JOSHUA | יהושע

**Chapter 1**

***1*** After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua bin Nun, Moses’ attendant:

***2*** “My servant Moses is dead. Prepare to cross the Jordan, together with all this people, into the land that I am giving to the Israelites.

***3*** Every spot on which your foot treads I give to you, as I promised Moses.

***4*** Your territory shall extend from the wilderness and the Lebanon to the Great River, the River Euphrates [on the east]—the whole Hittite country—and up to the Great [Mediterranean] Sea on the west.

***5*** No one shall be able to resist you as long as you live. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you.

***6*** “Be strong and resolute, for you shall apportion to this people the land that I swore to their fathers to assign to them.

 ***7*** But you must be very strong and resolute to observe faithfully all the Torah that My servant Moses enjoined upon you. Do not deviate from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.

***8*** Let not this Book of the Torah cease from your lips, but recite it day and night, so that you may observe faithfully all that is written in it. Only then will you prosper in your undertakings and only then will you be successful.

***9*** “I charge you: Be strong and resolute; do not be terriﬁed or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

***10*** Joshua thereupon gave orders to the officials of the people:

***11*** “Go through the camp and charge the people thus: Get provisions ready, for in three days’ time you are to cross the Jordan, in order to enter and possess the land that the Lord your God is giving you as a possession.”

***12*** Then Joshua said to the Reuvenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Menasheh,

***13*** “Remember what Moses the servant of the Lord enjoined upon you, when he said: ‘The Lord your God is granting you a haven; He has assigned this territory to you.’

***14*** Let your wives, children, and livestock remain in the land that Moses assigned to you across [on this side of] the Jordan; but every one of your ﬁghting men shall go across armed [*meaning of Heb. uncertain*] in the van of your kinsmen. And you shall assist them

***15*** until the Lord has given your kinsmen a haven, such as you have, and they too have gained possession of the land that the Lord your God has assigned to them. Then you may return to the land on the east side of the Jordan, which Moses the servant of the Lord assigned to you as your possession, and you may possess it.”

***16*** They answered Joshua, “We will do everything you have commanded us and we will go wherever you send us.

***17*** We will obey you just as we obeyed Moses; let but the Lord your God be with you as He was with Moses!

***18*** Any man who ﬂouts your commands and does not obey every order you give him shall be put to death. Only be strong and resolute!”

**Chapter 2**

***1*** Joshua bin Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim, saying, “Go, reconnoiter the region of Jericho.” So they set out, and they came to the house of a harlot named Rahab and lodged there.

***2*** The king of Jericho was told, “Some men have come here tonight, Israelites, to spy out the country.”

***3*** The king of Jericho thereupon sent orders to Rahab: “Produce the men who came to you and entered your house, for they have come to spy out the whole coun-try.”

***4*** The woman, however, had taken the two men and hidden them. “It is true,” she said, “the men did come to me, but I didn’t know where they were from.

***5*** And at dark, when the gate was about to be closed, the men left; and I don’t know where the men went. Quick, go after them, for you can overtake them.”

***6*** —Now she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under some stalks of ﬂax which she had lying on the roof.—

***7*** So the men pursued them in the direction of the Jordan down to the fords; and no sooner had the pursuers gone out than the gate was shut behind them.

***8*** They [the spies] had not yet gone to sleep when she came up to them on the roof.

***9*** She said to the men, “I know that the Lord has given the country to you, because dread of you has fallen upon us, and all the inhabitants of the land are quaking before you.

***10*** For we have heard how the Lord dried up the waters of the Sea of Reeds for you when you left Egypt, and what you did to Sichon and Og, the two Amori kings across the Jordan, whom you doomed [placed under cherem, which in this case meant the annihilation of the inhabitants].

***11*** When we heard about it, we lost heart, and no man had any more spirit left because of you; for the Lord your God is the only God in heaven above and on earth below.

***12*** Now, since I have shown loyalty to you, swear to me by the Lord that you in turn will show loyalty to my family. Provide me with a reliable sign

***13*** that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and save us from death.”

***14*** The men answered her, “Our persons are pledged for yours, even to death! If you do not disclose this mission of ours, we will show you true loyalty when the Lord gives us the land.”

***15*** She let them down by a rope through the window—for her dwelling was at the outer side of the city wall and she lived in the actual wall.

***16*** She said to them, “Make for the hills, so that the pursuers may not come upon you. Stay there in hiding three days, until the pursuers return; then go your way.”

***17*** But the men warned her, “We will be released from this oath which you have made us take

***18*** [unless,] when we invade the country, you tie this length of crimson cord to the window through which you let us down. Bring your father, your mother, your brothers, and all your family together in your house;

***19*** and if anyone ventures outside the doors of your house, his blood will be on his head, and we shall be clear. But if a hand is laid on anyone who remains in the house with you, his blood shall be on our heads.

***20*** And if you disclose this mission of ours, we shall likewise be released from the oath which you made us take.”

***21*** She replied, “Let it be as you say.” She sent them on their way, and they left; and she tied the crimson cord to the window.

***22*** They went straight to the hills and stayed there three days, until the pursuers turned back. And so the pursuers, searching all along the road, did not ﬁnd them.

***23*** Then the two men came down again from the hills and crossed over. They came to Joshua bin Nun and reported to him all that had happened to them.

***24*** They said to Joshua, “The Lord has delivered the whole land into our power; in fact, all the inhabitants of the land are quaking before us.”

**Chapter 3**

***1*** Early next morning, Joshua and all the Israelites set out from Shittim and marched to the Jordan. They did not cross immediately, but spent the night there.

***2*** Three days later, the oﬃcials went through the camp

***3*** and charged the people as follows: “When you see the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord your God being borne by the Levitical priests, you shall move forward. Follow it—

***4*** but keep a distance of some 2,000 cubits from it, never coming any closer to it—so that you may know by what route to march, since it is a road you have not traveled before.”

***5*** And Joshua said to the people, “Purify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will perform wonders in your midst.”

***6*** Then Joshua ordered the priests, “Take up the Ark of the Covenant and advance to the head of the people.” And they took up the Ark of the Covenant and marched at the head of the people.

***7*** The Lord said to Joshua, “This day, for the ﬁrst time, I will exalt you in the sight of all Israel, so that they shall know that I will be with you as I was with Moses.

***8*** For your part, command the priests who carry the Ark of the Covenant as follows: When you reach the edge of the waters of the Jordan, make a halt in the Jordan.”

***9*** And Joshua said to the Israelites, “Come closer and listen to the words of the Lord your God.

***10*** By this,” Joshua continued, “you shall know that a living God is among you, and that He will dispossess for you the K’nani, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amori, and Jebusites:

***11*** the Ark of the Covenant of the Sovereign of all the earth is advancing before you into the Jordan.

***12*** Now select 12 men from the tribes of Israel, one man from each tribe.

***13*** When the feet of the priests bearing the Ark of the Lord, the Sovereign of all the earth, come to rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan—the water coming from upstream—will be cut oﬀ and will stand in a single heap.”

***14*** When the people set out from their encampment to cross the Jordan, the priests bearing the Ark of the Covenant were at the head of the people.

***15*** Now the Jordan keeps ﬂowing over its entire bed throughout the harvest season. But as soon as the bearers of the Ark reached the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the Ark dipped into the water at its edge,

***16*** the waters coming down from upstream piled up in a single heap a great way oﬀ, at Adam, the town next to Zarethan; and those ﬂowing away downstream to the Sea of the Aravah (the Dead Sea) ran out completely. So the people crossed near Jericho.

***17*** The priests who bore the Ark of the Lord’s Covenant stood on dry land exactly in the middle of the Jordan, while all Israel crossed over on dry land, until the entire nation had ﬁnished crossing the Jordan.

## Chapter 4

***1*** When the entire nation had ﬁnished crossing the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua,

***2*** “Select 12 men from among the people, one from each tribe,

***3*** and instruct them as follows: Pick up 12 stones from the spot exactly in the middle of the Jordan, where the priests’ feet are standing; take them along with you and deposit them in the place where you will spend the night.”

***4*** Joshua summoned the 12 men whom he had designated among the Israelites, one from each tribe;

***5*** and Joshua said to them, “Walk up to the Ark of the Lord your God, in the middle of the Jordan, and each of you lift a stone onto his shoulder—corresponding to the number of the tribes of Israel.

***6*** This shall serve as a symbol among you: in time to come, when your children ask, ‘What is the meaning of these stones for you?’

***7*** you shall tell them, ‘The waters of the Jordan were cut oﬀ because of the Ark of the Lord’s Covenant; when it passed through the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut oﬀ.’ And so these stones shall serve the people of Israel as a memorial for all time.”

***8*** The Israelites did as Joshua ordered. They picked up 12 stones, corresponding to the number of the tribes of Israel, from the middle of the Jordan—as the Lord had charged Joshua—and they took them along with them to their night encampment and deposited them there.

***9*** Joshua also set up 12 stones in the middle of the Jordan, at the spot where the feet of the priests bearing the Ark of the Covenant had stood; and there they have remained to this day.

***10*** The priests who bore the Ark remained standing in the middle of the Jordan until all the instructions that the Lord had ordered Joshua to convey to the people had been carried out. And so the people speedily crossed over, just as Moses had assured Joshua in his charge to him.

11 And when all the people ﬁnished crossing, the Ark of the Lord and the priests advanced to the head of the people.

12 The Reuvenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Menasheh went across armed in the vanguard of the Israelites, as Moses had charged them.

13 About 40,000 shock troops went across, at the instance of the Lord, to the steppes of Jericho for battle.

14 On that day the Lord exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel, so that they revered him all his days, as they had revered Moses.

15 The Lord said to Joshua,

16 “Command the priests who bear the Ark of the Pact to come up out of the Jordan.”

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

18 As soon as the priests who bore the Ark of the Lord’s Covenant came up out of the Jordan, and the feet of the priests stepped onto the dry ground, the waters of the Jordan resumed their course, ﬂowing over its entire bed as before.

19 The people came up from the Jordan on the 10th day of the ﬁrst month, and encamped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho.

20 And Joshua set up in Gilgal the 12 stones they had taken from the Jordan.

21 He charged the Israelites as follows: “In time to come, when your children ask their fathers, ‘What is the meaning of those stones?’

22 tell your children: ‘Here the Israelites crossed the Jordan on dry land.’

23 For the Lord your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you crossed, just as the Lord your God did to the Sea of Reeds, which He dried up before us until we crossed.

24 Thus all the peoples of the earth shall know how mighty is the hand of the Lord, and you shall fear the Lord your God always.”

## Chapter 5

1 When all the kings of the Amori on the western side of the Jordan, and all the kings of the K’nani near the Sea, heard how the Lord had dried up the waters of the Jordan for the sake of the Israelites until they crossed over, they lost heart, and no spirit was left in them because of the Israelites.

