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Leviticus

Sacrifices and Offerings

1 The Lord God called to Moses and spoke to him from the Meeting Tent.* The Lord said, **2**“Tell the people of Israel: When you bring an offering to the Lord, the offering must be one of your tame animals—it can be a cow, a sheep, or a goat.

3“When a person offers one of his cows as a burnt offering, then that animal must be a bull that has nothing wrong with it. The person must take the animal to the entrance of the Meeting Tent.* Then the Lord will accept the offering. **4**The person must put his hand on the animal’s head [while it is being killed]. The Lord will accept that burnt offering as payment to make that person pure.*

5“The person must kill the young bull in front of the Lord. Then Aaron’s sons, the priests, must bring the blood to the altar* near the entrance of the Meeting Tent* and sprinkle the blood on the altar, all around it. **6**The priest must cut the skin from that animal and then cut the animal into pieces. **7**Aaron’s sons, the priests, must put fire on the altar and then stack wood on the fire. **8**Aaron’s sons, the priests, must lay the pieces (the head and the fat) on the wood that is on the fire on the altar. **9**The priest must wash the legs and inside parts of the animal with water. Then the priest must burn all the animal’s parts on the altar. It is a burnt offering, an offering made by fire. Its smell pleases the Lord.

Meeting Tent The Holy Tent (tabernacle) where the people of Israel went to meet with God.

make ... pure Or, “make atonement.” The Hebrew word means “to cover,” “to hide,” or “to erase sins.”

altar A table or raised area used for offering sacrifices.

10“When a person offers a sheep or a goat as a burnt offering, then that animal must be a male animal that has nothing wrong with it.

11The person must kill the animal on the north side of the altar* in front of the Lord. Then Aaron’s sons, the priests, must sprinkle the animal’s blood on the altar, all around it.

12Then the priest must cut the animal into pieces. The priest must lay the pieces (the head and the fat) on the wood that is on the fire on the altar. **13**The priest must wash the legs and inside parts of the animal with water. Then the priest must offer all the animal’s parts. He must burn the animal on the altar. It is a burnt offering, an offering made by fire. Its smell pleases the Lord.

14“When a person offers a bird as a burnt offering to the Lord, then that bird must be a dove or a young pigeon. **15**The priest must bring the offering to the altar.* The priest must pull off the bird’s head and burn the bird on the altar. The bird’s blood must be drained out on the side of the altar. **16**The priest must remove the bird’s crop* and feathers and throw them on the east side of the altar. This is the place where they put the ashes from the altar. **17**Then the priest must tear the bird by its wings, but he must not divide the bird into two parts. The priest must burn the bird on the altar, on the wood that is on the fire. It is a burnt offering, an offering made by fire. Its smell pleases the Lord.

Grain Offerings

2“When a person gives a grain offering to the Lord God, his offering must be made from fine flour. The person must pour oil on

crop A small bag inside a bird’s throat. When a bird eats, its food goes into this bag first to be made soft.

this flour and put frankincense* on it. ²Then he must bring it to Aaron's sons, the priests. He must take a handful of the fine flour with the oil and frankincense in it. Then the priest must burn this memorial offering on the altar.* It is an offering made by fire. Its smell pleases the Lord. ³The grain offering that is left will belong to Aaron and his sons. This offering made by fire to the Lord is very holy.

Baked Grain Offerings

⁴“When a person gives a grain offering that was baked in the oven, then it must be unleavened bread* made from fine flour mixed with oil or wafers* with oil poured over them. ⁵If you bring a grain offering cooked in a baking pan, then it must be made from fine flour mixed with oil but without yeast. ⁶You must break it into pieces and pour oil over it. It is a grain offering. ⁷If you bring a grain offering cooked in a frying pan, then it must be made from fine flour mixed with oil.

⁸“You must bring grain offerings made from these things to the Lord. You must take those things to the priest, and he will put them on the altar.* ⁹Then the priest will take part of the grain offering, and burn this memorial offering on the altar. It is an offering made by fire. Its smell pleases the Lord. ¹⁰The grain offering that is left will belong to Aaron and his sons. This offering made by fire to the Lord is very holy.

¹¹“You must not give any grain offering to the Lord that has yeast in it. You must not burn yeast or honey as an offering made by fire to the Lord. ¹²You may bring yeast and honey to the Lord as an offering from the first harvest. But yeast and honey must not be burned to go up as a sweet smell on the altar.* ¹³You must also put salt on every grain offering you bring. You must not let the salt of God's Agreement be missing from your grain offering. You must bring salt with all your offerings.

frankincense Very special dried tree sap. Burned to make a sweet-smelling smoke, it was offered as a gift to God.

altar A table or raised area used for offering sacrifices.

unleavened bread Bread made without yeast.

wafers A thin bread, like crackers, made without yeast.

Grain Offerings from First Harvest

¹⁴“When you bring a grain offering from the first harvest to the Lord, you must bring roasted heads of grain. They must be crushed heads of fresh grain. This will be your grain offering from the first harvest. ¹⁵You must put oil and frankincense* on it. It is a grain offering. ¹⁶The priest must burn part of the crushed grain, the oil, and all the frankincense on it as the memorial offering. It is an offering by fire to the Lord.

Fellowship Offerings

3“When a person gives a sacrifice as a fellowship offering, the animal can be a cow and the animal can be a male or a female. But the animal must have nothing wrong with it. ²The person must put his hand on the animal's head and kill the animal at the entrance of the Meeting Tent.* Then Aaron's sons, the priests, must sprinkle the blood on the altar,* all around it. ³The fellowship offering is an offering made by fire to the Lord. The priest must offer the fat that is in and around the animal's inside parts. ⁴The person must offer the two kidneys and the fat covering them near the lower back muscle. He must also offer the fat part of the liver. He must remove it with the kidneys. ⁵Then Aaron's sons will burn the fat on the altar. They will put it on the burnt offering that is on the wood on the fire. It is an offering by fire. Its smell pleases the Lord.

⁶“When a person gives a sheep or a goat as a fellowship offering to the Lord, the animal can be a male or a female animal. But it must have nothing wrong with it. ⁷If he brings a lamb as his offering, then he must bring it before the Lord. ⁸He must put his hand on the animal's head and kill the animal in front of the Meeting Tent.* Then Aaron's sons must sprinkle the animal's blood on the altar,* all around it. ⁹The person must give part of the fellowship offering as an offering made by fire to the Lord. The person must offer the fat, the whole fat tail, and the fat that is on and around

Meeting Tent The Holy Tent (tabernacle) where the people of Israel went to meet with God.

the animal's inside parts. (He must cut off the tail close to the backbone.) ¹⁰The person must offer the two kidneys and the fat covering them near the lower back muscles. He must also offer the fat part of the liver. He must remove it with the kidneys. ¹¹Then the priest must burn them on the altar. The fellowship offering is an offering made by fire to the Lord. But it will also be food [for the people].

A Goat as a Fellowship Offering

¹²"If the offering is a goat, then the person must bring it before the Lord. ¹³The person must put his hand on the goat's head and kill it in front of the Meeting Tent.* Then Aaron's son must sprinkle the goat's blood on the altar,* all around it. ¹⁴The person must give part of the fellowship offering as an offering made by fire to the Lord. The person must offer the fat that is on and around the animal's inside parts. ¹⁵The person must offer the two kidneys and the fat covering them near the lower back muscle. He must also offer the fat part of the liver. He must remove it with the kidneys. ¹⁶Then the priest must burn them on the altar. The fellowship offering is an offering made by fire. Its smell pleases the Lord. It is also food [for the people]—but the best parts* belong to the Lord. ¹⁷This rule will continue forever through all your generations. Wherever you live, you must never eat fat or blood."

Offerings for Accidental Sins

4 The Lord spoke to Moses. The Lord said, ²"Tell the people of Israel: If any person sins by accident and does any of the things the Lord said must not be done, then that person must do these things:

³"If the anointed priest* makes a mistake in a way that leaves the people guilty for their sin, then the priest must make an offering to the Lord for his sin. The priest must offer a

young bull that has nothing wrong with it. He must offer the young bull to the Lord as a sin offering. ⁴The anointed priest must bring the bull to the entrance of the Meeting Tent* in front of the Lord. He must put his hand on the bull's head and kill the bull in front of the Lord. ⁵Then the anointed priest* must get some of the blood from the bull and take it into the Meeting Tent. ⁶The priest must put his finger in the blood and sprinkle the blood seven times before the Lord in front of the curtain of the [Most] Holy Place.* ⁷The priest must put some of the blood on the corners of the incense* altar.* (This altar is in the Meeting Tent, in front of the Lord.) The priest must pour out all of the bull's blood at the base of the altar of burnt offering. (This altar is at the entrance of the Meeting Tent.) ⁸And he must take all the fat from the bull of the sin offering. He must take the fat that is on and around the inside parts. ⁹He must take the two kidneys and the fat covering them near the lower back muscle. He must also take the fat part of the liver. He must remove it with the kidneys. ¹⁰The priest must offer these parts just like they are offered from the bull of the fellowship offering.* The priest must burn the animal parts on the altar of burnt offering. ^{11–12}But the priest must carry out the bull's skin, inside parts and body waste, and all the meat on its head and legs. The priest must carry those parts outside the camp to the special place where the ashes are poured out. The priest must put those parts there on the wood and burn them. The bull must be burned where the ashes are poured out.

¹³"It may happen that the whole nation of Israel sins without knowing it. They might have done any of the things that the Lord has commanded them not to do. If this happens, they will become guilty. ¹⁴If they learn about that sin, then they must offer a young bull as a sin offering for the whole nation. They must

Meeting Tent The Holy Tent (tabernacle) where the people of Israel went to meet with God.

altar A table or raised area used for offering sacrifices.

best parts Literally, "fat."

anointed priest The priest chosen to serve at a particular time. The priests took turns. Special oil was poured on the one chosen to show that God chose him to serve.

Most Holy Place Most important room in the Holy Tent. The Holy Box with the Cherub Angels on it was in this room. It was like God's throne.

incense Special dried tree sap. Burned to make a sweet-smelling smoke, it was offered as a gift to God.

just like ... fellowship offering See Lev. 3:1–5.

bring the bull to the Meeting Tent.* ¹⁵The elders (*leaders*) of the people must put their hands on the bull's head in front of the Lord, and then a person must kill the bull in front of the Lord. ¹⁶Then the anointed priest* must get some of the bull's blood and take it into the Meeting Tent. ¹⁷The priest must put his finger in the blood and sprinkle it seven times in front of the curtain before the Lord. ¹⁸Then the priest must put some of the blood on the corners of the altar.* (This altar is in the Meeting Tent, in front of the Lord.) The priest must pour out all the blood at the base of the altar of burnt offering. (This altar is at the entrance of the Meeting Tent.) ¹⁹Then the priest must take all the fat from the animal and burn it on the altar. ²⁰The priest must offer these parts just like he offered the bull of the sin offering.* In this way, the priest will make the people pure.* And God will forgive the people of Israel. ²¹The priest must carry this bull outside the camp and burn it, just like he burned the other bull. This is the sin offering for the whole community.

²²"A ruler might sin by accident and do one of the things the Lord his God said must not be done. The ruler will be guilty of doing wrong. ²³If the ruler learns about his sin, then he must bring a male goat that has nothing wrong with it. That will be his offering. ²⁴The ruler must put his hand on the goat's head and kill the goat at the place where they kill the burnt offering before the Lord. The goat is a sin offering. ²⁵The priest must take some of the blood of the sin offering on his finger and put it on the corners of the altar* of burnt offering. The priest must pour the rest of the blood at the base of the altar. ²⁶And the priest must burn all the goat's fat on the altar. He must burn it like he burns the fat of the sacrifice of fellowship offerings. In this way,

the priest will make the ruler pure.* And God will forgive the ruler.

²⁷"One of the common people might sin by accident and do one of the things that the Lord said must not be done. ²⁸If that person learns about his sin, then he must bring a female goat that has nothing wrong with it. That will be the person's sin offering. He must bring this goat for the sin that he has done. ²⁹He must put his hand on the animal's head and kill it at the place for the burnt offering. ³⁰Then the priest must take some of the goat's blood on his finger and put it on the corners of the altar* of burnt offering. Then the priest must pour out the rest of the goat's blood at the base of the altar. ³¹The priest must offer all the goat's fat, just like the fat is offered from the fellowship offerings. The priest must burn it on the altar as a sweet smell to the Lord. In this way, the priest will make that person pure.* And God will forgive that person.

³²"If that person brings a lamb as his sin offering, then he must bring a female lamb that has nothing wrong with it. ³³The person must put his hand on the animal's head and kill it as a sin offering in the place where they kill the burnt offering. ³⁴The priest must take some of the blood from the sin offering on his finger and put it on the corners of the altar* of burnt offering. Then the priest must pour out all the lamb's blood at the base of the altar. ³⁵The priest must offer all the lamb's fat, just like the fat of the lamb is offered from the fellowship offerings. The priest must burn it on the altar, just like any offering made by fire to the Lord. In this way, the priest will make that person pure* from the sin he did. And God will forgive that person.

Different Accidental Sins

5 "A person might hear a warning. Or a person might see or hear something that he should tell to other people. If that person does not tell what he saw or heard, then that person is guilty of doing wrong. ²Or a person might touch something unclean.* It might be the

Meeting Tent The Holy Tent (tabernacle) where the people of Israel went to meet with God.

anointed priest The priest chosen to serve at a particular time. The priests took turns. Special oil was poured on the one chosen to show that God chose him to serve.

altar A table or raised area used for offering sacrifices.

like ... sin offering See Lev. 4:3–12.

make ... pure Or, "make atonement." The Hebrew word means "to cover," "to hide," or "to erase sins."

unclean Not pure or not acceptable to God for worship.

dead body of a tame animal, or it might be the dead body of an unclean animal. That person might not know that he touched those things, but he will still be guilty of doing wrong. ³There are many things that come from a person that make a person unclean. A person might touch any of these things from another person, but not know about it. When that person learns that he has touched something unclean, he will be guilty. ⁴Or a person might make a quick promise to do something—it makes no difference if it is bad or good. People make many kinds of quick promises. A person might make such a promise and forget it.* When he remembers* his promise, then he will be guilty, because he didn't keep his promise. ⁵So, if a person is guilty of any of these things, then he must confess (*admit*) the thing he did wrong. ⁶He must bring his guilt offering to the Lord for the sin he did. He must bring a female lamb or a female goat as a sin offering. Then the priest will [do the things that will] make that person pure* from the sin that person did.

⁷"If the person can't afford a lamb, he must bring two doves or two young pigeons to the Lord. These will be the guilt offering for his sin. One bird must be for a sin offering, and the other must be for a burnt offering. ⁸The person must bring them to the priest. First, the priest will offer one bird for the sin offering. The priest will pull off the bird's head from its neck. But the priest will not divide the bird [into two parts]. ⁹The priest must sprinkle the blood from the sin offering on the side of the altar.* Then the priest must pour out the rest of the blood at the base of the altar. It is a sin offering. ¹⁰Then the priest must offer the second bird according to the rules for a burnt offering. In this way, the priest will make that person pure* from the sin that person did. And God will forgive that person.

¹¹"If the person can't afford two doves or two pigeons, then he must bring 8 cups* of fine flour. This will be his sin offering. The person must not put oil on the flour. He must not put frankincense* on it, because it is a sin offering. ¹²The person must bring the flour to the priest. The priest will take a handful of the flour. It will be a memorial offering. The priest will burn the flour on the altar.* It will be an offering made by fire to the Lord. It is a sin offering. ¹³In this way, the priest will make that person pure.* And God will forgive that person. The part that is left will belong to the priest, just like the grain offering."

¹⁴The Lord said to Moses, ¹⁵"A person might accidentally do something wrong with the holy things of the Lord.* Then that person must bring a ram that has nothing wrong with it. This will be his guilt offering to the Lord. You must use the official measure* and set the price of the ram. ¹⁶That person must pay for the sin he did with the holy things. He must give the things he promised, add one-fifth to the value, and give this money to the priest. In this way, the priest will make that person pure* with the ram of the guilt offering. And God will forgive that person.

¹⁷"If a person sins and does any of the things that the Lord has commanded not to be done, it does not matter if that person did not know. That person is guilty. That person must accept the responsibility for his sin. ¹⁸That person must bring a ram that has nothing wrong with it to the priest. The ram will be a guilt offering. In this way, the priest will make that person pure* from the sin that person did without knowing. And God will forgive that person. ¹⁹The person is guilty, [even if he did not know he was sinning]. So he must give the guilt offering to the Lord."

forget it Literally, "it is hid from him."

remembers Literally, "knows of."

make ... pure Or, "make atonement." The Hebrew word means "to cover," "to hide," or "to erase sins."

altar A table or raised area used for offering sacrifices.

8 cups Literally, "1/10 of an ephah."

frankincense Very special dried tree sap. Burned to make a sweet-smelling smoke, it was offered as a gift to God.

altar A table or raised area used for offering sacrifices.

holy things ... Lord These are probably special gifts that a person promised but forgot to give to the Lord.

official measure Literally, "holy shekel," the official standard of measure used in the tabernacle or temple.

