round the hair at your temples or trim your beard. No ritual cutting. No tattoos. Do not let your daughter become a prostitute. Keep the Sabbaths. Respect the tabernacle. Do not seek people who speak with the dead or do magic. Honor old people. Take no advantage of foreigners; treat them as natives, who are due love like that you have for yourself. Remember, you were once foreigners in Egypt. Do not defraud customers. Make your balances just (Leviticus 19:1-18).

Forbidden Sexual and Sacrifice Habits of Neighboring Peoples (Second Version). Yahweh commands that any Hebrew or his visitor sacrificing a child to Molech shall be stoned to death. Hebrews who comfort such a man shall themselves be cut off. Employ no mediums or wizards, on pain of exclusion. Hebrews must be set apart for Yahweh by observing Yahweh's statutes. Do not curse your parents on pain of death. Fornicators shall be stoned to death, as shall the man who has sex with his father's wife. The death penalty also applies to sex with a man's daughter-in-law (which is incest), sex with males, sex with mothers and their daughters, sex with animals (death for all, including the animal). Sex with these persons results in exclusion from the people: sisters, step-sisters, menstruating women, aunts, near kin, uncle's wives. Men who have sex with a brother's wife shall be childless. [Compare Genesis 38:8-10.] Do not follow the customs of the people Yahweh drives out before Israel. Israel must be holy as Yahweh is holy. Stone wizards and mediums to death (Leviticus 19:19-20:27).

Priest Rules (Second Version). Yahweh instructs Moses to teach the priests. Priests must not have contact with the dead, except for near kin. Priests must not cut their hair or beards or make ritual cuts in their skin. Priests shall not marry prostitutes or divorced women. If a daughter of a priest becomes a prostitute, she must be burned. The high priest must bind his hair, avoid all dead bodies, even his own parents, and never leave the sanctuary [Note that this would not be possible were the tabernacle the sanctuary to which the text refers.] The high priest's wife must be a virgin. No blemished priest, such as the blind or lame, men with injured feet or hands, hunchbacks, dwarves, or men with poor eyesight, itching diseases, or crushed testicles, may serve. Such a person may remain a priest, but may not approach the inner sanctuary or altar. Priests must stay away from the people's sacrifices if the priests are not themselves ritually pure. The ritual cleanness rules are reiterated; no contact with bodily fluid discharge, dead flesh, semen, creeping things, animals that die naturally or by predation. [Compare Leviticus 11:1-45.] Foreigners shall not eat sacrifices, but members of a priest's household may eat. Daughters married to outsiders may not eat of sacrifices, unless widowed or divorced. If one eats unwittingly of sacrifices, he must add twenty percent and give it to Yahweh. (Leviticus 20:28-22:16).

Offerings (Third Version). Burnt offerings from Hebrews or foreigners shall be without blemish. No blind, disabled, mutilated, or sick animals with sores shall be accepted. Bulls and lambs with long or short parts may be offered, but only for freewill offerings, never as votive offerings. Animals with crushed testicles or tears or cuts shall not be offered in the land, especially if purchased from foreigners. No newborn animals shall be sacrificed until eight days old. No mother and her newborn offspring shall be sacrificed on the same day. Thanksgiving sacrifices must be eaten the same day. These are Yahweh's commandments (Leviticus 22:17-31).

Ritual Feasts. Keep the Sabbath every seventh day, free from work. These are ritual feasts: passover, unleavened bread, first fruits of harvest (weeks) (when you harvest, do not strip the fields, but leave gleanings for the poor and stranger) [Compare Leviticus 19:9-10], trumpets, day of atonement (on which no work may be done), and booths (Leviticus 23:1-44).

Tabernacle Lamp. Pure olive oil shall be burned in a gold censer perpetually before the inner sanctuary. Each Sabbath, twelve flour cakes must be offered on the pure gold table (Leviticus 24:1-9).

Blasphemy. A Hebrew woman's son by an Egyptian father blasphemes the Name (Yahweh). Yahweh commands that the man be stoned by the gathered people, as shall any person who blasphemes the Name. The people stone the blasphemer to death (Leviticus 24:10-16, 23).

Yahweh's Ordinances. [Compare Exodus 21:1-23:19.] Murderers shall be executed. One who kills an animal shall compensate its owner or suffer commensurate loss. If one injures another, the injury shall be reproduced in the perpetrator ("fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth"). All laws apply to the foreigner and native alike (Leviticus 24:17-22).

Land Sabbath. Keep the Sabbath in Canaan. Leave fields and vineyards fallow each seventh year; do not harvest even what grows without tending. The "Sabbath of the land" shall feed you. [Meaning?] *Jubilee.* Each fiftieth year is sacred. All Hebrews return to their familial

lands and families. Nothing shall be sown or reaped. All may eat of the fields without tending (Leviticus 25:1-7).

Jubilee Reversions. All sold land reverts to sellers in Jubilee year. In land sales, prices are prorated by years-remaining to Jubilee. Do not worry about eating during land Sabbath years. Yahweh will make the land produce more before the Sabbath year. Land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for Israel wanders with Yahweh. Families should redeem their members' parcels, but if they cannot, all should revert in Jubilee years. Redemption applies only for one year, and Jubilee does not apply to house in walled cities. Levites (priests) may redeem at any time, regardless of other rules, and Jubilee always applies to Levitical families, even their houses in walled cities. Levitical fields may not be sold. [Compare Numbers 18:8-20.] If a brother becomes poor, he may live with your family. Do not lend at interest, nor sell him food. No Hebrew shall make a slave of another Hebrew, but shall treat him as hired help until Jubilee. Do not treat your employees harshly. Hebrews may hold slaves from among non-Hebrews. A Hebrew who sells himself into slavery to a non-Hebrew shall be redeemed by his family (Leviticus 25:8-55).

Obedience and Disobedience. If Israel worships other gods, Israel disrespects Yahweh. If Israel obeys Yahweh, then Yahweh will insure Israel's prosperity and peace. Israel will be unstoppable militarily, and have a growing population. Yahweh will dwell with the people and not hate them. Remember, Yahweh freed Israel from Egypt (Leviticus 26:1-13).

If Israel disobeys Yahweh, Yahweh will bring sickness and military defeat, give outsiders rule over Israel, break Israel's pride, and cause Israel's labors to be fruitless. Wild animals will kill your children and cattle. Israel shall eat her children, and her idols and hillside altars shall be destroyed. Yahweh shall destroy Israel's cities, and blow Israel's incense from his nostrils. Yahweh will devastate Canaan, and Israel will be scattered to enemy lands. Israel shall pine away because of her sins (Leviticus 26:14-39).

If Israel confesses her faithlessness and disobedience, Israel's uncircumcised heart, then Yahweh will forgive and remember his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Even in foreign lands, Yahweh does not forget Israel or utterly destroy the people (Leviticus 26:40-46).