2 At that time the Lord said to Joshua, “Make ﬂint knives and proceed with a second circumcision of the Israelites.”

3 So Joshua had ﬂint knives made, and the Israelites were circumcised at Givat Ha-aralot [Hill of Foreskins].

4 This is the reason why Joshua had the circumcision performed: All the people who had come out of Egypt, all the males of military age, had died during the desert wanderings after leaving Egypt.

5 Now, whereas all the people who came out of Egypt had been circumcised, none of the people born after the exodus, during the desert wanderings, had been circumcised.

6 For the Israelites had traveled in the wilderness 40 years, until the entire nation—the men of military age who had left Egypt—had perished; because they had not obeyed the Lord, and the Lord had sworn never to let them see the land that the Lord had sworn to their fathers to assign to us, a land ﬂowing with milk and honey.

7 But He had raised up their sons in their stead; and it was these that Joshua circumcised, for they were uncircumcised, not having been circumcised on the way.

8 After the circumcising of the whole nation was completed, they remained where they were, in the camp, until they recovered.

9 And the Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” So that place was called Gilgal, as it still is.

10 Encamped at Gilgal, in the steppes of Jericho, the Israelites oﬀered the passover sacriﬁce on the 14th day of the month, toward evening.

11 On the day after the passover oﬀering, on that very day, they ate of the produce of the country, unleavened bread and parched grain.

12 On that same day, when they ate of the produce of the land, the manna ceased. The Israelites got no more manna; that year, they ate of the yield of the land of Canaan.

13 Once, when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing before him, drawn sword in hand. Joshua went up to him and asked him, “Are you one of us or of our enemies?”

14 He replied, “No, I am captain of the Lord’s host. Now I have come!” Joshua threw himself face down to the ground and, prostrating himself, said to him, “What does my lord command his servant?”

15 The captain of the Lord’s host answered Joshua, “Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy.” And Joshua did so.

**Chapter 6**

***1*** Now Jericho was shut up tight because ofthe Israelites; no one could leave or enter.

***2*** The Lord said to Joshua, “See, I will deliverJericho and her king [and her] warriors intoyour hands.

***3*** Let all your troops march aroundthe city and complete one circuit of the city. Dothis six days,

***4*** with seven priests carrying sevenram’s horns [*shofarot*] preceding the Ark. On the seventhday, march around the city seven times, withthe priests blowing the horns.

***5*** And when a longblast is sounded on the horn [*b’keren ha-yovel*]—as soon as youhear that sound of the horn [*shofar*]—all the people shallgive a mighty shout. Thereupon the city wall willcollapse [will fall beneath itself], and the people shall advance, everyman straight ahead.”

***6*** Joshua bin Nun summoned the priestsand said to them, “Take up the Ark of the Covenant,and let seven priests carrying seven ram’shorns precede the Ark of the Lord.”

***7*** And heinstructed the people, “Go forward, marcharound the city, with the vanguard marchingin front of the Ark of the Lord.”

***8*** When Joshuahad instructed the people, the seven priests carryingseven ram’s horns advanced before theLord, blowing their horns; and the Ark of theLord’s Covenant followed them.

***9*** The vanguardmarched in front of the priests who wereblowing the horns, and the rear guard marchedbehind the Ark, with the horns sounding all thetime.

***10*** But Joshua’s orders to the rest of the peoplewere, “Do not shout, do not let your voicesbe heard, and do not let a sound issue from yourlips until the moment that I command you,‘Shout!’ Then you shall shout.”

***11*** So he had the Ark of the Lord go around the city and complete one circuit; then they returnedto camp and spent the night in camp.

***12*** Joshua rose early the next day; and the prieststook up the Ark of the Lord,

***13*** while the sevenpriests bearing the seven ram’s horns marchedin front of the Ark of the Lord, blowing thehorns as they marched. The vanguard marchedin front of them, and the rear guard marchedbehind the Ark of the Lord, with the hornssounding all the time.

***14*** And so they marchedaround the city once on the second day and returnedto the camp. They did this six days.

***15*** On the seventh day, they rose at daybreakand marched around the city, in the same manner,seven times; that was the only day that theymarched around the city seven times.

***16*** On theseventh round, as the priests blew the horns,Joshua commanded the people, “Shout! For theLord has given you the city.

***17*** The city and everythingin it are to be proscribed for the Lord;only Rachav the harlot is to be spared, and allwho are with her in the house, because she hidthe messengers we sent.

***18*** But you must bewareof that which is proscribed, or else you will beproscribed: if you take anything from thatwhich is proscribed, you will cause the camp ofIsrael to be proscribed; you will bring calamityupon it.

***19*** All the silver and gold and objects ofcopper and iron are consecrated to the Lord;they must go into the treasury of the Lord.”

***20*** So the people shouted when the horns weresounded. When the people heard the sound ofthe horns, the people raised a mighty shout andthe wall collapsed. The people rushed into thecity, every man straight in front of him, and theycaptured the city.

***21*** They exterminated everythingin the city with the sword: man andwoman, young and old, ox and sheep and ass.

***22*** But Joshua bade the two men who had spiedout the land, “Go into the harlot’s house and bring out the woman and all that belong to her,as you swore to her.”

***23*** So the young spies wentin and brought out Rachav, her father and hermother, her brothers and all that belonged toher—they brought out her whole family and leftthem outside the camp of Israel.

***24*** They burned down the city and everythingin it. But the silver and gold and the objects ofcopper and iron were deposited in the treasuryof the House of the Lord.

***25*** Only Rachav theharlot and her father’s family were spared byJoshua, along with all that belonged to her, andshe dwelt among the Israelites—as is still thecase. For she had hidden the messengers thatJoshua sent to spy out Jericho.

***26*** At that time Joshua pronounced this oath:“Cursed of the Lord be the man who shall undertaketo fortify this city of Jericho: he shalllay its foundations at the cost of his first-born,and set up its gates at the cost of his youngest.”

***27*** The Lord was with Joshua, and his famespread throughout the land.

**Chapter 7**

***1*** The Israelites, however, violated the proscription:Achan ben Carmi ben Zavdi ben Zerach, of the tribe of Judah, took of thatwhich was proscribed, and the Lord was incensedwith the Israelites

***2*** Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, whichlies close to Beit-Aven—east of Beit-El—withorders to go up and spy out the country. So themen went up and spied out Ai.

***3*** They returnedto Joshua and reported to him, “Not all thetroops need go up. Let 2,000 or 3,000men go and attack Ai; do not trouble all thetroops to go up there, for [the people] there arefew.”

***4*** So about 3,000 of the troopsmarched up there; but they were routed by themen of Ai.

***5*** The men of Ai killed about 36of them, pursuing them outside the gate as far as Shevarim, and cutting them down along thedescent. And the heart of the troops sank inutter dismay [“melted and turned to water”].

***6*** Joshua thereupon rent his clothes. He andthe elders of Israel lay until evening with theirfaces to the ground in front of the Ark of theLord; and they strewed earth on their heads.

***7*** “Ah, Lord God!” cried Joshua. “Why did Youlead this people across the Jordan only to deliverus into the hands of the Amori, to be destroyedby them? If only we had been contentto remain on the other side of the Jordan!

***8*** OLord, what can I say after Israel has turned tailbefore its enemies?

***9*** When the K’nani andall the inhabitants of the land hear of this, theywill turn upon us and wipe out our very namefrom the earth. And what will You do aboutYour great Name?”

***10*** But the Lord answered Joshua: “Arise! Whydo you lie prostrate?

***11*** Israel has sinned! Theyhave broken the covenant by which I boundthem. They have taken of the proscribed andput it in their vessels; they have stolen; they havebroken faith!

***12*** Therefore, the Israelites will notbe able to hold their ground against their enemies;they will have to turn tail before their enemies,for they have become proscribed. I willnot be with you any more unless you root outfrom among you what is proscribed.

***13*** Go andpurify the people. Order them: Purify yourselvesfor tomorrow. For thus says the Lord, theGod of Israel: Something proscribed is in yourmidst, O Israel, and you will not be able to standup to your enemies until you have purged theproscribed from among you.

***14*** Tomorrowmorning you shall present yourselves by tribes.Whichever tribe the Lord indicates [catches] shall comeforward by clans; the clan that the Lord indicatesshall come forward by ancestral houses,and the ancestral house that the Lord indicatesshall come forward man by man.

***15*** Then he whois indicated [who is caught in the net] for proscription, and all that ishis, shall be put to the fire, because he brokethe Covenant of the Lord and because he committedan outrage in Israel.”

***16*** Early next morning, Joshua had Israel comeforward by tribes; and the tribe of Judah wasindicated.

***17*** He then had the clans of Judahcome forward, and the clan of Zerach was indicated.Then he had the clan of Zerach come forwardby ancestral houses, and Zavdi wasindicated.

***18*** Finally he had his ancestral housecome forward man by man, and Achan benCarmi, ben Zavdi, ben Zerach, of the tribe of Judah, was indicated.

***19*** Then Joshua said to Achan, “My son, payhonor to the Lord, the God of Israel, and makeconfession to Him. Tell me what you have done;do not hold anything back from me.”

***20*** Achananswered Joshua, “It is true, I have sinnedagainst the Lord, the God of Israel. This is whatI did:

***21*** I saw among the spoil a fine Shinar mantle,200 shekels of silver, and a wedgeof gold weighing 50 shekels, and I covetedthem and took them. They are buried in theground in my tent, with the silver under it [the mantle].”

***22*** Joshua sent messengers, who hurried to thetent; and there it [the mantle] was, buried in his tent, withthe silver underneath.

***23*** They took them fromthe tent and brought them to Joshua and all theIsraelites, and displayed them before the Lord.

***24*** Then Joshua, and all Israel with him, tookAchan ben Zerach—and the silver, the mantle,and the wedge of gold—his sons and daughters,and his ox, his ass, and his flock, and his tent,and all his belongings, and brought them up tothe Valley of Achor [alludes to “achar,” meaning to bring calamity upon”].

***25*** And Joshua said, “Whatcalamity you have brought upon us! The Lordwill bring calamity upon you this day.” And all Israel pelted him with stones. They put themto the fire and stoned them.

***26*** They raised a hugemound of stones over him, which is still there.Then the anger of the Lord subsided. That iswhy that place was named the Valley ofAchor—as is still the case.

**Chapter 8**

1 The Lord said to Joshua, “Do not be frightened or dismayed. Take all the ﬁghting troops with you, go and march against Ai. See, I will deliver the king of Ai, his people, his city, and his land into your hands.

2 You shall treat Ai and its king as you treated Jericho and its king; however, you may take the spoil and the cattle as booty for yourselves. Now set an ambush against the city behind it.”

3 So Joshua and all the ﬁghting troops prepared for the march on Ai. Joshua chose 30,000 men, valiant warriors, and sent them ahead by night.