Guilt Offerings for Other Sins

6 The Lord said to Moses, ²“A person might do wrong against the Lord by doing one of these sins: A person might lie about [what happened] to something he was taking care of for someone else. Or a person might lie about a deposit* he received. Or a person might steal something. Or a person might cheat someone. ³Or a person might find something that was lost and then lie about it. Or a person might promise to do something and then not do what he promised. Or a person might do some other bad thing. ⁴If a person does any of those things, then that person is guilty of sin. That person must bring back whatever he stole, or whatever he took by cheating, or whatever he took that [the other person asked him to hold for him], or whatever he found and lied about, or ⁵whatever he made a false promise about. He must pay the full price. And then he must pay an extra fifth of [the value of] the thing. He must give the money to the true owner. He must do this on the day he [brings] his guilt offering.

⁶“That person must bring a guilt offering to the priest. It must be a ram from the flock. The ram must not have anything wrong with it. It must be worth the amount that the priest says. It will be a guilt offering to the Lord. ⁷Then the priest will go to the Lord and [do the things that will] make that person pure *. And God will forgive that person for all the things that made him guilty.”

Burnt Offerings

⁸The Lord said to Moses, ⁹“Give this command to Aaron and his sons: This is the law of the burnt offering. The burnt offering must [stay] on the hearth* of the altar* all night until morning. The altar’s fire must be kept burning on the altar. ¹⁰The priest must put on his linen robe. He must put on his linen

underwear next to his body. Then the priest must pick up the ashes left by the fire when it burned the burnt offering on the altar. The priest must put these ashes beside the altar. ¹¹Then the priest must take off his clothes and put on other clothes. Then he must carry the ashes outside the camp to a special place. ¹²But the altar’s fire must be kept burning on the altar. It must not [be allowed to] stop burning. The priest must burn wood on the altar every morning. He must put the wood on the altar. He must burn the fat of the fellowship offerings. ¹³Fire must be kept burning on the altar without stopping. It must not go out.

Grain Offerings

¹⁴“This is the law of the grain offering: The sons of Aaron must bring it to the Lord in front of the altar.* ¹⁵The priest must take a handful of the fine flour from the grain offering. The oil and the frankincense* must be on the grain offering. The priest must burn the grain offering on the altar. It will be a memorial [offering] to the Lord. Its smell will please the Lord.

¹⁶“Aaron and his sons must eat the grain offering that is left. The grain offering is a kind of bread made without yeast. The priests must eat this bread in a holy place. They must eat it in the courtyard around the Meeting Tent.* ¹⁷The grain offering must not be cooked with yeast. I have given it as the priests’ share of the offerings made to me by fire. It is most holy, like the sin offering and the guilt offering. ¹⁸Every male among the children of Aaron may eat from the offerings made to the Lord by fire. This is a rule forever through your generations. Touching these offerings makes those men holy.”

The Priests’ Grain Offering

¹⁹The Lord said to Moses, ²⁰“This is the offering that Aaron and his sons must bring to the Lord. They must do this on the day they

deposit Literally, “pledge” or “security.” This is something like a down payment given as proof that something more important will be done.

make ... pure Or, “make atonement.” The Hebrew word means “to cover,” “to hide,” or “to erase sins.”

hearth The place where a sacrifice is burned.

altar A table or raised area used for offering sacrifices.

frankincense Very special dried tree sap. Burned to make a sweet-smelling smoke, it was offered as a gift to God.

Meeting Tent The Holy Tent (tabernacle) where the people of Israel went to meet with God.

anoint* Aaron [to be high priest]. They must bring 8 cups* of fine flour for a grain offering. (This will be offered at the times of the daily offering.) They must bring half of it in the morning and half of it in the evening. ²¹The fine flour must be mixed with oil and made on a baking pan. When it is cooked, then you must bring it in. You must break the offering into pieces. Its smell will please the Lord.

²²“The priest from among Aaron’s descendants* that is chosen to take Aaron’s place must make this grain offering to the Lord. This rule will continue forever. The grain offering must be completely burned for the Lord. ²³Every grain offering of the priest must be completely burned. It must not be eaten.”

The Law of the Sin Offering

²⁴The Lord said to Moses, ²⁵“Tell Aaron and his sons: This is the law of the sin offering. The sin offering must be killed in the place where the burnt offering is killed before the Lord. It is most holy. ²⁶The priest that offers the sin offering must eat it. But he must eat it in a holy place, in the courtyard around the Meeting Tent.* ²⁷Touching the meat [of the sin offering] makes a person or a thing holy.

“If any of the sprinkled blood falls on a person’s clothes, then you must wash the clothes in a holy place. ²⁸If the sin offering was boiled in a clay pot, then the pot must be broken. If the sin offering was boiled in a bronze* pot, then the pot must be washed and rinsed in water.

²⁹“Any man in a priest’s family may eat the sin offering. It is very holy. ³⁰But if the blood of the sin offering was taken into the Meeting Tent* and used in the Holy Place to make [people] pure,* then that sin offering must not be eaten. It must be burned in the fire.

anoint To pour olive oil on things or people to show they were chosen for a special work or purpose.

8 cups Literally, “1/10 of an ephah.”

descendant(s) A person’s children and their future families.

Meeting Tent The Holy Tent (tabernacle) where the people of Israel went to meet with God.

bronze A metal. The Hebrew word can mean “copper,” “bronze,” or “brass.”

make ... pure Or, “make atonement.” The Hebrew word means “to cover,” “to hide,” or “to erase sins.”

Guilt Offerings

⁷“These are the rules for the guilt offering. It is very holy. ²A priest must kill the guilt offering in the same place where they kill the burnt offerings. Then the priest must sprinkle the blood from the guilt offering around the altar.*

³“The priest must offer all the fat from the guilt offering. He must offer the fat tail and the fat that covers the inside parts. ⁴The priest must offer the two kidneys and the fat covering them at the lower back muscle. He must also offer the fat part of the liver. He must remove it with the kidneys. ⁵The priest must burn all those things on the altar.* This will be an offering made by fire to the Lord. It is a guilt offering.

⁶“Any male in a priest’s family may eat the guilt offering. It is very holy, so it must be eaten in a holy place. ⁷The guilt offering is like the sin offering. The same rules are for both offerings. The priest that does the sacrificing will get the meat for food. ⁸The priest that does the sacrificing can also have the skin* from the burnt offering. ⁹Every grain offering belongs to the priest that offers it. That priest will get the grain offerings that were baked in an oven, or cooked on a frying pan or a baking dish. ¹⁰The grain offerings will belong to Aaron’s sons. It does not make any difference if they are dry or mixed with oil. The sons of Aaron (*priests*) will all share this food.

Fellowship Offerings

¹¹“This is the law of the sacrifice* of fellowship offerings that a person offers to the Lord: ¹²The person may bring the fellowship offering to show his thanks. If he brings his sacrifice to give thanks, he should [also] bring unleavened bread* mixed with oil, wafers* with oil poured over them, and loaves of fine flour mixed with oil. ¹³The fellowship offerings is the offering that a person brings

altar A table or raised area used for offering sacrifices.

skin This was used for making leather.

sacrifice A gift to God. Usually, it was a special animal that was killed and burned on an altar.

unleavened bread Bread made without yeast.

wafers A thin bread, like crackers, made without yeast.

to show thanks to God. With that offering the person must bring another offering with loaves of bread made with yeast. ¹⁴One of these loaves of bread will belong to the priest that sprinkles the blood of the fellowship offerings. ¹⁵The meat of the fellowship offering must be eaten on the same day it is offered. A person offers this gift as a way of showing thanks to God. But none of the meat should remain the next morning.

¹⁶“A person might bring a fellowship offering just because he wants to give a gift to God. Or maybe a person made a special promise to God. If this is true, then the sacrifice* must be eaten the same day he offers it. If there is any left, then it must be eaten that next day. ¹⁷But if any meat from this sacrifice is still left over on the third day, it must be burned in the fire. ¹⁸If a person eats any of the meat from his fellowship offering on the third day, then the Lord will not be happy with that person. The Lord will not count the sacrifice for him. The sacrifice will become unclean.* And if a person eats any of that meat, then that person will be responsible for his own sin.

¹⁹“Also, people must not eat the meat that touches anything that is unclean.* They must burn this meat in the fire. Every person who is clean* may eat the meat [from the fellowship offering]. ²⁰But if a person is unclean and eats the meat from the fellowship offerings that belongs to the Lord, then that person must be separated from his people.

²¹“A person might touch something that is unclean.* That thing may have been made unclean by people, by an unclean animal, or by any unclean hated thing. [That person will become unclean, and] if he eats any of the meat from the fellowship offerings that belong to the Lord, then that person must be separated from his people.”

sacrifice A gift to God. Usually, it was a special animal that was killed and burned on an altar.

sacrifice ... unclean Or, “offensive, bad, rotten.” This means the meat is not good to eat as part of a sacrifice.

unclean Not pure or not acceptable to God for worship.

clean Pure or acceptable to God for worship.

²²The Lord said to Moses, ²³“Tell the people of Israel: You must not eat any fat from cows, sheep, or goats. ²⁴You may use the fat from any animal that has died by itself, or was torn by [other] animals. But you must never eat it. ²⁵If any person eats the fat from an animal that was offered by fire to the Lord, then that person must be separated from his people.

²⁶“No matter where you live, you must never eat blood from any bird or any animal. ²⁷If a person eats any blood, then that person must be separated from his people.”

Rules for the Wave Offering

²⁸The Lord said to Moses, ²⁹“Tell the people of Israel: If a person brings a fellowship offering to the Lord, then that person must give a part of that gift to the Lord. ³⁰That part of the gift will be burnt in the fire. He must carry that part of the gift in his own hands. He must bring the fat and the breast [of the animal to the priest]. The breast will be lifted up in front of the Lord. This will be the wave offering. ³¹Then the priest must burn the fat on the altar.* But the breast [of the animal] will belong to Aaron and his sons. ³²You must also give the right thigh from the fellowship offering to the priest. ³³The right thigh from the fellowship offerings will belong to the priest* that offers the blood and fat of the fellowship offering. ³⁴I (the Lord) am taking the breast of the wave offerings and the right thigh of the fellowship offerings from the people of Israel. And I am giving those things to Aaron and his sons. The people of Israel must obey this rule forever.”

³⁵Those are the parts from the offerings made by fire to the Lord that were given to Aaron and his sons. Whenever Aaron and his sons serve as the Lord’s priests, they get that share of the sacrifices. ³⁶At the time the Lord chose the priests, he commanded the people of Israel to give those parts to the priests. The people must give that share to the priests forever.

³⁷Those are the laws about burnt offerings, grain offerings, sin offerings, guilt offerings,

altar A table or raised area used for offering sacrifices.

the priest Literally, “him of the sons of Aaron.”

fellowship offerings, and about the choosing of priests. ³⁸The Lord gave those laws to Moses on Mount Sinai. The Lord gave those laws on the day that he commanded the people of Israel to bring their offerings to the Lord in the Sinai desert.

Moses Makes the Priests Ready

8 The Lord said to Moses, ²“Take Aaron and his sons with him and the clothes, the anointing oil,* the bull of the sin offering, the two rams, and the basket of unleavened bread.* ³Then bring the people together at the entrance of the Meeting Tent.*”

⁴Moses did what the Lord commanded him. The people met together at the entrance of the Meeting Tent. ⁵Then Moses said to the people, “This is the thing that the Lord has commanded must be done.”

⁶Then Moses brought Aaron and his sons. He washed them with water. ⁷Then Moses put the woven shirt on Aaron and tied the sash (*belt*) around him. Then Moses put the robe on Aaron. Moses next put the Ephod* on Aaron. Then Moses tied the beautiful sash (*belt*) on Aaron. In that way, Moses put the Ephod on Aaron. ⁸Moses put the Judgment Pouch* on Aaron. Then he put the Urim and Thummim* in [the pocket of] the Judgment Pouch. ⁹Moses also put the turban* on Aaron’s head. Moses put the strip of gold on the front of the turban. This strip of gold is the holy crown. [Moses did] this just like the Lord had commanded.

¹⁰Then Moses took the anointing oil* and sprinkled it on the Holy Tent* and on all the

things in it. In this way, Moses made them holy.* ¹¹Moses sprinkled some of the anointing oil on the altar* seven times. Moses sprinkled the oil on the altar and on all its tools and dishes. Moses also sprinkled the oil on the bowl and its base. In this way, Moses made them holy. ¹²Then Moses poured some of the anointing oil on Aaron’s head. In this way, he made Aaron holy. ¹³Then Moses brought Aaron’s sons and put the woven shirts on them. He tied sashes (*belts*) on them. Then he wrapped headbands on their heads. [Moses did these things] just like the Lord had commanded.

¹⁴Then Moses brought the bull of the sin offering. Aaron and his sons put their hands on the head of the bull of the sin offering. ¹⁵Then Moses killed the bull and collected its blood. Moses used his finger and put some of the blood on all the corners of the altar.* In this way, Moses made the altar ready for sacrifices. Then Moses poured out the blood at the base of the altar. In this way, Moses made the altar ready for sacrifices to make the people pure.* ¹⁶Moses took all the fat from the inside parts [of the bull]. Moses took the fat part of the liver with the two kidneys and the fat on them. Then he burned them on the altar. ¹⁷But Moses [took] the bull’s skin, its meat, and its body waste outside the camp. Moses burned those things in a fire outside the camp. Moses did those things like the Lord commanded him.

¹⁸Then Moses brought the ram of the burnt offering. Aaron and his sons put their hands on the ram’s head. ¹⁹Then Moses killed the ram. He sprinkled the blood around on the altar.* ^{20–21}Moses cut the ram into pieces. Moses washed the inside parts and legs with water. Then Moses burned the whole ram on the altar. Moses burned the head, the pieces, and the fat. It was a burnt offering made by fire. Its smell pleased the Lord. Moses did those things like the Lord commanded.

²²Then Moses brought the other ram. This ram was used for appointing Aaron and his

anointing oil Olive oil that was poured on things or people to show that they were chosen for a special work or purpose.

unleavened bread Bread made without yeast.

Meeting Tent The Holy Tent (tabernacle) where the people of Israel came to meet with God.

Ephod A special coat worn by the high priest.

Judgment Pouch A piece of clothing like a bib or an apron that covered the high priest’s chest.

Urim and Thummim Used by the priest to learn God’s answer to questions. They were probably like lots—stones, sticks, or bones that were thrown like dice to make decisions.

turban Head covering made by wrapping a long piece of cloth around the head or around a cap worn on the head.

Holy Tent Or, “tabernacle.” The place God came to live among his people.

holy Set aside or chosen for a special purpose.

altar A table or raised area used for offering sacrifices.

make ... pure Or, “make atonement.” The Hebrew word means “to cover,” “to hide,” or “to erase sins.”

sons to become priests. Aaron and his sons put their hands on the ram's head. ²³Then Moses killed the ram. He put some of its blood on the tip of Aaron's ear, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big toe of Aaron's right foot. ²⁴Then Moses brought Aaron's sons close [to the altar]. Moses put some of the blood on the tip of their right ears, on the thumb of their right hands, and on the big toe of their right feet. Then Moses sprinkled the blood around on the altar.* ²⁵Moses took the fat, the fat tail, all the fat on the inside parts, the fat covering of the liver, the two kidneys and their fat, and the right thigh. ²⁶A basket of unleavened bread* is put before the Lord each day. Moses took one of those loaves of bread, and one loaf of bread mixed with oil, and one unleavened wafer.* Moses put those pieces of bread on the fat and on the right thigh of the ram. ²⁷Then Moses put all [those things] in the hands of Aaron and his sons. Moses waved the pieces as a wave offering before the Lord. ²⁸Then Moses took these things from the hands of Aaron and his sons. Moses burned them on the altar on top of the burnt offering. So that was the offering for appointing Aaron and his sons as priests. It was an offering made by fire. Its smell pleased the Lord. ²⁹Moses took the breast, and waved it for a wave offering in front of the Lord. It was Moses' share of the ram for appointing the priests. This was like the Lord had commanded Moses.

³⁰Moses took some of the anointing oil* and some of the blood that was on the altar.* Moses sprinkled some on Aaron and on Aaron's clothes. Moses sprinkled some on Aaron's sons that were with Aaron and on their clothes. In this way, Moses made Aaron, his clothes, his sons, and his sons' clothes holy.*

³¹Then Moses said to Aaron and his sons, "[Do you remember my command?] I said, 'Aaron and his sons must eat these things.' So

take the basket of bread and meat from the ceremony for choosing the priests. Boil that meat at the entrance of the Meeting Tent.* Eat the meat and bread at that place. Do this like I told you. ³²If any of the meat or bread is left, then burn it. ³³The ceremony for choosing the priests will last for seven days. You must not leave the entrance of the Meeting Tent until that time is finished. ³⁴The Lord has commanded to do the things that were done today. He commanded these things to make you pure.* ³⁵You must stay at the entrance of the Meeting Tent day and night for seven days. If you don't obey the Lord's commands, then you will die! The Lord gave me those commands."