Value of Vows. Values for persons are set. When a man makes an offering, no substitutions are permitted. Dedications of houses may be redeemed, at a premium. Redemptions of dedications of land shall be computed in relation to the time remaining to Jubilee. No firstborn animals can be dedicated; all belong to Yahweh already. Things or animals or persons devoted to Yahweh cannot be redeemed; all are most holy. Men devoted to Yahweh must be killed [Does Leviticus 27:29 contemplate human sacrifice?] (Leviticus 27: 1-29).

Tithe. The tithe (ten percent) of the land and fruit trees belongs to Yahweh. This property can be redeemed from Yahweh's claim upon it for a twenty percent premium. These are Yahweh's commandments (Leviticus 27:1-34).

NUMBERS

Sinai Census and Mustering. Yahweh commands Moses to count Israel's men by families and tribes for a military draft. Moses numbers the fighting men in Sinai by tribe, some 603,550 men. Priests are not numbered, for they are charged with care of the tabernacle (Numbers 1:1-54). The fighting men of Israel muster around the tent of meeting, three tribes on each side (Numbers 2:1-34).

Priest Rules.

Call of the Levites. Aaron and his sons shall be priests of Israel. Sons Nadab and Abihu died with they offered unholy fire before Yahweh [compare Leviticus 10:1-7]. Yahweh tells Moses to bring the tribe of Levi near with Aaron. The Levites shall be priests for Israel and perform duties at the tabernacle under Aaron's supervision. Yahweh says he has taken the Levites instead of Israel's first born sons and beasts [compare Exodus 12:1-13:16].

Levitical Census. Yahweh tells Moses to number the Levites by families: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. The Levites numbered 22,000 (Numbers 3:1-39).

First Born Census. Yahweh commands a census of Israel's first born sons, who were 22,273 in number. Yahweh takes the Levites in their stead. For the 273 exceeding the 22,000, each must pay five shekels per head, which sum shall be given to Aaron and his sons (Numbers 3:40-51).

Tabernacle Transportation Duties of Levite Families. The Kohath Levites are to disassemble the tabernacle and carry the inner sanctuary property when Israel moves. Eleazar is to take charge of the oil for the tabernacle lamp, and supervise the tabernacle and its contents. Yahweh commands that the Kohathites are to be protected from dying in their service of the tabernacle. The Gershon Levites shall disassemble the curtains of the tabernacle and carry them. The Merari Levites shall disassemble and carry the frame of the tabernacle. The Kohathites were 2,750 in number. The Gershonites were 2,630 in number. The Merarites were 3,200 in number. In total, the number of men thirty to fifty, who could do the work of the tabernacle, were 8,580 (Numbers 4:1-49).

Yahweh's Ordinances.

Excluding Lepers. All lepers and persons with skin discharges and those who have had contact with dead bodies shall be put out of the camp (Numbers 5:1-4).

Civil Wrongs. When a person sins against Yahweh, he shall confess and make restitution plus twenty percent to his victim. If no kinsman survives to receive the restitution, then the restitution shall be paid to the priests (Numbers 5:5-10).

Jealousy and Fornicating Wives. If a man is jealous believing, rightly or wrongly, that his wife has fornicated, he shall offer a cereal offering for jealousy. The accused woman shall come to the priests, who shall put dust in water, put her hands in the water, make the woman swear an oath, write the oath and wash the letters into the water, and then make her drink the water. If she lies and has fornicated, the water of bitterness will cause her thigh to wither and body to swell. If she did not fornicate, she shall escape pain and bear children (Numbers 5:11-31).

Nazirite Vows. Nazirite vows require the person to separate for Yahweh, avoiding alcohol and grapes. No hair cutting or going near dead bodies (even close family members). If a person dies suddenly beside a Nazirite, the Nazirite must shave his head, and make appropriate sacrifices, which are specified. Upon completion of the term of the Nazirite's vow, he shall make sacrifices and shave his head at the door of the tent of meeting and burn the hair in the fire of the sacrifices. Then the Nazirite may drink wine (Numbers 6:1-23).

Establishing Tabernacle Worship. [Compare Exodus 35:4 – 40:38].

Aaron's Blessing for the People. The [famous] Aaronic blessing is stated (Numbers 6:24-27).

Dedication of the Tabernacle. When the tabernacle is finished, the tribes make offerings to dedicate it. Each tribe makes its offering on one specific day, Judah being first, for twelve days. When the dedication is complete, Moses enters the inner sanctuary, and Yahweh speaks from above the mercy seat on the ark (Numbers 7:1-89).

Setting Up the Tabernacle. Yahweh instructs Aaron to set up the lamps. Yahweh instructs Aaron to cleanse the Levites and offer the Levites as a wave offering to Yahweh, sacrificing one bull as a sin offering and another as a burnt offering to make atonement for their sins. Yahweh takes the Levites in the place of the first-born of Israel. Levites are to serve from twenty-five years of age until fifty years of age. [Compare the thirty to fifty year service requirement of Numbers 4.] (Numbers 8:1-26).

Passover.

Uncleanness During Passover. Yahweh commands Israel to observe Passover. Some men were unclean from touching bodies and the priests would not let them participate in Passover. Yahweh tells even the unclean or those traveling in foreign lands to keep the Passover. If a Hebrew fails to keep Passover, he shall be cut off. Even willing foreigners should observe Passover (Numbers 9:1-14).

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Israel Moves.

Divine Presence at the Tabernacle. Yahweh covers the tabernacle in cloud by day and fire by night. When the cloud and fire move, Israel sets out (Numbers 9:15-23).

Trumpets. Yahweh tells Moses to make two silver trumpets to summon the people and to alert them to break camp and to announce that Israel comes to an enemy to war. The trumpets are also blown on feast days (Numbers 10:1-10).

To Paran. Yahweh's cloud moves and Israel follows it north to the wilderness of Paran. Moses's brother-in-law wants to return to Midian, but Moses encourages him to stay. Israel travels three days north, following Yahweh's cloud. Moses prays for Israel's enemies to be scattered, and for Yahweh to persevere with Israel (Numbers 10:11-36).

Israel's Rebellions.

Meat for Israel. Israel grumbles about life's difficulties and Yahweh angers, burning some outlying portions of the camp. Moses intercedes and Yahweh relents. Israel complains about the boredom of the daily manna, demanding meat and vegetables. Yahweh angers greatly, and Moses is unhappy with Yahweh's fickleness. Moses complains that Yahweh should remember his promise; if Yahweh will not relent, Moses asks that Yahweh kill him. Yahweh commands Moses to assemble seventy men who are elders, upon whom Yahweh will put some of Moses's spirit. [Compare Exodus 18:13-26.] Yahweh promises that on the morrow, Israel will eat meat for a month until meat becomes irksome. Moses asks how Yahweh intends to provide so much meat. Yahweh tells Moses to watch and see. Yahweh puts spirit in seventy elders by speaking with them. These elders prophesy, but only this one time. Two of the seventy prophesy among the people. Joshua, son of Nun, asks Moses to forbid it, fearing for Moses's authority. Moses chastises Joshua, saying he wishes all the people were prophets with Yahweh's spirit. Yahweh sends a wind off the sea, and quails in great numbers descend on the camp. Yahweh angers and sends a plague upon the people (Numbers 11:1-35).

