

<everything will be thinned down>

<major chunks or books-within-books omitted will be noted in this style.>

<the creation days at the beginning omitted>

Before there were plants and herbs in the field.  
Cause God had not brought rain and man had not tilled ground.  
Mist rose from the earth to water it.

God formed dust man and breathed life in his nostrils.  
The man became a living being.

God planted a garden to the east in Eden.

He placed the formed man there.

Out of the ground God had made every beautiful and nourishing tree grow.  
In the midst of the garden the tree of life, also the tree for knowing good and evil.

A river watered the garden then split into four river-heads.  
<details of lands the river went to omitted>

Of the trees of the garden man could freely eat.  
But not the tree for knowing good and evil.  
Cause on the day it was eaten, you would surely die.

God decided to make a helper for man.  
God formed every bird and beast bringing them to Adam for naming.  
So Adam gave names but found no suitable helper.

God made Adam fall into a deep sleep.  
He took one of his ribs and created.

When she was brought to man he recognised her as of the same bone and flesh.  
So she was called woman.

<section omitted>

The serpent was the most cunning beast made.

He questioned the woman on God not letting them eat of all the trees in the garden.

She confirmed there was a tree in the midst of the garden to avoid touching for fear of death.

The serpent replied that she wouldn't die, it was just God not wanting them not to be at the same level by knowing good and evil. The tree looked like it had beautiful, nutritious fruit that could give desirable wisdom.

She ate the fruit, gave some to her husband (who was with her) and he ate too. Both of them had their eyes opened and they knew they were naked. They sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.

Hearing the sound of God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, they hid. When God called to Adam, Adam let God know he had hidden because he was naked.

God asked if someone had told him he was naked or if he had eaten from the tree despite being told not to.

Adam said that it was the woman God had given him as a companion that gave him the fruit.

God asked the woman and she told them she ate because the serpent deceived her.

God laid out the consequences. The serpent would be more cursed than all the cattle and beasts. Eating dust, going on its belly all of its days.

There would be hostility between the children of the woman and the serpent.

One would strike for the head and the other at the heel.

For the woman, more sorrow and pain in labour. She would want to own her husband but he would rule over her.

God then had words with Adam for listening to his wife and eating from the tree he was told not to. Because of him the ground was cursed and it would be painful to get food from. It would bring forth thorns and thistles.

Eating bread would happen by the sweat on his forehead, till he was six feet under.

From dust he was taken, was and to it he would return.

Adam called his wife Eve as mother of the living.

God made them tunics of hide. Humans were like God in the ability to know good and evil. Now in case they took from the tree of life as well, God sent them from the garden in Eden. He drove them out to till the ground they were taken from.

Guards of heaven and an orbiting blade of flame were placed to guard the way to the tree of life.

Adam and Eve got intimate. They had a son who Eve named Cain. They then had another child, Abel. Abel was a shepherd and Cain a farmer.

Time passed and Cain brought some of his crop as an offering. Abel brought an offering from the firstborn of his flock. God respected Abel and his offering. But not Cain and his offering. Cain was pissed and it showed.

God asked Cain about the angry face. Shouldn't it follow that doing well would lead to acceptance. Not doing well, would mean that the temptation to go wrong would be close at hand. The temptation to go wrong, wants to own people, but they should rule over it.

Cain chatted to Abel.

They met in the field.  
Cain killed Abel.

Later God questioned Cain where his brother was.

Cain told God he didn't know since he wasn't his brother's babysitter.

God wanted to know what Cain had done. His brothers blood was crying out from the ground. He was now cursed so the earth would not yield its strength to. He would be a homeless fugitive on the earth.

<brief details of Cain's further actions, family and mark omitted>

Adam and Eve had another son, which she named Seth. Seth had a son called Enosh.

From then on people had to seek God.

<the book of 'Genealogy of Adam' covering about seven generations of male lineage has been omitted>

As human numbers increased on the earth, more daughters were born. The sons of heaven saw their beauty and took for themselves whoever they chose.

God, not wanting to be endlessly judging mortal issues, decided to drop a human's days to a hundred and twenty. There were giants in those days and afterwards, from these unions. Mighty humans of tales of old. God saw the great human wickedness in the earth and the continuous wicked intent of heart.

God was gutted, regretting ever making humans. So he announced he was going to wipe humans, beasts, creepy crawlies and birds from the face of the earth. But Noah found favor in the eyes of God <genealogy>. He was told that because violence filled the earth, the end was coming.

Noah would need to make a gopher wood boat with rooms in it. Cover it inside and out with asphalt. It would be a hundred and thirty-seven metres long, twenty-three metres wide and fourteen metres high. It would have a window, a door in the side and three decks.

<this paragraph is hugely paraphrased>

God was going to bring flood waters to wipe out every earthly thing with the breath of life in. But he would come to an agreement with Noah and his family going on the boat. They would take two of everything with the breath of life in the boat (plus a couple of spares of some) and enough food for the entire boat. Noah did as he had been asked.

<section omitted><yet more paraphrasing>

The heavens opened and Noah's family got in the boat. The required living things went into the boat too and God shut them in. The downpour went on for forty days, lifting the boat, covering the hills, then the mountains. All living things on the earth, except those on the boat with Noah, were destroyed over a hundred and fifty days.

<details of the days when the water was subsiding are omitted>

When the ground had dried God told Noah to get the occupants out of the boat. Noah then took the spare animals God had specified and burnt them on an alter as offerings. God's heart was soothed by the smell. He decided to never wipe out all life or totally disrupt the basic functions of earth again. <section omitted> He let it be known that the rainbow was the sign of this agreement with Noah.

<genealogy of Noah's sons omitted>

As humans journeyed they came to a plain. To avoid being scattered they built a huge tower of bricks and asphalt. God seeing that they were settling in to do whatever they wanted realised that having only one language was the key to this. So God with others from heaven went and confused the language.

People were scattered over the face of the earth. The abandoned area, where they had started building a city, was called Babel.

<book of Job moved from 'books of wisdom' isolation to the gap here>

<paraphrasing>

There was a man in the land of Uz called Job who feared God and shunned evil. He had seven sons and three daughters. He had thousands of sheep and camels. His large house also had hundreds of oxen donkeys.

Sometimes there would be a feast in a different son's house each day. The sisters were invited too. When the days of feasting had run their course Job would get up early. He would send them on their way and offer burnt offerings for them all in-case they had patronised God in their hearts.

There was a day when the sons of heaven had to present themselves to God. When Satan came, God asked where he had been. Satan said he'd been here and there, walking around.

God asked what he thought of his servant Job and if he'd seen anyone more blameless and upright than Him. Satan said it was because God had given him wealth and protection. If he was to strike down all Job had, surely he would curse God to his face. God said everything Job had was, in Satan's power, as long as Job was left untouched. Satan left.

In one of the feasting periods, the eldest brother was hosting. A messenger came to Job. Sabeans had raided, taking his oxen, donkeys and killing the servants there. While this was still being spoken another came saying fire from heaven had burned up the sheep and servants with them.

While this was still being spoken another messenger reported three Chaldean forces killed his servants and took his camels. Another came while this was still being spoken, a great wind from the wilderness had flattened his eldest son's house. All the young people were killed. The messengers were the only ones to escape.

Job got up and tore his robe, he shaved his head and fell to the ground. He said that he was naked when he came from the womb and naked he would return. Blessed be God's name.

The sons of heaven again presented themselves to God. Satan presented himself and their conversation was the same as before. Except at the end God added that Job was still holding to his integrity despite being destroyed without cause.

Satan answered that striking his flesh and bone would make Job curse god. God said Job was in Satan's hands as long as his life was untouched, so Satan left. He struck Job with painful boils everywhere.

Job sat in ash and scraped himself. His wife asked why he held to his integrity, when he could curse God and die. He told her that she was speaking like a foolish woman. Why would they accept good from God, but not adversity?

Job's three friends heard of the adversity and came to him. Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar did not recognise him. They wept loudly, tore their robes and threw dust on themselves. They sat with him no one saying anything for seven days because of the great grief.

<going from paraphrasing to a massive word culling>

After this Job cursed the day he was conceived, wondering why it wasn't engulfed in terrifying darkness. Why did light come, for bitterness and suffering. He was groaning with no ease or rest.

Eliphaz felt he had to speak even if he made Job weary. He reminded of how many Job had steadied and helped move forward. He pointed out now it was his turn. When were the innocent or upright ever dealt to?

He said he'd had a terrible vision. It meant, could humans be more righteous than God? Those who dwell in clay houses would die without wisdom. What power would sort out one's own foolishness? Personally he would seek God, who corrects and saves. Then Job would find peace and his house would grow again as grain ripened in season.

Job answered wishing his grief and the effects on his soul from God's terrors could be measured. Animals don't complain as they eat good food. Strength or success were never within him and now he'd been abandoned. Did he ever ask them for bribes or to have those making things difficult removed? So I will speak of my anguish and bitterness. Why would God do this?

Bildad spoke asking how long Job would keep yammering. Does God pervert justice? The pure and upright increase abundantly. Think of what happened to those that were before them. The hope of a hypocrite would perish and the house of the wicked would come to nothing.

Job answered, yes you can't be righteous before God or contend with the wisdom of his heart. He removes mountains and spreads out the heavens so how could you answer him? He had crushed him with a tempest and multiplied his wounds without cause. He destroys all, laughing at the plight of the innocent.

Job's soul loathes life. He wanted God to stop condemning him, what does he know of being mortal? He knows he was not wicked and no one could save me. Leave me alone that I may have comfort before I go to darkness.

Zophar said Jobs empty talk would not make him hold is peace. He would rebuke one claiming pure doctrine, but still wish it were God showing him the secrets of wisdom. Could the deep things of God be understood? If Job would prepare his heart and stretch his hand to God, peace, brightness and security would return. The wicked fail, with death as their only hope.

<that was the first quarter of the argument>

<the rest of the argument repeats along the same lines with Job wearing the three down sure of his standing>

<some young guy then delivered a self-justified lecture to Job weaving rising stormy weather around as metaphors>

God spoke from a whirlwind. He asked Job about giving council without knowledge. Where was he when the foundations of the earth were laid? Was he there for its measuring and the cornerstone being laid as the morning stars and sons of heaven sang?

Had Job commanded the days, shaken the wicked from the earth, searched the depths, understood the gates of death, kept darkness in its place or seen the treasury of hail reserved for the time of trouble? <the other two thirds of the questioning omitted concerning timing, animals and beasts>

Job answered he knew God could do anything and no knowledge was hidden from him. He admitted he talked about things wonderful and beyond his understanding. After seeing God in the whirlwind he was disgusted with himself and wished to be right with God again.

God then told Eliphaz he was angry with him and his two friends. They were to take seven rams and seven bulls as burnt offerings. After this Job prayed for his friends and his losses were restored. He had twice what he had before.

<details of some of the rest of Job's life omitted>

<genealogy of Shem into Terah omitted>

<Ongoing paraphrasing from now on>

Terah took his son Abram, grandson Lot and daughter-in-law Sarai (Abram's wife) to Haran. When Terah died God told Abram to get out of the country. He needed to leave the family home, for a land he would be shown.

God let him know he would make him into a great nation. He would bless him and make his name great. He would be a blessing. God would bless those who blessed Abram and curse those who cursed him. Through him all the families in the earth would be blessed.

Abram departed with Sarai, Lot, all the possessions and servants they had acquired. They journeyed through Canaan to the terebinth tree of Moreh. The Canaanites lived there. God appeared and told Abram he would give the land to his descendants.

Abram built an altar for God's appearance there. Then he moved to the mountain east of Bethel and pitched tent to the west of Ai. He built an altar there to seek God. It turned out he was still heading south.

There was a severe famine so Abram went to Egypt. As they approached Egypt, Abram asked Sarai to say he was her brother so they wouldn't kill him (Sarai was very beautiful). The princes suggested her to their pharaoh and she was taken to Pharaoh's house. Abram was treated well for her sake. He had sheep, oxen, donkeys, servants and camels.