³⁶So Aaron and his sons did all the things that the Lord had commanded Moses.

God Accepts the Priests

9 On the eighth day, Moses called Aaron and his sons. He also called the elders (*leaders*) of Israel. ²Moses said to Aaron, "Take a bull and a ram. There must be nothing wrong with those animals. The bull will be a sin offering, and the ram will be a burnt offering. Offer those animals to the Lord. ³Tell the people of Israel, 'Take a male goat for a sin offering. And take a calf and a lamb for a burnt offering. The calf and the lamb must each be one year old. There must be nothing wrong with those animals. ⁴Take a bull and a ram for fellowship offerings. Take those animals and a grain offering mixed with oil, and offer those things to the Lord. Why? Because today the Lord will appear to you.'"

⁵So all the people came to the Meeting Tent.* They all brought the things that Moses had commanded. All the people stood before the Lord. ⁶Moses said, "You must do those things that the Lord commanded. Then the Glory of the Lord* will appear to you."

⁷Then Moses told Aaron these things: "Go do the things the Lord commanded. Go to the

altar A table or raised area used for offering sacrifices.

unleavened bread Bread made without yeast.

wafer A thin bread, like crackers, made without yeast.

anointing oil Olive oil that was poured on things or people to show that they were chosen for a special work or purpose.

holy Set aside or chosen for a special purpose.

Meeting Tent The Holy Tent (tabernacle) where the people of Israel came to meet with God.

make ... pure Or, "make atonement." The Hebrew word means "to cover," "to hide," or "to erase sins."

Glory of the Lord One of the forms God used when he appeared to people. It was like a bright, shining light.

altar* and offer sin offerings and burnt offerings. Do those things that will make you and the people pure.* Take the people's sacrifices and do the things that will make them pure."

⁸So Aaron went to the altar.* He killed the bull for the sin offering. This sin offering was for himself. ⁹Then the sons of Aaron brought the blood to Aaron. Aaron put his finger in the blood and put it on the corners of the altar. Then Aaron poured out the blood at the base of the altar. ¹⁰Aaron took the fat, the kidneys, and the fat part of the liver from the sin offering. He burned those things on the altar just like the Lord had commanded Moses. ¹¹Then Aaron burned the meat and skin on a fire outside the camp.

¹²Next, Aaron killed the [animal for the] burnt offering. [The animal was cut into pieces.] Aaron's sons brought the blood to Aaron. And Aaron sprinkled the blood around on the altar.* ¹³Aaron's sons gave the pieces and head of the burnt offering to Aaron. Then Aaron burned [them] on the altar. ¹⁴Aaron also washed the inside parts and the legs of the burnt offering. And he burned them on the altar.

¹⁵Then Aaron brought the people's offering. He killed the goat of the sin offering that was for the people. He offered the goat for sin, like the first. ¹⁶Aaron brought the burnt offering and offered it, like the Lord had commanded. ¹⁷Aaron brought the grain offering to the altar.* He took a handful of the grain and put it on the altar beside that morning's daily sacrifice.

¹⁸Aaron also killed the bull and the ram, the sacrifice of fellowship offerings for the people. Aaron's sons brought the blood to Aaron. Aaron sprinkled this blood around on the altar.* ¹⁹Aaron's sons also brought to Aaron the fat of the bull and the ram. They brought the fat tail, the [fat] covering the inside parts, the kidneys and the fat part of the liver. ²⁰Aaron's sons put these fat parts on the breasts [of the bull and the ram]. Aaron burned the fat parts on the altar. ²¹Aaron

waved the breasts and the right thigh for a wave offering before the Lord, like Moses had commanded.

²²Then Aaron lifted up his hands toward the people and blessed them. After Aaron finished offering the sin offering, the burnt offering, and the fellowship offerings, he came down [from the altar].

²³Moses and Aaron went into the Meeting Tent.* They came out and blessed the people. Then the Glory of the Lord* appeared to all the people. ²⁴Fire came out from the Lord and burned the burnt offering and fat on the altar.* When all the people saw this, they shouted and bowed their faces low to the ground.

God Destroys Nadab and Abihu

10 Then Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu [sinned]. Each son took a dish for burning incense.* They used a different fire and lit the incense. They did not use the fire that Moses had commanded them to use. ²So fire came from the Lord and destroyed Nadab and Abihu. They died in front of the Lord.

³Then Moses said to Aaron, "The Lord says, 'The priests that come near me must respect me! I must be holy to them and to all the people.'" So Aaron did not say anything [about his sons dying].

⁴Aaron's uncle Uzziel had two sons. They were Mishael and Elzaphan. Moses said to those sons, "Go to the front part of the Holy Place. Take your cousins' bodies and carry them outside the camp."

⁵So Mishael and Elzaphan obeyed Moses. They carried the bodies of Nadab and Abihu outside the camp. Nadab and Abihu were still wearing their special woven shirts.

⁶Then Moses spoke to Aaron and his other sons Eleazar and Ithamar. Moses told them, "[Don't show any sadness!] Don't tear your clothes or mess up your hair!* Don't show

Meeting Tent The Holy Tent (tabernacle) where the people of Israel came to meet with God.

Glory of the Lord One of the forms God used when he appeared to people. It was like a bright, shining light.

incense Special dried tree sap. Burned to make a sweet-smelling smoke, it was offered as a gift to God.

tear ... hair Torn clothes and messed up hair showed a person was mourning (sad) for a dead person.

altar A table or raised area used for offering sacrifices.

make ... pure Or, "make atonement." The Hebrew word means "to cover," "to hide," or "to erase sins."

your sadness and you will not be killed. And the Lord will not be angry against all the people. All the people of Israel are your relatives—they can cry about the Lord burning Nadab and Abihu. ⁷But you must not even leave the entrance of the Meeting Tent. If you leave, then you will die! Why? Because the Lord's anointing oil* is on you." So Aaron, Eleazar, and Ithamar obeyed Moses.

⁸Then the Lord said to Aaron, ⁹"You and your sons must not drink wine or beer when you come into the Meeting Tent. [If you drink those things,] then you will die! This law continues forever through your generations. ¹⁰You must make a clear distinction (*difference*) between things that are holy and things that are not holy. You must make a clear distinction between things that are clean* and things that are unclean.* ¹¹The Lord gave his laws to Moses, and Moses gave those laws to the people. Aaron, you must teach the people about all of those laws."

¹²Aaron had two sons that were still alive, Eleazar and Ithamar. Moses talked to Aaron and his two sons. Moses said, "Some of the grain offering is left from the sacrifices that were burned on the fire. You will eat that part of the grain offering. But you must eat it without adding yeast. Eat it near the altar.* Why? Because that offering is very holy.* ¹³That is part of the offerings that were burned on the fire for the Lord. And the law I gave you teaches that a part belongs to you and your sons. But you must eat it in a holy place.

¹⁴Also you, your sons, and your daughters will be able to eat the breast from the wave offerings. [You don't have to eat these in a holy place,] but you must eat them in a clean* place. Why? Because they come from the fellowship offerings. The people of Israel give those gifts to God. [The people eat part of those animals,] but the breast is your share. ¹⁵The people must bring the fat from their

animals as part of the sacrifice that is burned on the fire. They must also bring the thigh of the fellowship offering and the breast of the wave offering. That will be waved in front of the Lord, and then it will be your share of the offering. It will belong to you and your children. That part of the sacrifices will be your share forever, just like the Lord said."

¹⁶Moses looked for the goat of the sin offering. But it was already burned up. Moses became very angry at Aaron's other sons Eleazar and Ithamar. Moses said, ¹⁷"You were supposed to eat that goat in the holy area! It is very holy! Why did you not eat it in front of the Lord? The Lord gave it to you to carry away the guilt of the people—to make the people pure.* ¹⁸That goat's blood was not brought into the Holy Place.* So, you should have eaten the meat in the holy area, like I commanded!"

¹⁹But Aaron said to Moses, "Look, today they brought their sin offering and burnt offering before the Lord. But you know what happened to me today! Do you think the Lord would be happy if I ate the sin offering today? No!"

²⁰When Moses heard this, he agreed.

Rules about Eating Meat

11 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, ²"Tell the people of Israel: These are the animals you can eat: ³If an animal has hooves* that are split into two parts, and if that animal also chews the cud,* then you can eat the meat from that animal.

^{4–6}"Some animals chew the cud,* but they don't have split hooves.* Don't eat those animals. Camels, rock badgers, and rabbits are like that, so they are unclean* for you. ⁷Other animals have hooves* that are split into two parts, but they don't chew the cud. Don't eat those animals. Pigs are like that, so they are unclean for you. ⁸Don't eat the meat

anointing oil Olive oil that was poured on things or people to show that they had been chosen for a special work or purpose.

clean Pure or acceptable to God for worship.

unclean Not pure or not acceptable to God for worship.

altar A table or raised area used for offering sacrifices.

holy Set aside or chosen for a special purpose.

make ... pure Or, "make atonement." The Hebrew word means "to cover," "to hide," or "to erase sins."

Holy Place One of the rooms in the Holy Tent.

hooves The hard part of the foot of certain animals.

cud The food that is brought up from the stomach of some animals (like cows) and chewed again.

from those animals! Don't even touch their dead bodies! They are unclean for you!

Rules about Sea Food

⁹“If an animal lives in the sea or in a river and if the animal has fins and scales, then you can eat that animal. ^{10–11}But if an animal lives in the sea or in a river and does not have fins and scales, then you must not eat that animal. It is one of the animals the Lord says is bad to eat. Don't eat the meat from that animal. Don't even touch its dead body! ¹²You must treat any animal in the water that does not have fins and scales as one of the animals that God says are bad to eat.

Birds That Must Not Be Eaten

¹³“You must also treat these birds as animals God says are bad to eat. Don't eat any of these birds: eagles, vultures, buzzards, ¹⁴kites,* all kinds of falcons, ¹⁵all kinds of black birds, ¹⁶ostriches, nighthawks, sea gulls, all kinds of hawks, ¹⁷owls, cormorants, great owls, ¹⁸water hens, pelicans, carrion-vultures, ¹⁹storks, all kinds of herons, hoopoes, and bats.

Rules about Eating Insects

²⁰“If insects have wings and crawl,* then you should treat them as things the Lord says you must not eat. Don't eat those insects! ²¹But you can eat those insects if they have legs with joints above their feet so they can jump. ²²You can also eat all kinds of locusts, all kinds of winged locusts, all kinds of crickets, and all kinds of grasshoppers.

²³“But all the other insects that have wings and crawl* are things the Lord says you must not eat. ²⁴Those insects will make you unclean.* Any person who touches the dead bodies of these insects will become unclean until evening. ²⁵If a person picks up one of those dead insects, then that person must wash his clothes. That person will be unclean until evening.

kite(s) A bird like a hawk.

crawl Literally, “walk on four feet.”

unclean Not pure or not acceptable to God for worship.

More Rules about Animals

^{26–27}“Some animals have split hooves,* but the hooves don't make exactly two parts. Some animals don't chew the cud.* Some animals [don't have hooves—they] walk on their paws.* All of those animals are unclean* for you. Any person who touches them will become unclean. That person will be unclean until evening. ²⁸If any person picks up their dead bodies, that person must wash his clothes. That person will be unclean until evening. Those animals are unclean to you.

Rules about Crawling Animals

²⁹“These crawling animals are unclean* for you: moles, mice, all kinds of great lizards, ³⁰geckos, crocodiles, lizards, sand reptiles, and chameleons. ³¹Those crawling animals are unclean for you. Any person who touches their dead bodies will be unclean until evening.

Rules about Unclean Animals

³²“If any of those unclean* animals dies and falls on something, then that thing will become unclean. It might be something made from wood, cloth, leather, a cloth of sadness or some work tool. Whatever it is, it must be washed with water. It will be unclean until evening. Then it will become clean again. ³³If any of those unclean animals dies and falls into a clay dish, then anything in the dish will become unclean. And you must break the dish. ³⁴If water [from the unclean clay dish] comes on any food, then that food will become unclean. Any drink in the unclean dish will become unclean. ³⁵If any part of a dead unclean animal falls on something, then that thing is unclean. It may be a [clay] oven or a [clay] baking pan. It must be broken into pieces. Those things will not be clean [any more]. They will always be unclean for you.

³⁶“A spring or a well that collects water will [stay] clean.* But any person who touches the dead bodies of any unclean animal will become

hooves The hard part of the foot of certain animals.

cud The food that is brought up from the stomach of some animals (like cows) and chewed again.

paws The soft feet with claws on certain animals.

clean Pure or acceptable to God for worship.

unclean. ³⁷If any part of those dead unclean* animals falls on any seed that is to be planted, then that seed is [still] clean. ³⁸But if you put water on some seeds and then if any part of those dead unclean animals falls on those seeds, then those seeds are unclean for you.

³⁹“Also, if an animal [that you use for food] dies, then the person who touches its dead body will be unclean* until evening. ⁴⁰And the person who eats meat from this animal’s body must wash his clothes. This person will be unclean until evening. The person who picks up the dead body of the animal must wash his clothes. This person will be unclean until evening.

⁴¹“Every animal that crawls on the ground is one of the animals the Lord says you must not eat. You must not eat it. ⁴²You must not eat any of the reptiles that crawl on their stomachs or that walk on all four feet, or any of the animals that have many feet. Don’t eat those animals! ⁴³Don’t let those animals make you filthy.* You must not become unclean! ⁴⁴Why? Because I am the Lord your God! I am holy, so you should keep yourselves holy! Don’t make yourselves unclean with those crawling things! ⁴⁵I brought you people from Egypt. I did this so you could be my special people and I could be your God. I am holy, so you must be holy too!”

⁴⁶Those are the rules about all of the tame animals, birds, and other animals on earth. Those are the rules about all of the animals in the sea and all of the animals that crawl on the ground. ⁴⁷Those teachings are so people can know unclean* animals from clean* animals. So people will know which animals they can eat and which animals they must not eat.

Rules for New Mothers

12 The Lord said to Moses, ²“Tell the people of Israel: If a woman gives birth to a baby boy, then that woman will be unclean* for seven days. This will be like her being unclean during her monthly time of

bleeding. ³On the eighth day, the baby boy must be circumcised.* ⁴Then it will be 33 days before she becomes clean* from her loss of blood. She must not touch anything that is holy. She must not enter the Holy Place until the time of her being made clean is finished. ⁵But if the woman gives birth to a girl, then the mother will be unclean for two weeks, the same as for her monthly time of bleeding. It will be 66 days before she becomes clean from her loss of blood.

⁶“After the time for being made clean* is finished, the new mother of a baby girl or boy must bring special sacrifices to the Meeting Tent.* She must give those sacrifices to the priest at the entrance of the Meeting Tent. She must bring a one-year-old lamb for a burnt offering and a dove or young pigeon for a sin offering. ^{7–8}If the woman can’t afford a lamb, she may bring two doves or two young pigeons. One bird will be for a burnt offering and one for a sin offering. The priest will offer those things before the Lord. In this way, the priest will make her pure.* Then she will be clean from her loss of blood. Those are the rules for a woman who gives birth to a baby boy or a baby girl.”

Rules about Skin Diseases

13 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, ²“A person might have a swelling on his skin, or it may be a scab or a bright spot. If the sore looks like the disease of leprosy,* then the person must be brought to Aaron the priest or to one of his sons the priests. ³The priest must look at the sore on the person’s skin. If the hair in the sore has become white, and if the sore seems deeper than the person’s skin, then it is a leprosy disease. When the priest has finished looking at the person, the

unclean Not pure or not acceptable to God for worship.

filthy Or, “hated.” Not pure or not acceptable to God for worship.

clean Pure or acceptable to God for worship.

circumcised To have the foreskin cut off. This was done to every Jewish male to show he shared in the Agreement God made with Israel. See Gen. 17:4–14.

Meeting Tent The Holy Tent (tabernacle) where the people of Israel came to meet with God.

make ... pure Or, “make atonement.” The Hebrew word means “to cover,” “to hide,” or “to erase sins.”

leprosy The Hebrew word includes mildew, fungus, and bad skin diseases, not just the disease we call leprosy.

priest must announce that the person is unclean.*

4“Sometimes there is a white spot on a person’s skin. But the spot does not seem deeper than the skin. If that is true, then the priest must separate that person from other people for seven days. 5On the seventh day, the priest must look at the person. If the priest sees that the sore has not changed and has not spread on the skin, then the priest must separate the person for seven more days. 6Seven days later the priest must look at the person again. If the sore has faded, and has not spread on the skin, then the priest must announce that the person is clean.* The sore is only a scab. The person must wash his clothes and become clean again.

7“But if, after the person has shown himself to the priest to be made clean [again,] the scab spreads more over the skin, then the person must come again to the priest. 8The priest must look. If the scab has spread on the skin, then the priest must announce that the person is unclean.* That is a leprosy* disease.