4 He instructed them as follows: “Mind, you are to lie in ambush behind the city; don’t stay too far from the city, and all of you be on the alert.

5 I and all the troops with me will approach the city; and when they come out against us, as they did the ﬁrst time, we will ﬂee from them.

6 They will come rushing after us until we have drawn them away from the city. They will think, “They are ﬂeeing from us the same as last time”; but while we are ﬂeeing before them,

7 you will dash out from your ambush and seize the city, and the Lord your God will deliver it into your hands.

8 And when you take the city, set it on ﬁre. Do as the Lord has commanded. Mind, I have given you your orders.”

9 Joshua then sent them oﬀ, and they proceeded to the ambush; they took up a position between Ai and Bethel—west of Ai—while Joshua spent the night with the rest of the troops.

10 Early in the morning, Joshua mustered the troops; then he and the elders of Israel marched upon Ai at the head of the troops.

11 All the ﬁghting force that was with him advanced near the city and encamped to the north of Ai, with a hollow between them and Ai.

12 He selected about 5,000 men and stationed them as an ambush between Bethel and Ai, west of the city.

13 Thus the main body of the army was disposed on the north of the city, but the far end of it was on the west. (This was after Joshua had spent the night in the valley.)

14 When the king of Ai saw them, he and all his people, the inhabitants of the city, rushed out in the early morning to the meeting place, facing the Aravah, to engage the Israelites in battle; for he was unaware that a force was lying in ambush behind the city.

15 Joshua and all Israel ﬂed in the direction of the wilderness, as though routed by them.

16 All the troops in the city gathered to pursue them; pursuing Joshua, they were drawn out of the city.

17 Not a man was left in Ai or in Bethel who did not go out after Israel; they left the city open while they pursued Israel.

18 The Lord then said to Joshua, “Hold out the javelin in your hand toward Ai, for I will deliver it into your hands.” So Joshua held out the javelin in his hand toward the city.

19 As soon as he held out his hand, the ambush came rushing out of their station. They entered the city and captured it; and they swiftly set ﬁre to the city.

20 The men of Ai looked back and saw the smoke of the city rising to the sky; they had no

room for ﬂight in any direction. The people who had been ﬂeeing to the wilderness now became the pursuers.

21 For when Joshua and all Israel saw that the ambush had captured the city, and that smoke was rising from the city, they turned around and attacked the men of Ai.

22 Now the other [Israelites] were coming out of the city against them, so that they were between two bodies of Israelites, one on each side of them. They were slaughtered, so that no one escaped or got away.

23 The king of Ai was taken alive and brought to Joshua.

24 When Israel had killed all the inhabitants of Ai who had pursued them into the open wilderness, and all of them, to the last man, had fallen by the sword, all the Israelites turned back to Ai and put it to the sword.

25 The total of those who fell that day, men and women, the entire population of Ai, came to 12,000.

26 Joshua did not draw back the hand with which he held out his javelin until all the inhabitants of Ai had been exterminated.

27 However, the Israelites took the cattle and the spoil of the city as their booty, in accordance with the instructions that the Lord had given to Joshua.

28 Then Joshua burned down Ai, and turned it into a mound of ruins for all time, a desolation to this day.

29 And the king of Ai was impaled on a stake until the evening. At sunset, Joshua had the corpse taken down from the stake and it was left lying at the entrance to the city gate. They raised a great heap of stones over it, which is there to this day.

30 At that time, Joshua built an altar to the Lord, the God of Israel, on Mount Ebal,

31 as Moses, the servant of the Lord, had commanded the Israelites—as is written in the Book of the Torah of Moses (see D’varim 27.3-8)—an altar of unhewn stone upon which no iron had been wielded. They oﬀered on it burnt oﬀerings to the Lord, and brought sacriﬁces of well-being.

32 And there, on the stones, he inscribed a copy of the Torah that Moses had written for the Israelites.

33 All Israel—stranger and citizen alike— with their elders, oﬃcials, and magistrates, stood on either side of the Ark, facing the levitical priests who carried the Ark of the Lord’s Covenant. Half of them faced Mount Gerizim and half of them faced Mount Ebal, as Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded them of old, in order to bless the people of Israel.

34 After that, he read all the words of the Teaching, the blessing and the curse, just as is written in the Book of the Torah. (See D’varim 27.11-28.68)

35 There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded that Joshua failed to read in the presence of the entire assembly of Israel, including the women and children and the strangers who accompanied them.

**Chapter 9**

1 When all the kings west of [literally across] the Jordan—in the hill country, in the Shephelah, and along the entire coast of the Mediterranean Sea up to the vicinity of Lebanon, the [land of the] Hittites, Amori, K’nani, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites—learned of this,

2 they gathered with one accord to ﬁght against Joshua and Israel.

3 But when the inhabitants of Giv’on learned how Joshua had treated Jericho and Ai,

4 they for their part resorted to cunning. They set out in disguise [meaning of Hebrew uncertain]: they took worn-out sacks for their asses, and worn-out waterskins that were cracked and patched;

5 they had worn-out, patched sandals on their feet, and threadbare clothes on their bodies; and all the bread they took as provision was dry and crumbly.

6 And so they went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal and said to him and to the men of Israel, “We come from a distant land; we propose that you make a pact with us.”

7 The men of Israel replied to the Hivites, “But perhaps you live among us; how then can we make a pact with you?”

8 They said to Joshua, “We will be your subjects.” But Joshua asked them, “Who are you and where do you come from?”

9 They replied, “Your servants have come from a very distant country, because of the fame of the Lord your God. For we heard the report of Him: of all that He did in Egypt,

10 “and of all that He did to the two Amori kings on the other side of the Jordan, King Sichon of Cheshbon and King Og of Bashan who lived in Ashtarot.

11 “So our elders and all the inhabitants of our country instructed us as follows, ‘Take along provisions for a trip, and go to them and say: We will be your subjects; come make a pact with us.’

12 “This bread of ours, which we took from our houses as provision, was still hot when we set out to come to you; and see how dry and crumbly it has become.

13 “These wineskins were new when we ﬁlled them, and see how they have cracked. These clothes and sandals of ours are worn out from the very long journey.”

14 The men took [their word] because of [meaning of Hebrew uncertain] their provisions, and did not inquire of the Lord.

15 Joshua established friendship with them; he made a pact with them to spare their lives, and the chieftains of the community gave them their oath.

16 But when three days had passed after they made this pact with them, they learned that they were neighbors, living among them.

17 So the Israelites set out, and on the third day they came to their towns; these towns were Giv’on, K’firah, Be’erot, and Kiriat-ye-arim.

18 But the Israelites did not attack them, since the chieftains of the community had sworn to them by the Lord, the God of Israel. The whole community muttered against the chieftains,

19 but all the chieftains answered the whole community, “We swore to them by the Lord, the God of Israel; therefore we cannot touch them.

20 “This is what we will do to them: We will spare their lives, so that there may be no wrath against us because of the oath that we swore to them.”

21 And the chieftains declared concerning them, “They shall live!” And they became hewers of wood and drawers of water for the whole community, as the chieftains had decreed concerning them.

22 Joshua summoned them and spoke to them thus: “Why did you deceive us and tell us you lived very far from us, when in fact you live among us?

23 “Therefore, be accursed! Never shall your descendants cease to be slaves, hewers of wood and drawers of water for the House of my God.”

24 But they replied to Joshua, “You see, your servants had heard that the Lord your God had promised His servant Moses to give you the whole land and to wipe out all the inhabitants of the country on your account; so we were in great fear for our lives on your account. That is why we did this thing.

25 And now we are at your mercy; do with us what you consider right and proper.”

26 And he did so; he saved them from being killed by the Israelites.

27 That day Joshua made them hewers of wood and drawers of water—as they still are—for the community and for the altar of the Lord, in the place that He would choose.



**Chapter 10**

1 When King Adoni-tzedek of Yerushalayim learned that Joshua had captured Ai and proscribed it, treating Ai and its king as he had treated Jericho and its king, and that, moreover, the people of Giv’on had come to terms with Israel and remained among them,

2 he was [Hebrew: “they were”] very frightened. For Giv’on was a large city, like one of the royal cities—in fact, larger than Ai—and all its men were warriors.

3 So King Adoni-tzedek of Yerushalayim sent this message to King Hoham of Khevron, King Piram of Yarmut, King Yaphia of Lachish, and King D’vir of Eglon:

4 “Come up and help me defeat Giv’on; for it has come to terms with Joshua and the Israelites.”

5 The ﬁve Amori kings—the king of Yerushalayim, the king of Khevron, the king of Yarmut, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon, with all their armies—joined forces and marched on Giv’on, and encamped against it and attacked it.

6 The people of Giv’on thereupon sent this message to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal: “Do not fail your servants; come up quickly and aid us and deliver us, for all the Amori kings of the hill country have gathered against us.”

7 So Joshua marched up from Gilgal with his whole ﬁghting force, all the trained warriors.

8 The Lord said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid of them, for I will deliver them into your hands; not one of them shall withstand you.”

9 Joshua took them by surprise, marching all night from Gilgal.

10 The Lord threw them into a panic before Israel: [Joshua] inﬂicted a crushing defeat on them at Giv’on, pursued them in the direction of the Bet-Choron ascent, and harried them all the way to Azekah and Mak-kedah.

11 While they were ﬂeeing before Israel down the descent from Bet-Choron, the Lord hurled huge [hail-]stones on them from the sky, all the way to Azekah, and they perished; more perished from the hail-stones than were killed by the Israelite weapons.

12 On that occasion, when the Lord routed the Amori before the Israelites, Joshua addressed the Lord; he said in the presence of the Israelites: “Stand still, O sun, at Giv’on, O moon, in the Valley of Ayalon!”

13 And the sun stood still and the moon halted, while a nation wreaked judgment on its foes—as is written in the Book of Yashar [presumably a collection of war songs]. Thus the sun halted in mid-heaven, and did not press on to set, for a whole day;

14 for the Lord fought for Israel. Neither before nor since has there ever been such a day, when the Lord acted on words spoken by a man.

15 Then Joshua together with all Israel returned to the camp at Gilgal.

16 Meanwhile, those ﬁve kings ﬂed and hid in a cave at Mak-kedah.

17 When it was reported to Joshua that the ﬁve kings had been found hiding in a cave at Mak-kedah,

18 Joshua ordered, “Roll large stones up against the mouth of the cave, and post men over it to keep guard over them.

19 But as for the rest of you, don’t stop, but press on the heels of your enemies and harass them from the rear. Don’t let them reach their towns, for the Lord your God has delivered them into your hands.”

20 When Joshua and the Israelites had ﬁnished dealing them a deadly blow, they were wiped out, except for some fugitives who escaped into the fortiﬁed towns.