God plagued Pharaoh and his house because Sarai was Abram's wife. Pharaoh called Abram questioning what he'd done. Why had he said she was his sister and not his wife? Sarai was handed back and they were told to leave. Pharaoh commanded that they were sent away with all they had.

Abram and those with him went back to the altar west of Ai so he could seek God. Lot also had flocks, herds and tents. There were arguments between their herdsmen because the land could not support them both. To keep family relations strife free Abram asked Lot if he wanted to head left or right.

The plain of Jordan looked well supplied with water, so Lot chose it heading east. He pitched his tent as far as Sodom. The people of Sodom were exceedingly evil and went against God.

When Lot had left God told Abram as far as he could see around him, the land would be his and his descendants. And that you would have to be able to count the dust of the earth to be able to number his descendants. Abram moved to the terebinth trees of Mamre. He lived and built an altar there.

There was a war where the kings of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim and Bula were fighting four other kings in the valley of Siddam. In the fourteenth year, when the armies fled, Sodom and Gomorrah were pillaged. Lot and his possessions were taken from Sodom. An escapee went to Mamre and told Abram.

Mamre was an Armorite, Eshcol and Aner were his brothers. They were Abram's allies. When Abram heard Lot had been captured he armed his trained three hundred and eighteen. They chased them as far as Dan, there Abram split his servants fighting them back to Hobah. He brought back all the goods including Lot and the citizens.

The king of Sodom went to meet Abram at the Valley of Shaveh after he defeated Chedorlaomer and the other kings. Melchizedek King of Salem and priest of God brought bread and wine. He blessed Abram.

Melchizedek offered a portion of the spoils that were returned. The king of Sodom wanted the people that had been brought back, offering Abram the goods. Abram told him, he had made an oath to God that he wouldn't even take a thread or sandal strap. Then it couldn't be claimed Abram was rich because of them. All that he would take was what the men had eaten but Aner, Eshcol and Mamre could take their portion.

After these events God's words came to Abram in a vision. They were that he was not to be afraid because God was his shield and reward. Abram asked God how he could be rewarded. He had no children a servant was his heir.

God told him that his heir would be his own child and brought him outside. God told him to look to the sky and try to count the stars. It would be the same for numbering his descendants. Abram believed and God added it to the things Abram got right.

God told Abram he had been brought here to inherit the land. Abram asked how. God told him to bring a three-year-old heifer, female goat and ram. Also bring a turtle-dove and a pigeon. Abram cut the three-year-old animals down the middle and place them down with the birds. Abram chased the vultures of when they came for the carcasses.

As the sun went down Abram fell into a deep sleep. A horrible darkness fell upon him. He was told his descendants would be strangers and servants. They would be treated harshly in another land for four hundred years. Afterwards the nation they served would be judged and his descendants would come out with many possessions.

<section omitted>

Sarai had not conceived. She gave her servant Hagar to Abram for a wife. When she became pregnant she looked down on Sarai. Sarai treated her harshly till Hagar fled. God's angel found Hagar and sent her back, as God was going to give her lots of descendants. The child would be called Ishmael. She called the well there Beer Lahai Roi, because God had seen here affliction.

When Abram was ninety-nine God appeared he told Abram to walk blamelessly before him and he would become part of an agreement to multiply him exceedingly. His name would now be Abraham as he would be the father of many nations. To keep my agreement, you and your male descendants will be circumcised. From babies eight days old through to anyone that is part of your house.

God told Abraham that Sarai will be called Sarah and I will bless her to be the mother of kings. Abraham collapsed laughing, thinking a hundred-year-old man and his ninety-year-old wife were not making any babies. Abram thought he was meant to ask for God's blessing on Ishmael.

God said that his wife Sarah would bear him a son called Isaac. God's everlasting agreement would be established through him. He had heard Abraham about Ishmael and his vast offspring would include twelve princes. But it was Isaac who would be born this time next year that would set up his agreement with. Having finished talking, God ascended.

So that very day all the males in Abraham's house were circumcised. This included Abraham (ninety-nine), Ishmael (thirteen), his relatives and servants.

When Abraham was sheltering in his tent from the heat of the day he looked up and saw three men. God had appeared. He ran to meet them. Asking them to rest under the tree and wash their feet. He would find them some bread so they could be refreshed before they continued on.

They agreed, so he rushed to get Sarah to make three cakes of fine meal and a calf for one of the youngsters to prepare. He took this, butter and milk for them to eat under the tree. They ate, then asked where Sarah was. He told them she was in the tent. They said when they next visited she would have a son.

Sarah, listening from inside, laughed to herself thinking she was too old to be having that sort of fun with her husband. God asked Abraham why Sarah had laughed, was anything too hard for God? Sarah was afraid and denied laughing.

The men rose and Abraham went with them to send them on their way. The visitors chatted and God said hiding what he was doing from Abraham wouldn't fit with the intimacy he had developed for making a house of righteousness and justice.

He told Abraham there was a huge outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah since they were doing things gravely wrong. He'd come to see if it is as reported. They turned and went towards Sodom but Abraham stood in-front of God.

He negotiated if enough righteous people were in the city that it wouldn't be destroyed. Abram negotiated so if even ten righteous were there, God would hold off on the destruction. Then God went back. The two angels made it to Sodom in the evening.

<Lot taking them in for the night, then helping protect them from gang rape and escaping the next day omitted>

<Sodom and Gomorrah's destruction omitted>

<the daughters' dodgy pregnancy scheme omitted>

<the brother, sister drama repeated when Abraham and Sarah moved to Gerar, with King Abimelech was omitted>

God came back as he said. Sarah had given birth to a son who they called Isaac. He was circumcised at eight days. Sarah was thrilled to be a mum. On the day Isaac started eating solid food, Abraham made a huge feast.

<Hagar and Ishmael being kicked out in a displeasing way omitted>

<agreement with King Abimelech and Commander Philcol omitted>

<Beersheba well agreement and tamarisk tree planting omitted>

God tested Abraham. He told him to take Isaac and offer him as a burnt offering on a mountain in Moriah. So Abraham got up early, saddled his donkey, got two youngsters, got Isaac and split fire wood. They travelled for three days till Abraham saw where God had told him in the distance.

Abraham told the two young men to wait with the donkey. He loaded Isaac up with the firewood and took the fire and knife. He told them they would be back after they had worshipped. As they went Isaac asked where the lamb for the offering was. Abraham said God would provide it.

They arrived. Abraham built an altar, stacked wood and tied Isaac up. Just as he was going to kill Isaac an angel called from heaven and told him not to harm the lad. Now they knew Abraham feared God and wouldn't withhold Isaac. He looked up and saw a ram for the offering. After the offering was completed, they all returned to Beersheba.

Sarah died in Kirjath Arba. Abraham came to mourn and weep for her. He bought a field of Mchpelah, near Mamre. He buried her in the cave there.

Abraham asked his long-serving head servant to promise him something. He wanted him to go to the country of his family and get a wife for Isaac. The servant said if he took Isaac it would probably avoid the woman not being willing. Abraham said no, God would send an angel before him and if the woman was not willing he would be released from the promise.

Being in charge of all Abraham's goods it was easy for him to load ten camels. He left and went to Mesopotamia.

At the city of Nahor he made the camels kneel by the well when it was time for women to draw water. He asked God that if the one he was looking for would not only give him a drink when he asked, but the camels as well.

Before he had finished asking this Rebekah, Bethuels daughter, came and filled her pitcher. She was beautiful. He asked her for a drink. She gave him one and said she would get one for the camels as well. So the servant waited.

When she had put enough water in all the trough for all the camels, he asked who her father was and if they had room for visitors. He gave her a gold nose ring and two gold bracelets. She told him and said there was enough food and space for a visitor with camels. He bowed down and praised God for bringing him to Abraham's family. She ran back to her home and told them about this.

Rebekah's brother Laban ran out when he heard what was happening. Seeing the gold jewellery and the way Rebekah introduced the stranger, he quickly invited him back to the house. He sorted the camels, got water for the travellers to wash their feet and food to eat. But the head servant would not eat until he told them about the errand he had been sent on.

He relayed the details about his promise and journey.

Her brother and dad said this came from God, so they didn't have a say about it.

The servant praised God. He gave Rebekah jewellery and clothing. He gave her brother and mother precious gifts as well. The travellers ate, drank and stayed the night.

In the morning he asked to be sent to his master. Her brother and mother said they should let her stay at least ten more days. The servant asked not to be hindered now that God had given him success. So they called her and Rebekah said she would go.

They blessed her, wishing her thousands upon thousands of descendants that would capture the gates of those who hated them. With that Rebekah and her maids got onto the camels. She left with the servants.

Isaac went to meditate in a field as he headed north from Beer Lahai Roi. He went to greet the camels when he saw them.

Rebekah asked who was coming to greet them. When told it was the young master, she put on a veil. The servant told Isaac what he had done. So she moved into Sarah's tent with him and became his wife. He loved her. So he was comforted over his mother's passing.

<Details of family from Abraham's second wife and burial omitted>

Isaac was forty when he took Rebekah for a wife. She was barren so he pleaded with God. She became pregnant and the children struggled within her. So she asked God what was up. God told her she had two nations that would come from her womb. One stronger than the other and the older would serve the younger. When it was time to give birth, there were definitely twins. The first came out covered in red hair, he was called Esau. Clinging to his heel was the second child and he was called Jacob. (This was twenty years after they had become husband and wife).

Esau became a skilled hunter and a man of the field. Jacob became a mild tent dweller. Isaac loved Esau and the meat he hunted. Rebekah loved Jacob.

Jacob had cooked a stew and Esau came in weary from the field. He said to Jacob that the stew was red like him, could he please have some. But Jacob told him to sell his inheritance as the oldest to him. Esau ask what good inheriting everything would do if he was dead. Jacob demanded he promise.

So Esau promised Jacob could have his inheritance as the oldest, for food. Jacob gave him bread and lentil stew.

There was another famine. Isaac went to Gerar. God told him dwell where he was so that he could be blessed because of his father's promise. While dwelling in Gerar he was asked about Rebekah. Fearing for his life, he told them she was his sister.

King Abimelech looked through a window and saw touching each other like a married couple. He called them in asking how he could claim she was his sister. They could have brought guilt on his people. Isaac said he didn't want to die because of her. So Abimelech ordered that anyone touching either of them would be put to death.

That year God blessed Isaac's harvest. He got one hundred times what he sowed. He continued prospering gaining flocks herds and many servants.

He became envied. The locals had blocked all the wells his father's servants had dug. Abimilech told Isaac to go away because he was too mighty.

Isaac left and set up camp in the valley of Gerar. He dug up a couple of his father's old wells but the local herdsmen argued that the water was theirs. Moving further he dug a well and no one argued about it. He called it Rehoboth. He felt God had made room for those with him to be fruitful.

Isaac went to Beersheba. God showed up that night. He told Isaac, he was his father's God and was with him. He was not to be afraid because he would be blessed and have many descendants because Abraham had served him. Isaac built an altar there to seek God. He pitched tent and his servants dug a well.

Abimelech, his friend Ahuzzath and commander Philcol came to see him. He asked why people who hated him and had sent him away had come. They told him they had seen God was with him and wanted to make a deal. They wanted a promise that he wouldn't harm them saying he hadn't been touched, only had good done to him and had been sent away in peace.

So there was a feast. The got up early the next morning, made a promise and departed in peace.

When Esau was forty he took Judith and Elon (they were daughters of Hittites) as wives. They drove his parents nuts.

When Isaac was old and almost blind he called Esau. He asked him to go hunting and make some of the savoury food he liked. Then he would bless him before he died. Rebekah overheard and when Esau left, she went to speak to Jacob.

Rebekah told Jacob what had happened. She told him to get two choice goats from the flock and bring them to her to be made into savoury food that his father loved. Then he could get the blessing before his father died. Jacob said he wasn't hairy enough so his father would realise he was being tricked and curse him instead. She said the curse could fall on her, just get the meat.

He did and his mother made savoury food the way Isaac liked. Rebekah had some of Esau's clothes. She put them on Jacob, then put goat skins on his hands and the back of his neck. He went to his father, said he was Esau and had returned as told.