In-House Rebellion. Miriam and Aaron dispute Moses's authority because Moses married outside Israel. Moses is the most shy man on the earth. Yahweh confronts Miriam and Aaron, saying he speaks with prophets in dark speech, but with Moses mouth to mouth. Yahweh afflicts Miriam with leprosy. Moses intercedes on Miriam's behalf, but Yahweh insists she be quarantined outside the camp for seven days. Then Miriam returns (Numbers 12:1-16).

Rebellion at the Report of Spies. Moses sends spies into Canaan to gain intelligence about their strength and the quality of their land and crops. One spy goes from each tribe. The spies, after forty days, return with fruit, and report that the land is rich, but the people well-fortified. The spies are divided about whether Israel can conquer the land. Caleb believes they can prevail. The majority report represents the people of Canaan as evil giants. The people complain about Moses that Yahweh brought them out into the wilderness only to die in the end. They choose a captain to lead them back to Egypt. Caleb and Joshua contradict the spies' majority report, telling the people that the land is good and the inhabitants will fall before Yahweh. The people, however, move to stone Joshua and Caleb. Yahweh intervenes to kill the faithless people and make of Moses a great nation. Moses objects that the Egyptians will deride Yahweh if he kills the people. Moses asks Yahweh to forgive in steadfast love. Yahweh relents of his intent to destroy Israel, but refuses to let those who rebel enter the promised land. Israel shall wander in the Sinai another forty years, so this generation dies out. Yahweh instructs Moses to return to the wilderness near the Red Sea. Yahweh kills by plague the spies who spoke against Israel's conquest of the land. Only Joshua and Caleb remain (Numbers 13:1-14:38).

Rebellion at Punishment of Wandering. The people take it upon themselves, without Yahweh or Moses, to attack the Amalekites and Canaanites. Israel is routed (Numbers 14:39-45).

Interlude Pertaining to Offering Laws. Free will and feast offerings are specified. Vow and peace offerings are specified (Numbers 15:1-10). Yahweh's law shall pertain to all in the land, including the strangers and travelers. One law for all (Numbers 15:11-16). Offerings for eating meals are specified. Unwitting errors in following these sacrificial laws, either by the people or by individuals, are atoned by sacrifices, which are specified. But for the

person who sins willfully, no remediation is possible; he shall be cut off from the people (Numbers 15:17-31).

Ignoring the Sabbath. A man gathers sticks on the Sabbath. Yahweh commands that the sinner be stoned, which the congregation does (Numbers 15:32-36).

Garment Corner Tassels. Yahweh commands that Israel wear tassels with blue cords on the corners of their garments to help them remember Yahweh's commandments (Numbers 15:37-40).

Korah's Rebellion. 250 leaders, lead by Korah the Levite, challenge Moses and Aaron about their presumption of leadership, since all Israel is holy. Many among the rebels are not of the priestly tribe of Levi. Moses puts a challenge. Let Yahweh choose. All the rebels shall burn incense to Yahweh in the morning. Moses negotiates with various leaders, to no avail. They allege Moses brought them into the wilderness to kill them and has not made good his promise of a land of milk and honey. Aaron and all the 250 bring their incense censers to the tabernacle. Yahweh decides to destroy the entire people. Moses intercedes, asking Yahweh why he will condemn all for the sins of the few. Yahweh relents. Moses warns the people away from the rebel leaders. Yahweh splits the ground beneath the rebel leaders and their families, who all go to Sheol alive. The remainder of the 250, Yahweh burns to death. Moses gathers the censers of the rebels, beats them into plates, and covers the altar with them, as a reminder to the people of the cost of rebellion. The next morning, the people complain that Moses killed Hebrews. Yahweh moves to wipe out the people by plague. Moses intercedes as the plague commences. Aaron takes incense into the midst of the people and stands between the well and the sick. The plague stops, but only after 14,700 died (Numbers 16:1-50).

Aaron's Rod. Yahweh tells Moses to gather a rod from each tribe and put them in the tabernacle. In the morning, Aaron's rod has blossomed and borne almonds. Aaron's rod becomes part of the tabernacle paraphernalia. The Hebrews murmur, fearing Yahweh (Numbers 17:1-13).

Priest Rules. [Compare Leviticus 7:28-36.]

Aaron's Charge. Yahweh tells Aaron that he and his tribe bear the sins of Israel by being priests. Only Aaron may enter the inner sanctuary. Any others shall die (Numbers 18:1-7).

Levitical Share (First Version). Yahweh gives Aaron and the Levites whatever is not burned in sacrificial ceremonies. All the firstborn, which belong to Yahweh wholly, shall be redeemed for a fixed fee, and the Levites shall possess those monetary redemptions. The Levites shall have no lands, but only the service of Yahweh, as their inheritance [compare Leviticus 25:32-33] (Numbers 18:8-20).

Levitical Share (Second Version). [Compare Leviticus 27:30-33.] The Levites shall receive a tithe from the people which shall be their inheritance. From this tithe, the priests must tithe, a tenth of the tenth, to Yahweh as an offering, always and only the best part of what the Levites receive (Numbers 18:21-32).

Yahweh's Ordinances.

Water for Impurity. Yahweh commands a priest to burn a red heifer outside the camp. The heifer's ashes shall be gathered and retained outside the camp. When mixed with water, these become the water for impurity for removing sin (Numbers 19: 1-10).

Contact with the Dead. When a man touches a dead body, he becomes unclean and must be washed with water for impurity, then remain outside the camp for seven days, lest he pollute the tabernacle. If one enters a tent where a dead person lies, he becomes unclean. The water for impurity must cleanse him and the tent and its furnishings. If one touches a dead person in the open or a grave, he becomes unclean and must wash in the water for impurity. If a person declines to wash in the water for impurity after contacting dead flesh, he shall be cut off from the people (Numbers 19:11-21).

Spread of Uncleanness. What an unclean person touches becomes unclean [note contagion theory of holiness] (Numbers 19:22).

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Events in Sinai.

Miriam's Death. Israel moves to the wilderness of Zin (southeast of Dead Sea). Miriam dies and is buried there (Numbers 20:1).

Water from Rock. Israel lacks water, and complains to Moses about lack food as well. Yahweh tells Moses to strike a rock twice with his rod. The water serves Israel's needs, and their cattle too. The waters are called Meribah (Numbers 20:2-13) [Compare Exodus 17: 2-7].

Moses and Aaron Punished. Yahweh tells Moses and Aaron that they shall not lead the people into Canaan (Numbers 20:12).