21 The whole army returned in safety to Joshua in the camp at
Mak-kedah; no one so much as snarled at the Israelites. [Note: Exodus 11.7 has Moses telling Pharaoh in announcing the Tenth Plague, “but not a dog shall snarl at any of the Israelites, at man or beast, in order that you may know that the Lord makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel”]

22 And now Joshua ordered, “Open the mouth of the cave, and bring those ﬁve kings out of the cave to me.”

23 This was done. Those ﬁve kings—the king of Yerushalayim, the king of Khevron, the king of Yarmut, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon—were brought out to him from the cave.

24 And when the kings were brought out to Joshua, Joshua summoned all the men of Israel and ordered the army oﬃcers who had accompanied him, “Come forward and place your feet on the necks of these kings.” They came forward and placed their feet on their necks.

25 Joshua said to them, “Do not be frightened or dismayed; be ﬁrm and resolute. For this is what the Lord is going to do to all the enemies with whom you are at war.”

26 After that, Joshua had them put to death and impaled on ﬁve stakes, and they remained impaled on the stakes until evening.

27 At sunset, Joshua ordered them taken down from the poles and thrown into the cave in which they had hidden. Large stones were placed over the mouth of the cave, [and there they are] to this very day.

28 At that time Joshua captured Mak-kedah and put it and its king to the sword, proscribing it [most mss. and the editions read “them”] and every person in it and leaving none that escaped. And he treated the king of Mak-kedah as he had treated the king of Jericho.

29 From Mak-kedah, Joshua proceeded with all Israel to Livnah, and he attacked it.

30 The Lord delivered it and its king into the hands of Israel; they put it and all the people in it to the sword, letting none escape. And he treated its king as he had treated the king of Jericho.

31 From Livnah, Joshua proceeded with all Israel to Lachish; he encamped against it and attacked it.

32 The Lord delivered Lachish into the hands of Israel. They captured it on the second day and put it and all the people in it to the sword, just as they had done to Livnah.

33 At that time King Horam of Gezer marched to the aid of Lachish; but Joshua defeated him and his army, letting none of them escape.

34 From Lachish, Joshua proceeded with all Israel to Eglon; they encamped against it and attacked it.

35 They captured it on the same day and put it to the sword, proscribing all the people that were in it, as they had done to Lachish.

36 From Eglon, Joshua marched with all Israel to Khevron and attacked it.

37 They captured it and put it, its king, and all its towns, and all the people that were in it, to the sword. He let none escape, proscribing it and all the people in it, just as he had done in the case of Eglon.

38 Joshua and all Israel with him then turned back to D’vir and attacked it.

39 He captured it and its king and all its towns. They put them to the sword and proscribed all the people in it. They let none escape; just as they had done to Khevron, and as they had done to Livnah and its king, so they did to D’vir and its king.

40 Thus Joshua conquered the whole country [the whole southern part of Canaan]: the hill country, the Negev, the Shephelah, and the slopes, with all their kings; he let none escape, but proscribed everything that breathed—as the Lord, the God of Israel, had commanded.

41 Joshua conquered them from Kadesh-barnea to Gaza, all the land of Goshen, and up to Giv’on.

42 All those kings and their lands were conquered by Joshua at a single stroke, for the Lord, the God of Israel, fought for Israel.

43 Then Joshua, with all Israel, returned to the camp at Gilgal.

**Chapter 11**

1 When the news reached King Yavin of Chatzor, he sent messages to King Yovav of Madon, to the king of Shimron, to the king of Achshaf,

2 and to the other kings in the north—in the hill country, in the Aravah south of Kinneret, in the lowlands, and in the district [meaning of Hebrew uncertain] of Dor on the west;

3 to the K’nani in the east and in the west; to the Amori, Khitti, P’rizi and Y’vusi [Amori, Hittites, Perizzites, and Jebusites] in the hill country; and to the Khivi [Hivites] at the foot of Khermon [Mount Hermon], in the land of Mitzpah.

4 They took the field with all their armies—an enormous host, as numerous as the sands on the seashore—and a vast multitude of horses and chariots.

5 All these kings joined forces; they came and encamped together at the Waters of Merom to give battle to Israel.

6 But the Lord said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid of them; tomorrow at this time I will have them all lying slain before Israel. You shall hamstring their horses and burn their chariots.”

7 So Joshua, with all his fighting men, came upon them suddenly at the Waters of Merom, and pounced upon them.

8 The Lord delivered them into the hands of Israel, and they defeated them and pursued them all the way to Great Tzidon [Sidon] and Misr’fot maim [change of vocalization yields “and Misr’fot on the west”] and all the way to the Valley of Mitzpeh [apparently identical with Mitzpah] on the east; they crushed them, letting none escape.

9 And Joshua dealt with them as the Lord had ordered him; he hamstrung their horses and burned their chariots.

10 Joshua then turned back and captured Chatzor and put her king to the sword, for Chatzor was formerly the head of all those kingdoms.

11 They proscribed and put to the sword every person in it. Not a soul survived, and Chatzor itself was burned down.

12 Joshua captured all those royal cities and their kings. He put them to the sword; he proscribed them in accordance with the charge of Moses, the servant of the Lord.

13 However, all those towns that are still standing on their mounds were not burned down by Israel; it was Chatzor alone that Joshua burned down.

14 The Israelites kept all the spoil and cattle of the rest of those cities as booty. But they cut down their populations with the sword until they exterminated them; they did not spare a soul.

15 Just as the Lord had commanded His servant Moses, so Moses had charged Joshua, and so Joshua did; he left nothing undone of all that the Lord had commanded Moses.

16 Joshua conquered the whole of this region: the hill country [of Judah], the Negev, the whole land of Goshen, the Shephelah, the Aravah, and the hill country and coastal plain of Israel—

17 [everything] from Mount Khalak, which ascends to Seir, all the way to Baal-gad in the Valley of the Lebanon [the valley between the Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon ranges] at the foot of Mount Khermon; and he captured all the kings there and executed them.

18 Joshua waged war with all those kings over a long period.

19 Apart from the Khivi [Hivites] who dwelt in Giv’on, not a single city made terms with the Israelites; all were taken in battle.

20 For it was the Lord’s doing to stiffen their hearts to give battle to Israel, in order that they might be proscribed without quarter and wiped out, as the Lord had commanded Moses.

21 At that time, Joshua went and wiped out the Anakites from the hill country, from Khevron, D’vir, and Anav, from the entire hill country of Judah, and from the entire hill country of Israel; Joshua proscribed them and their towns.

22 No Anakites remained in the land of the Israelites; but some remained in Gaza, Gat, and Ashdod.

23 Thus Joshua conquered the whole country, just as the Lord had promised Moses; and Joshua assigned it to Israel to share according to their tribal divisions. And the land had rest from war.

**Chapter 12**

1 The following are the local kings whom the Israelites defeated and whose territories they took possession of: East of the Jordan, from the Wadi Arnon to Mount Chermon, including the eastern half of the Aravah:

2 King Sichon of the Amori, who resided in Cheshbon and ruled over part of Gilad—from Aroer on the bank of the Wadi Arnon and the wadi proper up to the Wadi Yabbok [and] the border of the Ammonites—

3 and over the eastern Aravah up to the Sea of Kineret and, southward by way of Bet ha-Y’shimot at the foot of the slopes of Pisgah on the east, down to the Sea of the Aravah, that is, the Dead Sea. [Note: the meaning of verses 2 and 3 is uncertain]

4 Also the territory of King Og of Bashan—one of the last of the Rephaim—who resided in Ashtarot and in Edre-i

5 and ruled over Mount Chermon, Salcah, and all of Bashan up to the border of the G’shuri and the Ma-achati, as also over part of Gilad [down to] the border of King Sichon of Cheshbon.

6 These were vanquished by Moses, the servant of the Lord, and the Israelites; and Moses, the servant of the Lord, assigned it [that territory] as a possession to the Reuvenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Menashe.

7 And the following are the local kings whom Joshua and the Israelites defeated on the west side of the Jordan—from Baal-gad in the Valley of the Lebanon to Mount Chalak, which ascends to Seir—which Joshua assigned as a possession to the tribal divisions of Israel:

8 in the hill country, in the lowlands, in the Aravah, in the slopes [of Pisgah], in the wilderness, and in the Negev—[in the land of] the Chiti, the Amori, the K’nani, the P’rizi, the Chivi, and the Y’vusi.

9 They were:

the king of Jericho, one

the king of Ai, near Bet El, one

10 the king of Jerusalem, one

the king of Khevron, one

11 the king of Yarmut, one

the king of Lachish, one

12 the king of Eglon, one the king of Gezer, one

13 the king of D’vir, one

the king of Geder, one

14 the king of Chormah, one

the king of Arad, one

15 the king of Livnah, one

the king of Adullam, one

16 the king of Mak-kedah, one

the king of Bet El, one

17 the king of Tappuach, one

the king of Chefer, one

18 the king of Afek, one

the king of Sharon, one

19 the king of Madon, one

the king of Chatzor, one

20 the king of Shimron-meron, one

the king of Achshaf, one

21 the king of Taanach, one

the king of Megiddo, one

22 the king of Kedesh, one

the king of Yawkn’am in the Carmel, one

23 the king of Dor in the district [meaning of Hebrew uncertain] of Dor, one

the king of Goyim in Gilgal, one

24 the king of Tirtzah, one

[the] total number of kings [being] 31.

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**Chapter 13**

1 Joshua was now old, advanced in years. The Lord said to him, “You have grown old, you are advanced in years; and very much of the land still remains to be taken possession of.

2 “This is the territory that remains: all the districts of the Philistines and all [those of] the G’shuri,

3 “from the Shichor, which is close to Egypt, to the territory of Ekron on the north, are accounted K’nani [K’nani], namely, those of the ﬁve lords of the Philistines—the Azati [Gazites], the Ashdodi, the Ashkeloni, the Gitti, and the Ekroni—and those of the Avvim

4 “on the south; further, all the K’nani country from Mearah of the Sidoni to Afek at the Amori border

5 “and the land of the G’vali, with the whole [Valley of the] Lebanon, from Baal-gad at the foot of Mount Chermon to Levo-chamat on the east,

6 “with all the inhabitants of the hill country from the [Valley of the] Lebanon to Misrephot-mayim, namely, all the Sidoni. I Myself will dispossess them [those nations] for the Israelites; you have only to apportion it [their lands] by lot among Israel, as I have commanded you.

7 “Therefore, divide this territory into hereditary portions for the nine tribes and the half-tribe of Menashe.”