Isaac asked how he was so quick. Jacob told him with divine help. Isaac told him to come near, he thought the hands were Esau's despite the voice being Jacob's. He ate and drank wine. He said to kiss him and checked how he smelled. Then he blessed him.

Surely this is the smell of my son and the field.  
So may God give you the dew of heaven, fatness of earth, plenty of grain, plenty of wine, people to serve you and nations to bow to you.  
Be master of your brethren, curse those who curse you and bless those who bless you.

Jacob had scarcely left before Esau returned with a savoury dish made from his hunt. He told his father to get up and eat. His father asked who he was. Esau said he was the first son back from his hunt.

Isaac trembled violently as he told him Jacob had taken his blessing by deceit. Esau cried out bitterly that Jacob had taken both his birth right and blessing. He asked if his father had a blessing reserved for him.

He got what blessing his father could give. When his father passed, Esau planned to kill Jacob. Rebekah heard about this. Rebekah told Jacob to go to her brother Laban. Then Esau couldn't kill him when his father died. She told Isaac she was giving up on life because of the Canaanite daughters and that her life would be no good to her if Jacob took one of the locals as a wife as well.

Isaac called Jacob and told him to go to Padan Aram to take a wife from Laban's house. He blessed him wishing that God would be with him and multiply him through the blessing of Abraham. Then his descendants could inherit the land he was a stranger in. So Isaac sent Jacob away. Esau seeing that Jacob had been blessed to get a non-Canaanite wife took Mahalath daughter of Ishael as his next wife.

Jacob left Beersheba heading towards Haran. He put a stone under his head for the night. He dreamed of a ladder that went from earth to heaven. Angels of God were going up and down it. God was at the top and told Jacob he was the God of Abraham and his father. Where he was sleeping would be the land of his descendants. Through his seed all the families of the earth would be blessed.

Jacob was blown away thinking he was at the gateway of heaven. He got up early and turned the stone into a pillar. It marked that if God was going to watch over and keep him till he made it back to his father's house; then he would give God a tenth of what he was given.

So Jacob journeyed to the people of the east. He came to a well with three flocks waiting by it. Jacob checked they were from Haran then asked how Laban was doing. They said he was well and the shepherdess Rachel approaching them was his daughter.

Then he asked why they were gathered in the heat of the day. They said they needed enough people to roll the stone off the well, then put it back. While they were still speaking Rachel arrived. When Jacob saw Rachel he rolled the stone off the well and got water for her flock. He kissed her and cried. He explained he was Rebekah's son.

She ran off to tell her father. Laban came as soon as he heard and brought him home. Once he had been caught up on all that had happened, he said Jacob was definitely his flesh and bone. He stayed for a month.

After that Laban asked what he wanted for wages. Just because he was related didn't mean he shouldn't get some sort of pay. Laban had two daughters the elder Leah with delicate eyes and the younger Rachel was beautiful. Jacob said he would serve him seven years for Rachel. Laban said better him than someone else, so he should stay.

The seven years passed in the blink of an eye because Jacob loved Rachel. Then he told Laban he wanted his wife to go into her. So there was a feast and Jacob was given Laban's daughter. He went into her. But when he woke up in the morning it was Leah.

He asked Laban what he'd done. He served him for Rachel, why had he tricked him? Laban said in their country the eldest must marry first. If he gave Leah the week then he could have Rachel for a wife as well. Also he would serve him for another seven years.

God saw Leah was unloved, so her womb was opened and Rachel's was not. She had Reuben, then Simeon, then Levi and then Judah. Rachel was jealous and told Jacob to give her children or she would die. Jacob got angry and told her he wasn't in God's position to be able to do that.

So Rachel gave him Bilhah her maid to have children by. Bilhah gave birth to Dan then Naphtali. Leah then gave Jacob her maid Zilpah. Zilpah gave birth to Gad, then Asher. Leah told Rachel she

was hogging Jacob and hired him for the night. God had listened and Leah gave birth to Issachar, then Zebulun and then Dinah. Then Rachel had a son called Joseph.

Jacob asked Laban to send him on his way, he had completed his service. Laban asked him to stay because the Lord had blessed him on Jacob's behalf. Laban asked what Jacob wanted for wages.

Jacob said that the livestock had increased greatly since he had been there but when was he going to be able to provide for his family? Laban asked what he should give him. Jacob replied he would still care for the flock but from today the speckled or spotted goats and the brown lambs would be his pay.

Laban agreed, but then gave all the speckled or spotted goats and brown lambs to his sons. They travelled for three days, away from the rest of the flock.

Jacob took branches of poplar almond and chestnut, peeling them so they had white strips. He placed them by the troughs. The flocks gave birth to speckled and spotted. Jacob separated these.

It came to pass that whenever the strong livestock gave birth that Jacob put the branches out. When the flock was feeble he did not put them out. Thus he became exceedingly wealthy, had large flocks, servants, camels and donkeys.

Word got around that Laban's sons were saying that Jacob had almost tricked Laban out of his wealth. Jacob just had to look at Laban's face to see that things were not as before. God told him to return to his father's family.

Jacob called Rachel and Leah. He told them that you just had to look at his face to see things had changed. He had served with all his might despite Laban tricking him and changing his wages ten times. God has prevented him from hurting me. God has told me to head back to the land of my family.

Rachel and Leah said that there was no inheritance left for them and that Laban now saw them as strangers. For all the riches God had taken away from their father were now theirs. Whatever God has said, do it.

Jacob got up then put his children and wives on camels. He carried away the livestock and all his possessions. He set off to see his father Isaac in Canaan.

Laban was away shearing. He was told Jacob had fled on the third day of the trip. He gathered his brothers and chased him for seven days. God came to in a dream that night. He told him to say neither good nor bad to Jacob.

Laban spoke to Jacob asking why he had stolen away, carrying his daughters away like captives. If you had told me I might have sent you away with joy and music. You've been foolish and I could harm you if God hadn't said to say neither good nor bad to you. I understand that you want to see your home again but why did you steal my Gods?

I was afraid you would take back your daughters. If you find the thief kill them (Jacob didn't know Rachel had taken them). In the presence of those here identify what I have of yours and reclaim it.

Laban went into Jacob's tent, Leah's tent, the two maids' tents and Rachel's tent. Rachel had hidden the Idols in her saddle. She asked if it was okay to stay on the camel because it was that time of the month. So he did not find the household idols.

Jacob was pissed by now and asked what wrong he had done that he had chased him so fiercely for. He told him to bring out any part of his household that he had found so that their respective brethren could judge. For twenty years he had made sure the ewes and goats gave birth successfully. I didn't eat Laban's flock. He bore the losses for maimed and stolen animals.

He was there through the droughts, the frosts and the sleepless nights. He served Laban for fourteen years for his two daughters, six years for a flock and his wages were changed ten times. Without God and the fear of Isaac, he would have been sent away empty handed. God has seen him struggle and work hard, that's why Laban was told to watch himself last night.

Laban said they were his daughters, descendants and his flock. It is all his. But what could he do? So he wanted to make an agreement. So Jacob set up a stone as a pillar and told his brethren to heap more stones. They ate there.

Laban said may God watch him so that his daughters were treated well and so Jacob didn't take any more wives. Then he said I won't come past this heap and you won't come past this heap to harm me. May God be the judge between us. So Jacob swore by the fear of his father and offered a sacrifice. Early next morning Laban kissed the children, blessed them and then left.

Jacob went on his way and the angels of God met him. He named the place Mahanaim.

Jacob sent messengers to Esau. Jacob introduced himself as Esau's servant that had dwelt with Laban till now. He had oxen, donkeys, flocks and servants. The messengers returned telling him Esau was coming to meet him with four hundred men. Jacob was terrified.

He divided the people and animals with him into two companies. Then if one was attacked the other could escape. He prayed and camped that evening. Jacob gathered up lots of stock and gave it to his servants to take ahead as a gift for Esau. The servants went on ahead.

He got up in the night and sent his family across the ford of Jabbok. Jacob got left alone wrestling a man till day-break. When the wrestler realised he wasn't making any progress he put Jacob's hip socket out and told him to let him go. Jacob would not let him go till he was blessed.

Jacob was told his name would now be Israel. He had struggled with God and men with his might enduring. He named the place Peniel because he saw God face to face and survived.

Jacob saw Esau coming with his four hundred. So he divided the children into groups with their mothers. Then he went on ahead of them and bowed seven times as he approached Esau. But Esau ran to him kissed him and embraced him weeping.

Esau asked who was with him. He said it was the children God had been kind enough to give him. The wives brought the children near and they bowed as well.

Esau asked what was up with the company he sent ahead. Jacob said it was to gain his favour. Esau said he had enough so he should keep it for himself. Jacob urged him to accept a gift. So Esau accepted and said they should head back together.

Jacob declined then built a house and booths for his livestock in Succoth. Later he brought land in the city of Shechem.

Leah's daughter Dinah went to hang out with the local girls. When Shechem the Hivite prince's son saw her, he took her and raped her. He wanted to marry her. He asked his father Hamor to make it happen.

Jacob heard that Dinah had been raped. His sons were out with the livestock so he said nothing. Prince Hamor set out to see him. Jacob's sons heard they were upset and angry because of this disgraceful act.

Hamor spoke to them saying please give her as a wife. Then you can dwell, trade and get rich in it. Shechem asked her brothers what he could do to gain their favour.

The brothers answered that they could not marry uncircumcised peoples. If all your males are circumcised, then we can become one people. If not, we will leave. Hamor and Shechem were pleased with this.

Hamor and Shechem went back to their city and spoke with the men of the city at its gate. They could let them dwell and trade there, there was plenty of space. If they were circumcised, they could marry their daughters and they theirs. Then their livestock, property and animals would be theirs. So ever male that headed through the gate was circumcised.

On the third day, when they were in pain, Simeon and Levi took their swords and killed all the males in the city. They took Dinah from Shechem's house and left.

The sons of Jacob plundered the city. Jacob told his sons they had made him obnoxious among the citizens of the land. They will band together and kill me. But they asked if he'd rather have their sister treated like a prostitute?

God told Jacob to get up and go to Bethel. So Jacob told everyone to ditch their idols, do the wash ceremony and change their clothes. He told everyone he was going to Bethel to make an altar to the God that had answered his distress and guided his way.

They journeyed with the terror of God in the cities around them.

Jacob built the altar and the place was called El Bethel. Deborah died and was buried under the terebinth tree there.

As Jacob left Padan Aram God appeared again and blessed him. He said your name will not be Jacob any more but Israel. I God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply into a nation that births a company of nations and kings. The land which God gave to Abraham and Isaac; He gives to you and your descendants.

Then God ascended from where they talked. Israel set up a pillar there. He poured a drink offering and oil on it.

Then they journeyed on. When they were nearly at Ephrath Rachel went into labour. In the midst of the difficult labour the midwife reassured her that her son would live. With her dying breath she called him Ben-Oni, but Israel called him Benjamin. Rachel was buried there.

<Section omitted>

Israel arrived at Mamre where Isaac was.

Isaac breathed his last. Israel and Esau buried him.

<everything still being thinned down>  
 <huge genealogy omitted>

When Joseph was seventeen, he would feed the flocks with Bilhah and Zilpah's sons. He let his father know they were doing a bad job. Joseph was Israel's favourite child. He made him a multi coloured coat. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more, they hated him and would not speak civilly with him.

Joseph told his brothers about one of his dreams. He had dreamed that they were tying grain in the field. His bundle of stalks had stood up and then their bundles had stood around and bowed to his. They asked if he thought that he would reign over them and hated him even more. Another time he dreamed the sun, moon and eleven stars bowed down to him. His father told him off.

His brothers had gone to feed the flock in Shechem. Israel called Joseph. He wanted him to go to his brothers and bring back a report on how well they were going. He set off to Shechem. He was asked what he was doing wandering around one field. He said he was trying to find where his brothers were grazing. He was told they had headed for Dothan.

His brothers saw him way off in the distance. They said look here comes the dreamer, let's kill him and say wild beasts devoured him. Reuben heard this and saved the situation. He said they should avoid bloodshed by throwing him in a pit. (His plan was that he could then take Joseph back to Israel later).