No Safe Passage Through Edom. Moses seeks safe passage through Edom, but is denied. The king of Edom brings out a large army, and Israel withdraws (Numbers 20: 14-21).

Aaron Dies. Yahweh decides that Aaron shall die for his part in Israel's faithlessness at Meribah. Moses takes Aaron up on Mount Hor, near Edom, strips the high priest garments from him and puts them on his son Eleazar, and Aaron dies. Israel mourns for thirty days (Numbers 20:22-29).

Beginning of the Conquest of Canaan.

Battle with Arad. In the Negeb [southern Palestine, southwest of Dead Sea], the king of Arad fights Israel and takes captives. Israel turns to Yahweh, who gives Arad to Israel. Israel destroys Arad's cities (Numbers 21:1-3).

Fiery Serpents. The people seek to travel around Edom, but grow impatient. They complain of lack of food and water. Yahweh sends fiery serpents to bite the people. Many die. Moses intercedes, and makes a bronze serpent. Everyone bitten by serpents who sees the bronze serpent lives (Numbers 21:4-9).

Traveling North. Israel travels north on the east side of Edom and Moab [Moab lies on the eastern shore of the Dead Sea and Edom immediately south of Moab]. The writer cites to the Book of the Wars of the Lord, and a song of the people (Numbers 21:10-20).

War with the Amorites and Neighbors. Israel seeks safe passage through Amor. King Sihon declines, and brings an army against Israel. Israel prevails and settles in the cities of Amor. The writer quotes a ballad sung of the Amorite's earlier victory over Moab. Spies reconnoiter Jazer, which Israel invades and ejects the Amorites there. Then Israel kills all the people of Bashan and takes their lands (Numbers 21:21-35).

Balaam's Ass. Israel camps east of Moab. Balak, king of Moab, fears, and sends for the wizard Balaam to curse Israel. Yahweh intervenes and tells Balaam to remain in his home, for Yahweh blesses Israel. Balak sends more princes. Yahweh speaks again to Balaam, letting him go, but only to do Yahweh's bidding. Then Yahweh angers because Balaam is going to the Moabites. An angel blocks his way, as Balaam rides on his ass. Balaam beats the ass in an attempt to get it to go around the fearsome angel. Yahweh speaks from the ass's mouth, asking why Balaam is beating the ass. Balaam answers. Yahweh reveals himself to Balaam in the angel. Yahweh permits Balaam to continue, but warns Balaam to do only what Yahweh commands. Balak sacrifices. Balaam asks for seven altars with seven bulls and seven rams to be provided. Balaam sacrifices, and Yahweh meets him on a low hill. Yahweh sends Balaam to bless Israel before Balak. Balak objects, and takes Balaam to another hill, offers another round of seven sacrifices. Yahweh comes to Balaam again, sending him back to sing a song to Balak extolling the power of Yahweh and prowess of Israel, who shall prevail. Balak urges Balaam to neither curse nor bless Israel. Balaam refuses. Yahweh has spoken. Balak is unsatisfied. He takes Balaam to a third hilltop, sacrifices on another seven altars. The spirit of god comes upon Balak, who again blesses Israel. Balak releases Balaam, disappointed. Balaam speaks one last time, telling him that a man from Jacob's tribe shall rule and crush Moab, Edom, and Amalek. Balaam and Balak go to their homes (Numbers 22:1-24:25).

Israel's Baal Apostasy. Being close to Moab, Israel begins sacrificing to Baal. [Balaam, of Numbers 22, is blamed for this event at Numbers 31:16.] Yahweh angers, ordering Moses to hang all of Israel's chiefs and slay all those who have worshipped Baal. 24,000 people are executed. One Hebrew, Zimri, marries a Midianite woman, Cozbi, and brings her to the camp. Phinehas drives a spear through both of them. Yahweh's plague is stopped, and

Yahweh praises Phinehas. Yahweh sends Israelites to harass Midian, because they tempted Israel with Baal and with Cozbi (Numbers 25:1-18).

Moab Census of the People. [Compare Numbers 1:1-54.] Moses numbers the people by tribe. Their aggregate population numbers 601,730 (Numbers 26:1-51). Yahweh instructs that the land of Canaan is to be divided by lot, but larger tribes will get larger portions. The Levites are numbered at 23,000. At this time, none remain among the people of those who were numbered during the census taken in the Sinai, except Caleb and Joshua.

Daughters of Zelophehad Plead. The five daughters of Zelophehad, whose father died in the wilderness for his sins, seek a share of land. Yahweh agrees with these daughters, and orders a non-patrilineal inheritance scheme that passes land down the bloodline, even through daughters when no son exists (Numbers 27:1-11) [Note Numbers 36:1-12, in which the men of Manasseh complain about Yahweh's decision regarding the daughters of Zelophehad].

Moses's Death Foretold. Yahweh tells Moses to view Canaan from the mountain of Abarim, for he will die before Israel enters the land, as did Aaron (Numbers 27:12-14).

Joshua to Succeed Moses. Moses asks Yahweh to select his successor, so Israel shall not be as "sheep without a shepherd." Yahweh chooses Joshua, and tells Moses to pass his power to Joshua before all Israel (Numbers 27:12-23).

Ritual Rules.

Offerings at Ritual Feasts. [Compare Leviticus 23:1-44.] Yahweh commands Israel to make its food offerings, which are a pleasant smell to Yahweh, at the appropriate times. Two lambs must be burned daily, morning and evening, with a cereal offering and alcohol. On Sabbaths, offer two lambs. At the first of each month, greater sacrifices (all specified) are required. At Passover, the sacrifices are specified. At first fruits, the sacrifices are specified. At trumpets, there shall be no work; the sacrifices are specified for each of the three convocations, and the eight days following the mid-month convocation. These sacrifices are in addition to the usual freewill, burnt, cereal, drink, and peace offerings (Numbers 28:1-29:40).

Vows. Vows of men shall be honored. Vows of women shall be honored if their fathers approve or fail to object. If a woman's father disapproves her vow, the vow shall not be honored. If a woman is married, her husband must approve her vows or fail to object for them to be honored. If divorced or widowed, a woman's vows shall be honored (Numbers 30:1-16).

War with Midian.

Call to War. Yahweh sends 12,000 men of Israel to war with Midian. Israel killed all the males of Midian, including Balaam. Israel took the women and children captive, took the possessions as booty, and burned their towns to the ground. Moses angers, because the men have not killed all the male children and wives. Only the young virgins can become booty. The warriors must encamp outside for seven days to purify themselves, because they have touched dead bodies (Numbers 31:1-20).

Dividing Midianite Booty. Eleazar the high priest commands that from the Midianite possessions, only those which remain after being burned and being washed in the water of impurity can be retained. Moses instructs that the soldiers keep one half of the booty, and the other half must be distributed generally among the people. From the soldiers' share of booty, two tenths of one percent of all the booty belongs to Yahweh and must be given to Eleazar the high priest. From the people's share of booty, two percent shall belong to the Levites at the tabernacle. The spoils from the Midian campaign are enumerated for the soldiers' and people's shares: sheep, cattle, asses, virgins. The Israeli commanders count their soldiers. Not one Israeli has died in the battle. The soldiers give all the gold and jewelry to Yahweh to atone for themselves. This too is enumerated (Numbers 31:21-54).