9“If a person has leprosy,* he must be brought to the priest. 10The priest must look at that person. If there is a white swelling in the skin, and if the hair has become white, and if the skin looks raw in the swelling, 11then it is a leprosy that has continued for a long time on that person’s skin. The priest must announce that the person is unclean.* The priest does not have to separate that person from other people for a short time. Why? Because [the priest already knows] that the person is unclean.

12“Sometimes a skin disease* will spread all over a person’s body. The skin disease will cover that person’s skin from his head to his feet. The priest must look at that person’s whole body. 13If the priest sees that the skin disease covers the whole body and that it has turned all of that person’s skin white, then the priest must announce that the person is

clean.* 14But if the person has raw skin, then he is not clean. 15When the priest sees the raw skin, he must announce that the person is unclean.* The raw skin is not clean. It is a leprosy* disease.

16“If the raw skin changes and becomes white, then the person must come to the priest. 17The priest must look at the person. If the infection has become white, then the priest must announce that the person who has the infection is clean.* That person is clean.

18“A person might get a boil on his skin that heals over. 19Then that boil might become a white swelling or a bright, white spot with red streaks in it. If this happens, the person must show that spot to a priest. 20The priest must look at it. If the swelling is deeper than the skin and the hair on it has become white, then the priest must announce that the person is unclean.* The spot is the infection of leprosy.* The leprosy has broken out from inside the boil. 21But if the priest looks at the spot, and there are no white hairs in it, and the spot is not deeper than the skin, but is faded, then the priest must separate the person for seven days. 22If more of the spot spreads on the skin, then the priest must announce that the person is unclean. It is an infection. 23But if the bright spot stays in its place, and does not spread, then it is only the scar from the old boil. The priest must announce that the person is clean.

24-25“A person might get a burn on his skin. If the raw skin becomes a white spot or white spot with red streaks in it, the priest must look at it. If that white spot seems to be deeper than the skin, and the hair at that spot has become white, then it is a leprosy* disease. The leprosy has broken out in the burn. The priest must announce that the person is unclean.* It is a leprosy disease. 26But if the priest looks at the spot, and there is no white hair in the bright spot, and the spot is not deeper than the skin, but is faded, then the priest must separate the person for seven days. 27On the seventh day the priest must look at the person again. If the spot spread on the skin, then the priest must announce that the person is unclean. It is a leprosy disease. 28But if the bright spot did not spread on the

unclean Not pure or not acceptable to God for worship.

clean Pure or acceptable to God for worship.

leprosy The Hebrew word includes mildew, fungus, and bad skin diseases, not just the disease we call leprosy.

skin disease Literally, “leprosy.” The Hebrew word can mean many kinds of skin disease.

skin, but is faded, it is the swelling from the burn. The priest must announce the person clean. It is only the scar from the burn.

²⁹“A person might get an infection on his scalp* or beard. ³⁰A priest must look at the infection. If the infection seems to be deeper than the skin, and if the hair around it is thin and yellow, then the priest must announce that the person is unclean.* It is a bad skin disease.* ³¹If the disease does not seem deeper than the skin, but there is no dark hair in it, then the priest must separate that person for seven days. ³²On the seventh day the priest must look at the infection. If the disease has not spread, and there are no yellow hairs growing in it, and the disease does not seem deeper than the skin, ³³then the person must shave himself. But he must not shave the disease. The priest must separate that person for seven more days. ³⁴On the seventh day, the priest must look at the disease. If the disease has not spread through the skin, and it does not seem deeper than the skin, then the priest must announce that the person is clean.* The person must wash his clothes and become clean. ³⁵But if the disease spreads on the skin after the person has become clean, ³⁶then the priest must look at the person again. If the disease has spread in the skin, the priest does not need to look for the yellowish hair. The person is unclean.* ³⁷But if the priest thinks that the disease has stopped, and black hair is growing in it, the disease has healed. The person is clean. The priest must announce that the person is clean.

³⁸“If a person has white spots on his skin, ³⁹then a priest must look at those spots. If the spots on that person’s skin are only dull white, then the disease is only a harmless rash. That person is clean.*

⁴⁰“A man might lose hair from his head. He is clean. It is only baldness. ⁴¹A man might lose hair from the sides of his head. He is clean. It is only another kind of baldness.

⁴²But if there is a red and white infection on his scalp,* then it is a skin disease.* ⁴³A priest must look at that person. If the swelling of the infection is red and white and looks like the leprosy* on other parts of the body, ⁴⁴then that person has a leprosy disease on his scalp. The person is unclean.* The priest must announce that the person is unclean.

⁴⁵“If a person has a leprosy* disease, [then that person must warn other people]. That person must shout, ‘Unclean, unclean!’ That person’s clothes must be torn at the seams. That person must let his hair grow wild.* And that person must cover his mouth. ⁴⁶That person will be unclean* the whole time he has the infection. That person is unclean. He must live alone. His home must be outside the camp.

^{47–48}“Some clothing might have mildew* on it. The cloth might be linen* or wool. The cloth might be woven or knitted. Or the mildew might be on a piece of leather or on something made from leather. ⁴⁹If that mildew is green or red, then it must be shown to a priest. ⁵⁰The priest must look at the mildew. He must put that thing in a separate place for seven days. ^{51–52}On the seventh day, the priest must look at the mildew. It does not matter if the mildew is on leather or cloth. It does not matter if the cloth is woven or knitted. It does not matter what the leather was used for. If the mildew spread, then that cloth or leather is unclean.* The infection is unclean. The priest must burn that cloth or leather.

⁵³“If the priest sees that the mildew* did not spread, then that cloth or leather must be washed. It does not matter if it is leather or cloth, or if the cloth is knitted or woven, it must be washed. ⁵⁴The priest must order the people to wash that piece of leather or cloth. Then the priest must separate the clothing for seven more days. ⁵⁵After that time, the priest

scalp The skin on a person’s head.

unclean Not pure or not acceptable to God for worship.

skin disease Literally, “leprosy.” The Hebrew word can mean many different kinds of skin disease.

clean Pure or acceptable to God for worship.

leprosy The Hebrew word includes mildew, fungus, and bad skin diseases, not just the disease we call leprosy.

That person’s clothes ... wild These things also showed a person was very sad about something.

mildew A kind of fungus that often grows on cloth, leather, or wood that is in a warm, damp place. The Hebrew word also means, “leprosy,” or “skin disease.”

linen Thread or cloth made from the fibers of the flax plant.

must look again. If the mildew still looks the same, then that thing is unclean.* It does not matter if the infection has not spread. You must burn that cloth or piece of leather.

⁵⁶“But if the priest looks at that piece of leather or cloth, and the mildew has faded, then the priest must tear the infection out of the piece of leather or cloth. It does not matter if the cloth is woven or knitted. ⁵⁷But the mildew* might come back to that piece of leather or cloth. If that happens, then the mildew is spreading. That piece of leather or cloth must be burned. ⁵⁸But if the mildew did not come back after washing, then that piece of leather or cloth is clean.* It does not matter if the cloth was woven or knitted. That cloth is clean.”

⁵⁹Those are the rules for mildew* on pieces of leather or cloth. It does not matter if the cloth is woven or knitted.

Rules for the Leper Made Clean

14 The Lord said to Moses, ²“These are the rules for people who had a skin disease* and became well. These rules are for making that person clean.*

“A priest must look at the person who had the skin disease.* ³The priest must go to that person outside the camp. The priest must look to see if the skin disease is healed. ⁴If the person is healthy, then the priest will tell him to do these things: That person must get two living clean* birds. He must also get a piece of cedar wood, a piece of red cloth, and a hyssop* plant. ⁵Then the priest must order one bird to be killed in a clay bowl over running water. ⁶The priest must take the other bird that is still alive and the piece of cedar wood, the piece of red cloth, and the hyssop plant. He must dip the living bird and the other things in the blood of the bird that was killed over the running water. ⁷The priest must sprinkle the blood

seven times on the person who had the skin disease. Then the priest must announce that the person is clean. After that, the priest must go to an open field and let the living bird go free.

⁸“Then that person must wash his clothes. He must shave off all his hair. And he must wash with water. Then he will be clean.* Then that person may go into the camp. But he must stay outside his tent for seven days. ⁹On the seventh day, he must shave off all his hair. He must shave his head, his beard, and his eyebrows—yes, all his hair. Then he must wash his clothes and bathe his body in water. Then he will be clean.

¹⁰“On the eighth day, the person who had a skin disease* must take two male lambs that have nothing wrong with them. He must also take a one-year-old female lamb that has nothing wrong with it. He must take 24 cups* of fine flour mixed with oil. This fine flour is for a grain offering. The person must take 2/3 of a pint* of olive oil. ¹¹The priest must bring that person and his sacrifices before the Lord at the entrance of the Meeting Tent.* (This must be the same priest who announces that the person is clean.*) ¹²The priest will offer one of the male lambs as a guilt offering. He will offer that lamb and some of the oil as a wave offering before the Lord. ¹³Then the priest will kill the male lamb in the holy place where they kill the sin offering and the burnt offering. The guilt offering is like the sin offering. It belongs to the priest. It is very holy.

¹⁴“The priest will take some of the blood of the guilt offering. The priest will put some of this blood on the tip of the right ear of the person to be made clean.* The priest will put some of this blood on the thumb of the right hand and on the big toe of the right foot of that person. ¹⁵The priest will also take some of the oil and pour it into his left palm. ¹⁶Then the priest will dip the finger of his right hand into the oil that is in his left palm. He will use his finger to sprinkle some of the oil seven times before the Lord. ¹⁷Then the priest will

unclean Not pure or not acceptable to God for worship.

mildew A kind of fungus that often grows on cloth, leather, or wood that is in a warm, damp place. The Hebrew word also means, “leprosy,” or “skin disease.”

clean Pure or acceptable to God for worship.

skin disease Literally, “leprosy.” The Hebrew word can mean many different kinds of skin disease.

hyssop A plant with fine branches and leaves used for sprinkling blood or water in cleansing ceremonies.

24 cups Literally, “3/10,” probably meaning 3/10 of an ephah.

2/3 of a pint Literally, “1 log.”

Meeting Tent The Holy Tent (tabernacle) where the people of Israel went to meet with God.

put some of the oil that is in his palm on the person to be made clean. He will put that oil on [the same places he put] the blood of the guilt offering. The priest will put some of the oil on the tip of the person's right ear. He will put some of the oil on the thumb of the right hand. And he will put some of the oil on the big toe of the person's right foot. ¹⁸The priest will put the oil that is left in his palm on the head of the person to be made clean. In this way, the priest will make that person pure* before the Lord.

¹⁹“Then the priest must offer the sin offering for the person to be made clean.* The priest will offer the sin offering and make that person pure.* After that, the priest will kill the animal for the burnt offering. ²⁰Then the priest will offer up the burnt offering and the grain offering on the altar.* In this way, the priest will make that person pure. And the person will be clean.

²¹“But if the person is poor, and he can't afford [those offerings], then he must take one male lamb for a guilt offering. That will be a wave offering [so that the priest can] make that person pure.* He must take 8 cups* of fine flour mixed with oil. This flour will be used for a grain offering. The person must take 2/3 of a pint* of olive oil ²²and two doves or two young pigeons. Even poor people can afford those things. One bird will be a sin offering, and the other will be a burnt offering.

²³“On the eighth day, the person will bring those things to the priest at the entrance of the Meeting Tent. Those things will be offered before the Lord so that person can become clean.* ²⁴The priest will take the lamb for the guilt offering and the oil, and the priest will offer them as a wave offering before the Lord. ²⁵Then the priest will kill the lamb of the guilt offering. The priest will take some of the blood of the guilt offering. The priest will put some of this blood on the tip of the right ear of

the person to be made clean. The priest will put some of this blood on the thumb of the right hand and on the big toe of the right foot of this person. ²⁶The priest will also pour some of this oil into his left palm. ²⁷The priest will use the finger of his right hand to sprinkle some of the oil that is in his left palm seven times before the Lord. ²⁸Then the priest will put some of the oil that is in his palm on the same places he put the blood from the guilt offering. He will put some of the oil on the tip of the right ear of the person to be made clean. The priest will put some of the oil on the thumb of the right hand. And he will put some of the oil on the big toe of the person's right foot. ²⁹The priest will put the oil that is left in his palm on the head of the person to be made clean. In this way, the priest will make that person pure* before the Lord.

³⁰“Then the priest must offer one of the doves or young pigeons. (He must offer whatever the person can afford.) ³¹He must offer one of these birds as a sin offering and the other bird as a burnt offering. He must offer the birds with the grain offering. In this way, the priest will make that person pure* before the Lord. And that person will become clean.*”

³²Those are the rules for [making a person clean] after he becomes well from a skin disease.* Those are the rules for people who cannot afford [the regular sacrifices for becoming clean].

Rules for Mildew in a House

³³The Lord also said to Moses and Aaron, ³⁴“I am giving the land of Canaan to your people. Your people will enter that land. At that time, I might cause mildew* to grow in some person's house. ³⁵The person who owns that house must come and tell the priest, ‘I see something like mildew in my house.’

³⁶“Then the priest must order the people to take everything out of the house. The people must do this before the priest goes in to look at the mildew.* Then the priest will not have

make ... pure Literally, “make atonement.” The Hebrew word means “to cover,” “to hide,” or “to erase sins.”

clean Pure or acceptable to God for worship.

altar A table or raised area used for offering sacrifices.

8 cups Literally, “1/10 of an ephah.”

2/3 of a pint Literally, “1 log.”

skin disease Literally, “leprosy.” The Hebrew word can mean many different kinds of skin disease.

mildew A kind of fungus that often grows on cloth, leather, or wood that is in a warm, damp place.

to say everything in the house is unclean.* After the people have taken everything out of the house, the priest will go in to look at the house. ³⁷The priest will look at the mildew. If the mildew on the walls of the house has holes that are a green color or red color, and if the mildew goes into the wall's surface, ³⁸then the priest must go out of the house and lock the house for seven days.

³⁹“On the seventh day, the priest must come back and check the house. If the mildew* has spread on the walls of the house, ⁴⁰then the priest must order the people to tear out the stones with the mildew on them and throw them away. They must put those stones at a special unclean* place outside the city. ⁴¹Then the priest must have all the house scraped inside. The people must throw away the plaster* that they scrape off. They must put that plaster at a special unclean place outside the city. ⁴²Then that person must put new stones in the walls. And he must cover those walls with new plaster.

⁴³“Maybe a person took away the old stones and plaster* and put in new stones and plaster. And maybe mildew* again appears in that house. ⁴⁴Then the priest must come in and check the house. If the infection has spread in the house, then it is a disease that spreads quickly to other places. So the house is unclean.* ⁴⁵That person must tear down the house. They must take all of the stones, plaster, and pieces of wood to the special unclean place outside the city. ⁴⁶And any person who goes into that house will be unclean until evening. ⁴⁷If any person eats in that house or lies down in there, then that person must wash his clothes.

⁴⁸“After new stones and plaster* are put in a house, the priest must check the house. If the mildew* has not spread through the house, then the priest will announce that the house is clean.* Why? Because the mildew is gone!

mildew A kind of fungus that often grows on cloth, leather, or wood that is in a warm, damp place.

unclean Not pure or not acceptable to God for worship.

plaster A type of mud or cement that people used to cover a wall and make it smooth.

⁴⁹“Then, to make the house clean,* the priest must take two birds, a piece of cedar wood, a piece of red cloth, and a hyssop* plant. ⁵⁰The priest will kill one bird in a clay bowl over running water. ⁵¹Then the priest will take the cedar wood, the hyssop, the piece of red cloth, and the living bird. The priest will dip those things in the blood of the bird that was killed over running water. Then the priest will sprinkle [that blood] on the house seven times. ⁵²The priest will use those things in that way to make the house clean.* ⁵³The priest will go to an open field outside the city and let the living bird go free. In this way, the priest will make the house pure.* The house will be clean”

⁵⁴Those are the rules for any infection of leprosy,* ⁵⁵for mildew* on pieces of cloth or in a house. ⁵⁶Those are the rules for swellings, rashes, or bright spots on the skin. ⁵⁷Those rules teach when things are clean* and when things are unclean.* Those are the rules about those kinds of disease.

Rules for Discharges from the Body

15 The Lord also said to Moses and Aaron, ²“Say to the people of Israel: When any person has a discharge* from his body, then that person is unclean.* ³It does not matter if the discharge flows freely from his body or if his body stops it from flowing.

⁴“If the person who has a discharge* lies on any bed, that bed becomes unclean.* Everything that person sits on becomes unclean. ⁵If any person touches that person's bed, then he must wash his clothes and bathe in water. He will be unclean until evening. ⁶If any person sits on anything that the person with the discharge sat on, then he must wash his clothes and bathe in water. He will be

clean Pure or acceptable to God for worship.

hyssop A plant with fine branches and leaves used for sprinkling blood or water in cleansing ceremonies.

make ... pure Literally, “make atonement.” The Hebrew word means “to cover,” “to hide,” or “to erase sins.”

leprosy The Hebrew word includes mildew, fungus, and bad skin diseases, not just the disease we call leprosy.

discharge Fluid from a person's body, including pus from sores, a man's semen, or a woman's period flow.

unclean until evening. ⁷Also, if any person touches the person who has the discharge, then he must wash his clothes and bathe in water. He will be unclean until evening.