So when Joseph arrived they stripped him of his coat of colours and chucked him down an empty well. They sat down to have a meal. In the distance there were Ishmaelite traders. Judah said they wouldn't gain much from murder; they could sell him instead.

So they pulled him up and sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for twenty silver. He was taken to Egypt. Reuben returned and finding no Joseph in the well, tore his clothes. He went back to the brothers and said there was no lad, what was he going to do?

They took Joseph's tunic and dipped it in goat's blood. Then they gave it to Israel and asked if he recognised it. He was sure his son had been devoured by beasts. He tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and refused to be comforted for many days.

In Egypt Joseph was bought by Potiphar. Potiphar was Pharaoh's captain of the guard. God was with Joseph and he was successful.

Potiphar put him in charge of the house because he could see God made him successful. As soon as Joseph was put in charge God blessed the Egyptian house for his sake. Joseph took care of everything in the house and Potiphar's only concern was what he ate.

Joseph was handsome. Because of all of this Potiphar's wife asked him to sleep with her. Joseph refused saying it would be wicked given the great trust placed in him and go against God's way. She did this often but he didn't listen.

One time while he was going about his work there was no one else in the house. She grabbed him by his cloak and asked him to sleep with her. He slipped out of his cloak and ran outside.

She looked at the garment in her hand then called the other men of the house. She told them that the Hebrew slave had been brought there to mock them all. She said he had come to sleep with her and she had cried out. When he heard, he left his coat and ran outside. She kept the cloak till Potiphar got home.

She told Potiphar the same story and he got really angry. He took Joseph and put him in Pharaoh's section of the prison. But God was with him and gave him the favour of the prison keeper.

The prison keeper put Joseph in charge of all of the prisoners. The prison keeper didn't have to worry about anything of that responsibility. God made Joseph prosper at whatever he did.

Pharaoh got angry with his head butler and head baker. They went to prison and were placed in Joseph's custody. They both had dreams one night. The next morning Joseph asked why they looked sad.

They told him they had both had dreams and there was no one to interpret them. Joseph asked to be told, because interpretations were of God.

The head butler had dreamed of a vine with three branches. It blossomed and produced ripe grapes. He squeezed the grapes into Pharaoh's cup and gave it to Pharaoh.

Joseph told him the three branches are three days. Within three days he would go back to his butler role. He asked him to remember a Hebrew, undeserving of being put in a dungeon, when things were going well again.

The head baker spoke after the good interpretation. He had dreamed he had dreamed he had three white baskets on his head. In the top basket there were all sorts of baked goods and the birds ate out of the basket.

Joseph told him the three branches were three days. Within three days he would be taken and hung. The birds would eat his flesh.

On the third day it was Pharaoh's birthday and he held a feast for his servants. The head butler went back to his role and the head baker was hung. The head butler forgot about Joseph.

Two years later Pharaoh had a dream. He was standing by the river and out of it came seven fine, fat cows. They fed in the meadow. Then seven ugly gaunt cows came up by them. The gaunt cows ate the fine cows. Pharaoh awoke.

When he got back to sleep he dreamed that seven heads of plump grain sprouted on a stalk. Then seven thin blighted heads sprang up after them. The seven thin heads devoured the seven plump heads. The dream woke Pharaoh again.

Next morning, he was troubled. He called for all the occultists and wise men of Egypt. Pharaoh told them the dreams, but none could interpret them. The head butler spoke to Pharaoh. He remembered that he'd messed up.

He told Pharaoh when he had made him angry and been put in prison with the head baker, a Hebrew had interpreted their dreams. Things came to pass as he interpreted. He was reinstated and the baker hung.

Pharaoh called for Joseph and they hurried to clean him up. Pharaoh said he had heard Joseph could interpret dreams. Joseph said not he, God would give an answer of peace. Pharaoh told Joseph the dreams and Joseph told Pharaoh they were the same dreams.

God had shown Pharaoh he was going to make seven years of plenty in Egypt followed by seven years of famine. The plenty of the land will be forgotten because of the severity of the famine. It was repeated twice, because God will make it happen soon.

Therefore, it would be best for Pharaoh to appoint someone wise and discerning to organise officers to collect one fifth of the lands food goods. That way grain will be stored in the cities for the seven years of famine so that Egypt will not perish.

The advice was deemed good by all. Because the spirit of God was in him and he was shown the interpretation, Pharaoh made him in charge of his house. He got a royal ring, fine clothes, a gold necklace and used Pharaoh's spare chariot. He was given Asenath as a wife.

In the seven plentiful years there was abundance of the land. He gathered food for seven years. So much grain was gathered that they just stopped counting. Asenath gave birth to Manasseh and Ephraim.

The seven years of famine began and Egypt was soon the only place with bread. People came to Pharaoh pleading for food and he sent them to Joseph. So all countries came to Joseph to buy grain because of the severe famine.

When Israel heard there was grain in Egypt, he asked his sons why they were standing around looking at each other. Go and buy some, so that we can live. So all Joseph's brothers except Benjamin went to get grain.

They went and bowed down to the governor of the land who sold the grain. Joseph recognised his brothers but acted like a stranger, speaking roughly to them. Remembering the dreams, he asked them where they were from, then accused them of being spies.

The brothers did not recognise him. They told him about their family situation. He said they were spies and all except one would stay there till the youngest brother was brought there to prove their story. He put them in prison for three days.

Joseph told them he feared God, so only one would stay in prison. The others could take the grain back. Then they wouldn't die before the youngest was brought back to verify their story.

All this time they had been speaking an interpreter. The brothers spoke to one another saying this distress must be coming upon them because they had not listened to the anguish or pleading of their brother that was no more. Reuben said they hadn't listened and now blood was required. Joseph turned away and wept so that they didn't realise he understood them.

Joseph came back, took Simeon and bound him in-front of them. He commanded their sacks were filled with grain, their payment money and provisions for the journey. The brothers loaded their sacks onto the donkeys and left.

At an encampment one of the brothers opened his sack to feed his donkey. He saw his money there and told his brothers. They were mortally terrified about what they thought God had done.

They returned to their father and told him what had happened. Israel said that they had taken Joseph and Simeon from him. Now they wanted to take Benjamin as well. Reuben asked that he be entrusted with Benjamin with his two sons lives as ransom. But Israel said Joseph was dead and if calamity struck Benjamin he would die.

With the severe famine in the land, they soon ate the grain they had brought from Egypt. Israel said to buy more food. Judah said they been solemnly warned and if Benjamin did not go, they would not go. There was complaining and convincing. They set out with gifts, double the money and Benjamin.

They went to Egypt and stood before Joseph. When Joseph saw Benjamin there he told his servant to take them to his place for lunch. They were afraid wondering if it was a trap to enslave them because of the money in their sacks.

They told Joseph's servant about money in their sacks when they opened them. The servant reassured them that he had their money from before. It must have been treasure from the God of their family. He brought Simeon to them, water for them to wash their feet and feed for their donkeys.

The brothers unloaded a present for Joseph. He came home. They gave him the present and they bowed before him. He asked if they and their father were well. He greeted Benjamin with a quick blessing. Then he ran to his room to cry, he had really missed him.

Once he'd washed his face, he composed himself. He went back and said to serve the bread. It was unthinkable for Egyptians to eat with Hebrews. He ate with the Egyptians. The brothers were seated oldest to youngest and it surprised all of them. They ate, drank and were merry.

He told the head servant to fill his brothers' sacks with as much food as they could carry and to put their money in too. Also he was to put the silver cup in the sack of the youngest. It was done as Joseph had said.

The brothers left with their donkeys at the break of dawn. When they were just out of the city Joseph told his servant to overtake them and ask why they had repaid good with evil. The servant did this. Saying by divination they knew the brothers had done evil and taken his master's cup.

The brothers replied that they had brought back the money in error from the first trip. Why would they take silver or gold from his master? If someone is found with it, kill them. Then the rest of them would become his slaves.

They quickly dropped their sacks for inspection starting with the eldest. So the search began. The cup was found in Benjamin's sack. The brothers tore their clothes and rushed back to the city.

They went to Joseph's house and fell on the ground before him. Judah asked that he not be angry, if Benjamin was taken his father would die, he was the last child of his late wife. They were only able to bring him because of the master's command and the need for food. Judah asked if he could stay in Benjamin's place so that evil would not drag his father to the grave.

Joseph could no longer maintain his composure and told everyone else to leave the room. Once they were alone Joseph cried so noisily that everyone heard. He told his brothers that he was Joseph and asked how their father was.

The brothers became terrified and anxious. Joseph asked them to come near. He explained he was their brother that they had sold into Egypt. But they need not worry, it was actually God's doing, so their lives could be preserved.

There were still five years of famine to come. God had sent him ahead so their lives could be saved with remnants from the land. Hurry to my father and tell him Joseph says that God has made him a ruler in Egypt. Come to me quickly and you shall live in the land of Goshen. You your children, your grandchildren and livestock. Then I can provide for you in the remaining years of famine.

He collapsed crying on Benjamin's neck. Still crying he kissed all his brothers. After that they talked.

News got to Pharaoh. He told Joseph to get his brothers to load up and depart. They should also take carts to bring back the rest of the family. They were not to worry about goods as the best land of Egypt would be theirs. So they loaded up with twenty extra donkeys and left.

Back in Canaan they told Israel, that Joseph was alive and the governor over Egypt. Israel almost had a heart attack, he didn't believe them. When they told him what Joseph had said and he saw the carts, he came right. He decided to go see Joseph before he died.

So Israel took a journey with all. He offered sacrifices at Beersheba. That night God came to him in a vision. He was not to fear going to Egypt, there, he would be made into a great nation.

Israel left Beersheba. His sons carried their father, their little ones and their wives in the carts Pharaoh provided. They also took their livestock and goods to Egypt. He sent Judah ahead, to meet up with Joseph for directions to Goshen.

So Joseph readied his chariot and went to Goshen. Meeting his father, he collapsed crying on his neck for ages. Israel said he could die happy, having seen Joseph still alive.

Joseph told them he was going to let Pharaoh know his family of shepherds had arrived. When Pharaoh asked of their occupation, they were to say they had worked with livestock since their youth. It was unthinkable for Egyptians to be shepherds.

Joseph updated Pharaoh and then he picked five brothers to present to Pharaoh. Pharaoh asked their occupation. The selected brothers said they were shepherds like their fathers before them. They wanted to live in Goshen because there was no pasture left in Canaan.

Pharaoh told Joseph to tell them the land was before them. They could live in the best land in Goshen. Any competent among them could become the chief herdsmen of Pharaoh's livestock.

Then Israel was brought before Pharaoh and asked how old he was. He replied he was a hundred and thirty. Compared to the time of his father's pilgrimage, his days had been few and evil. Israel blessed Pharaoh and left.

Joseph set his family up in the best land as Pharaoh had commanded. He provided bread according to each families' size.

With no bread and the famine so severe, Joseph collected all the money in Egypt and Canaan for Pharaoh.

When money failed the Egyptians came to Joseph saying to give them bread so they didn't die in front of him. Joseph said if money was gone, give livestock instead. That year for food they gave horses, flocks, cattle and donkeys.

The next year they came again. The Egyptians said there was no hiding that their money and livestock was gone. Why should they and the land die? Let the governor buy them and their land. Then with bread and seed; they and the land could survive.

The famine was so severe that Joseph brought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh. Only the priests did not sell, because they got rations from Pharaoh. Joseph told the people because Pharaoh now owned their land at harvest they would give one fifth to him. The people were glad they still lived.

The Israelites dwelt in Egypt and what they owned multiplied tremendously. When Israel had lived in Egypt seventeen years he called Joseph. He made him swear to have him buried in the land of his fathers. So he did.

Sometime after this Joseph was told his father was really sick. He took his two sons to see him. When Israel was told his son was coming to see him he summoned the strength to sit up on the bed.

Israel told Joseph, God had blessed him in Canaan. He was told he would have a multitude of descendants that would inherit the land. Israel wanted Ephraim and Manasseh considered his sons. Then the rest of Joseph's children would have access to inheritance. It was the least that he could do for Rachel after having to give her a road-side burial.