8 Now the Reuvenites and the Gadites, along with it [the other half-tribe], had already received the shares which Moses assigned to them on the east side of the Jordan—as assigned to them by Moses the servant of the Lord:

9 from Aroer on the edge of the Wadi Arnon and the town in the middle of the wadi, the entire Tableland [from] Medva to Divon,

10 embracing all the towns of King Sichon of the Amori, who had reigned in Cheshbon, up to the border of the Ammoni;

11 further, Gilad, the territories of the Geshuri and the Ma-achati, and all of Mount Chermon, and the whole of Bashan up to Salcah—

12 the entire kingdom of Og, who had reigned over Bashan at Ashtarot and at Edre-i. (He was the last of the remaining Rephaim.) These were defeated and dispossessed by Moses;

13 but the Israelites failed to dispossess the Geshuri and the Ma-achati, and Geshur and Ma-acat remain among Israel to this day.

14 No hereditary portion, however, was assigned to the tribe of Levi, their portion being the ﬁre oﬀerings of the Lord, the God of Israel, as He spoke concerning them.

15 And so Moses assigned [the following] to the tribe of the Reuvenites, for their various clans,

16 and it became theirs: The territory from Aroer, on the edge of the Wadi Arnon and the town in the middle of the wadi, up to Medva—

17 Cheshbon and all its towns in the Tableland: Divon, Bamot-baal, Bet baal-m’on,

18 Yatzah, K’demot, May-fa- at,

19 Kiryata-im, Sivmah, and Tzeret-shachar in the hill of the valley, [emendation yields “in the hill country; and in the Valley…”]

20 Bet-peor, the slopes of Pisgah, and Beth-yeshimot—

21 all the towns of the Tableland and the entire kingdom of Sichon, the king of the Amori, who had reigned in Cheshbon (for Moses defeated him and the Midianite chiefs Evi, Rekem, Tzur, Khur, and Reva, who had dwelt in the land as princes of Sichon.

22 Together with the others that they slew, the Israelites put Bilam ben Beor, the augur [alien seer], to the sword.)

23 The boundary of the Reuvenites was the edge of the Jordan. That was the portion of the Reuvenites for their various clans—those towns with their villages.

24 To the tribe of Gad, for the various Gadite clans, Moses assigned [the following],

25 and it became their territory: Yazer, all the towns of Gilad, part of the country of the Ammoni up to Aroer, which is close to Rabbah,

26 and from Cheshbon to Ramat-mitzpeh and Betonim, and from Machanayim to the border of Lidvir;

27 and in the Valley, Bet-haram, Bet-nimrah, Sukkot, and Tzafon—the rest of the kingdom of Sichon, the king of Cheshbon—down to the edge of the Jordan and up to the tip of the Sea of Kineret on the east side of the Jordan.

28 That was the portion of the Gadites, for their various clans—those towns with their villages.

29 And to the half-tribe of Menashe Moses assigned [the following], so that it went to the half-tribe of Menashe, for its various clans,

30 and became their territory: [from] Machanaim, all of Bashan, the entire kingdom of Og, king of Bashan, and all of Chavot-Yair in Bashan, 60 towns;

31 and part of Gilad, and Ashtarot and Edre-i, the royal cities of Og in Bashan, were assigned to the descendants of Machir ben Menashe—to a part of the descendants of Machir—for their various clans.

32 Those, then, were the portions that Moses assigned in the steppes of Moab, on the east side of the Jordan.

33 But no portion was assigned by Moses to the tribe of Levi; the Lord, the God of Israel, is their portion, as He spoke concerning them.

**Chapter** 14

1 And these are the allotments of the Israelites in the land of Canaan, that were apportioned to them by the priest Eleazar, by Joshua bin Nun, and by the heads of the ancestral houses of the Israelite tribes,

2 the portions that fell to them by lot, as the Lord had commanded through Moses for the nine and a half tribes.

3 For the portion of the other two and a half tribes had been assigned to them by Moses on the other side of the Jordan. He had not assigned any portion among them to the Levites;

4 for whereas the descendants of Joseph constituted two tribes, Menashe and Efraim, the Levites were assigned no share in the land, but only some towns to live in, with the pastures for their livestock and cattle.

5 Just as the Lord had commanded Moses, so the Israelites did when they apportioned the land.

6 The Judahites approached Joshua at Gilgal, and Calev ben Yefuneh the K’nizi said to him: “You know what instructions the Lord gave at Kadesh-barnea to Moses, the man of God, concerning you and me.

7 I was 40 years old when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land, and I gave him a forthright report.

8 While my companions who went up with me took the heart out of the people, I was loyal to the Lord my God.

9 On that day, Moses promised on oath, ‘The land on which your foot trod shall be a portion for you and your descendants forever, because you were loyal to the Lord my God.’

10 Now the Lord has preserved me, as He promised. It is 45 years since the Lord made this promise to Moses, when Israel was journeying through the wilderness; and here I am today, 85 years old.

11 I am still as strong today as on the day that Moses sent me; my strength is the same now as it was then, for battle and for activity [Lit. “and to go out and come in.”].

12 So assign to me this hill country as the Lord promised on that day. Though you too heard on that day that Anakites are there and great fortiﬁed cities, if only the Lord is with me, I will dispossess them, as the Lord promised.”

13 So Joshua blessed Calev ben Yefuneh and assigned Khevron to him as his portion.

14 Thus Khevron became the portion of Calev ben Yefuneh the K’nizi, as it still is, because he was loyal to the Lord, the God of Israel.

15 The name of Khevron was formerly Kiryat-arba: [Arba] was the great man among the Anakites. And the land had rest from war.

**Chapter** 15

1 The portion that fell by lot to the various clans of the tribe of Judah lay farthest south, down to the border of Edom, which is the Wilderness of Tzin.

2 Their southern boundary began from the tip of the Dead Sea, from the tongue that projects southward.

3 It proceeded to the south of the Ascent of Akrabbim, passed on to Tzin, ascended to the south of Kadesh-barnea, passed on to Chetzron, ascended to Addar, and made a turn to Karka.

4 From there it passed on to Atzmon and proceeded to the Wadi of Egypt; and the boundary ran on to the Sea. That shall be your southern boundary.

5 The boundary on the east was the Dead Sea up to the mouth of the Jordan. On the northern side, the boundary began at the tongue of the Sea at the mouth of the Jordan.

6 The boundary ascended to Bet-Chawglah and passed north of Bet-aravah; then the boundary ascended to the Stone of Bohan ben Reuven.

7 The boundary ascended from the Valley of Achor to De’vir and turned north [meaning of Hebrew uncertain] to Gilgal, facing the Ascent of Adummim which is south of the wadi; from there the boundary continued to the waters of En-shemesh and ran on to En-rogel.

8 Then the boundary ascended into the Valley of Ben-hinnom, along the southern ﬂank of the Y’vusi [Jebusites]—that is, Jerusalem. The boundary then ran up to the top of the hill which ﬂanks the Valley of Hinnom on the west, at the northern end of the Valley of Refaim.

9 From that hilltop the boundary curved to the fountain of the Waters of Neftoach and ran on to the towns of Mount Efron; then the boundary curved to Ba-alah—that is, Kiryat-Y’arim.

10 From Ba-alah the boundary turned westward to Mount Seir [not the Seir of Edom], passed north of the slope of Mount Y’arim—that is, Che’salon—descended to Bet-shemesh, and passed on to Timnah.

11 The boundary then proceeded to the northern ﬂank of Ekron; the boundary curved to Shikkeron, passed on to Mount Ba-alah, and proceeded to Yavn’el; and the boundary ran on to the Sea.

12 And the western boundary was the edge of the Mediterranean Sea. Those were the boundaries of the various clans of the Judahites on all sides.

13 In accordance with the Lord’s command to Joshua, Calev ben Yefuneh was given a portion among the Judahites, namely, Kiryat-arba—that is, Khevron. ([Arba] was the father of Anak.)

14 Calev dislodged from there the three Anakites: Sheshai, Achiman, and Talmai, descendants of Anak.

15 From there he marched against the inhabitants of D’vir—the name of D’vir was formerly Kiryat-sefer—

16 and Calev announced, “I will give my daughter Achsah in marriage to the man who attacks and captures Kiryat-sefer.”

17 His kinsman Awtniel ben K’naz captured it; and Calev gave him his daughter Achsah in marriage.

18 When she came [to him], she induced him [meaning of Hebrew uncertain] to ask her father for some property. She dismounted from her donkey, and Calev asked her, “What is the matter?”

19 She replied, “Give me a present; for you have given me away as Negev-land [i.e., as a dry land, that is, without a dowry]; so give me springs of water.” And he gave her Upper and Lower Gulot [i.e., springs].

20 This was the portion of the tribe of the Judahites by their clans:

21 The towns at the far end of the tribe of Ju-dah, near the border of Edom, in the Negeb, were: Kavtz’el, Eder, yagur,

22 Kinah, Dimonah, Adadah,

23 Kedesh, Chatzor, Yitnan,

24 Zifh, Telem, B’alot,

25 Chatzor-chadatah, K’riot-chetzron—that is, Chatzor—

26 Amam, Shema, Moladah,

27 Chatzar-gaddah, Heshmon, Bet- pelet,

28 Chatzar-shual, Be’er-sheva, Bizyotyah,

29 Ba-alah, Eeyim, Etzem,

30 Eltolad, Chesil, Chormah,

31 Tziklag, Madmannah, Sansannah,

32 L’vaot, Shilhim, Ain and Rimmon. Total: 29 towns with their villages. [This number is uncertain; some of these towns will be found later under Shimon’s territory]

33 In the Lowland: Eshtaol, Tzorah, Ashnah,

34 Zanoach, En-gannim, Tappuach, Enam,

35 Yarmut, Adullam, Socoh, Azekah,

36 Sha-arayim, Aditayim, Gederah, and Gederotayim—14 towns, with their villages. [The number is uncertain. Tappuach and Enam may have been one place; so Rashi on basis of Joshua 17.7.]

37 Tz’nan, Chadashah, Migdal-gad,

38 Dilan, Mitzpeh, Yawkt’el,

39 Lachish, Botzkat, Eglon,

40 Cabbon, Lachmas, Chithlish,

41 Gederot, Bet-dagon, Na-amah, and Mak-kedah: 16 towns, with their villages.

42 Livnah, Eter, Ashan,

43 Yiftach, Ashnah, Netziv,

44 K’ilah, Achzivb, and Mareshah: 9 towns, with their villages.

45 Ekron, with its dependencies and villages.

46 From Ekron westward, all the towns in the vicinity of Ashdod, with their villages—

47 Ashdod, its dependencies and its villages—Gaza, its dependencies and its villages, all the way to the Wadi of Egypt and the edge of the Mediterranean Sea.