Lands East of Jordan River. The tribes of Reuben and Gad seek to possess the conquered lands east of the Jordan. Moses complains to them that their desire will discourage Israel from its battles. Yahweh may dispossess them as did Yahweh with those who sinned in Sinai. Reuben and Gad promise that every fighting man will go up with Israel to fight until all

have received lands in Canaan. Gad and Reuben promise before Yahweh and the assembled congregation to do as they have promised. And these tribes, including Manasseh, take possession of these lands and built cities (Numbers 32:1-42).

Stages of Travel.

Starting Places. The starting places for the sojourn of Israel in coming to Canaan are named, along with core events in the travel (Numbers 33:1-49).

Rules for Invasion.

Scorched Earth Policy. Yahweh commands that Israel must drive out all inhabitants of Canaan, and destroy their stone and molten gods and their high places. The people shall inherit by lot, small lands to small tribes, large lands to large tribes. Yahweh warns about leaving any of the natives in the land, for they will spell trouble down the road (Numbers 33:50-56).

The Extent and Division of the Land. The boundaries of the Israeli conquests are detailed, south, west, north and east. Moses authorizes Eleazar and Joshua to divide the land among the remaining tribes of Israel, with the help of one man from each tribe, who is named (Numbers 34:1-29).

Levitical Cities of Refuge (First Version). The people are to give the Levites cities and pasture lands surrounding those cities. The size of the pastures is specified. Six of these forty-eight cities shall be refuges where manslayers may flee. The Levitical cities shall be apportioned fairly among the tribes according to the size of their lands [Compare Numbers 18:8-20.] (Numbers 35:1-8).

Levitical Cities of Refuge (Second Version). Yahweh commands Moses to tell the people to select six cities as cities of refuge for manslayers (people who kill humans without intent to do so), where they may live without fear of avenging relatives. Murderers slay with intent, using iron or wood or stone tools. Murderers shall be executed by the person who avenges on the part of the dead person's family. Those who kill by any means to vent hatred, or by ambush are murderers. Execute them. If a person kills without hatred or ambush, by negligence without seeking harm to the victim, then the people may send the slayer to the city of refuge, and so long as the slayer stays in that city, the avenger shall not attack. The slayer must remain in the city of refuge as long as the high priest lives. If the slayer is found outside the city of refuge, the avenger may kill him without guilt. Murderers shall be executed, but only on the testimony of more than one witness. No ransom is acceptable; murderers must be executed. The blood of murder victims pollutes the land. It can be cleaned only by the shed blood of the murderer himself. To do less defiles the land (Numbers 35:9-34).

Marriage Rules for Inheriting Daughters. The heads of families in Manasseh's tribe complain about the decision that daughters of Zelophehad may inherit where no son intervenes. This scheme will transfer tribal land from one tribe to another as the daughters marry. Moses agrees, and orders that inheriting daughters shall marry only within their tribe. A tribe's land must remain with the tribe forever. The daughters of Zelophehad comply, marrying from among Manasseh's men. Thus Yahweh commands the people through Moses on the plains of Moab (Numbers 36: 1-13).

DEUTERONOMY

[Note that Deuteronomy is a long sermon on Yahweh's law. The purpose of Deuteronomy is to explain the law (Deuteronomy 1:5), which implies an unstated reservation about the renditions contained in previous four books of the Torah. Priests in Babylonian captivity rhapsodize Yahweh and the saving effect of precise obedience to the rules of the one god.]

Moses Explains the Law.

Recounting Israel's History from mid-Sinai to the Plains of Moab. From the plains of Moab, where the people are ready to invade Canaan, Moses explains the law: Yahweh sent the people from Mount Horeb, where Yahweh delivered the law, toward Canaan. All the land from Horeb to the Euphrates was promised to Israel. Moses created an administration, with

judges and subjudges. Moses commanded the judges to decide impartially, and to bring hard cases to Moses. The people left Mount Horeb for Canaan. Moses sent in spies, who discouraged the people from invading. Yahweh forbade this generation from entering the land, and wandering commenced. Only Caleb and Joshua shall remain when the people enter the land. Joshua shall be apprenticed to Moses, and shall lead after Moses. The people took it upon themselves to fight the Amorites, who crushed Israel. Israel licked her wounds at Kadesh for a long while. Israel traveled through the land of Esau's descendants without incident. When all the rebellious generation had perished, Moses moved the people toward Canaan by way of Moab, through which they passed peacefully [Compare Numbers 20:14-21:20.] Yahweh sent Israel against Sihon the Amorite, and Israel utterly destroyed him, killing every man, woman, and child, and burning every city. Only the cattle were taken and city booty. Og, the king of Bashan, fought Israel, and they did to him as they had to Sihon, taking sixty cities. Moses gave the trans-Jordanian lands to Reuben, Dan, and the half-tribe of Manasseh, upon solemn promise that these tribes would fight until all Canaan was taken for Israel. Yahweh forbade Moses from entering the land, because of the cowering of the people in Sinai after the report of the spies. Moses saw Canaan from Mount Pisgah. Yahweh promoted Joshua as Moses's successor (Deuteronomy 1:1-3:29).

Prologue to the Law. [Note this section contains the rationale for the Torah, especially Deuteronomy. The people have been defeated and deported and scattered in disarray. If only they will cleave to Yahweh, they will be restored from Babylon.] Moses commands the people to heed the law, neither taking from nor adding to it, so they may survive conquest of Canaan. Moses reminds the people of the decimation at Peor when they worshipped Baal. Keep the ordinances, for Yahweh is near to Israel. Be diligent, and teach them to your children, how Yahweh delivered the law to Moses at Horeb, writing the ten words on stone tablets. Make no images of God to worship; Yahweh has no form. Do not worship heavenly objects. Sun, moon, and stars are for all people, but Yahweh has chosen Israel specifically. Yahweh angered with Moses because of the sin of the people, and will not let Moses into Canaan. Do not forget Yahweh's covenant by making little gods. Yahweh is jealous. If you provoke Yahweh to anger, you will disappear from Canaan and be destroyed. Yahweh will scatter you among other peoples and kill many of you. You will worship gods of wood and stone. But from that distant place, you will turn again to Yahweh, if you seek him with all your soul, and obey Yahweh again. For Yahweh will forgive and remember his covenant with the patriarchs. No god is like Yahweh, traveling with the people, rescuing them from within the Egyptian nation. You must know that there is no god like Yahweh; there is, in fact, no other god. [Note these first statements of intellectually-consistent monotheism.] Yahweh disciplined Israel to bring them out of Egypt and drive the inhabitants of Canaan out before Israel. [Note the lapse of story-telling perspective here. The conquest of the land is completed, though the narrative stands with Moses speaking pre-conquest from the plains of Moab.] Yahweh rules heaven and earth; there are no other gods. Israel shall obey him (Deuteronomy 4:1-40).