⁸“If the person with a discharge* spits on a clean person, then the clean person must wash his clothes and bathe in water. This person will be unclean* until evening. ⁹Any saddle the person with the discharge sits on will become unclean. ¹⁰So any person who touches any of the things that were under the person with the discharge will be unclean until evening. The person who carries these things [that were under the person with the discharge] must wash his clothes and bathe in water. He will be unclean until evening.

¹¹“It may happen that the person with a discharge* has not washed his hands in water and touches another person. Then that other person must wash his clothes and bathe in water. He will be unclean* until evening.

¹²“But if the person with a discharge* touches a clay bowl, then that bowl must be broken. If the person with the discharge touches a wooden bowl, then that bowl must be washed in water.

¹³“When the person with a discharge* is ready to be made clean, he must wait seven days before he will be made clean. Then he must wash his clothes and bathe his body in running water. Then he will become clean.* ¹⁴On the eighth day, that person must take for himself two doves or two young pigeons. He must come before the Lord at the entrance of the Meeting Tent.* That person will give the two birds to the priest. ¹⁵The priest will offer the birds, one for a sin offering, and the other for a burnt offering. In this way, the priest will make that person pure* before the Lord.

discharge Fluid from a person's body, including pus from sores, a man's semen, or a woman's period flow.

unclean Not pure or not acceptable to God for worship.

clean Pure or acceptable to God for worship.

Meeting Tent The Holy Tent (tabernacle) where the people of Israel went to meet with God.

make ... pure Literally, “make atonement.” The Hebrew word means “to cover,” “to hide,” or “to erase sins.”

Rules for Men

¹⁶“If a man has a flow of semen,* he must bathe his whole body in water. He will be unclean until evening. ¹⁷If the semen is on any clothing or leather, then that clothing or leather must be washed with water. It will be unclean* until evening. ¹⁸If a man sleeps with a woman and has a flow of semen, then both the man and the woman must bathe in water. They will be unclean until evening.

Rules for Women

¹⁹“If a woman has a discharge* from her monthly time of bleeding, she will be unclean* for seven days. If any person touches her, that person will be unclean until evening. ²⁰Also, everything the woman lies on during her monthly time of bleeding will be unclean. And everything she sits on during that time will be unclean. ²¹If any person touches the woman's bed, that person must wash his clothes and bathe in water. He will be unclean until evening. ²²If any person touches anything the woman has sat on, that person must wash his clothes and bathe in water. He will be unclean until evening. ²³It does not matter if the person touched the woman's bed or if he touched something she sat on, that person will be unclean until evening.

²⁴“And if a man has sexual relations with a woman during her monthly time of bleeding, then the man will be unclean* seven days. Every bed that man lies on will be unclean.

²⁵“If a woman has a discharge* of blood many days, not during her time of her monthly bleeding, or if she has a discharge after that time, then she will be unclean,* like the time of monthly bleeding. She will be unclean for as long as she has a discharge. ²⁶Any bed the woman lies on during all the time of her discharge will be like her bed during her time of monthly bleeding. Everything the woman sits on will be unclean, like during the time she is unclean from her monthly time of bleeding. ²⁷If any person touches those things, that person will be unclean. That person must wash his clothes and bathe in water. He will be

semen The fluid produced by a man's sexual organs.

unclean until evening. ²⁸After the woman's discharge stops, she must wait seven days. After that, she will be clean. ²⁹Then on the eighth day, the woman must take two doves or two young pigeons. She must bring them to the priest at the entrance of the Meeting Tent.* ³⁰Then the priest must offer one bird for a sin offering and the other bird for a burnt offering. In this way, the priest will make her pure* before the Lord.

³¹"So you must warn the people of Israel about being unclean.* If you don't warn the people, then they might make my Holy Tent* unclean. And then they would have to die!"

³²Those are the rules for people with a discharge.* Those rules are for men who become unclean* from a flow of semen.* ³³And those rules are for women who become unclean from their monthly time of bleeding. And those are the rules for any person that becomes unclean by sleeping with another person who is unclean.

The Day of Atonement

16 Two of Aaron's sons died while offering incense* to the Lord.* After that time, the Lord spoke to Moses. ²The Lord said, "Talk to your brother Aaron. Tell him that he cannot go behind the curtain into the Most Holy Place* anytime he wants to. The Holy Box* is in the room behind that curtain. The

special cover* is on top of that Holy Box. And I appear in a cloud over that special cover. If Aaron goes into that room, he might die!

³"Before Aaron enters the [Most] Holy Place [on the Day of Atonement], he must offer a bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. ⁴Aaron must wash his [whole] body with water. Then he must put these clothes on: Aaron must put on the holy* linen shirt. The linen underclothes will be next to his body. He must tie the linen sash (*belt*) around him. And he must put on the linen turban.* These are holy clothes.

⁵"Aaron must take from the people of Israel two male goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering. ⁶Then Aaron must offer the bull for the sin offering. This sin offering is for himself. Aaron must do this to make him and his family pure.*

⁷"Then Aaron must take the two goats and bring them before the Lord at the doorway of the Meeting Tent. ⁸Aaron will throw lots* for the two goats. One lot will be for the Lord. The other lot will be for Azazel.*

⁹"Then Aaron will offer the goat chosen by the lot* for the Lord. Aaron must make this goat a sin offering. ¹⁰But the goat chosen by the lot for Azazel* must be brought alive before the Lord. And then this goat will be sent out to Azazel in the desert. This is to make the people pure.*

¹¹"Then Aaron will offer the bull as a sin offering for himself. Aaron will make himself and his family pure.* Aaron will kill the bull for the sin offering for himself. ¹²Then he must take a firepan* full of coals of fire from the altar* before the Lord. Aaron will take two handfuls of sweet incense* that has been

Meeting Tent The Holy Tent (tabernacle) where the people of Israel went to meet with God.

make ... pure Literally, "make atonement." The Hebrew word means "to cover," "to hide," or "to erase sins."

unclean Not pure or not acceptable to God for worship.

Holy Tent Or, "tabernacle." The place God came to live among his people.

discharge Fluid from a person's body, including pus from sores, a man's semen, or a woman's period flow.

semen The fluid produced by a man's sexual organs.

incense Special dried tree sap. Burned to make a sweet-smelling smoke, it was offered as a gift to God.

Two of Aaron's sons ... Lord See Lev. 10:1–2.

Most Holy Place The room in the Holy Tent where the Holy Box was.

Holy Box The Box of the Agreement—the box containing the flat stones with the Ten Commandments written on them and other things that proved God was with the people of Israel during their time in the Sinai desert.

cover Also called "mercy seat." The Hebrew word can mean "lid," "cover," or "the place where sins are forgiven."

holy Set aside or chosen for a special purpose.

turban Head covering made by wrapping a piece of cloth around the head or around a cap worn on the head.

lot(s) Sticks, stones, or pieces of bone used like dice for making decisions. See Proverbs 16:33.

Azazel Or, "scapegoat." The meaning of this word or name is not known. The main idea seems to be that the goat "carried away" the sins of the people.

firepan A small shovel for taking the ashes from the altar.

altar A table or raised area used for offering sacrifices.

ground into powder. Aaron must bring that incense into the room behind the curtain.

¹³Aaron must put the incense on the fire before the Lord. Then the cloud of incense will cover the special cover* that is over the Agreement.* This way Aaron will not die. ¹⁴Also, Aaron must take some of the blood from the bull and sprinkle it with his finger toward the east, onto the special cover. He will sprinkle the blood seven times with his finger in front of the special cover.

¹⁵“Then Aaron must kill the goat of the sin offering for the people. Aaron must bring this goat’s blood into the room behind the curtain. Aaron must do with the goat’s blood as he did with the bull’s blood. Aaron must sprinkle the goat’s blood on the special cover* and in front of the cover. ¹⁶In this way, Aaron will do the things to make the Most Holy Place* pure.* Aaron must do these things because the people of Israel are unclean.* They do wrong and have many sins. Aaron must also do these things for the Meeting Tent* because it stays in the middle of unclean people! ¹⁷At the time that Aaron goes into the Most Holy Place to make [it and the people] pure,* no person must be in the Meeting Tent. No person must go in there until Aaron comes out. So, Aaron will make himself and his family pure. And he will make all the people of Israel pure. ¹⁸Then Aaron will go out to the altar* that is before the Lord. Aaron will make the altar pure. Aaron will take some of the bull’s blood and some of the goat’s blood and put it on the corners of the altar on all sides. ¹⁹Then Aaron will sprinkle some of the blood with his finger on the altar seven times. In this way, Aaron

will make the altar holy* and clean* from all the sins of the people of Israel.

²⁰“So Aaron will make the Most Holy Place,* the Meeting Tent,* and the altar* pure.* After that, Aaron will bring the live goat [to the Lord]. ²¹Aaron will put both his hands on the head of the living goat. Then Aaron will confess (*admit*) the sins and crimes of the people of Israel over the goat. In this way, Aaron will lay the people’s sins on the goat’s head. Then he will send the goat away to the desert. A man will be standing by, ready to lead this goat away. ²²So the goat will carry all the people’s sins on itself to the empty desert. The man who leads the goat will let it loose in the desert.

²³“Then Aaron will enter the Meeting Tent.* He will take off the linen clothes that he put on when he went into the Holy Place. He must leave these clothes there. ²⁴He will wash his [whole] body with water in a holy place. Then he will put on his [other special] clothes. He will come out and offer his burnt offering and the people’s burnt offering. He will make himself and the people pure.* ²⁵Then he will burn the fat of the sin offering on the altar.*

²⁶“The person that led the goat to Azazel* must wash his clothes and his whole body with water. After that, he can come into the camp.

²⁷“The bull and the goat for the sin offerings must be taken outside the camp. (The blood from those animals was brought into the Holy Place to make [the holy things] pure.) [The priests] must burn the skins, bodies, and body waste of those animals in the fire. ²⁸Then the person who burns them must wash his clothes and wash his [whole] body with water. After that, he can come into the camp.

²⁹“This law will always continue for you: On the tenth [day] of the seventh month, you must not eat food.* You must not do any work. None of the travelers or foreigners

cover Also called “mercy seat.” The Hebrew word can mean “lid,” “cover,” or “the place where sins are forgiven.”

Agreement Literally, “Proof.” The flat stones with the Ten Commandments written on them. These were proof of the Agreement between God and the people of Israel.

Most Holy Place The room in the Holy Tent where the Holy Box was.

make ... pure Literally, “make atonement.” The Hebrew word means “to cover,” “to hide,” or “to erase sins.”

unclean Not pure or not acceptable to God for worship.

Meeting Tent The Holy Tent (tabernacle) where the people of Israel went to meet with God.

altar A table or raised area used for offering sacrifices.

holy Set aside or chosen for a special purpose.

clean Pure or acceptable to God for worship.

to Azazel Or, “as a scapegoat.” The meaning of this word or name is not known. The main idea is that the goat “carried away” the sins of the people.

not eat food Literally, “humble yourselves.”

living in your land can do any work either. ³⁰Why? Because on this day, the priest will make you pure* and wash away your sins. Then you will be clean* to the Lord. ³¹This day is a very important day of rest for you. You must not eat food.* This law will continue forever.

³²“So the man chosen to be the high priest will do the ceremony to make things pure.* This is the man appointed to serve as high priest after his father. That priest must put on the holy linen clothes. ³³He must make the Most Holy Place,* the Meeting Tent,* and the altar* pure. And he must make the priests and all the people [of Israel] pure. ³⁴That law for making the people of Israel pure will continue forever. You will do those things one time every year. Why? Because of the sins of the people of Israel.”

So they did the things that the Lord had commanded Moses.

Rules about Killing and Eating Animals

17 The Lord said to Moses, ²“Speak to Aaron and to his sons, and to all the people of Israel. Tell them, this is what the Lord has commanded: ³An Israelite person might kill a bull, or a lamb, or a goat in the camp or outside the camp. ⁴That person must bring that animal to the entrance of the Meeting Tent.* He must give [a part of] that animal as a gift to the Lord. That person has spilled blood (*killed*), so he must take his gift to the Lord’s Holy Tent.* If he does not take [part of the animal as a gift to the Lord], then that person must be separated from his people! ⁵This rule is so people will bring their fellowship offering to the Lord. The people of Israel must bring the animals they kill in the

fields. They must bring those animals to the Lord at the entrance of the Meeting Tent. They must bring those animals to the priest. ⁶Then the priest will throw the blood from those animals onto the Lord’s altar* near the entrance of the Meeting Tent. And the priest will burn the fat from those animals [on the altar]. Its smell will please the Lord. ⁷They must not offer any more sacrifices to their ‘goat idols’! They have chased after those other gods. In that way, they have acted like prostitutes.* These rules will continue forever!

⁸“Tell the people: Some citizen of Israel or some traveler or foreigner living among you might offer a burnt offering or a sacrifice. ⁹That person must take his sacrifice to the entrance of the Meeting Tent and offer it to the Lord. If that person does not do this, then that person must be separated from his people.

¹⁰“I (*God*) will be against any person who eats blood. It does not matter if that person is a citizen of Israel or if that person is a foreigner living among you! I will separate that person from his people. ¹¹Why? Because the life of the body is in the blood. I have given you rules for pouring that blood on the altar.* You must do this to make yourselves pure.* You must give that blood [to me] as payment for the life [that you took]. ¹²So I tell the people of Israel: None of you people may eat blood. And no foreigner living among you may eat blood.

¹³“If any person catches a wild animal or a bird that can be eaten, then that person must pour the blood on the ground and cover it with dirt. It does not matter if that person is a citizen of Israel or a foreigner living among you! ¹⁴Why must you do this? Because, if blood is still in the meat, that animal’s life is still in the meat. So I give this command to the people of Israel: Don’t eat meat that still has blood in it! Any person who eats blood must be separated [from his people].

¹⁵“Also, if any person eats an animal that died by itself, or if any person eats an animal that was killed by some other animal, then

make ... pure Literally, “make atonement.” The Hebrew word means “to cover,” “to hide,” or “to erase sins.”

clean Pure or acceptable to God for worship.

not eat food Literally, “humble yourselves.”

Most Holy Place The room in the Holy Tent that had the Holy Box in it.

Meeting Tent The Holy Tent (tabernacle) where the people of Israel went to meet with God.

altar A table or raised area used for offering sacrifices.

Holy Tent Or, “tabernacle.” The place God came to live among his people.

prostitute(s) A woman who sells her body for sex. Sometimes this also means a person who is not faithful to God and starts worshipping other gods.

that person will be unclean* until evening. That person must wash his clothes and wash his [whole] body with water. It does not matter if that person is a citizen of Israel or if he is a foreigner living among you! ¹⁶If that person does not wash [his clothes] or bathe his body, then he will be guilty [of sin].”

Rules about Sexual Relations

18 The Lord said to Moses, ²“Tell the people of Israel: I am the Lord your God. ³In the past, you lived in Egypt. You must not do the things that were done in that country! I am leading you to Canaan. You must not do the things that are done in that country! Don’t follow their customs. ⁴You must obey my rules and follow my laws! Be sure to follow those rules! Why? Because I am the Lord your God. ⁵So you must obey my laws and rules. If a person obeys my laws and rules, he will live! I am the Lord!

⁶“You must never have sexual relations with* your close relatives! I am the Lord.

⁷“You must never have sexual relations with* your father or mother. This woman is your mother. So you must not have sexual relations with her. ⁸You must not have sexual relations with your father’s wife [even if she is not your mother]. Why? Because that is like having sexual relations with your father.*

⁹“You must not have sexual relations with* your sister. It doesn’t matter if she is the daughter of your father or your mother. And it does not matter if your sister was born in [your] house* or at another place.

¹⁰“You must not have sexual relations with* your granddaughter. They are a part of you!

unclean Not pure or not acceptable to God for worship.

have sexual relations with Literally, “uncover the nakedness of.”

sexual relations ... father Literally, “She is the nakedness of your father.” Husband and wife are like one person. See Gen 2:24.

sister was born in [your] house Or, “household.” If a man had many wives, each wife and her children had their own tent or part of the house. They were like a small family group within the family. So this probably means a person was not supposed to have sexual relations with any of his father’s daughters, whether sister or half-sister.

¹¹“If your father and his wife* have a daughter, then she is your sister. You must not have sexual relations with* her.

¹²“You must not have sexual relations with* your father’s sister. She is your father’s close relative. ¹³You must not have sexual relations with your mother’s sister. She is your mother’s close relative. ¹⁴You must not have sexual relations with your father’s brother. You must not go near your uncle’s wife [for sexual relations]. She is your aunt.

¹⁵“You must not have sexual relations with* your daughter-in-law. She is your son’s wife. You must not have sexual relations with her.