48 And in the hill country: Shamir, Yattir, Socoh,

49 Dannah, Kiryat-sannah—that is, D’vir—

50 Anav, Eshtemoh, Anim,

51 Goshen, Cholon, and Giloh: 11 towns, with their villages.

52 Arav, Rumah, Eshan,

53 Yanum, Bet-tappuah, Afekah,

54 Chumtah, Kiryat-arba—that is, Khevron—and Zior: 6 towns, with their villages.

55 Maon, Carmel, Zf, Yuttah,

56 Yizr’el, Yawkd’am, Zanoach,

57 Kayin, Givah, and Timnah: 10 towns, with their villages.

58 Chalchul, Bet-tzur, Gedor,

59 Ma-arat, Bet-anot, and Eltekon: towns, with their villages.

60 Kiryat-baal—that is, Kiryat-jearim—and Rabbah: 6 towns, with their villages.

61 In the wilderness: Bet-aravah, Middin, S’chachah,

62 Nivshan, Ir-melach [or the City of Salt], and En-gedi: 6 towns, with their villages.

63 But the Judahites could not dispossess the Y’vusi, the inhabitants of Jerusalem; so the Judahites dwell with the Jebu Y’vusi sites in Jerusalem to this day.

**Chapter** 16

1 The portion that fell by lot to the Josephites ran from the waters of Jericho east of the wilderness. From Jericho it ascended through the hill country to Bet-el.

2 From Bet-el it ran to Luz and passed on to the territory of the Arki at Atarot,

3 descended westward to the territory of the Yafleti as far as the border of Lower Bet-choron and Gezer, and ran on to the Sea.

4 Thus the Josephites—that is, Menashe and Efraim—received their portion.

5 The territory of the Efraimites, by their clans, was as follows: The boundary of their portion ran from Atrot-addar on the east to Upper Bet-choron,

6 and the boundary ran on to the Sea. And on the north, the boundary proceeded from Michmetat to the east of Ta-anat-shiloh and passed beyond it up to the east of Yanoach;

7 from Yanoach it descended to Atarot and Na-arat, touched on Jericho, and ran on to the Jordan.

8 Westward, the boundary proceeded from Tappuach to the Wadi Kanah and ran on to the Sea. This was the portion of the tribe of the Efraimites, by their clans,

9 together with the towns marked oﬀ [meaning of Hebrew uncertain] for the Efraimites within the territory of the Menashites—all those towns with their villages.

10 However, they failed to dispossess the K’nani who dwelt in Gezer; so the K’nani remained in the midst of Efraim, as is still the case. But they had to perform forced labor.

**Chapter** 17

1 And this is the portion that fell by lot to the tribe of Menashe—for he was Joseph’s ﬁrst-born. Since Machir, the ﬁrst-born of Menashe and the father of Gilad, was a valiant warrior, Gilad and Bashan were assigned to him.

2 And now assignments were made to the remaining Menashe-ites, by their clans: the descendants of Aviezer, Chelek, Asriel, Shechem, Chefer, and Sh’mida. Those were the male descendants of Menashe ben Joseph, by their clans.

3 Now Tz’lofchad [Zelophehad] ben Chefer ben Gilad ben Machir ben Menashe had no sons, but only daughters. The names of his daughters were Machlah, Noah, Choglah, Milcah, and Tirtzah.

4 They appeared before the priest Eleazer, Joshua bin Nun, and the chieftains, saying: “The Lord commanded Moses to grant us a portion among our male kinsmen.” So, in accordance with the Lord’s instructions, they were granted a portion among their father’s kinsmen.

5 Ten districts fell to Menashe, apart from the lands of Gilad and Bashan, which are across the Jordan.

6 Menashe’s daughters inherited a portion in these together with his sons, while the land of Gilad was assigned to the rest of Menashe’s descendants.

7 The boundary of Menashe ran from Asher to Michm’tat, which lies near Shechem. The boundary continued to the right, toward the inhabitants of En-tappuach.

8 The region of Tappuach belonged to Menashe; but Tappuach, on the border of Menashe, belonged to the Efraimites.

9 Then the boundary descended to the Wadi Kanah. Those towns to the south of the wadi belonged to Efraim as an enclave among the towns of Menashe. The boundary of Menashe lay north of the wadi and ran on to the Sea.

10 What lay to the south belonged to Efraim, and what lay to the north belonged to Menashe, with the Sea as its boundary. [This territory] was contiguous with Asher on the north and with Yisachar on the east.

11 Within Yisachar and Asher, Menashe possessed Bet-sh’an and its dependencies, Yivl’am and its dependencies, the inhabitants of Dor and its dependencies, the inhabitants of En-dor and its dependencies, the inhabitants of Ta-nach and its dependencies, and the inhabitants of Megiddo and its dependencies: these constituted three regions [meaning of Hebrew uncertain].

12 The Menashe-ites could not dispossess [the inhabitants of] these towns, and the K’nani stubbornly remained in this region.

13 When the Israelites became stronger, they imposed tribute on the K’nani; but they did not dispossess them.

14 The Josephites complained to Joshua, saying, “Why have you assigned as our portion a single allotment and a single district, seeing that we are a numerous people whom the Lord has blessed so greatly?”

15 “If you are a numerous people,” Joshua answered them, “go up to the forest country and clear an area for yourselves there, in the territory of the P’rizzi and the Refa-im, seeing that you are cramped in the hill country of Efraim.”

16 “The hill country is not enough for us,” the Josephites replied, “and all the K’nani who live in the valley area have iron chariots, both those in Bet-sh’an and its dependencies and those in the Valley of Yizrael.”

17 But Joshua declared to the House of Joseph, to Efraim and Menashe, “You are indeed a numerous people, possessed of great strength; you shall not have one allotment only.

18 The hill country shall be yours as well; true, it is forest land, but you will clear it and possess it to its farthest limits. And you shall also dispossess the K’nani, even though they have iron chariots and even though they are strong.”

**Chapter** 18

1 The whole community of the Israelite people assembled at Shiloh, and set up the Tent of Meeting there. The land was now under their control;

2 but there remained seven tribes of the Israelites which had not yet received their portions.

3 So Joshua said to the Israelites, “How long will you be slack about going and taking possession of the land which the Lord, the God of your fathers, has assigned to you?

4 Appoint three men of each tribe; I will send them out to go through the country and write down a description of it for purposes of apportionment, and then come back to me.

5 They shall divide it into seven parts—Judah shall remain by its territory in the south, and the house of Joseph shall remain by its territory in the north.—

6 When you have written down the description of the land in seven parts, bring it here to me. Then I will cast lots for you here before the Lord our God.

7 For the Levites have no share among you, since the priesthood of the Lord is their portion; and Gad and Reuven and the half-tribe of Menashe have received the portions which were assigned to them by Moses the servant of the Lord, on the eastern side of the Jordan.”

8 The men set out on their journeys. Joshua ordered the men who were leaving to write down a description of the land—“Go, traverse the country and write down a description of it. Then return to me, and I will cast lots for you here at Shiloh before the Lord.”

9 So the men went and traversed the land; they described it in a document, town by town, in seven parts, and they returned to Joshua in the camp at Shiloh.

10 Joshua cast lots for them at Shiloh before the Lord, and there Joshua apportioned the land among the Israelites according to their divisions.

11 The lot of the tribe of the Binyaminites, by their clans, came out ﬁrst. The territory which fell to their lot lay between the Judahites and the Josephites.

12 The boundary on their northern rim began at the Jordan; the boundary ascended to the northern ﬂank of Jericho, ascended westward into the hill country and ran on to the Wilderness of Bet-aven.

13 From there the boundary passed on southward to Luz, to the ﬂank of Luz—that is, Bet-El; then the boundary descended to Atrot-addar [and] to the hill south of Lower Bet-choron.

14 The boundary now turned and curved onto the western rim; and the boundary ran southward from the hill on the south side of Bet-choron till it ended at Kiryat-baal—that is, Kiryat-y’arim—a town of the Judahites. That was the western rim.

15 The southern rim: From the outskirts of Kiryat-y’arim, the boundary passed westward [emendation yields “eastward”] and ran on to the fountain of the Waters of Neftoach.

16 Then the boundary descended to the foot of the hill by the Valley of Ben-hinnom at the northern end of the Valley of Refaim; then it ran down the Valley of Hinnom along the southern ﬂank of the Y’vusi to En-rogel.

17 Curving northward, it ran on to En-shemesh and ran on to G’lilot, facing the Ascent of Adummim, and descended to the Stone of Bohan ben Reuven.

18 It continued northward to the edge of the Aravah and descended into the Aravah.

19 The boundary passed on to the northern ﬂank of Bet-chawglah, and the boundary ended at the northern tongue of the Dead Sea, at the southern end of the Jordan. That was the southern boundary.

20 On their eastern rim, ﬁnally, the Jordan was their boundary. That was the portion of the Binyaminites, by their clans, according to its boundaries on all sides.

21 And the towns of the tribe of the Binyaminites, by its clans, were: Jericho, Bet-chawglah, Emek-ketzitz,

22 Bet-aravah, Tz’maraim, Bet-El,

23 Avvim, Parah, Ofrah,

24 K’far-ammonah, Ofni, and Geva—12 towns, with their villages.

25 Also Giv’on, Ramah, B’eirot,

26 Mitzpeh, K’firah, Motzah,

27 Rekem, Yirp’el, Taralah

28 Tzela, Elef, and the Y’vusi—that is, Jerusalem—Givat [and] Kiryat[-Y’arim]: 14 towns, with their villages. That was the portion of the Binyaminites, by their clans.

## Chapter 19

1 The second lot fell to Shimon. The portion of the tribe of the Shimonites, by their clans, lay inside the portion of the Judahites. 2 Their portion comprised: Beer-sheva, Sheva, Moladah, 3 Chatzar-shual, Balah, Etzem, 4 Eltolad, B’tul, Chormah, 5 Tziklag, Bet-marcavot, Chatzar-susah, 6 Bet-l’vaot, and Sharuhcen—13 towns, with their villages. 7 Ayin, Rimmon, Ehter, and Ashan: 4 towns, with their villages—8 together with all the villages in the vicinity of those towns, down to Ba-alat-beer [and] Ramat-negev. That was the portion of the tribe of the Shimonites, by their clans. 9 The portion of the Shimonites was part of the territory of the Judahites; since the share of the Judahites was larger than they needed, the Shimonites received a portion inside their portion.

10 The third lot emerged for the Zevulunites, by their clans. The boundary of their portion: Starting at Sarid, 11 their [southern] boundary ascended westward to Maralah, touching Dabbeshet and touching the wadi alongside Yokneam. 12 And it also ran from Sarid along the eastern side, where the sun rises, past the territory of Kislot-tavor and on to Dav’rat and ascended to Yafia. 13 From there it ran [back] to the east, toward the sunrise, to Gat-chefer, to Et-katzin, and on to Rimmon, where it curved to Neah. 14 Then it turned—that is, the boundary on the north—to Channaton. Its extreme limits [in the northeast corner] were the Valley of Yiftach-el, 15 Kattat, Nahalal, Shimron, Yidalah, and Bet-lechem: 12 towns, with their villages. 16 That was the portion of the Zevulunites by their clans—those towns, with their villages.