Cities of Refuge. Moses designates three trans-Jordanian cities as cities of refuge for manslayers (Deuteronomy 4:41-43).

DECALOGUE (DEUTERONOMIC VERSION). [Compare Exodus 20:1-17, Leviticus 19:3-18, and Deuteronomy 5:6-21.] These are the laws that Moses delivers in the trans-Jordan land of the Amorites (Deuteronomy 4:44-49). Yahweh made a covenant with Israel at Mount Horeb, which pertains to the people assembled today as much as to Israel at Sinai. Yahweh speaks directly to the congregation of Israel, with Moses mediating. Yahweh commands: worship no other gods, make no objects to worship because Yahweh is jealous and shows you steadfast love (*chesed*), do not hide your lies by using Yahweh's name, keep the Sabbath holy by not working, respect your parents, never murder, never steal, never tell falsehoods about your neighbors that get them in trouble with authorities, never pine after your neighbors' life or possessions. Yahweh wrote these rules on stone tables for you and gave them to Moses. All Israel feared, for they had seen Yahweh. Yahweh approves Israel's fear; that is the right attitude to have. Israel will live, if they will obey (Deuteronomy 5:1-33). Those who obey Yahweh's law prosper in the land of Canaan, live long, and bear many children (Deuteronomy 6:1-3).

Shema (First Version.) Listen, people. Yahweh is your god; he is the only god that exists. Love Yahweh completely. Take his commandments to heart. Teach them to your children. Talk about them with friends wherever you go. Wear them in phylacteries. Write them on your doorposts (Deuteronomy 6:4-9). [Note Jesus's use of the Levitical Decalogue and the Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4-9) and Deuteronomy 11:13 several hundred years later at Mark 12:29-31, Matthew 22:34-40, Luke 10:25-28.]

Warnings. Beware that when you take the land and its riches, you do not become complacent toward Yahweh. Fear him. Yahweh is jealous and might kill you for worshipping false gods. Keep the laws. Instruct your sons about the people's history with Yahweh. Diligent obedience becomes righteousness before Yahweh. Make no easy agreements with the people of Canaan. Show them no mercy. Do not marry their daughters or let your daughters marry their sons. Such marriages will erode your children's worship of Yahweh. Destroy the worship locales and liturgical props of the Canaanite peoples (Deuteronomy 6:10-7:5).

Election. Yahweh has chosen Israel from among all other peoples for no particular reason. Yahweh loves Israel and keeps his promises to your fathers. Yahweh is god, faithful and showing steadfast love to those of his people who obey and love him in return. But those who reject Yahweh, he will destroy. So, take care to obey. The blessings of the covenant belong to those who obey: fecundity, prosperity, health, and conquest without pity. When you tremble before enemies, remember what Yahweh did to Pharaoh. Yahweh will send hornets upon your enemies. Israel's Canaanite enemies will be slowly cleared from before the people [contra the representations of the book of Joshua], if only the Israelis will drive the natives out utterly, and hate their gods, even the gold and silver that clads their idols. Canaanite idols are a snare for the Hebrews. (Deuteronomy 7:6-26).

Discipline. Yahweh humbled Israel in the Sinai. A man lives not by food, but by the word of Yahweh. Yahweh provides for Israel. In the desert, Israel's clothing never wore out and their feet never swelled. For Yahweh is disciplining Israel, as a father his son. Yahweh takes Israel to a rich land where the people will have resources and eat well. Yahweh is concerned that Israel will forget him when they are comfortable. Yahweh believes the people will say, when they prosper, that their own powers made them rich. Yahweh makes people rich to prove his faith to his covenant. When people get haughty, then they worship false gods. Then Israel will perish, just like the Canaanites (Deuteronomy 8:1-20). Yahweh is driving wicked peoples out of Canaan before Israel. Yahweh does not defend Israel because of Israel's good behavior, but because of the evil of the natives, and to confirm his promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Israel is stubborn. Remember that the people angered Yahweh at Horeb when they made a molten calf. Moses broke the tables on which Yahweh had written his commandments. Moses ground down the idol, and threw it in the nearby stream. Moses prayed for Israel, because Yahweh wished to destroy Israel. Then Yahweh made new tables of the law for Moses. [The authors interpolate future material about Aaron's death.] Then as Israel traveled Aaron died, and Eleazar became high priest. [Note the difference in this event from its telling at Number 20:22-29.] Moses prevails in his intercession and cools Yahweh's anger. Yahweh reaffirms his covenant (Deuteronomy 9:1-10:11).

Obedience. Yahweh requires Israel to fear him and serve him willingly and obey. Yahweh chose Israel for no particular reason. Cease stubbornness. Yahweh is just. Praise him (Deuteronomy 10:12-22). Do this because of what Yahweh did for your people. He defeated Pharaoh. He destroyed Dathan and Abiram. [Co-conspirators in Korah's rebellion; see Numbers 16:31-33.] If Israel keeps Yahweh's commandments, the people shall take Canaan from the natives. There, Yahweh will make Israel prosper, unless the people serve the local gods. If they do so, Yahweh will be angry and cause Israel to perish from the land. So, heed Yahweh's laws.

Shema (Second Version). [See Deuteronomy 6:4-9.] Heed Yahweh's commandments in your heart and soul. Put them in phylacteries. Teach them to your children. Talk about them with friends. Write them on your doorposts. Then you will prosper in Canaan and Yahweh will drive out the natives before you (Deuteronomy 11:18-25).

Blessings and Curses. Yahweh promises blessings for the obedient and curses for the wayward, both of which are set on Mt. Gerizim and Mt. Ebal [adjacent to one another in central Palestine]. [See Joshua 8:30-35 and Deuteronomy 27:12-14.]