¹⁶“You must not have sexual relations with* your brother’s wife. That would be like having sexual relations with your brother.*

¹⁷“You must not have sexual relations with* a mother and her daughter. And you must not have sexual relations with this woman’s granddaughter. It does not matter if this granddaughter is the daughter of this woman’s son or daughter. Her granddaughters are her close relatives. It is wrong [to have sexual relations with them].

¹⁸“While your wife is still living, you must not take her sister as [another] wife. This will make the sisters become enemies. You must not have sexual relations with* your wife’s sister.

¹⁹“Also you must not go near a woman to have sexual relations with* her during her monthly time of bleeding. She is unclean* during this time.

²⁰“And you must not have sexual relations with your neighbor’s wife. This will only make you filthy*!

²¹“You must not give any of your children through [the fire] to Molech.* If you do this, you will show that you don’t respect the name of your God! I am the Lord.

²²“You must not have sexual relations with a man as with a woman. That is a terrible sin!

his wife This probably means “your stepmother.”

sexual relations ... brother Literally, “She is the nakedness of your brother.”

filthy Or, “polluted” or “unclean.”

Molech A false God. People often killed their children as part of their worship to Molech.

²³“You must not have sexual relations with any animal. This will only make you filthy*! Also, a woman must not have sexual relations with an animal. It is against nature!

²⁴“Don’t make yourself unclean* with any of those wrong things! I am throwing nations out of their countries and giving their land to you! Why? Because those people did those terrible sins! ²⁵They made the land filthy*! Now the land is sick of those things! And the land is vomiting out the people who lived there!

²⁶“So you must obey my laws and rules. You must not do any of those terrible sins. Those rules are for the citizens of Israel, and they are for the people living among you! ²⁷The people who lived in the land before you did all those terrible things. So the land became filthy*! ²⁸If you do these things, then you will make the land filthy. And it will vomit you out like it vomited out the nations that were there before you. ²⁹If any person does any of those terrible sins, then that person must be separated from his people! ³⁰Other people have done those terrible sins. But you must obey my laws! You must not do any of those terrible sins! Don’t make yourself filthy with those terrible sins! I am the Lord your God.”

Israel Belongs to God

19 The Lord said to Moses, ²“Tell all the people of Israel: I am the Lord your God! I am holy, so you must be holy!

³“Each person among you must honor his mother and father and keep my special days of rest.* I am the Lord your God!

⁴“Don’t worship idols.* Don’t make melted statues of gods for yourselves. I am the Lord your God!

filthy Or, “polluted” or “unclean.”

unclean Or, “unacceptable.” Not pure or not able to be used in worshipping God. See Lev. 11–15 for the rules about clean and unclean things.

special days of rest Or, “Sabbaths.” This might mean Saturday, or it might mean all of the special days when the people were not supposed to work.

idols Statues of false gods that people worshiped.

⁵“When you offer a sacrifice* of fellowship offerings to the Lord, you must offer it in the right way so you will be accepted. ⁶You may eat it the same day you offer it, and also on the next day. But if any of that sacrifice is left on the third day, then you must burn it in the fire. ⁷You must not eat any of that sacrifice on the third day. It will be unclean.* It will not be accepted. ⁸A person will be guilty of sin if he does that! Why? Because he did not respect the holy things that belong to the Lord. That person must be separated from his people.

⁹“When you cut your crops at harvest time, don’t cut all the way to the corners of your fields. And if grain falls on the ground, you must not gather up that grain. ¹⁰Don’t pick all the grapes in your vineyards and don’t pick up the grapes that fall to the ground. Why? Because you must leave those things for poor people and for people traveling through your country. I am the Lord your God!

¹¹“You must not steal. You must not cheat people. You must not lie to each other. ¹²You must not use my name to make false promises. If you do that, then you will show that you don’t respect the name of your God. I am the Lord!

¹³“You must not do bad things to your neighbor. You must not rob him. You must not hold a hired worker’s salary all night until morning.*

¹⁴“You must not curse a deaf man. You must not put something in front of a blind person to make him fall. But you must respect your God. I am the Lord!

¹⁵“You must be fair in judgment. You must not show special favor to poor people. And you must not show special favor to important people. You must be fair when you judge your neighbor. ¹⁶You must not go around spreading false stories against other people.

sacrifice(s) A gift to God. Usually, it was a special animal that was killed and burned on an altar.

sacrifice ... unclean Or “offensive, bad, rotten.” This means the meat is not good to eat as part of a sacrifice.

You must not hold ... until morning Workers were paid at the end of each day for the work they did that day. See Mt. 20:1–16.

Don't do anything that would put your neighbor's life in danger. I am the Lord!

¹⁷“You must not hate your brother in your heart. If your neighbor does something wrong, then talk to him about it. But forgive him! ¹⁸Forget about the wrong things people do to you. Don't try to get even. Love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord!

¹⁹“You must obey my laws. You must not breed together two kinds of animals. You must not sow your field with two kinds of seed. You must not wear clothing made from two kinds of material mixed together.

²⁰“It may happen that a man has sexual relations with a woman who is the slave of another man. But this slave woman has not been bought or given her freedom. If this happens, then there must be punishment. But they will not be put to death. Why? Because the woman was not free. ²¹The man must bring his guilt offering to the Lord at the entrance of the Meeting Tent.* The man must bring a ram for a guilt offering. ²²The priest will do the things that will make the man pure.* The priest will offer the ram as a guilt offering before the Lord. It will be for the sins the man did. Then the man will be forgiven for the sins he did.

²³“In the future, you will enter your country. At that time, you will plant many kinds of trees for food. After planting a tree, you must wait three years before you can use any of the fruit from that tree. You must not use that fruit. ²⁴In the fourth year, the fruit from that tree will be the Lord's. It will be a holy offering of praise to the Lord. ²⁵Then, in the fifth year, you can eat the fruit from that tree. And the tree will produce more and more fruit for you. I am the Lord your God!

²⁶“You must not eat any meat with blood still in it.

“You must not try to use magic and other things to predict the future.

²⁷“You must not round off the hair that grows on the side of your face. You must not

cut your beard that grows on the side of your face. ²⁸You must not cut your body as a way to remember dead people. You must not make any tattoo marks on yourselves. I am the Lord!

²⁹“Don't make your daughter become a prostitute.* That only shows you don't respect her! Don't let people be prostitutes in your country. Don't let your country be filled with that kind of sin.

³⁰“You must not work on my special days of rest.* You must honor my holy place. I am the Lord!

³¹“Don't go to mediums* or wizards* for advice. Don't go to them; they will only make you unclean.* I am the Lord your God!

³²“Show honor to old people. Stand up when they come into the room. Show respect to your God. I am the Lord!

³³“Don't do bad things to foreigners living in your country! ³⁴You must treat foreigners the same as you treat your own citizens. Love foreigners like you love yourselves. Why? Because you were foreigners one time—in Egypt. I am the Lord your God!

³⁵“You must be fair when you judge people. And you must be fair when you measure and weigh things. ³⁶Your baskets should be the right size. Your jars should hold the right amount of liquids. Your weights and balances should weigh things correctly. I am the Lord your God! I brought you out from the land of Egypt!

³⁷“You must remember all my laws and rules. And you must obey them. I am the Lord!”

Warning Against Worshipping Idols

20 The Lord said to Moses, ²“You must also tell the people of Israel these things: A person in your country might give one of his children to the false god Molech.*

prostitute(s) A woman who sells her body for sex.

special days of rest Or, “Sabbaths.” This might mean Saturday, or it might mean all of the special days when the people were not supposed to work.

medium(s) A person who tries to communicate with the spirits of dead people.

wizard(s) A person who tries to use evil spirits to do magic.

unclean Not pure or not acceptable to God for worship.

Molech A false god. People often killed their children as part of their worship to Molech.

Meeting Tent The Holy Tent (tabernacle) where the people of Israel went to meet with God.

make ... pure Literally, “make atonement.” The Hebrew word means “to cover,” “to hide,” or “to erase sins.”

That person must be killed! It does not matter if that person is a citizen of Israel or a foreigner living in Israel, you must throw stones at that person and kill him. ³I will be against that person! I will separate him from his people. Why? Because he gave his children to Molech. He showed that he did not respect my holy name. And he made my holy place unclean.* ⁴Maybe the common people will ignore that person. Maybe they will not kill that person who gave his children to Molech. ⁵But I will be against that person and his family! I will separate him from his people. I will separate any person who is unfaithful to me and chases after Molech.

⁶"I will be against any person who goes to mediums* and wizards* for advice. That person is being unfaithful to me. So I will separate that person from his people.

⁷"Be special. Make yourselves holy*. Why? Because ⁷I am holy! I am the Lord your God. ⁸Remember and obey my laws. I am the Lord. And I have made you ⁸my special people.

⁹"If any person curses* his father or mother, that person must be put to death. He cursed his father or mother, so he is responsible for his own death!*

Punishments for Sexual Sins

¹⁰"If a man has sexual relations with his neighbor's wife, then both the man and the woman are guilty of adultery. So both the man and the woman must be put to death! ¹¹If a man has sexual relations with his father's wife, then both the man and the woman must be put to death. They are responsible for their own death.* It is as if that man had had sexual relations with his father!*

¹²"If a man has sexual relations with his daughter-in-law, both of them must be put to

death. They have done a very bad sexual sin! They are responsible for their own death.*

¹³"If a man has sexual relations with another man as with a woman, then these two men have done a terrible sin. They must be put to death. They are responsible for their own death.*

¹⁴"It is a sexual sin if a man has sexual relations with a woman and her mother. The people must burn that man and the two women in fire! Don't let this sexual sin happen among your people!

¹⁵"If a man has sexual relations with an animal, that man must be put to death. And you must also kill the animal. ¹⁶If a woman has sexual relations with an animal, then you must kill the woman and the animal. They must be put to death. They are responsible for their own death.*

¹⁷"If a brother and his sister or half sister marry each other and have sexual relations with each other,* it is a shameful thing! They must be punished in public! They must be separated from their people! The man who has sexual relations with his sister must be punished for his sin!*

¹⁸"If a man has sexual relations with a woman during her monthly time of bleeding, then both the woman and the man must be separated from their people. They sinned because they exposed her source of blood.

¹⁹"You must not have sexual relations with* your mother's sister or your father's sister. That is a sin of incest.* You must be punished for your sins.*

²⁰"A man must not have sexual relations with his uncle's wife. It would be like having sexual relations with his uncle. That man and his uncle's wife will be punished for their sins. They will die without children.*

unclean Not pure or not acceptable to God for worship.

medium(s) A person who tries to communicate with the spirits of dead people.

wizard(s) A person who tries to use evil spirits to do magic.

holy Set aside or chosen for a special purpose.

curse To ask for bad things to happen to someone.

he ... death Literally, "his blood is on him."

They ... death Literally, "Their blood is on them."

man ... father Literally, "He uncovered his father's nakedness."

sexual relations with each other Literally, "he sees her nakedness, and she sees his nakedness."

The man ... sin Literally, "he will carry his guilt."

have sexual relations with Literally, "uncover the nakedness of."

incest Having sexual relations with a close relative.

you ... sins Literally, "You will carry your guilt."

That man ... children Literally, "They must bear their childlessness. They will die."

²¹It is wrong for a man to take his brother's wife. It would be like having sexual relations with* his brother! They will have no children.

²²"You must remember all my laws and rules. And you must obey them. I am leading you to your land. You will live in that country. If you obey my laws and rules, then that land will not vomit you out. ²³I am forcing other people to leave that country. Why? Because those people did all of those sins! I hate those [sins]! So don't live the way those people lived!

²⁴"I have told you that you will get their land. I will give their land to you. It will be your land! It is a land filled with many good things.* I am the Lord your God!

"[I have made you my special people.] I have treated you differently from other people. ²⁵So you must treat clean* animals differently from unclean* animals. You must treat clean birds differently from unclean birds. Don't eat any of those unclean birds, and animals, and things that crawl on the ground. I have made those things unclean. ²⁶I have made you my special people. So you must be holy for me! Why? Because I am the Lord, and I am holy!

²⁷"A man or a woman who is a medium* or a wizard,* must be put to death. The people must kill them with stones. They must be killed.*"

Rules for Priests

21 The Lord said to Moses, "Tell these things to Aaron's sons, the priests: A priest must not make himself unclean* by touching a dead person. ²But if the dead person was one of his close relatives, [then he can touch the dead body]. The priest can make himself unclean if the dead person is his mother or father, his son or daughter, his

brother or ³his unmarried* sister. (This sister is close to him because she has no husband. So the priest may make himself unclean for her [if she dies].) ⁴But a priest must not make himself unclean if the dead person was only one of his slaves.*

⁵"Priests must not shave their heads bald. Priests must not shave off the edges of their beards. Priests must not make any cuts in their bodies. ⁶Priests must be holy for their God. They must show respect for God's name. Why? Because they carry the bread and the offerings by fire to the Lord. So they must be holy.*

⁷"A priest serves God in a special way. So a priest must not marry a woman who had sexual relations with some other man. A priest must not marry a prostitute* or a divorced woman. ⁸A priest serves God in a special way. So you must treat him in a special way. Why? Because he carries holy things! He brings the holy bread to God, and I am holy! I am the Lord, and I make you holy!

⁹"If a priest's daughter becomes a prostitute,* then she ruins her reputation, and she brings shame to her father! So she must be burned.

¹⁰"The high priest was chosen from among his brothers. The anointing oil* was poured on his head. In this way, he was chosen for the special job of being high priest. He was chosen to wear the special clothes. [So he must not do things to show his sadness in public.] He must not let his hair grow wild. He must not tear his clothes. ¹¹He must not make himself unclean* [by touching a dead body]. He must not go near a dead body, even if it is his own father or mother. ¹²The high priest must not go out of God's holy place. [Then he might become unclean,] and [then he might] make God's holy place unclean. The anointing oil was poured on the high priest's

have sexual relations with Literally, "uncover the nakedness of."
filled ... things Literally, "flowing with milk and honey."

clean Pure or acceptable to God for worship.

unclean Not pure or not acceptable to God for worship.

medium(s) A person who tries to communicate with the spirits of dead people.

wizard(s) A person who tries to use evil spirits to do magic.

They must be killed Literally, "Their blood is on them."

unmarried Literally, "virgin," a girl that was never married and never had sexual relations with anyone.

But a priest ... slaves Or, "A master must not become unclean for his people."

holy Chosen or set aside for a special purpose.

prostitute A woman who sells her body for sex.

anointing oil Olive oil that was poured on people or things to show they were chosen for a special work or purpose.

head. This separated him from the rest of the people. I am the Lord!

¹³“The high priest must marry a woman who is a virgin.* ¹⁴The high priest must not marry a woman who has had sexual relations with another man. The high priest must not marry a prostitute,* a divorced woman, or a widow. The high priest must marry a virgin from his own people. ¹⁵In this way, people will show respect for his children.* I, the Lord, have separated the high priest for his special work.”

¹⁶The Lord said to Moses, ¹⁷“Tell Aaron: If any of your descendants have anything wrong with them, then they must not carry the special bread to God. ¹⁸Any man who has something wrong with him must not serve as priest and bring sacrifices to me. These men cannot serve as priests:

blind men,
crippled men,
men with bad scars on their faces,
men with arms or legs that are too long,
¹⁹ men with broken feet or hands,
²⁰ men with bent backs,
men who are dwarfs,*
men who are cross-eyed,
men with rashes or a bad skin diseases,
men with crushed testicles.

²¹If one of Aaron’s descendants has something wrong with him, then he cannot offer sacrifices by fire to the Lord. And that person cannot carry the special bread to God. ²²That person is from the family of priests, so he can eat the holy bread. He can also eat the very holy bread. ²³But he cannot go through the curtain into the Most Holy Place, and he cannot go near the altar.* Why? Because he has something wrong with him. He must not make my holy places not holy. I, the Lord, make those places holy!”

virgin A pure woman who has never been married.

prostitute A woman who sells her body for sex.

people ... children Or, “his children will not become unclean from the people.”

dwarf(s) A small person whose body stopped growing properly.

altar A table or raised area used for offering sacrifices.

²⁴So Moses told these things to Aaron, Aaron’s sons, and all the people of Israel.

22 The Lord God said to Moses, ²“Tell Aaron and his sons: The people of Israel will give things to me. Those things will become holy. They are mine. So you priests must not take those things. If you use those holy things for yourselves, then you will show that you don’t respect my holy name. I am the Lord! ³If any person from among all your descendants* touches those things, then that person will become unclean.* That person must be separated from me! The people of Israel gave those things to me. I am the Lord!

⁴“If any of Aaron’s descendants* has one of the bad skin diseases* or a discharge* he can’t eat the holy food until he becomes clean.* That rule is for any priest that becomes unclean.* That priest can become unclean from a dead body or from his own semen.* ⁵He can become unclean if he touches any unclean crawling animals. And he can become unclean if he touches an unclean person. It does not matter what made that person unclean. ⁶If a person touches any of those things, he will become unclean until evening. That person must not eat any of the holy food. Even if he washes with water, he can’t eat the holy food. ⁷He will be clean only after the sun goes down. Then he can eat the holy food. Why? Because after sunset he is clean and that food belongs to him.