Joseph's sons were there and Israel asked who they were (he was almost blind). He was told who they were, then they were brought over. Israel kissed and embraced them. He told Joseph he thought he would never see his face again. But now God had made sure he could meet his offspring.

Israel put his right hand on Ephraim's head (the youngest) and left hand on Manasseh's. Joseph pulled them back. He guided them to the opposite side of the beds they had been at. Israel still blessed Ephraim before Manasseh, saying he would become a greater people.

He let Joseph know he was dying, but that God would still be with him and take them back to the land of their fathers. Also he would have the extra portion taken by sword and bow from the Amorites. After this Israel said to gather everyone together.

Each of the twelve brothers were given their final words and then he asked to be buried in the family cave at Macpelah. Having finished commanding his sons Israel got back into bed and breathed his last.

Embalming his body took forty days, but he was mourned for seventy days by the Egyptians.

When the days of mourning had past, Joseph spoke to Pharaoh. He asked to head to Canaan to bury his father. A lot of Pharaoh's house and his brother's family went with them. They mourned him at the threshing floor of Atad for seven days. The solemn mourning of the Egyptians became quite the talking point for the Canaanites.

Then they buried him in the family cave Abraham had purchased.

Joseph's brothers were worried he would get payback now that their father had died. They sent him a message claiming their father had said to forgive them before he died. Joseph cried when he heard this. So the brothers went and fell down before him.

He told them not to fear. Though they meant evil, God had use it to save many people. They were not to fear, they and their little ones would be provided for.

So Joseph lived with the Israelites in Egypt. When he was one hundred and ten, he told them he was dying. But God would surely visit and take them to the land he had promised their fathers. He made them promise to take his remains with them. He died, was embalmed and put in a coffin.

<everything will be thinned down>

The Israelites did well, multiplied and grew strong in the land. A new Pharaoh arose that did not know Joseph. He told his people they needed to be smart in dealing with a people, greater in number and stronger than them. Otherwise in the event of war, they would be able to side with the enemy and go their own way.

So for their contribution under the new rule, the Israelites were organised into labour gangs. They built Pharaoh the supply cities Pithom and Raamses. The more they were given burdens to wear them down, the more they multiplied. The Egyptians felt a sickening anxiety towards the Israelites.

The Egyptians gave the Israelites all the physical jobs. They made their lives bitter with brickwork and field jobs. All their jobs were hard work. Pharaoh asked Shiphrah and Puah to let the rest of the Hebrew midwives know, to kill any sons that were given birth to.

The midwives feared God and did not obey the Pharaoh. Pharaoh called them back and asked why they had saved the male children. They told him that Hebrew women were so lively they would give birth before the midwife got there. Therefore, God dealt well with the midwives and the people continued to multiply rapidly.

In the end Pharaoh commanded all of Egypt to throw any sons born in the river.

A couple from the house of Levi gave birth to a son. The woman hid the child for three months because of his beauty. When she could no longer hide him she made a boat of bulrushes and asphalt. She put the child in the boat and then laid it in reeds of the riverbank. His sister followed from afar.

Pharaoh's daughter went to the river to bathe accompanied by her maids. When she saw she sent a maid to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. The baby cried. Realising it was a Hebrew child, she decided to save it.

The sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, if she wanted a Hebrew woman called to nurse the child. Pharaoh's daughter told her to go. So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter told her she would pay to have the child taken away and nursed.

The child grew. He was brought to Pharaoh's daughter and became her son. She called him Moses because she had pulled him from the river.

When Moses was grown he went to investigate his people's hard work. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew. He checked to see no one was around, then killed the Egyptian and buried him in the sand.

The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked why they were fighting. They asked if he thought he was a prince or judge, there to kill them like the Egyptian. Moses was afraid it was known. Pharaoh wanted to kill Moses when he found out, but Moses fled to Midian.

The priest of Midian had seven daughters. They would go to the well to fill the troughs for the flock but if other shepherds were around, they would be chased from the well. Moses stood up for them and helped them get the water they needed.

Their father was surprised to see his daughters back at Reuel so quickly. They explained about the Egyptian that had saved them from the shepherds and carried water to the troughs. He asked why they had left him. So they went to invite him to eat bread with them.

Moses lived with them and Zipporah became his wife. They had a son that he called Gersom, as he was a stranger in their land.

As time passed the Pharaoh died. The Israelites groaned in the labour gangs. They cried out and God heard.

Moses was tending Jethro's (his father-in-law) flock. He led them to a mountain in Horeb in the back of the desert. An angel appeared as a flame in the bush. Moses talked to himself as he went to investigate the bush that didn't burn.

God called to him and said not to come any further. He was to take off his sandals because he was on holy ground. He explained he was the God of his fathers before him. Moses became afraid and hid his face. God said he'd seen the oppression of his people in Egypt and their anguish under the taskmasters.

God said he was going to save them from Egypt and take them to a huge, bountiful place. He told Moses he was going to send him to Pharaoh to bring the Israelites out of Egypt. But Moses didn't think he was up to the task.

God said he would help. God let him know he would be with him. The sign that it was so, would be when he came back with all the Israelites to the mountain for his next job. Next Moses wanted to know which of the many names for gods he should talk to the Israelites with.

God said it's me, tell them you were sent by me, the God of their fathers. Gather the Israelite elders and let them know the God of their fathers appeared to you. Let them know they had been visited and what was happening to them in Egypt had been seen. God was going to take them to a bountiful land, promised to their fathers.

Then you can go to Pharaoh with the elders. Say God has met with you, please let us go three days into the wilderness to sacrifice to the God. Pharaoh will not let you go. So I will strike down Egypt with many wonders. After that he will let you go.

The Egyptians will look at you favourably, so you won't leave empty handed. Every woman shall ask her neighbours for anything silver or gold, as well as clothing. Your kids will wear them and this way the Egyptians will be plundered.

The Moses asked what if they denied that God had appeared to him? God told him to throw down what he was holding. He threw the stick on the ground and it became a serpent and Moses ran away from it. God told him to grab it by the tail and it turned back into a stick.

Also put your hand on your chest. He did so and when he pulled it out it had leprosy. He was told to put his hand on his chest again. This time when he took it out the skin was restored like his other skin. If they do not believe you take water from the river. It will turn to blood on the land.

Then Moses said he was slow as a speaker. God asked who made the human mouth, ears and eyes. He was to go and he would be taught what to say. But Moses still asked for God to send someone else.

God was pissed. He told Moses his brother Aaron the Levite was coming to meet him. He could speak well and would be glad to see him. He will become your spokesman to the people. Take the stick and do the signs. So Moses returned to Jethro and was told to return in peace to Egypt.

So Moses went back to Egypt, because all who were looking to kill him had died. He put his wife and his son on a donkey. God repeated the instructions to Moses and said that Israel was his firstborn. If Pharaoh refused to let him go, then his firstborn would be killed.

On the way to a camp Zipporah circumcised their son, so that God didn't kill Moses. She complained things had become bloody, being married to him.

God told Aaron to go into the wilderness and meet Moses. Aaron met them on the mountain and Moses let him know what God had said and about the signs.

Moses and Aaron gathered the Israelite elders. Aaron told them what God had said and Moses did the signs. They believed that God had checked on how they were doing so they bowed and worshiped.

Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh. They told him God said to let his people have a feast in the wilderness.

Pharaoh asked who this God was, that was saying to let the Israelites go? He didn't know God and wasn't going to let the Israelites go. Then he asked Moses and Aaron why they were distracting people from their work. He was making all these people rest.

That day Pharaoh said to make the Israelites gather their own straw, but still demand the same quota of bricks. They are doing nothing and have made an outcry to sacrifice to their God. Give them more work so they don't pay attention to lies.

Those in charge told the Israelites what Pharaoh had said. So they were scattered all over the land trying to find dry grass. Those in charge forced them to hurry insisting on the same quota. Pharaoh got those in charge, beaten for missing the quota.

Those in charge of the Israelites went to Moses and Aaron. They told them that they hoped God would deal to them, because they had made Pharaoh hate and want to kill them.

So Moses left and asked God why he had brought trouble on his people. Why had he sent Moses, only for Pharaoh to do evil to the people without saving them?

God said to Moses that he would see how he dealt with Pharaoh. Despite Pharaoh's strength he would release and send them away. He reminded them that he'd made a deal with their ancestors and knew they were struggling, trapped.

He said to let the Israelites know that he would release them from their burdens. They would be released from traps, when God paid to get them back and used big judgements. They would be his people and he, their God.

Moses told the Israelites this, but they didn't listen because they were completely distressed.

God told Moses to tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. Moses said the Israelites hadn't listened to him, so why should Pharaoh.

God spoke to Moses and Aaron. He told them to tell the Israelites and Pharaoh to get the Israelites out of Egypt. The head of each house went with Moses and Aaron to speak with Pharaoh.

<Recap omitted>

Pharaoh asked them to show a miracle to back this up. Aaron threw down his stick and it became a serpent. Pharaoh called those of wisdom and witchcraft. They did the same with enchantments. They threw down sticks and they became serpents. Pharaoh didn't listen.

Pharaoh's hard hearted, refusing to let people go.

God said to him go to Pharaoh in the morning. Meet him by the river with the stick in your hand. Tell him because he didn't listen to the Lord God of the Hebrews he would strike the river. Tell him to watch as you strike the river with your stick and it turns to blood. The fish will die, it will stink and the Egyptians will hate drinking from it.

Moses and Aaron did this in front of Pharaoh and his servants. The river turned to blood. There was blood everywhere in Egypt. The Egyptian occultists did the same, so Pharaoh turned and went back into his house. All the Egyptians dug around the water for water to drink and seven days went by.

God told Moses to let Pharaoh know if he refused to let them go the territory would be struck with frogs everywhere.

So God had to ask Moses, to tell Aaron to hold his stick over the waters. Aaron did and frogs came and covered the land of Egypt. This was replicated with enchantments.

Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron to request of God that he take the frogs off him and his people. Then he would let them go and sacrifice to God.

They told Pharaoh that it would happen as he had asked, so he would know it was God. Moses called on God concerning the frogs and God did so. All the frogs on the land died and were made into stinky heaps.

But then there was relief. Pharaoh stopped listening.

Then God asked Moses to hit the dust with his stick. Aaron did and it became lice on human and beast. This could not be done with enchantments and they told Pharaoh it was God's doing.

God told Moses when Pharaoh went to wash early next morning, to let him know that there would be swarms if he did not listen. The land of Goshen would be free of the swarm, as God made a difference between his people and Pharaoh's.

God did so and swarms filled the house of Pharaoh, his people and their land. Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron. He told them to sacrifice to God in the land.

Moses said that wasn't right, if they did that, the Egyptians would stone them. They would go three days journey as God commanded.

Pharaoh said it was okay to go into the wilderness but not too far. Now make my request.

Moses said he would go and ask. God removed the swarms.

Then God told Moses, to tell Pharaoh, to let the God of the Hebrew's people go and serve. If he refused God would strike the Egyptians animals. God would differentiate so nothing of the Israelites died.

God then announced that he would do this the next day. The next day all the Egyptian livestock died, but none of the Israelite livestock died. But Pharaoh's heart became hard and he didn't let the people go.

Moses and Aaron were told to scatter furnace ash in front of Pharaoh. It became fine dust through all of Egypt that caused boils and sores. They were on people and animals. The occultists could not do anything because of the boils. Pharaoh still did not listen.

Early in the morning Moses got up and told Pharaoh the next plagues would cut to the heart. They would be sent on Pharaohs people and servants. If God had wanted, he could have just removed the Egyptians. But God had raised them up to show his power and establish his name in the world.

Pharaoh was still holding up his own importance and not letting the Israelites go. So God let him know around this time tomorrow there was going to be hail unlike anything the Egyptians had seen before. He was to get every person and beast out of the fields. Anything in the field would die. Those who feared what God said, brought their animals and servants in. Those who didn't left them out.

God told Moses to stretch his hand towards heaven so that hail would get any person, animal or plant in Egypt's fields. Moses lifted his rod to the heavens and heavy hail mixed with fire rained down. The Israelites in Goshen had no hail.

Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron. He said that he had not done right, he or his people. God had. Ask God to stop the thunder and hail. Then he would let them go.

Moses said he would raise his hands to God when he left the city. The thunder and hail would stop so that Pharaoh knew the world was God's. But he knew that Pharaoh and his servants still did not fear God.

Once out of the city, Moses did as he had said. When the thunder and hail stopped, Pharaoh failed to do right. He and his servants hardened their hearts.

God told Moses that he had hardened Pharaoh and his servant's hearts so that he could do these signs. Then he could tell his children and grandchildren about them. Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh. They said God wanted to know how long he would refuse to humble himself. God wanted his people released to serve him.

If not locusts would cover the ground tomorrow. They would eat whatever the hail had left behind and fill the houses in Egypt.

Moses left. Pharaoh's servants asked how long that man would trap them. Let the men go to serve their God. Hadn't he figured out that Egypt was destroyed?

Moses and Aaron were called back. Pharaoh told them to go and serve their God. Then he asked who they would take with them. Moses answered the whole tribe and all the animals would go so they could hold their feast for God.

Pharaoh said they would definitely need God with them if they took their little ones with them, it would only lead to evil. It would not be so; only the men there now could go to serve God as they desired. They were kicked out of Pharaoh's place.

God told Moses to raise his stick over Egypt. So Moses did and God brought an east wind to the land for the day. The next morning the wind brought locusts. They were everywhere in Egyptian territory. Nothing green remained in Egypt.

Pharaoh quickly got Moses and Aaron brought to him. Pharaoh told them that he had not done right for God or them. He asked to be forgiven so that this death could be taken away. Moses left and asked God. God turned a west wind which blew the locusts into the Red Sea. But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart and he didn't let the Israelites go.

God told Moses to stretch his hand toward heaven, that a darkness that could be felt would be over the land. Moses did and there was a thick darkness in Egypt for three days. They did not see anyone or go anywhere. But the Israelites had light in their dwellings.

Then Pharaoh called Moses. He told him to go and serve the Lord, let only your flocks and herds remain. Their little ones could go too.

Moses said they needed to sacrifice to God. Not one hoof would be left behind. They still didn't know what they would need, till they arrived.

God hardened Pharaoh's heart and he told Moses to go away. He told him to think about what he'd said and never come before him again. If he did, he would die.

Moses said Pharaoh had spoken well, he would never see him again. There was one more plague God was going to bring on Egypt. Then they would surely be driven out. He told Moses to announce that the Israelites would be asking their neighbours for gold and silver items. God had made it so the Egyptians thought well of the Israelites. They also considered Moses a great man.

So Moses reported that around midnight God was going to go through Egypt. All of the firstborns from Pharaoh's family, through to a mill maid's family, would die. Likewise, with their animals. Then there will be a cry so great that it had never been, or would never be heard again. But a dog would not even growl at the Israelites and their animals.

He told them that Pharaoh's servants would come and bow down. They would tell him to get out with all who followed him and he would go. He stormed out of Pharaoh's place.

God told Moses and Aaron it would be the first month of their year. On the tenth, each Israelite house (or a couple of small houses) would get an unblemished, one-year-old lamb (or goat). On the fourteenth, everyone will kill it at twilight. They would put the blood on the doorposts and lintel where they ate.

The animal would be roasted whole and the meat eaten with bitter yeast-less bread. Any leftovers were to be burnt before morning. They would eat God's Passover as a quick meal, dressed ready to journey.

God would pass through Egypt that night and strike the firstborn of each person and animal. Seeing the blood on the door meant the destruction would pass by them.

Their descendants would remember this day. It would always be a feast for God. For seven days they would eat bread without yeast. On the first day any yeast will be removed from the house. Anyone eating bread with yeast, during this, would cut from the Israelites.

On the first and seventh day they would come together to observe that God brought their armies out of Egypt. For the next seven days they would also eat bread without yeast and still no yeast would be in their homes. Whoever had yeast before the twenty first would be cut from the Israelites.

Moses told the Israelite elders about dipping a bunch of hyssop in the blood of the lamb. Then hitting the lintel and doorposts with it. God would pass through and hit the Egyptians. They would stay inside till morning. Then when God saw the blood around the door he would not allow the destroyer in. They would observe this forever. The people praised God and did as he commanded.

<The following two fragmented paragraphs have been repositioned here>

Foreigners were not to eat Passover. Circumcised servants could. Travellers and temp workers could not. It would be eaten in the house, no meat would leave the house and none of the bones would be broken. All Israelites will do this. If a stranger dwelt with them, all their males would be circumcised if they wanted to keep Passover. They would become natives. Other than this, the law would be the same for native or stranger.

Firstborns were to be dedicated to God, both human and animal. If they wanted to keep them they would have to be redeemed by sacrifice. It would be a reminder to their children of what happened to get them out of Egypt.

At midnight, God hit Egypt. From Pharaoh's firstborn, to prisoners' children and the livestock. The Egyptians got up and there was a great cry. No house, was without death.

God told Moses and Aaron to get the Israelites, along with their animals, out of there. The Egyptians told them to hurry before they were all dead. So the Israelites took the kneading bowls of yeast-less dough and wrapped it in their clothes. They carried this on their shoulders along with silver, gold and clothes from the Egyptians.

About six hundred men, their families and lots of livestock went through Egypt. The Israelites had been in Egypt four hundred and thirty years. Celebrating this night was to be carried out seriously through all generations.

God led them around the wilderness of the Red Sea. Moses took the bones of Joseph to keep the oath. By day they were led by a pillar of cloud and by night they were led by a pillar of fire.

God told Moses that they should camp by the sea at Pi Hahiroth. Then Pharaoh will think the wilderness had gotten to them. So they did.

Pharaoh and his servants questioned letting the Israelites go from serving them. Pharaoh readied his chariot. With his captains he took six hundred chariots to chase the Israelites. They got ahead of the Israelites.

As Pharaoh came near the Israelites were afraid. They cried out to God and asked Moses if he had brought them to die in the wilderness because there was no graveyard for them in Egypt. They reminded him that they told him to leave them alone to serve the Egyptians.

Moses told the people not to be afraid. They would stay still and see how God would save them. The Egyptians you see today; you will never see again. God will fight for you and that will shut you up.

God asked Moses why he was complaining. Moses was to tell the Israelites to move forward. He would lift up his stick and divide the sea. The Israelites would go through the sea on dry ground. God would make the Egyptians hard hearted. They would follow, so God would gain honour over Pharaoh's army. Then the Egyptians would know he was God.

God's angel, that led them, moved behind the Israelites. So the Egyptians had a cloud of darkness and the Israelites were given light. So one did not come near the other that night. Moses reached out over the sea and God used a wind from the east to divide the water. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on either side.

The Egyptian chariots all chased. In the first watch of the morning God gave them wheel trouble and it was difficult to drive. They talked amongst themselves that God was fighting for the Israelites against them, the Egyptians fled.

God told Moses to reach out his hand over the sea. In the morning the sea returned to its full depth covering the chariots and horses. No one in the army survived. The dead were seen on the shore and the Israelites feared God believing Him and Moses.

They all sung and spoke of God's victory. Miriam, Aaron's sister was a prophetess. She took her tambourine and sung a chorus. All the women joined with tambourines and dancing.

They went into the wilderness of Shur and could not find water. They came to a place with bitter water and named it Marah. They complained that because of Moses, they had nothing to drink. Moses called to God and was shown a tree. When he threw it in the water it became sweet.

There God made social rules and judgements. He tested them. He let them know if they diligently listened, did what was right and followed the rules they would not get the disease that the Egyptians got. He was God that heals.

They came to Elim with twelve wells and seventy palm trees. They camped by the waters there.

The Israelites left Elim and entered the wilderness of Sin on the way to Sinai. One month and fifteen days after leaving, they were out of Egypt. They complained wishing Moses and Aaron had left them in Egypt to die. They had eaten their fill of meat and bread there. They said they had been brought to the wilderness to die of hunger.

God told Moses that he would rain bread from heaven. People would gather a quota every morning to test if they would follow God's law. On the sixth day they would gather double quota. Also in the evening you will be given meat. Moses explained God heard the complaints that were against Moses and Aaron, but really against him.

Moses told Aaron to tell all Israel that God had heard their complaints. When he did this the glory of God appeared in a cloud. God told Moses at twilight they would have meat and in the morning they would have bread. That evening quails covered the camp and in the morning dew lay around the camp.

When the dew lifted the wilderness was covered with a small round substance like fine frost. The Israelites didn't know what it was. Moses said it was the bread from God. They would get about three and a half litres for each person in their tent. The Israelites did this taking what they needed and no-one lacked.

Moses said none was to be left till morning. But some was and it got worms and stank. Moses got angry with them. So every morning they gathered, then when the sun got hot it melted.

Every sixth day they gathered double. When the rulers of Israel asked Moses explained the next day was the sabbath. Bake what you will and boil what you will keep for the morning. They did as Moses said and in the morning it did not stink or have worms.

Some people went to gather on the seventh day but found none. God asked Moses how long they would refuse to keep his commands and law. God had given the Sabbath and two days' bread on the sixth. Everyone was to remain in their place. So the people rested on the seventh day.

The Israelites called it manna. It was white like coriander seed, tasting of honey wafers. God told them to keep three and a half litres. Then future generations could see what they were fed in the wilderness, when they were brought out of Egypt. Aaron put some in a pot.

They left the wilderness of Sin and camped at Rephidim. The people urged Moses to do something about the lack of water there. Moses asked why they would test God. The people were thirsty, complaining that Moses had brought them and their livestock out of Egypt to die of thirst.

Moses called on God, asking what to do, as the people were almost ready to stone him. God told him to go to the people gather the Elders and go to the rock at Horeb. I will stand there and when you hit the rock with your stick, water will come out.

Moses did this with the elders watching. He named the place Massah and Meribah. This was because the people had been pushy and tested God by questioning if he was even there.

Amalek came to fight with Israel in Rephidim. Moses told Joshua to choose some men to fight him the next day. He would stand on the top of the hill with God's stick. So Joshua did so. Moses, Aaron and Hur went up the top of the hill.

When Moses held his hands up Israel prevailed and when he let them down Amalek prevailed. So they found a stone for him to sit on. Aaron supported one hand and Hur the other. So Joshua defeated Amalek. God told Moses to note this down, that he would wipe out Amalek. Moses built an altar there.

Moses had sent his wife back home when God took them out of Egypt. Jethro his father-in-law heard what God had done for Moses and Israel. He brought her and their two sons to the wilderness.

When Moses heard that Jethro was bringing his family he went out to meet them. He bowed down, kissed him and then they asked each other how things were going. Moses told of all God had done to Pharaoh, for the sake of Israel's hardship and how God had delivered them from the Egyptians.

Jethro rejoiced for all the good God had done for Israel. Now he knew God was greater than all others. He made burnt offerings and sacrifices to God. Aaron brought the elders to eat with Moses and Jethro.

The next day Moses sat to judge the people. It went from morning till evening. When Jethro saw this he asked why he was doing all this for the people by himself. Moses explained that when people had difficulty, they came to him for judgement between them. He would explain God's rules and law.

Jethro said it was no good. The people and he would wear themselves out. It is fine to bring the people's difficulties before God and teach his law. Also select able men that fear God. Put them in charge of groups of a thousand, a hundred, fifty and ten. They will judge the people themselves, but bring the hard cases to you. Jethro left for his own land.

Three months after leaving Egypt they came to the wilderness of Sinai. They camped in front of the mountain. Moses went up the mountain. God said if they obeyed his voice and kept the covenant they would be a holy nation of priests, that he would treasure. Tell that to the Israelites.

So Moses gathered the elders and told them what God had said. Then all the people said they would do what God had said.

Moses reported back to God what the people had said.

God told Moses to pay attention. He was going to appear in a dense cloud and have them hear me speaking so they will always believe. What he needed to pass on to the people was that for the next two days they were to wash themselves and their clothes in preparation. God was going to come down onto the mountain on the third day.