17 The fourth lot fell to Yisachar, the Yisacharites by their clans. 18 Their territory comprised: Yizrael, K’sullot, Shunem, 19 Chafaraim, Shion, Anacharat, 20 Rab-beet, Kishion, Evetz, 21 Remet, En-gannim, En-chaddah, and Bet-patzetz. 22 The boundary touched Tabor, Shachatzimah, and Bet-shemesh; and their boundary ran to the Jordan: 16 towns, with their villages. 23 That was the portion of the tribe of the Yisacharites, by their clans—the towns with their villages.

24 The ﬁfth lot fell to the tribe of the Asherites, by their clans. 25 Their [southern] boundary ran along Chelkat, Chali, Beten, Achshaf, 26 Allam-melech, Amad, and Mishal; and it touched Carmel on the west, and Shichor-livnat. 27 It also ran [from Chelkat] along the east side to Bet-dagon, and touched Zevulun and the Valley of Yiftach-el to the north, [as also] Bet-emek and N’iel; then it ran to Cabul on the north, 28 Evron, Rechov, Chammon, and Kanah, up to Great Sidon. 29 The boundary turned to Ramah and on to the fortiﬁed city of Tyre; then the boundary turned to Chosah and it ran on westward to Mechevel, Achziv, 30 Ummah, Afek, and Rechov: 22 towns, with their villages. 31 That was the portion of the tribe of the Asherites, by their clans—those towns, with their villages.

32 The sixth lot fell to the Naftalites, the Naftalites by their clans. 33 Their boundary ran from Chelef, Elon-b’tza-ananim, Adami-nekev, and Yavn’el to Lakkum, and it ended at the Jordan. 34 The boundary then turned westward to Aznot-tavor and ran from there to Chukok. It touched Zevulun on the south, and it touched Asher on the west, and Judah at the Jordan on the east. 35 Its fortiﬁed towns were Tziddim, Tzer, Chammat, Rakkat, Kineret, 36 Adamah, Ramah, Chatzor, 37 Kedesh, Edrei, En-chatzor, 38 Yiron, Migdal-el, Chorem, Bet-anat, and Bet-shemesh: 19 towns, with their villages. 39 That was the portion of the tribe of the Naftalites, by their clans—the towns, with their villages.

40 The seventh lot fell to the tribe of the Danites, by their clans. 41 Their allotted territory comprised: Tzorah, Eshtaol, Ir-shemesh, 42 Sha-a-labbin, Ayaalon, Yitlah, 43 Elon, Timnah, Ekron, 44 Elt’keh, Gib’ton, Baalat, 45 Yehud, Benie-b’rak, Gat-rimmon, 46 Me-yarkon, and Rakkon, at the border near Yafo. 47 But the ter-ritory of the Danites slipped from their grasp. So the Danites migrated and made war on Leshem [or La-ish, as in Judges 18.7]. They captured it and put it to the sword; they took possession of it and settled in it. And they changed the name of Leshem to Dan, after their ancestor Dan. 48 That was the portion of the tribe of the Danites, by their clans—those towns, with their villages.

49 When they had ﬁnished allotting the land by its boundaries, the Israelites gave a portion in their midst to Joshua bin Nun. 50 At the command of the Lord, they gave him the town that he asked for, Timnat-serach in the hill country of Efraim; he fortiﬁed the town and settled in it.

51 These are the portions assigned by lot to the tribes of Israel by the priest Eleazar, Joshua bin Nun, and the heads of the ancestral houses, before the Lord at Shiloh, at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting.

## Chapter 20

1 When they had ﬁnished dividing the land, 1the Lord said to Joshua:

2 “Speak to the Israelites: Designate the cities of refuge—about which I commanded you through Moses—

3 to which a manslayer who kills a person by mistake, unintentionally, may ﬂee. They shall serve you as a refuge from the blood avenger.

4 He shall ﬂee to one of those cities, present himself at the entrance to the city gate, and plead his case before the elders of that city; and they shall admit him into the city and give him a place in which to live among them.

5 Should the blood avenger pursue him, they shall not hand the manslayer over to him, since he killed the other person without intent and had not been his enemy in the past.

6 He shall live in that city until he can stand trial before the assembly, [and remain there] until the death of the high priest who is in oﬃce at that time. Thereafter, the manslayer may go back to his home in his own town, to the town from which he ﬂed.”

7 So they set aside Kedesh in the hill country of Naftali in Galilee, Shechem in the hill country of Efraim, and Kiriat-arba—that is, Khevron—in the hill country of Judah.

8 And across the Jordan, east of Jericho, they assigned Betzer in the wilderness, in the Tableland, from the tribe of Reuven; Ramot in Gil’ad from the tribe of Gad; and Golan in Bashan from the tribe of Menasheh.

9 Those were the towns designated for all the Israelites and fo raliens residing among them, to which anyone who killed a person unintentionally might ﬂee, and not die by the hand of the blood avenger before standing trial by the assembly.

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## Chapter 21

1 The heads of the ancestral houses of the Levites approached the priest Eleazar, Joshua bin Nun, and the heads of the ancestral houses of the Israelite tribes,

2 and spoke to them at Shiloh in the land of Canaan, as follows: “The Lord commanded through Moses that we be given towns to live in, along with their pastures for our livestock.”

3 So the Israelites, in accordance with the Lord’s command, assigned to the Levites, out of their own portions, the following towns with their pastures:

4 The [ﬁrst] lot among the Levites fell to the Kohatite clans. To the descendants of the priest Aaron, there fell by lot 13 towns from the tribe of Judah, the tribe of Shimon, and the tribe of Binyamin;

5 and to the remaining Kohatites [there fell] by lot 10 towns from the clans of the tribe of Efraim, the tribe of Dan, and the half-tribe of Menasheh.

6 To the Gershonites [there fell] by lot 13 towns from the clans of the tribe of Yisachar, the tribe of Asher, the tribe of Naftali, and the half-tribe of Menasheh in Bashan.

7 [And] to the Merarites, by their clans—12 towns from the tribe of Reuven, the tribe of Gad, and the tribe of Zevulun.

8 The Israelites assigned those towns with their pastures by lot to the Levites—as the Lord had commanded through Moses.

9 From the tribe of the Judahites and the tribe of the Shimonites were assigned the following towns, which will be listed by name;

10 they went to the descendants of Aaron among the Kohatite clans of the Levites, for the ﬁrst lot had fallen to them.

11 To them were assigned in the hill country of Judah Kiriat-arba—that is, Khevron—together with the pastures around it. [Arba was] the father of the Anokites [or perhaps Anakites].

12 They gave the ﬁelds and the villages of the town to Calev ben Yefuneh as his holding.

13 But to the descendants of Aaron the priest they assigned Khevron—the city of refuge for manslayers—together with its pastures, Livnah with its pastures,

14 Yattir with its pastures, Esht’moa with its pastures,

15 Cholon with its pastures, D’vir with its pastures,

16 Ayin with its pastures, Yuttah with its pastures, and Bet-shemesh with its pastures—9 towns from those two tribes.

17 And from the tribe of Binyamin: Giv’on with its pastures, Geva with its pastures,

18 Anatot with its pastures, and Almon with its pastures—4 towns.

19 All the towns of the descendants of the priest Aaron, 13 towns with their pastures.

20 As for the other clans of the Kohatites, the remaining Levites descended from Kohat, the towns in their lot were: From the tribe of Efraim

21 they were given, in the hill country of Efraim, Shechem—the city of refuge for manslayers—with its pastures, Gezer with its pastures,

22 Kivtzaim with its pastures, and Bet-vhoron with its pastures—4 towns.

23 From the tribe of Dan, Elt’ke with its pastures, Gibb’ton with its pastures,

24 Ayaalon with its pastures, and Gat-rimmon with its pastures—4 towns.

25 And from the half-tribe of Menasheh, Taanach with its pastures, and Gat-rimmon with its pastures—2 towns.

26 All the towns for the remaining clans of the Kohatites came to 10, with their pastures.

27 To the Gershonites of the levitical clans: From the half-tribe of Menasheh, Golan in Bashan—the city of refuge for manslayers— with its pastures, and B’eshterah with its pastures—2 towns.

28 From the tribe of Yisachar: Kishyon with its pastures, Dovrat with its pastures,

29 Yarmut with its pastures, and En-gannim with its pastures—4 towns.

30 From the tribe of Asher: Mishal with its pastures, Avdon with its pastures,

31 Chelkat with its pastures, and Rechov with its pastures—4 towns.

32 From the tribe of Naftali, Kedesh in Galilee—the city of refuge for manslayers—with its pastures, Chammot-dor with its pastures, and Kartan with its pastures—3 towns.

33 All the towns of the Gershonites, by their clans, came to 13 towns, with their pastures.

34 To the remaining Levites, the clans of the Merarites: From the tribe of Zevulun, Yokneam with its pastures, Kartah with its pastures,

35 Dimnah with its pastures, and Nahalal with its pastures—4 towns.

36 From the tribe of Gad, Ramot in Gil’ad—the city of refuge for manslayers—with its pastures, Machanaim with its pastures,

37 Cheshbon with its pastures, and Yazer with its pastures—4 towns in all.

38 All the towns which went by lot to the Merarites, by their clans—the rest of the Levitical clans—came to 12 towns.

39 All the towns of the Levites within the holdings of the Israelites came to 48 towns, with their pastures.

40 Thus those towns were assigned, every town with its surrounding pasture; and so it was with all those towns.

41 The Lord gave to Israel the whole country which He had sworn to their fathers that He would assign to them; they took possession of it and settled in it.

42 The Lord gave them rest on all sides, just as He had promised to their fathers on oath. Not one man of all their enemies withstood them; the Lord delivered all their enemies into their hands.

43 Not one of the good things which the Lord had promised to the House of Israel was lacking. Everything was fulﬁlled.

**Chapter 22**

1 Then Joshua summoned the Reuvenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Menasheh,

2 and said to them, “You have observed all that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, and have obeyed me in everything that I commanded you.

3 You have not forsaken your kinsmen through the long years down to this day, but have faithfully observed the Instruction [commandments] of the Lord your God.

4 Now the Lord your God has given your kinsmen rest, as He promised them. Therefore turn and go to your homes, to the land of your holdings beyond the Jordan that Moses the servant of the Lord assigned to you.

5 But be very careful to fulfill the Instruction [commandments] and the Torah that Moses the servant of the Lord enjoined upon you, to love the Lord your God and to walk in all His ways, and to keep His commandments and hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and soul.”