⁸“If a priest finds an animal that died by itself or that was killed by wild animals, he must not eat that dead animal. If that person eats that animal, he will become unclean.* I am the Lord!

⁹“The priests will have special times to serve me. They must be careful at those times. They must be careful not to make the holy

descendants A person’s children and their future families.

unclean Not pure or not acceptable to God for worship.

bad skin diseases This could be leprosy, or it could be some other serious skin disease.

discharge Fluid from a person’s body, including pus from sores, a man’s semen, or a woman’s period flow.

clean Pure or acceptable to God for worship.

semen The fluid produced by a man’s sexual organs.

things not holy. If they are careful, then they will not die. I, the Lord, have separated them for this special job. ¹⁰Only people from a priest's family can eat the holy food. A visitor staying with the priest or a hired worker must not eat any of the holy food. ¹¹But if the priest buys a person as a slave with his own money, then that person may eat some of the holy things. [Slaves] that were born in the priest's house may also eat some of the priest's food. ¹²A priest's daughter might marry a person who is not a priest. If she does that, then she can't eat any of the holy offerings. ¹³A priest's daughter might become a widow,* or she might become divorced. If she does not have any children [to support her] and she goes back to her father's house [where she lived] as a child, then she can eat some of her father's food. But only people from a priest's family can eat this food.

¹⁴"A person might eat some of the holy food by mistake. That person must give the same amount to the priest, and he must give another fifth of the price of that food.

¹⁵"The people of Israel will give gifts to the Lord. Those gifts become holy. So the priest must not make those holy things not holy. ¹⁶If the priests treat those things as not holy, then they will add to their sin when they eat the holy food. I, the Lord, make them holy!"

¹⁷The Lord God said to Moses, ¹⁸"Tell Aaron and his sons and all the people of Israel: Maybe a citizen of Israel or a foreigner will want to bring an offering. Maybe it is for some special promise that person made. Or maybe it is some special sacrifice that person wanted to bring. ^{19–20}Those are gifts that the people bring because they really want to give a gift to God. You must not accept any offering that has anything wrong with it. I will not be happy with that gift! If the gift is a bull, or a sheep, or a goat, then that animal must be a male. And it must not have anything wrong with it!

²¹"A person might bring a fellowship offering to the Lord. That fellowship offering

might be payment for a special promise that person made. Or maybe it is a special gift that person wanted to give to the Lord. It might be a bull or a sheep. But it must be healthy. There must be nothing wrong with that animal! ²²You must not offer to the Lord any animal that is blind, or has broken bones, or is crippled, or has a discharge,* or a bad skin disease. You must not offer sick animals on the fire of the Lord's altar.*

²³"Sometimes a bull or lamb will have a leg that is too long, or a foot that did not grow right. If a person wants to give that animal as a special gift to the Lord, then it will be accepted. But it will not be accepted as payment for a special promise that person made.

²⁴"If an animal has bruised, crushed, or torn testicles, then you must not offer that animal to the Lord.

²⁵"You must not take animals from foreigners as sacrifices to the Lord. Why? Because the animals might have been hurt in some way. They might have something wrong with them. They will not be accepted!"

²⁶The Lord said to Moses, ²⁷"When a calf, or a sheep, or a goat is born, it must stay seven days with its mother. Then on the eighth day and after, this animal will be accepted as a sacrifice offered by fire to the Lord. ²⁸But you must not kill the animal and its mother on the same day! This rule is the same for cows and sheep.

²⁹"If you want to offer some special offering of thanks to the Lord, then you are free to offer that gift. [But you must do it in a way that pleases God.] ³⁰You must eat the whole animal that day. You must not leave any of the meat for the next morning. I am the Lord!

³¹"Remember my commands, and obey them. I am the Lord! ³²Show respect for my holy name! I must be very special to the people of Israel. I, the Lord, have made you my special people. ³³I brought you from Egypt. I became your God. I am the Lord!"

widow(s) Women whose husbands have died. Often these women had no one to care for them.

discharge Fluid from a person's body, including pus from sores, a man's semen, or a woman's period flow.

altar A table or raised area used for offering sacrifices.

Special Holidays

23 The Lord said to Moses, ²“Tell the people of Israel: You will announce the Lord’s chosen festivals as holy meetings. These are my special holidays:

Sabbath

³“Work for six days. But the seventh day, the Sabbath, will be a special day of rest, a holy meeting. You must not do any work. It is a Sabbath to the Lord in all your homes.

Passover

⁴“These are the Lord’s chosen holidays. You will announce the holy meetings at the times chosen for them. ⁵The Lord’s Passover is on the 14th day of the first month* at twilight.*

Festival of Unleavened Bread

⁶“The Festival of Unleavened Bread* is on the 15th day of the same month (*Nisan*). You will eat unleavened bread for seven days. ⁷On the first day of this holiday you will have a special meeting. You must not do any work _{on that day}. ⁸For seven days, you will bring sacrifices offered by fire to the Lord. Then there will be another special meeting on the seventh day. You must not do any work _{on that day}.”

Festival of the First Harvests

⁹The Lord said to Moses, ¹⁰“Tell the people of Israel: You will enter the land that I will give you. You will reap its harvest. At that time, you must bring in the first sheaf* of your harvest to the priest. ¹¹The priest will wave the sheaf before the Lord. Then you will be accepted. The priest will wave the sheaf on Sunday morning.*

¹²“On the day when you wave the sheaf,* you will offer a one-year-old male lamb. There must be nothing wrong with that lamb. That lamb will be a burnt offering to the Lord.

first month Nisan, the first month of the Jewish calendar. It was during March-April.

twilight The time after the sun goes down, but before dark.

Unleavened Bread Bread made without yeast.

sheaf A stack of grain.

Sunday morning Literally, “the morning after the Sabbath.”

¹³You must also offer a grain offering of 16 cups* of fine flour mixed with olive oil. You must also offer 1 quart* of wine. The smell of that offering will please the Lord. ¹⁴You must not eat any of the new grain, or fruit, or bread made from the new grain, until you bring that offering to your God. This law will always continue through your generations wherever you live.

Festival of Pentecost

¹⁵“From that Sunday morning,* (the day you bring the sheaf* for the wave offering) count seven weeks. ¹⁶On the Sunday following the seventh week, (that is 50 days later) you will bring a new grain offering to the Lord. ¹⁷On that day, bring two loaves of bread from your homes. That bread will be for a wave offering. Use yeast and 16 cups* of flour to make those loaves of bread. That will be your gift to the Lord from your first harvest.

¹⁸“One bull, one ram, and seven one-year-old male lambs will be offered with the grain offerings from the people. There must be nothing wrong with those animals. They will be a burnt offering to the Lord. They will be an offering by fire. Its smell will please the Lord. ¹⁹You will also offer one male goat for a sin offering and two one-year-old male lambs as a fellowship offering.

²⁰“The priest will wave them with the bread from the first harvest for a wave offering with two lambs before the Lord. They are holy to the Lord. They will belong to the priest. ²¹On that same day, you will call a holy meeting. You must not do any work. This law continues forever in all your homes.

²²“Also, when you harvest the crops on your land, don’t cut all the way to the corners of your field. Don’t pick up the grain that falls on the ground. Leave those things for poor people and for foreigners traveling through your country. I am the Lord your God!”

16 cups Literally, “2/10 of an ephah.”

1 quart Literally, “1/4 of a hin.”

Festival of Trumpets

²³Again the Lord said to Moses, ²⁴“Tell the people of Israel: On the first day of the seventh month, you must have a special day of rest. Blow the trumpet to remind the people that this is a holy meeting. ²⁵You must not do any work. You will bring an offering by fire to the Lord.”

Day of Atonement

²⁶The Lord said to Moses, ²⁷“The Day of Atonement* will be on the tenth day of the seventh month. There will be a holy meeting. You must not eat food* and you must bring an offering by fire to the Lord. ²⁸You must not do any work on that day. Why? Because it is the Day of Atonement. On that day, [the priests will go] before the Lord and do the ceremony that makes you pure.*

²⁹“If any person refuses to fast* on this day, he must be separated from his people. ³⁰If a person does any work on this day, I (God) will destroy that person from among his people. ³¹You must not do any work at all. This is a law that continues forever for you, wherever you live. ³²It will be a special day of rest for you. You must not eat food.* You will start this special day of rest on the evening following the ninth day of the month.* This special day of rest continues from that evening until the next evening.”

Festival of Shelters

³³Again the Lord said to Moses, ³⁴“Tell the people of Israel: On the 15th day of the seventh month is the Festival of Shelters. This holiday to the Lord will continue for seven days. ³⁵There will be a holy meeting on the first day. You must not do any work. ³⁶You

will bring an offering by fire to the Lord for seven days. On the eighth day you will have another holy meeting. You will bring an offering by fire to the Lord. This will be a holy meeting. You must not do any work.

³⁷“Those are the Lord’s special holidays. There will be holy meetings on those holidays. You will bring offerings by fire to the Lord—burnt offerings, grain offerings, sacrifices, and drink offerings. You will bring those gifts at the right time. ³⁸You will celebrate those holidays in addition to remembering the Lord’s Sabbath* days. You will offer those gifts in addition to your other gifts to the Lord. You will offer those things in addition to any offerings you give as payment for your special promises. They will be in addition to any special offerings you want to give to the Lord.

³⁹“On the 15th day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the crops of the land, you will celebrate the Lord’s festival for seven days. The first day will be a special day of rest, and then the eighth day will be a special day of rest. ⁴⁰On the first day you will take good fruit from fruit trees. And you will take branches from palm trees, poplar trees and willow trees by the brook. You will celebrate before the Lord your God for seven days. ⁴¹You will celebrate this holiday to the Lord for seven days each year. This law will continue forever. You will celebrate this holiday in the seventh month. ⁴²You will live in temporary shelters for seven days. All the people born in Israel will live in those shelters. ⁴³Why? So all of your descendants* will know that I made the people of Israel live in temporary shelters during the time I brought them from Egypt. I am the Lord your God!”

⁴⁴So Moses told the people of Israel about all of the special meetings [to honor] the Lord.

Day of Atonement Also called “Yom Kippur”—the most important Jewish holy day. On this day the high priest went into the Most Holy Place and did the ceremony that atoned (covered or erased) the sins of the people.

You must not eat food Literally, “You must humble yourselves.”

make ... pure Literally, “make atonement.” The Hebrew word means “to cover,” “to hide,” or “to erase sins.”

fast To live without food for a time of prayer and worship.

evening following ... month According to Jewish time, the day starts at sunset.

The Lampstand and the Holy Bread

24 The Lord said to Moses, ²“Command the people of Israel to bring to you pure oil from crushed olives. That oil is for the lamps. Those lamps must burn without

Sabbath Saturday, a special day of rest and worship for Jews.

descendants A person’s children and their future families.

stopping. ³Aaron will keep the light burning in the Meeting Tent* before the Lord from evening until morning. The light will be outside the curtain [that hangs] in front of the [Box of the] Agreement.* This law will continue forever. ⁴Aaron must always keep the lamps burning on the lampstand of pure gold before the Lord.

⁵“Take fine flour and bake twelve loaves with it. Use 16 cups* of flour for each loaf. ⁶Put them in two rows on the golden table before the Lord. Six loaves will be in each row. ⁷Put pure frankincense* on each row. This will help the Lord remember the offering by fire to the Lord. ⁸Every Sabbath* day Aaron will put the bread in order before the Lord. This must be done forever. This Agreement with the people of Israel will continue forever. ⁹That bread will belong to Aaron and his sons. They will eat the bread in a holy place. Why? Because that bread is one of the offerings made by fire to the Lord. That bread is Aaron’s share forever.”

The Man Who Cursed God

¹⁰There was a son of an Israelite woman. His father was an Egyptian. This Israelite woman’s son was an Israelite. He was walking among the people of Israel, and he started fighting in camp. ¹¹The Israelite woman’s son began cursing and saying bad things about the Lord’s name. So the people brought this man to Moses. (The name of the man’s mother was Shelomith, the daughter of Dibri, from the family group of Dan.) ¹²The people held the man as a prisoner and waited for the Lord’s command to be made clear to them.

¹³Then the Lord said to Moses, ¹⁴“Bring the man who cursed to a place outside the camp. Then bring together all the people who heard him curse. Those people will put their

hands on his head.* And then all the people must throw stones at him and kill him. ¹⁵You must tell the people of Israel: If a person curses his God, then he must be punished.* ¹⁶Any person who speaks against the name of the Lord must be put to death. All the people must stone him. Foreigners must be punished just like the person who was born in Israel. If a person curses the [Lord’s] name, then he must be put to death.

¹⁷“And if one person kills another person, he must be put to death. ¹⁸The person who kills an animal [that belongs to another person] must give another animal to take its place.*

¹⁹“And if a person causes an injury to his neighbor, then the same kind of injury must be given that person. ²⁰A broken bone for a broken bone; an eye for an eye; and a tooth for a tooth. The same kind of injury a person gives another person must be given that person. ²¹So if a person kills an animal, then that person must pay for the animal. But if a person kills another person, then he must be put to death.

²²“The law will be [fair]—it will be the same for foreigners and for people from your own country. Why? Because I am the Lord your God.”

²³Then Moses spoke to the people of Israel, and they brought the man who cursed to a place outside the camp. Then they killed him with stones. So the people of Israel did just what the Lord had commanded Moses.

A Time of Rest for the Land

25 The Lord spoke to Moses at Mount Sinai. The Lord said, ²“Tell the people of Israel: You will enter the land that I am giving to you. At that time, you must let the land have a special time of rest. This will be a special time of rest to honor the Lord. ³You will plant [seed] in your field for six years. You will trim the plants in your grape fields for six years and bring in its fruits. ⁴But

Meeting Tent The Holy Tent (tabernacle) where the people of Israel went to meet with God.

Agreement Literally, “Proof.” The flat stones with the Ten Commandments written on them. These were proof of the Agreement between God and the people of Israel.

16 cups Literally, “2/10 of an ephah.”

frankincense Very special dried tree sap. Burned to make a sweet-smelling smoke, it was offered as a gift to God.

Sabbath Saturday, a special day of rest and worship for Jews.

put their hands on his head This shows that all those people were sharing in punishing the man.

he must be punished Literally, “he must bear his sin.”

give another animal to take its place Literally, “pay for it; life for life.”

during the seventh year, you will let the land rest. This will be a special time of rest to honor the Lord. You must not plant seed in your field or trim the plants in your grape fields. ⁵You must not cut the crops that grow by themselves after your harvest. You must not gather the grapes from your vines that are not trimmed. The land will have a year of rest.

⁶“The land will have a year of rest,” but you will still have enough food. There will be enough food for your men and women servants. There will be food for your hired workers and for the foreigners living in your country. ⁷And there will be enough food for your cows and other animals to eat.

Jubilee — The Year of Release

⁸“You will also count seven groups of seven years. This will be 49 years. During that time, there will be seven years of rest for the land. ⁹On the Day of Atonement,* you must blow a ram’s horn. That will be on the tenth day of the seventh month. You must blow the ram’s horn through the whole country. ¹⁰You will make the 50th year a special year. You will announce freedom for all the people living in your country. This time will be called ‘Jubilee.’* Each of you will go back to his own property.* And each of you will go back to his family. ¹¹The 50th year will be a special celebration* for you. Don’t plant seeds. Don’t harvest the crops that grow by themselves. Don’t gather grapes from the vines that are not trimmed. ¹²That year is Jubilee. It will be a holy time for you. You will eat the crops that come from the field. ¹³In the year of Jubilee, each person will go back to his own property.

¹⁴“Don’t cheat your neighbor when you sell your land to him. And don’t let him cheat you

when you buy land from him. ¹⁵If you want to buy your neighbor’s land, then count the number of years since the last Jubilee, and use that number to decide the right price. Why? Because he is really only selling you the rights for harvesting crops until the next Jubilee. ¹⁶If there are many years before the next Jubilee, then the price will be high. If the years are few, then the price will be lower. Why? Because your neighbor is really only selling a number of crops to you. At the next Jubilee the land will again belong to his family.” ¹⁷You must not cheat each other. You must honor your God! I am the Lord your God!

¹⁸“Remember my laws and rules. Obey them! Then you will live safely in your country. ¹⁹And the land will produce good crops for you. Then you will have plenty of food and you will live safely on the land.

²⁰“But maybe you will say, ‘If we don’t plant seeds or gather our crops, we will not have anything to eat during the seventh year.’

²¹“Don’t worry!” I will order my blessing to come to you during the sixth year. The land will continue growing crops for three years. ²²When you plant in the eighth year, you will still be eating things from the old crop. You will eat the old crop until the ninth year, when the crop you planted in the eighth year comes in.