They would set up a boundary so no one touched the base of the mountain. If they did they would die. They were to be stoned or shot, so that they were not touched. Also on the third day they were not to go near their wives.

On the third morning there was lots of thunder and lightning. A dense cloud settled on the mountain and there was a sound of a trumpet that scared the people. Moses brought them to the foot of the mountain.

When the trumpet blasts grew longer and sounded louder Moses spoke and God answered. God settled on top of the mountain and called Moses up. God told Moses to go back down and warn the people to keep their distance, so that they didn't perish. Make sure the priests that come near the boundary cleanse themselves, in-case God broke through against them.

Moses said the people knew, not to break the boundary, that cleansed the mountain. He was told to get away and to get Aaron. So Moses went down to the people and spoke to them.

Then God spoke to the people. He was God that brought them out of Egypt, the house of traps. They were to put nothing before him.

They were not to make idols to bow down to. If they got this wrong, up to four generations of children would suffer. Otherwise he would be merciful, to those who loved him and kept his commandments.

God's name was not to be used in an empty way. People would be guilty if they make empty talk with God's name.

Remember the Sabbath. Six days they worked, but the seventh, God's Sabbath. No person or animal in your house would labour on this day.

Honour your father and your mother, that your days will be long.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

You shall not be jealous of your neighbour.

The people were terrified as thunder, lightning, trumpets and smoke had continued. They told Moses they were happy to talk to him. They didn't want God talking to them anymore, in case they died.

Moses told the people not to be afraid. It was God testing and making sure his fear was before them. Then they would not stray. So the people kept their distance while Moses drew near.

God gave the Moses a message for the people. They had been talked to from heaven. They would not make gods of gold or silver. Make alters of earth for sacrifices, burnt offerings and peace offerings.

Each place God recorded his name, he would come to bless them. If they made him an altar of stones, they were to be used as they were, they were not to have been shaped with tools.

The altars would not have steps leading to them, so you did not flash people.

These are the judgements Moses was to set before the people.

If you buy a countryman as a servant he will serve six years and in the seventh he will go free, paying nothing.

If he comes alone, he leaves alone. If he comes married, his wife leaves with him.

His master may give him a wife and if she has children, if he leaves the wife and children stay.

He may say he loves his master, wife and children, so he will not go free.

They will go to a judge and his ear will be pierced with an awl against a doorpost. He will serve him forever.

If a man sells his daughter to be a servant, she can be redeemed if she does not please her master in marriage. She cannot be on-sold to foreigners, since he has lied. If married to her son, she will be treated as a daughter. If he takes another, he will not diminish her food, clothing or marriage rights. If this is not done for her she goes free, without any cost.

Someone who hit another causing death, will be put to death. However, if it was not premeditated, there will be a place appointed where they can flee. If it was planned, take them from my altar to die.

He who hits his father or mother will be put to death.

He who kidnaps or sells will be put to death.

He who curses his father or mother will be put to death.

If there is a fight and someone is confined to bed without dying. The one who hit will be released. He will only pay for the loss of time and provide for their healing.

If men fight and hurt a woman so she gives birth prematurely, the woman's husband and the judges will decide the punishment.

If any harm follows there will be a life for a life, eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth, hand for a hand, foot for a foot, burn for a burn, wound for a wound and stripe for a stripe.

If someone gives a servant a fatal stick beating, they will be punished. If they live for a day or two they will not be punished.

If a man hits their servants eye and destroys it, they will go free.

If a man knocks out a servant's tooth, they will go free

If an ox gores someone fatally it will be stoned.

If the ox was known for this and not confined the owner will be stoned as well.

There may be a chance to redeem their life for money.

If an ox gores a servant, their master will get thirty shekels of silver and the ox shall be stoned.

If a pit is dug and left uncovered, money will be paid if it kills a donkey or ox. The corpse is then the pit diggers.

If one man's ox kills another they will sell the live one and divide the money.  
If the ox was known to gore and not confined, he will pay ox for ox. The corpse will be his.  
If someone steals a sheep or ox, and slaughters or sells it. For an ox they will restore five oxen. For a sheep four sheep

If a thief is found breaking in at night and dies, there will be no guilt. If it happens while the sun is up there will be guilt.

A thief will make full restoration, if they have nothing they will be sold.

If a thief is caught in the act, stealing animals they will restore double.

If someone's animals graze another's field or vineyard, they will repay from the best of their field or vineyard.

If fire breaks out and consumes grain or field. The one who kindled it will repay.

If something is stolen while in a neighbour's care, if the thief is found they will pay double. If not the neighbour will be taken to the judges.

<Less straight forward ox, donkey, sheep and clothing judge process omitted>

If a man entices a virgin who he is not engaged to and is intimate with her, he will pay the bride price to marry her. If her father outright refuses, he will pay the bride price for virgins.

A sorceress will be put to death.

Sacrificing to anything but God calls for the total destruction of a person.

You will not mistreat strangers or oppress them, you were strangers in Egypt.

You shall not afflict any widow or their children. If you do God will hear their cry and become furious. The sword will make your wives, widows and children, fatherless.

If you lend to the poor do not charge interest.

If you take a neighbour's coat as a pledge, return it before sun-down so that he will not cry out to me.

Do not bad-mouth God or a ruler of your people.

You shall not delay your first ripe produce or juice. Your firstborns will be God's. Same with your animals they will be with their mother seven days. On the eighth you will give it to God.

You shall be holy people and not eat mauled animals. Throw them to the dogs.

You shall not spread false reports. Do not join the wicked, using testimony to destroy. Do not follow the crowd to set out evil and testify to turn aside.

Do not favour the poor in a dispute.

If you meet your enemy's ox or donkey wandering off, take it back to them. If you see their donkey lying pinned under its burden, help it.

You shall not pervert the judgement of the poor in a dispute.  
Keep away from fabrications. Do not kill the innocent and righteous.

You will not take a bribe as it blinds discernment and prevents righteous words.

You shall not oppress the stranger, for you know the heart of a stranger, because you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

Sow and gather from your land for six years. On the seventh leave it to rest, that your poor may eat. What they leave the creatures of the field can have. Same for your vineyard, your olive grove.

Six days you will work and on the seventh you will rest. So your ox, donkey, servants and strangers will be refreshed.

Hold on to all I said. Do not think of, or be heard talking about other spirits.

You'll have three feasts for me in the year. Seven days of yeast free bread, the first harvest feast and the all gathered feast at the end of the year. Three times a year all your males will appear before me.  
<sacrifice rules fragment>

Pay attention to the angel that guides you. Obey and beware of him. Do not provoke him, because my name is in him and he will not pardon wrong. If you do what he says and what I have said, I will be the enemy of your enemy.

<Double ups omitted>

Moses told the people all God had said. The people all said, that they would do all that God had said. Moses wrote down all that God had said. He got up early and built an alter at the foot of the mountain and a pillar for each tribe of Israel. He got young men to sacrifice oxen for peace offerings. He put half the blood in basins and half on the alter.

He took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They said they would do as he had said and be obedient. Moses took the blood and sprinkled it on the people saying it was the blood of the covenant that God had made.

Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu and seventy of the elders headed up. They saw God at a distance, standing on what was like sapphire paving. They saw God and he let them live. They ate and drank as Moses was called up to see God. He would get stone tablets, for teaching the law and commandments.

He told the elders to wait there and went up the mountain. The glory of God and cloud covered the mountain for six days. On the seventh God called Moses from the cloud. The glory of God looked like a consuming fire. Moses was there for forty days and nights.

God asked Moses to talk to the Israelites about an offering. From anyone that was willing he would take gold, silver, bronze, thread, fine linen, goat, ram skin, badger skin, acacia wood, oil, spices, incense and precious stones.

They would make him a sanctuary and he would live with the people. He explained a very detailed plan for the tabernacle and its furnishings <which have been drastically culled down to the following details>.

It would have an acacia wood chest, on poles, to be one and a quarter metres long and covered in gold. A seat with two cherubim of gold. A table and lampstand would also be made of gold. The curtains for the tabernacle would be made of blue and purple linen, with scarlet thread. Also pillars, boards, bars, a veil, hooks, a screen, sockets, an altar, poles, hangings, rings, a basin, utensils, pans, fire-pans, a gate and pegs were needed.

<Priest related clothing and instructions omitted>

God spoke once again of the Sabbath, that it was a sign between him and generations. Anyone working on the Sabbath was to be cut off from Israel, by death. Then he finally stopped talking and gave Moses two testimony tablets, that he carved by Godly finger power.

Moses was slow coming back and the people were nervous, not knowing what was going on. They asked that they be made a god. Aaron said to bring the golden earrings from their wives and children. He got an engraving tool and made them into a calf. It was said that this was the god that brought them out of Egypt. So Aaron made an altar and said it would have its feast tomorrow. They got up early, offered burnt offering and peace offerings. Then they ate, drank and were merry.

Moses was told to get down the mountain quickly, the people he'd brought out of Egypt hadn't wasted any time putting aside what God had commanded. They have shown themselves to be callous. Leave me alone and my wrath will burn. I will consume them and make you a great nation.

Moses pleaded with God. If his wrath took out the people, it would leave talk of God saving with a mighty hand, only to kill them in a desert. He asked him to remember his promise to Abraham, Isaac and Israel. So God relented and Moses took the tablets down the hill.

Joshua told Moses it was the noise of war in the camp. Moses said he heard singing not, cries of victory or defeat. He got near the camp and saw dancing around the calf. Moses was pissed. He threw down the tablets and broke them. Then he took the calf, put it in the fire and ground it. He scattered the powder on water and made the Israelites drink it.

Moses asked Aaron what the people had done to him, that he set them so far astray. Aaron asked him not to be angry and blamed it on the people, recalling events. Aaron had not restrained the people, so Moses stood at the entrance of the camp and said, whoever was on God's side should come.

All the sons of Levi gathered. He told them to get their swords and kill everyone else. Three thousand men fell that day. Then Moses told them to cleanse themselves so God could bestow a blessing on them, having gone against their family. The next day Moses told them they had gone badly astray. He was going back up to see if things could be made right, after they had gone against God.

Moses returned to God. He said the people had gone badly astray and made something of gold to worship. It seemed God might be willing to forgive them. If not, Moses wanted God to erase him from the plan.

God said whoever had gone astray would be erased from the plan. So Moses would lead the people to where he spoke. His angel would go before him, but he would bring a punishment on them for going astray. So God plagued them because of the calf.

Moses told the people that they were leaving to keep the promise God had made. God would not go in their midst though so that they weren't consumed for being callous. The people mourned when they heard and no one wore jewellery.

So Moses took his tent and pitched it far from the camp letting them know it was now the purified tent of meeting. So when people sought God they would head out of the camp to the tent. When Moses went into the tent the pillar of cloud descended and stood at the door talking to Moses. The people would worship from the door of their tents. Moses spoke to God face to face and would then head back to camp. His servant Joshua didn't leave the tent.

Moses pointed out that he'd been told to travel with the people, but he didn't know who God would okay to go with him. He was on first name basis with God and had his favour, but it didn't matter unless God was with the people. If you are not going to be with the people, he requested they weren't moved from here. So God said he would do as Moses had asked.

Moses wanted to see God in his glory. Then God said he would pass before him and have his name proclaimed. He would be gracious and compassionate to whom he chose. But he couldn't see his face if he wanted to live. So there was a rock Moses could be in the cleft of. God would cover it till he had passed by and Moses could see his back. He told him to come up Mt. Sinai in the morning.

So Moses cut two stone tablets like the first, got up early and went up the mountain alone. God descended and was announced as Sir God the merciful and gracious, long-suffering, abounding in goodness and truth, keeper of mercy for thousands, forgiver of wrongs, offences and going astray, yet leaving wrong to affect three or four generations till it should be cleared.

Moses quickly bowed and worshipped. He said if he had God's grace could he ask that he dwelt with the people again, pardoning their wrong and going astray. He wanted them all taken as inheritance.

God told him to pay attention, he was going to do such wonders that the world and lands afar had never seen. I'll do something awesome with you. Carry out what I command. I'm driving out other tribes. Watch yourself so you don't make agreements that will trap you with them.