The Laws Explicated. Moses details the laws Israel must obey. *Idols.* Destroy all local altars and places of worship. *Temple.* Seek the place Yahweh designates for his temple sacrifices. Obey; do not let every man do what seems to him right. Sacrifice at the chosen place, not every place that seems adequate to a person. (You may eat flesh in any town.) Do not eat blood or tithed foods. Rejoice in Yahweh, and take care of the Levites. (If the temple is too far from you to slaughter there, you may eat flesh at your homes, but not the blood; that must be poured on the ground for it is the life of the animal. The sacrifices must, however, be taken to the temple site.) [Note the repetition below at Deuteronomy 15:19-23.] Do not imitate the worship of the natives; they even burn sons and daughters to their gods. Do as I command without alteration. *Prophets.* Yahweh will occasionally test you with false prophets who tempt you with other gods. Kill them. *Apostasy.* If a family member tempts you to false worship, kill that person by stoning. If a city turns to foreign gods, kill all the inhabitants with their cattle, gather the spoils into the city center and burn the entire town. *Pagan Rituals.* Do not perform ritual cuts or head shaving. You belong to Yahweh. *Food Rules.* Eat permitted animals (these are listed). Eat no forbidden thing (these are listed). Eat no carrion. Do not boil a kid in its mother's milk. *Sacrifices.* Tithe from your grain, wine, oil, and sacrifice your firstborn livestock. If the sacrificial location (temple) is too far, sell the animals for money, take the money to the temple, and there buy equivalents. *Levites.* Take care of the Levites financially. The tithe of every third year is devoted to the local Levites. *Sabbath Years.* Every seventh year, debts are forgiven to Hebrews, Don't worry; no one will be poor, if you obey Yahweh. Israel will lend to foreigners, but never borrow. *Charity.* If you meet a poor Hebrew, loan or give freely and without concern about repayment. The poor will always be with you, so help them [see Matthew 26:11 for Jesus use of this passage]. *Manumission.* Hebrew slaves are released after six years of service. When you release the slave, provide that person what they need to get started again, for you were slaves in Egypt. Slaves who decline manumission shall become permanent members of the household. *Blemished Firstborns.* (Sacrifice your livestock firstborns at Yahweh's sacrifice place. Offer nothing blemished. Eat the blemished animals in your towns. Eat no blood.) [Note repetition of Deuteronomy 12:21-26.] *Feasts.* Keep the Passover remembrance. The sacrifices must be at the temple location. Observe the feast of Weeks and the feast of Booths at harvest time. All males must attend the temple site three times yearly, during these festivals. Bring a sacrifice at those time, each according to his prosperity. *Judges.* Appoint judges in every town who refuse bribes. Always follow justice and nothing else. *Pagan Rituals.* Plant no holy trees to Yahweh and set up no idolatrous pillars. *Blemished Sacrifices.* Sacrifice no blemished livestock. *Stoning.* A man or woman who worships any god other than Yahweh shall be stoned at the city gates, if convicted after diligent inquiry and the testimony of two or three witnesses. The witnesses must participate in the execution. If cases are difficult, they must be taken to the temple priesthood for decision. Anyone who fails to do as the priests have ordered shall be killed. [Note the rising authority of the priests in Deuteronomy.] *Kings.* Israel may choose a king from among the Hebrews. Kings shall not gather many horses or return to Egypt to get horses. Kings shall not have many wives, lest they distract him from Yahweh. Kings shall not make themselves rich. The Israeli king shall have a copy of the Mosaic law from the Levites, which he shall read constantly so he does not grow arrogant or prideful. [Note the lightly veiled criticism of Solomon here.] *Levitical Share.* Levites shall have no land; their share is Yahweh and a portion of the people's sacrifices. [Note that somehow a Levite may still sell his patrimony (Deuteronomy 18:8).] *Pagan Rituals.* Sacrifice no children as offerings, and drive out people practicing magical arts. *Prophets.* Yahweh will send a prophet whom you should heed. [Note Paul's use of this passage as a harbinger of Jesus's ministry at Acts 3:22-23.] Yahweh's prophets make predictions that prove true. False prophets must be killed. *Cities of Refuge.* Dedicate three cities as manslayer refuges. If all the land of Canaan becomes Israel's, then add three more cities of refuge. If intentional murderers enter cities of refuge, the elders shall turn such persons

over to avengers. Do not move land markers. Two or three witnesses are required for all convictions of crime. False witnesses shall receive the penalty they sought for their opponent by their lies. Show no pity: eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot. [Compare Exodus 21:23-24 and Leviticus 24:19-20.] *Taking Lands.* When Israel fights the Canaanites, be confident. Yahweh fights with you. If the fighters have distractions at home, or undue fear, let them return home to deal with these matters, lest they breed cowardice in the army. When taking distant cities outside Canaan, if the residents surrender, enslave them. If they resist, kill all the men and take the women, children, and cattle as spoils. Enjoy them. When taking Canaanite cities, utterly destroy them. Do not destroy fruit trees, but only non-fruit trees, for your siegeworks. *Unexplained Deaths.* When a person dies, and none knows the cause, the elders of the nearest city shall break the neck of a young heifer and all of the city shall wash their hands over it, disclaiming knowledge, so that blood guilt shall not lie on the city. *Enemy Wives.* If a Hebrew wishes a captive as spouse, she shall shave her head, trim her nails, and grieve her parents for one month before the Hebrew weds her. If the man declines to marry, he shall release and not sell the woman. *Inverting Birth Order.* Sons of wives, one preferred above the other, shall not be inverted in inheritance order on that account. The son first born shall receive his usual double portion. *Stoning Disobedient Sons.* Sons who ignore parental counsel and become drunkards and gluttons shall be denounced publicly and stoned by the people. *Corpse of the Executed.* The corpse of an executed person shall not hang on a tree overnight, but shall be buried the same day. *Returning Lost Property.* If farm animals get lost, return them to their owners. Do the same with garments and any lost thing. *Help.* If someone's ass or ox falls, help lift the animal. *Cross-Dressing.* Men and women shall not wear one another's clothes. *Eating Birds.* Do not eat young and mother; release the mother. *Roofing Dangers.* Protect people from falling from roofs under construction. *Mixing Things.* Do not sow two kinds of vines or plow with an ox and an ass together or wear wool and linen clothing together. *Tassles.* Make tassels for the four corners of coats. *Wife's Virginity.* If a man claims his bride is not a virgin, he shall so state publicly and divorce her. If her father produces evidence of her virginity, then the lying husband shall be whipped and fined, and he shall never divorce the woman. If she is not a virgin, she shall be stoned. *Fornication.* Fornicators shall be executed. *Rape Rules.* If a man has sex with another man's fiancée in a city, then both shall be stoned, because the woman did not call for help. If the rape occurs in open country, only the man shall be stoned. If a man rapes an unbetrothed woman, then he shall marry her and never divorce. *Marrying Step-Mothers.* No man may marry his father's wife. *Sex Injuries.* No man with crushed testicles or severed penis is a member of the people. *Bastards.* No bastard shall be a member of the people, or his descendants for ten generations. *Ammonites and Moabites.* Neither Ammonites nor Moabites may be part of the people for ten generations, and Hebrews shall never help them prosper. *Edomites and Egyptians.* Edomites and Egyptians may join the assembly after the third generation. *Evil During Campaigns.* Do no evil during war. *Nocturnal Emission.* If a man has nocturnal emission, leave the camp, wash, and return at day's end. *Defecation.* When one defecates, do so in the common location, dig a hole, and bury your feces. *Escaped Slaves.* If an escaped slave comes to you, he may live with you. *Ritual Prostitutes.* There shall be no ritual prostitutes in Israel, nor shall money from such trade pay any religious vow. *Usury.* No one shall lend at interest to a Hebrew. One may do so with foreigners. *Vow-Keeping.* If one vows, one must perform. *Others' Crops.* In a neighbor's vineyard or grainfield, one may eat one's fill, but gather none for later. *Ex-Wives.* If a man divorces and the woman remarries, if that second husband dies or divorces the woman, the first ex-spouse shall not remarry her. *Newly-Wed Haitus.* A man newly married shall not be called to fight or do business for one year. *Millstones.* No one can take a millstone in pledge, for that would be taking life in pledge. *Slavers.* If a Hebrew enslaves a Hebrew, he shall be executed. *Leprosy.* Take care to do as God commands the Levites. *Loan Pledges.* If you loan to someone and take security in some possession of his, do not pressure him for the pledge, and if he is poor, return the pledge at night so he can sleep in his cloak. *Wages.* Pay day laborers on the day of labor. *Vendetta.* No man shall be killed for the crimes or sins of his children or parents. Each