Property Laws

²³“The land really belongs to me. So you can’t really sell it permanently. You are only foreigners and travelers living on my land with me. ²⁴People might sell their land, but the family will always get their land back. ²⁵A person in your country might become very poor. He might be so poor that he must sell his property. So his close relative must come and buy back the property for his relative. ²⁶A person might not have a close relative to buy back his land for him. But he might get enough money to buy back the land for himself. ²⁷Then he must count the years since the land was sold. He must use that number to decide how much to pay for the land. Then he must buy back the land. Then the land will be his property again. ²⁸But if this person can’t find enough money to get the land back

Day of Atonement Also called “Yom Kippur”—the most important Jewish holy day. On this day the high priest went into the Most Holy Place and did the ceremony that atoned (covered or erased) the sins of the people.

Jubilee The word comes from the Hebrew word for the horn that was blown at this time.

own property In Israel, the land belonged to the family or family group. A person might sell his land, but at Jubilee that land again belonged to the family and family group that it was originally given to.

special celebration Literally, “Jubilee.”

for himself, then what he has sold will stay in the hands of the person who bought it until the year of Jubilee.* Then during that special celebration, the land will go back [to the first owner's family]. So the property will again belong to the right family.

²⁹“If a person sells a home in a walled city, then he still has the right to get it back until a full year after he sold the house. His right to get the house back will continue one year. ³⁰But if [the owner does not] buy back the house before a full year is finished, then the house that is in the walled city will belong to the person who bought it, and to his descendants.* The house will not go back [to the first owner] at the time of Jubilee.* ³¹Towns without walls around them will be treated like open fields. So houses built in those small towns will go back to the first owners at the time of Jubilee.

³²“But about the cities of the Levites: The Levites can buy back their houses at any time in the cities that belong to them. ³³If a person buys a house from a Levite, that house in the Levites' city will again belong to the Levites at the time of Jubilee.* Why? Because houses in Levite cities belong to people from the family group of Levi. The people of Israel gave those cities to the Levite people. ³⁴Also, the fields and pastures around the Levite cities can't be sold. Those fields belong to the Levites forever.

Rules for Slave Owners

³⁵“Maybe a person from your own country* will become too poor to support himself. You must let him live with you like a visitor. ³⁶Don't charge him any interest [on money you might loan to him]. Respect your God, and let your brother* live with you. ³⁷Don't charge him interest on any money you lend him. And don't try to make a profit from the food you sell him. ³⁸I am the Lord your God. I brought you out of the land of

Egypt to give the land of Canaan to you and to become your God.

³⁹“Maybe a person from your own country* will become so poor that he sells himself as a slave to you. You must not make him work like a slave. ⁴⁰He will be like a hired worker and a visitor with you until the year of Jubilee.* ⁴¹Then he can leave you. He can take his children and go back to his family. He can go back to the property of his ancestors.* ⁴²Why? Because they are my servants! I brought them out [of slavery] in Egypt. They must not become slaves [again]. ⁴³You must not be a cruel master to this person. You must respect your God.

⁴⁴“About your men and women slaves: You may get men and women slaves from the other nations around you. ⁴⁵Also, you may get children as slaves if they come from the families of the foreigners living in your land. Those children slaves will belong to you. ⁴⁶You may even pass these foreign slaves on to your children after you die so that they will belong to your children. They will be your slaves forever. You may make slaves of these foreigners. But you must not be a cruel master over your own brothers, the people of Israel.

⁴⁷“Maybe a foreigner or visitor among you will become rich. Maybe a person from your own country* will become poor, so that he sells himself as a slave to a foreigner living among you or to a member of a foreigner's family. ⁴⁸That person will have the right to be bought back [and become free]. One of his brothers* can buy him back. ⁴⁹Or his uncle or his cousin can buy him back. Or one of his close relatives from his family can buy him back. Or if the person gets enough money, he can pay the money himself [and become free again].

⁵⁰“How do you decide the price? You must count the years from the time he sold himself to the foreigner up to the next year of Jubilee.* Use that number to decide the price. Why? Because really the person only 'hired' him for a few years! ⁵¹If there are still many

Jubilee The word comes from the Hebrew word for the horn that was blown at this time. See Leviticus 25:9.

descendants A person's children and their future families.

a person ... country Literally, “one of your brothers.”

your brother Or, “the person from your own country.”

ancestors Literally, “fathers,” meaning a person's parents, grandparents, and all the people they are descended from.

One ... brothers Or, “A person from his own country.”

years before the year of Jubilee, then the person must give back a large part of the price. It all depends on the numbers of years. ⁵²If only a few years are left until the year of Jubilee, then the person must pay a small part of the original price. ⁵³But that person will live like a hired man with the foreigner every year. Don't let the foreigner be a cruel master over that person.

⁵⁴“That person will become free, even if no one buys him back. At the year of Jubilee* he and his children will become free. ⁵⁵Why? Because the people of Israel are my servants. They are the servants that I brought out of slavery in Egypt. I am the Lord your God!

Rewards for Obeying God

26 “Don't make idols for yourselves. Don't set up statues or memorials* in your land to bow down to. Why? Because I am the Lord your God!

²“Remember my special days of rest* and honor my holy place. I am the Lord!

³“Remember my laws and commands, and obey them! ⁴If you do those things, then I will give you rains at the time they should come. The land will grow crops and the trees of the field will grow their fruit. ⁵Your threshing* will continue until it is time to gather grapes. And your grape gathering will continue until it is time to plant. Then you will have plenty to eat. And you will live safely in your land. ⁶I will give peace to your country. You will lie down in peace. No person will come to make you afraid. I will keep harmful animals out of your country. And armies will not come through your country.

⁷“You will chase your enemies, and defeat them. You will kill them with your sword. ⁸Five of you will chase 100 men, and 100 of you will chase 10,000 men. You will defeat your enemies and kill them with your sword.

Jubilee The word comes from the Hebrew word for the horn that was blown at this time. See Leviticus 25:9.

memorial A stone marker to help people remember something special. In ancient Israel, people often set up stone markers as places to worship false gods.

special days of rest Or, “Sabbaths.”

threshing Beating grain to remove its hulls.

⁹“Then I will turn to you. I will let you have many children. I will keep my Agreement with you. ¹⁰You will have enough crops to last for more than a year. You will harvest the new crops. But then you will have to throw out the old crops to make room for the new crops! ¹¹Also, I will place my Holy Tent* among you. I will not turn away from you! ¹²I will walk with you and be your God. And you will be my people. ¹³I am the Lord your God. You were slaves in Egypt. But I brought you out of Egypt. You were bent low from the heavy weights you carried as slaves. But I broke the poles that were on your shoulders. I let you walk tall again!

Punishment for Not Obeying God

¹⁴“But if you don't obey me and all my commands, then these bad things will happen. ¹⁵If you refuse to obey my laws and commands, then you have broken my Agreement. ¹⁶If you do that, then I will cause terrible things to happen to you. I will cause you to have disease and fever. They will destroy your eyes and take away your life. You will not have success when you plant your seed. And your enemies will eat your crops! ¹⁷I will be against you, so your enemies will defeat you. Those enemies hate you, and they will rule over you. You will run away even when no one is chasing you.

¹⁸“After these things, if you still don't obey me, I will punish you seven times more for your sins. ¹⁹And I will also destroy the great cities that make you proud. The skies will not give rain, and the earth will not produce crops.* ²⁰You will work hard, but it will not help. Your land will not give any crops, and your trees will not grow their fruit.

²¹“If you still turn against me and refuse to obey me, then I will beat you seven times harder! The more you sin, the more you will be punished! ²²I will send wild animals against you. They will take your children away from you. They will destroy your

Holy Tent Or, “tabernacle.” The place God came to live among his people.

The skies ... crops Literally, “Your skies will be like iron, your land like bronze.”

animals. They will kill many of your people. [People will be afraid to travel—] the roads will be empty!

²³“If you don’t learn your lesson after all those things, and if you still turn against me, ²⁴then I will also turn against you. I—yes, I (*the Lord*)—will punish you seven times for your sins. ²⁵You will have broken my Agreement, so I will punish you. I will bring armies against you. You will go into your cities for safety. But I will cause diseases to spread among you. And your enemies will defeat you. ²⁶I will give you a share of the grain [left in that city]. [But there will be very little food to eat.] Ten women will be able to cook all their bread in one oven. They will measure each piece of bread. You will eat, but you will still be hungry!

²⁷“If you still refuse to listen to me, and if you still turn against me, ²⁸then I will really show my anger! I—yes, I (*the Lord*)—will punish you seven times for your sins! ²⁹[You will become so hungry that] you will eat the bodies of your sons and daughters. ³⁰I will destroy your high places.* I will cut down your incense* altars.* I will put your dead bodies on the dead bodies of your idols.* You will be very disgusting to me. ³¹I will destroy your cities. I will make your holy places empty. I will stop smelling your offerings. ³²I will make your land empty. And your enemies that come to live there will be shocked at it. ³³I will scatter you among the nations. I will pull out my sword and destroy you. Your land will become empty and your cities will be destroyed.

³⁴“You will be taken to your enemy’s country. Your country will be empty. So your land will finally get its rest. The land will enjoy its time of rest. ³⁵[The law says the land should have a year of rest every seven years.] During the time that the land is empty, it will get the time of rest that you did not give it

while you lived there. ³⁶The survivors* will lose their courage in the land of their enemies. They will be scared of everything. They will run around like a leaf being blown by the wind. They will run like someone is chasing them with a sword. They will fall even when no one is chasing them! ³⁷They will run like someone is chasing them with a sword. They will fall over each other— even when no person is chasing them.

“You will not be strong enough to stand up against your enemies. ³⁸You will be lost in other nations. You will disappear in the land of your enemies. ³⁹So the survivors* will rot away in their sin in their enemies’ countries. They will rot away in their sins just like their ancestors* did.

There Is Always Hope

⁴⁰“But maybe the people will confess (*admit*) their sins. And maybe they will confess the sins of their ancestors.* Maybe they will admit that they turned against me. Maybe they will admit that they sinned against me. ⁴¹Maybe they will admit that I turned against them and brought them into the land of their enemies. Those people will be like strangers to me. But maybe they will become humble* and accept the punishment for their sin. ⁴²If they do, then I will remember my Agreement with Jacob. I will remember my Agreement with Isaac. I will remember my Agreement with Abraham. And I will remember the land.

⁴³“The land will be empty. The land will enjoy its time of rest. Then the survivors* will accept the punishment for their sins. They will learn that they were punished because they hated my laws and refused to obey my rules. ⁴⁴They truly sinned. [But if they come to me for help,] I will not turn away from them. I will listen to them, even if they are in the land of their enemies. I will not completely destroy

high places Places for worshiping God or false gods. These places were usually on the hills and mountains.

incense Special dried tree sap. Burned to make a sweet-smelling smoke, it was offered as a gift to God.

altars A table or raised area used for offering sacrifices.

idols Statues of false gods that people worshiped.

survivors People who escaped some disaster. Here, this means the Jewish people who survived the destruction of Judah and Israel by its enemy’s armies.

ancestors Literally, “fathers,” meaning a person’s parents, grandparents, and all the people they are descended from.

Those people ... humble Literally, “If they humble their uncircumcised heart.”

them. I will not break my Agreement with them. Why? Because I am the Lord their God! ⁴⁵For them, I will remember the Agreement with their ancestors.* I brought their ancestors out of the land of Egypt so I could become their God. The other nations saw those things. I am the Lord!”

⁴⁶Those are the laws, rules and teachings that the Lord gave to the people of Israel. [Those laws are the Agreement] between the Lord and the people of Israel. The Lord gave those laws to Moses at Mount Sinai [and Moses gave them to the people].

Promises Are Important

27 The Lord said to Moses, ²“Tell the people of Israel: A person might make a special promise to the Lord. That person might promise to give a person to the Lord. [That person will then serve the Lord in a special way.] The priest must set a price for that person. [People will have to pay that price if they want to buy the person back from the Lord.] ³The price for a man from 20 to 60 years old is 50 shekels* of silver. (You must use the official measure* for the silver.) ⁴The price for a woman [that is 20 to 60 years old] is 30 shekels. ⁵The price for a man from 5 to 20 years old is 20 shekels. The price for a woman [from 5 to 20 years old] is 10 shekels. ⁶The price for a baby boy from one month to five years old is 5 shekels. For a baby girl, the price is 3 shekels. ⁷The price for a man who is 60 years old or older is 15 shekels. The price for a woman is 10 shekels.

⁸“If a person is too poor to pay the price, then bring that person to the priest. The priest will decide how much money the person can afford to pay.

Gifts to the Lord

⁹“Some animals can be used as sacrifices to the Lord. If a person brings one of those animals, then that animal will become holy.

¹⁰[That person promises to give that animal to the Lord,] so that person must not try to put another animal in its place. He must not try to change it for something else. He must not try to change a good animal for a bad animal. He must not change a bad animal for a good animal. If that person does try to change animals, then both animals will become holy—[both animals will belong to the Lord].

¹¹“Some animals can’t be offered as sacrifices to the Lord. If a person brings one of those unclean* animals to the Lord, then that animal must be brought to the priest.

¹²The priest will decide a price for that animal. It does not make any difference if the animal is good or bad. If the priest decides on a price, then that is the price for the animal.

¹³If the person wants to buy back the animal,* then he must add a fifth to the price.

The Value of a House

¹⁴“Now if a person dedicates his house as holy to the Lord, then the priest must decide its price. It does not make any difference if the house is good or bad. If the priest decides on a price, then that is the price for the house. ¹⁵But if the person who gave the house wants to get it back, then he must add a fifth to the price. Then the house will belong to that person.

Value of Property

¹⁶“If a person dedicates part of his fields to the Lord, the value of those fields will depend on how much seed is needed to plant it. It will be 50 shekels* of silver for each homer* of barley seed. ¹⁷If the person gives his field to God during the year of Jubilee,* then its value will be whatever the priest decides. ¹⁸But if the person gives his field after the Jubilee, then the priest must calculate its exact price. He must count the number of years to the next year of Jubilee. Then he must use that number to decide the price. ¹⁹If the person who gave the

ancestors Literally, “fathers,” meaning a person’s parents, grandparents, and all the people they are descended from.

shekels A shekel is 2/5 of an ounce.

official measure Literally, “holy shekel,” the official standard of measure used in the tabernacle or temple.

unclean Not pure or not acceptable to God for worship.

buy back the animal See Exodus 13:1–16 for the laws about giving to God or “buying back” firstborn children or animals.

homer A dry measure equal to about 6 bushels.

Jubilee The word comes from the Hebrew word for the horn that was blown at this time. See Leviticus 25:9.

field wants to buy back the field, then he must add a fifth to that price. Then the field will again belong to that person. ²⁰If the person does not buy back the field, then the field will always belong to the priests. If the land is sold to someone else, then that first person can't buy back the land. ²¹If the person did not buy back the land, then at the year of Jubilee, the field will remain holy to the Lord—it will belong to the priest forever! It will be like land that was given completely to the Lord.

²²"If a person dedicates to the Lord a field that he has bought, and it is not a part of his family's property,* ²³then the priest must count the years to the year of Jubilee* and decide the price for the land. Then that land will belong to the Lord. ²⁴At the year of Jubilee, the land will go to the original owner. It will go back to the family that owns the land.

²⁵"You must use the official measure* in paying those prices. The shekel by that measure weighs 20 gerahs.*

Value of Animals

²⁶"People can give cows and sheep as special gifts to the Lord. But if the animal is the firstborn, then that animal already belongs to the Lord. So people can't give those animals as special gifts. ²⁷People must give firstborn animals to the Lord. But if the firstborn animal is an unclean* animal, then the person must

buy back that animal. The priest will decide the price of the animal, and the person must add a fifth to that price. If the person does not buy back that animal, then the priest must sell the animal for the price he decided.

Special Gifts

²⁸"There is a special kind of gift* that people give to the Lord. That gift belongs only to the Lord. That gift cannot be bought back or sold. That gift belongs to the Lord. That type of gift includes people, animals, and fields from the family property.

²⁹"If that special kind of gift* to the Lord is a person, then that person cannot be bought back. That person must be killed.

³⁰"A tenth of all crops belong to the Lord. This means the crops from fields and the fruit from trees—a tenth belongs to the Lord. ³¹So if a person wants to get back his tenth, he must add a fifth to its price and then buy it back.

³²"The priests will take every tenth animal from a person's cows or sheep. Every tenth animal will belong to the Lord. ³³The owner should not worry if the chosen animal is good or bad. He should not change the animal for another animal. If he decides to change it for another animal, then both animals will belong to the Lord. That animal can't be bought back."

³⁴Those are the commands that the Lord gave Moses at Mount Sinai for the people of Israel.

Jubilee The word comes from the Hebrew word for the horn that was blown at this time. See Leviticus 25:9.

family's property That is, land that was owned originally by his family and family group.

official measure Literally, "holy shekel," the official standard of measure used in the tabernacle or temple.

gerahs A gerah is 1/50 of an ounce.

unclean Not pure or not acceptable to God for worship.

special kind of gift This usually means things taken in war. Those things (gifts) belonged only to the Lord, so they could not be used for anything else.