6 Then Joshua blessed them and dismissed them, and they went to their homes.

7 To the one half-tribe of Menasheh Moses had assigned territory in Bashan, and to the other Joshua assigned [territory] on the west side of the Jordan, with their kinsmen [the other nine-and-a-half tribes]. Furthermore, when Joshua sent them [the two-and-a-half tribes] off to their homes, he blessed them

8 and said to them, “Return to your homes with great wealth—with very much livestock, with silver and gold, with copper and iron, and with a great quantity of clothing. Share the spoil of your enemies with your kinsmen.”

9 So the Reuvenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Menasheh left the Israelites at Shiloh, in the land of Canaan, and made their way back to the land of Gil’ad, the land of their own holding, which they had acquired by the command of the Lord through Moses.

10 When they came to the region of the Jordan in the land of Canaan, the Reuvenites and the Gadites and the half-tribe of Menasheh built an altar there by the Jordan, a great conspicuous altar.

11 A report reached the Israelites: “The Reuvenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Menasheh have built an altar opposite the land of Canaan, in the region of the Jordan, across from the Israelites.”

12 When the Israelites heard this, the whole community of the Israelites assembled at Shiloh to make war on them.

13 But [first] the Israelites sent the priest Pinchas ben Eleazar to the Reuvenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Menasheh in the land of Gil’ad,

14 accompanied by ten chieftains, one chieftain from each ancestral house of each of the tribes of Israel; they were every one of them heads of ancestral houses of the contingents of Israel.

15 When they came to the Reuvenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Menasheh in the land of Gil’ad, they spoke to them as follows:

16 “Thus said the whole community of the Lord: What is this treachery that you have committed this day against the God of Israel, turning away from the Lord, building yourselves an altar and rebelling this day against the Lord!

17 Is the sin of Peor, which brought a plague upon the community of the Lord, such a small thing to us? We have not cleansed ourselves from it to this very day;

18 and now you would turn away from the Lord! If you rebel against the Lord today, tomorrow He will be angry with the whole community of Israel.

19 If it is because the land of your holding is unclean, cross over into the land of the Lord’s own holding, where the Tabernacle of the Lord abides, and acquire holdings among us. But do not rebel against the Lord, and do not rebel against us by building for yourselves an altar other than the altar of the Lord our God.

20 When Achan ben Zerach violated the proscription, anger struck the whole community of Israel; he was not the only one who perished for that sin.”

21 The Reuvenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Menasheh replied to the heads of the contingents of Israel: They said,

22 “God, the Lord God! God, the Lord God! He knows, and Israel too shall know! If we acted in rebellion or in treachery against the Lord, do not vindicate us this day!

23 If we built an altar to turn away from the Lord, if it was to offer burnt offerings or meal offerings upon it, or to present sacrifices of well-being upon it, may the Lord Himself demand [a reckoning].

24 We did this thing only out of our concern that, in time to come, your children might say to our children, ‘What have you to do with the Lord, the God of Israel?

25 The Lord has made the Jordan a boundary between you and us, O Reuvenites and Gadites; you have no share in the Lord!’ Thus your children might prevent our children from worshiping the Lord.

26 So we decided to provide [a witness] for ourselves by building an altar—not for burnt offerings or [other] sacrifices,

27 but as a witness between you and us, and between the generations to come—that we may perform the service of the Lord before Himc with our burnt offerings, our sacrifices, and our offerings of well-being; and that your children should not say to our children in time to come, ‘You have no share in the Lord.’

28 We reasoned: should they speak thus to us and to our children in time to come, we would reply, ‘See the replica of the Lord’s altar [at Shiloh], which our fathers made—not for burnt offerings or sacrifices, but as a witness between you and us.’

29 Far be it from us to rebel against the Lord, or to turn away this day from the Lord and build an altar for burnt offerings, meal offerings, and sacrifices other than the altar of the Lord our God which stands before His Tabernacle.”

30 When the priest Pinchas and the chieftains of the community—the heads of the contingents of Israel—who were with him heard the explanation given by the Reuvenites, the Gadites, and the Menashites, they approved.

31 The priest Pinchas ben Eleazar said to the Reuvenites, the Gadites, and the Menashites, “Now we know that the Lord is in our midst, since you have not committed such treachery against the Lord. You have indeed saved the Israelites from punishment by the Lord.”

32 Then the priest Pinchas ben Eleazar and the chieftains returned from the Reuvenites and the Gadites in the land of Gil’ad to the Israelites in the land of Canaan, and gave them their report.

33 The Israelites were pleased, and the Israelites praised God; and they spoke no more of going to war against them, to ravage the land in which the Reuvenites and Gadites dwelt.

34 The Reuvenites and the Gadites named the altar [“Witness”], meaning, “It is a witness between us and them that the Lord is [our] God.”

## Chapter 23

1 Much later, after the Lord had given Israel rest from all the enemies around them, and when Joshua was old and well advanced in years,

2 Joshua summoned all Israel, their elders and commanders, their magistrates and officials, and said to them: “I have grown old and am advanced in years.

3 You have seen all that the Lord your God has done to all those nations on your account, for it was the Lord your God who fought for you.

4 See, I have allotted to you, by your tribes, [the territory of] these nations that still remain, and that of all the nations that I have destroyed, from the Jordan to the Mediterranean Sea in the west.

5 The Lord your God Himself will thrust them out on your account and drive them out to make way for you, and you shall possess their land as the Lord your God promised you.

6 “But be most resolute to observe faithfully all that is written in the Book of the Torah of Moses, without ever deviating from it to the right or to the left,

7 and without intermingling with these nations that are left among you. Do not utter the names of their gods or swear by them; do not serve them or bow down to them.

8 But hold fast to the Lord your God as you have done to this day.

9 “The Lord has driven out great, powerful nations on your account, and not a man has withstood you to this day.

10 A single man of you would put a thousand to flight, for the Lord your God Himself has been fighting for you, as He promised you.

11 For your own sakes, therefore, be most mindful to love the Lord your God.

12 For should you turn away and attach yourselves to the remnant of those nations—to those that are left among you—and intermarry with them, you joining them and they joining you,

13 know for certain that the Lord your God will not continue to drive these nations out before you; they shall become a snare and a trap for you, a scourge to your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from this good land that the Lord your God has given you.

14 “I am now going the way of all the earth. Acknowledge with all your heart and soul that not one of the good things that the Lord your God promised you has failed to happen; they have all come true for you, not a single one has failed.

15 But just as every good thing that the Lord your God promised you has been fulfilled for you, so the Lord can bring upon you every evil thing until He has wiped you off this good land that the Lord your God has given you.

16 If you break the covenant that the Lord your God enjoined upon you, and go and serve other gods and bow down to them, then the Lord’s anger will burn against you, and you shall quickly perish from the good land that He has given you.”

## Chapter 24

1 Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned Israel’s elders and commanders, magistrates and officers; and they presented themselves before God.

2 Then Joshua said to all the people, “Thus said the Lord, the God of Israel: In olden times, your forefathers— Terach, father of Abraham and father of Nachor—lived beyond the Euphrates and worshiped other gods.

3 But I took your father Abraham from beyond the Euphrates and led him through the whole land of Canaan and multiplied his offspring. I gave him Isaac,

4 and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. I gave Esau the hill country of Seir as his possession, while Jacob and his children went down to Egypt.

5 “Then I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt with [the wonders] that I wrought in their midst, after which I freed you—

6 I freed your fathers—from Egypt, and you came to the Sea. But the Egyptians pursued your fathers to the Sea of Reeds with chariots and horsemen.

7 They cried out to the Lord, and He put darkness between you and the Egyptians; then He brought the Sea upon them, and it covered them. Your own eyes saw what I did to the Egyptians. After you had lived a long time in the wilderness,

8 I brought you to the land of the Amori who lived beyond the Jordan. They gave battle to you, but I delivered them into your hands; I annihilated them for you, and you took possession of their land.

9 Thereupon Balak ben Tzippor, the king of Moav, made ready to attack Israel. He sent for Bilam ben B’or to curse you,

10 but I refused to listen to Bilam; he had to bless you, and thus I saved you from him.

11 “Then you crossed the Jordan and you came to Jericho. The citizens of Jericho and the Amori, P’rizi, K’nani, Chiti, Girgashi, Chivi, and Y’vusi fought you, but I delivered them into your hands.

12 I sent a plague ahead of you, and it drove them out before you—[just like] the two Amori kings—not by your sword or by your bow.

13 I have given you a land for which you did not labor and towns which you did not build, and you have settled in them; you are enjoying vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant.

14 “Now, therefore, revere the Lord and serve Him with undivided loyalty; put away the gods that your forefathers served beyond the Euphrates and in Egypt, and serve the Lord.

15 Or, if you are loath to serve the Lord, choose this day which ones you are going to serve—the gods that your forefathers served beyond the Euphrates, or those of the Amori in whose land you are settled; but I and my household will serve the Lord.”

16 In reply, the people declared, “Far be it from us to forsake the Lord and serve other gods!

17 For it was the Lord our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, the house of bondage, and who wrought those wondrous signs before our very eyes, and guarded us all along the way that we traveled and among all the peoples through whose midst we passed.

18 And then the Lord drove out before us all the peoples—the Amori—that inhabited the country. We too will serve the Lord, for He is our God.”

19 Joshua, however, said to the people, “You will not be able to serve the Lord, for He is a holy God. He is a jealous God; He will not forgive your transgressions and your sins.

20 If you forsake the Lord and serve alien gods, He will turn and deal harshly with you and make an end of you, after having been gracious to you.”

21 But the people replied to Joshua, “No, we will serve the Lord!”

22 Thereupon Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have by your own act chosen to serve the Lord.” “Yes, we are!” they responded.

23 “Then put away the alien gods that you have among you and direct your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.”

24 And the people declared to Joshua, “We will serve none but the Lord our God, and we will obey none but Him.”

25 On that day at Shechem, Joshua made a covenant for the people and he made a fixed rule for them.

26 Joshua recorded all this in a book of divine instruction. He took a great stone and set it up at the foot of the oak in the sacred precinct of the Lord;

27 and Joshua said to all the people, “See, this very stone shall be a witness against us, for it heard all the words that the Lord spoke to us; it shall be a witness against you, lest you break faith with your God.”

28 Joshua then dismissed the people to their allotted portions.

29 After these events, Joshua bin Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of 110 years.

30 They buried him on his own property, at Timnat-serach in the hill country of Efrayim, north of Mount Ga-ash.

31 Israel served the Lord during the lifetime of Joshua and the lifetime of the elders who lived on after Joshua, and who had experienced all the deeds that the Lord had wrought for Israel.

32 The bones of Joseph, which the Israelites had brought up from Egypt, were buried at Shechem, in the piece of ground which Jacob had bought for 100 *kesitahs* [a unit of unknown value] from the children of Chamor, Shechem’s father, and which had become a heritage of the Josephites.

33 Eleazar ben Aaron also died, and they buried him on the hill of his son Pinchas, which had been assigned to him in the hill country of Efrayim.