man shall be judged on his own behavior. [But see Exodus 34:7.] *Justice*. No one shall deny justice to foreigners or orphans. Take no widow's garment in pledge. *Gleaning*. When harvesting, leave some of the crop; do not strip the field. Leave some fruit and grain for travelers, widows, and orphans. *Punishment*. A judge may demand forty lashes of the guilty, but no more. *Oxen Muzzles*. Do not muzzle an ox when it treads grain. *Brothers' Widows*. A brother must wed his brother's widow. Their first son shall take the deceased brother's name. If the surviving brother declines this duty, the widow may publicly denounce him, take his sandal, and spit in his face. *Grabbing Testicles*. If men fight, and one's wife seizes the testicles of her husband's opponent, cut off her hand. *Trade Ethics*. No man shall have two sets of weights in his bag. Give a just measure for every man. *Amalekites*. Destroy even the memory of Amalekites. *Initial Fruits*. When you get your first harvest from conquered land, sacrifice some to Yahweh. The liturgy of first fruits is described. *Third-Year Tithes*. Give the tithe of the third year to Levites, foreigners, orphans and widows. (Deuteronomy 12:1-26:15).

Mosaic Covenant.

[Note the deviation from the Abrahamic covenant, and the absence of the land from the Mosaic covenant formulation. Compare Genesis 12:1, Genesis 28:13-15, Exodus 6:2-4, Exodus 34:6-9, Leviticus 11:44-45, Leviticus 18:1-5, Leviticus 22:31-33, Leviticus 26:3-45, Deuteronomy 4:1-2, Deuteronomy 5:2-5, and Deuteronomy 10:12-22, to gain a sense of the decreasing role of land in the covenant and the increasing role of law and obedience.]

Yahweh commands you to obey his laws. If you do so, Yahweh will be your god, and will exalt Israel in the eyes of the other nations (Deuteronomy 26:16-19).

Entering the Land.

Plastered Pillars. Yahweh commands that when the people cross the Jordan River, they will set up large stones on Mount Ebal, plaster them, and write Yahweh's laws upon them. Build an altar of unhewn stones and make burnt offerings to Yahweh, rejoicing. Moses tells the people that they have today become Yahweh's people, so obey (Deuteronomy 27:1-10).

Antiphonal Curses and Blessings. Six tribes assemble at Mount Ebal for curses. Six tribes assemble at Mount Gerizim for blessings. [These two mountains lie adjacent to one another in cis-Jordan Palestine midway up the Jordan River between the Dead Sea and the Sea of Galilee.] The Levites announce that a man is cursed if he: makes idols, dishonors parents, removes neighbor's landmarks, misleads blind people, distorts justice for foreigners, orphans, and widows, has sex with his father's wife, has sex with beasts, has sex with his sister, has sex with his mother-in-law, secretly murders, murders for hire, or disobeys Yahweh's laws. All the people agreed (Deuteronomy 27:11-26). The Levites announce that a man is blessed if he obeys Yahweh's commandments. The blessed man will be blessed wherever he lives, and he will be fruitful and prosperous. His enemies will fall. He will be the Lord's and all peoples will see his abundance. He will have rain. He will lend to outsiders. Everything will get better and better for him (Deuteronomy 28:1-14). If one disobeys Yahweh, a long list of horrors will ensue. These horrors include deportation to a distant land. His sons and daughters shall be led away into captivity. A foreign enemy shall breach all Israel's walled cities, and Hebrews shall eat Hebrews. In the end, Israel shall be scattered across the earth. Hebrews shall offer themselves as slaves, but no one will buy them (Deuteronomy 28:15-68).

Covenant in Edom. Yahweh makes an additional covenant with Israel as they are poised in Edom to enter Canaan. Moses recites Israel's historical liturgy. This covenant is with the patriarchs, the people today, and future Hebrews. If Israel tolerates any man who is secretly stubborn, refusing to follow Yahweh's laws from his heart, all Israel may suffer the curses listed. The land will be incinerated, like Sodom and Gomorrah. Even secrets belong to Yahweh [Note the emergence of psychological integrity as a criterion of obedience, not mere conformity. This emphasis is consonant with the prophetic message.] (Deuteronomy 29:1-29).

Promise to Restore. After Israel has been beaten and dispersed, if Israel turns to Yahweh heart and soul, Yahweh will restore Israel, gathering Israel from where Yahweh scattered them.

Yahweh will circumcise your hearts and those of your children, and you shall love Yahweh. The curses shall fall upon Israel's foes, and Israel shall prosper. Obedience is within Israel's grasp. It is not too hard. Israel will dwell in the land promised to the patriarchs only if the people obey. So, choose life (Deuteronomy 30:1-20).

Moses's Death. Moses says Yahweh has forbidden him to enter Canaan with the people. Moses encourages the people. Yahweh commissions Joshua to lead. Moses writes down all of the law, gives it to the Levites, and tells them to read the law to the people every seventh year at the feast of booths. Yahweh appears to Joshua. Yahweh tells Moses that the people will whore with other gods in Canaan. Yahweh has Moses write a song against the people from Yahweh. Moses puts the book of the law beside the ark of the covenant in the inner sanctuary. Moses summons the people, and speaks the song of Yahweh to them: "Yahweh is great and his work perfect. Israel deals corruptly with Yahweh and is cut off. Yahweh chose Israel through Jacob. But Israel grew complacent and scoffed at Yahweh by idolatry. Yahweh grew jealous and heaped evils upon Israel. Yahweh scattered Israel out of the land. But Yahweh will yet save his people. He alone is god. None can stand against Yahweh." Yahweh sends Moses up Mount Nebo, from which Moses sees Canaan. Moses blesses Israel: Yahweh brought the people out of Sinai into the land. Moses encourages and advises all Israel by individual tribes. Moses extols Yahweh. Moses dies in Moab on Mount Nebo and is buried in the valley at age 120. Israel weeps for thirty days. Then Israel follows Joshua (Deuteronomy 31:1-34:9)

Eulogy for Moses. No prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, who did many wonders (Deuteronomy 34:10-12).