Destroy their altars, pillars and idols, so you don't make any agreements with them or sacrifice to their spirits. God went over everything with Moses again and he wrote everything in the agreement down. He was there for forty days without bread or water. The ten things he spoke God rewrote on the tablets.

When Moses came back down the mountain he didn't realise his face was shining. Aaron and the people were afraid to go near him. Then Moses called Aaron and the leaders over. He talked with them. Then the people came near and he let them know what he had talked with God about.

He got a veil to cover his face when he talked to the people, but he took it off when he went to speak to God.

Moses gathered the people. He explained about gathering an offering for the sanctuary tent and priests' supplies. He talked about those that were gifted doing the work. So the people went away and gathered what they were willing. Men, women and even kids gave what they had. Bezalel and Aholiab worked with the gifted to make the sanctuary as God had commanded.

Moses made sure this was all done then at the start of the second year he put up the sanctuary, the tent around it and cover over top.

When it was completed the cloud covered the Sanctuary Tent. Moses could not enter because the glory of God filled it. Whenever the cloud lifted the people would journey onwards. If not, they did not journey. The cloud was above the tent by day and fire by night, for all the Israelites to see as they journeyed.

<Comprehensive details for sacrificing omitted>

God asked Moses to grab Aaron, his children, the robes and anointing oil. A bull, two rams and a basket of yeast free bread would be an offering for going astray. The people would assemble at the sanctuary tent door. Moses did so.

Aaron and his sons washed. Aaron tied on his tunic with a sash, then his robe, the ephod and the breastplate. He put on a turban with a golden plate on the front. Moses took the anointing oil, sprinkling the tent and all that was in it.

He poured some on Aaron's head. Then Aaron's sons put on their tunics, robes and hats. They laid their hands on the head of the bull. Moses killed, putting the bulls blood on the horns of the altar to cleanse. Then he poured the blood at the base of the altar.

Then Moses burned the fat from the guts on the altar. The rest of the bull was burned outside the camp. Then there was the ram burnt offering. Aaron and his sons laid their hands on its head. Then cut it up and burned the head. Then the entrails and legs were washed. Then Moses burned everything on the altar. It smelled nice as it burned and they had done as God had asked.

For the second ram, Aaron and his sons laid their hands on its head. Moses killed putting some of the blood on the tip of their right ears, on the thumb of their right hands and on the big toes of their right feet. Then he sprinkled blood around the altar.

Then he combined specific fat, with yeast-less bread, oil, a wafer and the right thigh. He gave all this to Aaron and his sons to hold. They swung it back and forth, for the wave offering. Moses took it back and burnt it. Then he did a wave offering.

Moses took some anointing oil and blood from the altar. He sprinkled it on Aaron, his sons and their clothes. He told them to boil the leftover meat and have the yeast-less bread. Whatever they did not eat they would burn. They would stay in the tent for the next seven days and things would be made right. If they didn't do so, they would die.

On the eighth day Moses told them to offer another bull and ram. For the people they were to offer a goat, calf, lamb, bull, ram, grain and oil. They did so. Then went into the sanctuary. They came out and blessed the people. The glory of God appeared before everyone and fire of God consumed what was still on the altar. When the people saw it they shouted and bowed.

Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu took incense burners and had fire in them. The burnt strange incense before God, that he had not asked for. So fire came from God and consumed them, they died. Moses told Aaron that God said people had to be regarded as pure to approach. He would be glorified before all people. So Aaron held his peace

Mishael and Elzaphan carried their family out by the tunics. They were told not to show signs of grieving to avoid death by God's wrath. But the people could mourn if they needed. They had to stay in the tent because of the anointing oil.

<More instructions for priests omitted>

God talked with Moses and Aaron about which animals people should be eating. They could eat animals that feet split into several bits and regurgitated as they ate. This meant they would not eat, camel, rock hyrax, hare and pigs.

If something lived in the water with scales and fins it could be eaten. For birds they were not to eat eagle, vulture, buzzard, kite, falcon, raven, ostrich, short-eared owl, sea gull, hawk, little owl, fisher owl, screech owl, white owl, jackdaw, carrion vulture, stork, heron, hoopoe or bat. They could only eat flying insects with jointed legs. These were the locust, destroying locust, cricket and grasshopper.

Whoever touched the carcass of an animal that should not be eaten, was contaminated till evening. Whoever carried part of the carcass, would wash their clothes and be unclean till evening. The corpse of anything that went on four paws would contaminate.

Moles, mice, large lizards, geckos, monitor lizards, sand reptiles, sand lizards and chameleons would contaminate someone till evening.

If any of these corpses touch wood, clothing, skin or sack it must be put in water. It will be unclean till evening. If these fall into earthen vessels, you will break them and anything in them is contaminated. Oven and stoves will be contaminated.

Springs and cisterns with lots of water shall be healthy. If it falls on sown seed, they are healthy. Anyone moving and butchering allowed animals, would wash their clothes and be contaminated till evening.

A woman giving birth to a boy, would be considered contaminated for seven days. Circumcision would happen on the eighth day. Then there would be thirty-three days of purification. Giving birth to a girl meant two weeks of contamination, followed by sixty-six days of purification.

When the days of purification are completed she will bring a one-year-old lamb and pigeon or turtle dove to the priest. The priest will make offerings for her atonement and she will be clean.

People with something of the skin suspected of being leprosy, would go to Aaron or one of his sons. The priest would examine the sore, if the hair on the sore had turned white and was more than surface deep it was leprosy. The priest would declare them contaminated.

If the hair still had colour and the sore was only on the skin, they would be isolated for seven days. On day seven, the priest would examine them again, if it has not spread they would be isolated for another seven days. In seven days if the priest saw it has not spread and faded, they would be pronounced clean. It was only a scab, he would wash his clothes and be clean.

But if the priest saw the scab had spread, the priest would pronounce him contaminated. It was leprous.

When a priest found a leprous sore on someone brought for examination with white swelling, hair turned white and raw flesh in the swelling. It was old leprosy, meaning they would be pronounced contaminated and isolated.

If a person is covered from head to toe, by leprosy, the priest will pronounce them clean. But if raw flesh appeared, the priest will pronounce them unclean. If the raw flesh turned white again, a priest would examine them and pronounce them clean.

<Diagnosing other skin damage, that might turn leprous is omitted>

A diagnosed leper would tear their clothes. They would put their hand over their upper lip and shout unclean twice. They would be unclean as long as they had the sore and would dwell alone outside the camp.

If a sore left a greenish or reddish patch, in fabric, clothing or leather, it would be taken to a priest. If after seven days of isolation the patch in the fabric has spread, it would be burnt. If it has not spread, it would be washed and isolated for another seven days.

The priest would examine it again, if it has not changed colour and stayed the same size, it was contaminated. It was still being consumed so would be burnt. If the priest examined it and the patch has faded after the wash, it would be torn out. If it appeared again, it would be burnt.

If the patch did not reappear, it would be washed again and it would be clean.  
These are the rules of material with leprous infections.

For Lepers to be cleansed, the priest would head out of the camp and examine them. If they were healed, the priest would require two clean birds, cedar wood, scarlet and hyssop. The priest would have one of the birds killed in pottery, over running water.

The living bird and other items, would be dipped in the blood of the killed bird, over the running water. It will be sprinkled over the one to be cleansed seven times. After that they would be pronounced clean and the living bird will be set free.

The one cleansed would wash their clothes, shave off absolutely all their hair and wash themselves to be purified. After that they would stay outside their tent for seven days. On the seventh day they would shave everything again and wash themselves, they would be clean.

To roughly simplify they, would take three lambs, grain and oil for offerings.  
<Full details and poor person equivalent omitted>

If a house seems to be contaminated, the owner will tell a priest. It would be treated like fabric, except that any contaminated stones or material, would be dumped outside of the town.

<Rules around bodily discharges omitted>

<Sacrifices to make things right after the two son died omitted>

Anyone that killed livestock for offering outside of the sanctuary, would be cut from the people. They would stop offering sacrifices to demons forever. Anyone sacrificing not to the sanctuary or drinking blood, would be cut from the people.

God's against people that consume blood. A creature's life is in its blood. God let them put it on the altar to make things right. For hunting it would be covered in dirt once drained. Those cleaning after animal corpse contact, would be clean by evening and those not, guilty.

God told them they wouldn't do things like in Egypt. The statutes were given, so by them they would live. They would not get naked with their relatives, with married people or with women at that time of the month. They would not sacrifice their children to Molech.

They would not be intimate with someone of the same gender, as they would with someone of the opposite gender. It goes against what is right. They would not mate with animals, it is perversion. They were not to contaminate themselves, like the people God would throw out of their way.

The land was contaminated, so God would bring punishment. Their nation and people staying with them, would not go against what was right. They would keep God's statutes and rulings. Then the land wouldn't vomit them out, like the people before them.

Moses would let the people know they would be of pure spirit like their God. They would fear their parents and keep God's Sabbaths. They would not make idols or mouldings, he was God.

Peace offerings will be given freely and eaten within two days. They will be burned on the third day otherwise they would go against what was right if they ate it on the third day. It would not be accepted and they would be cut from the people.

When harvesting the lands corners would be left and when gathering vineyards, some would be left for the poor. They would not steal, deal falsely or lie to one another. They would not swear falsely by God's name, he was God.

They wouldn't trick or rob their neighbours, or hold their pay to the next day. They would not curse the deaf, or put stumbling blocks in front of the blind. He was God.

They would not be partial to the poor or mighty. They would determine the right way to act with their neighbours. They wouldn't endlessly complain about others or try to get their neighbours killed off. He was God.

Their hearts would not have hatred for their siblings. They would correct those around them so that they were not dragged astray by them. They would not take vengeance or hold grudges against other Israelites. They would work for the best for those around them, as they worked for the best for themselves. He was God.

God's statutes would be kept. They would not breed different animals of their livestock. They would not sow mixed seed fields. They would not wear garments of mixed fibres.

If a man slept with someone else's concubine, he would be beaten. Then he would also take a ram to the sanctuary. A priest would offer it for atonement.

When they arrive in the land and planted trees. For three years the fruit would be ungodly and not eaten. In the fourth year the fruit would be purified and declare God's greatness.

Blood would not be eaten with anything. They wouldn't practice divining or soothsaying. They wouldn't shave the sides of their head and shape their beard. They would not make cuts in their flesh for those who had died or tattoo themselves. He was God.

They would not make their daughters prostitutes, then the land would not be infected with wickedness.

God's Sabbaths would be kept; the sanctuary would be respected. Mediums and contact with the dead would be ignored so they didn't go against what was right. He was God.

They would stand up and acknowledge elders, to respect God. He was God.

Strangers in their land will not be mistreated. If a stranger lived with them, they would work for their best, as they did their own. They had been strangers in Egypt. He was God their leader.

They would be fair in measurements, weights and volumes. They would have honest scales and measures. He was God, their leader, that had brought them out of Egypt. Therefore, they would follow the states and rulings, putting them into action. He was their God

The punishment for sacrificing to Molech, would be death by stoning. If the individual was not punished the family would be cut off. Those turning to mediums or the dead would be cut off from the people.

They would be a people of pure spirit. He was God, their ruler, that purified them.

Anyone cursing their father or mother, would be put to death. They were responsible for their life.

Mediums or those possessed by the dead would be stoned. They were responsible for their life.

<Repositioned fragment>

People involved in adultery would be put to death. They were responsible for their life.

Those sleeping with the same gender, had gone against what is right. They would be put to death. They were responsible for their own life.

It was wicked to marry a woman and her daughter. They would all be burned so there was no wickedness amongst them.

People mating with animals would be killed. The animal would be killed too. They were responsible for their own lives.

People getting naked with family would be cut off and potentially be childless.

They would keep the statutes and rulings, putting them into action in the land they were brought to. Otherwise they would be vomited out. They would not walk in the statutes of the nation being cast out. They would be separate for a God of pure spirit.

<Another breakdown of holy days, feasts, priestly duties and laws omitted>

It was two years since they had left Egypt and it was coming up to Passover again. Some men were contaminated, because they had moved a person's corpse. They went to Moses and Aaron to see if they could still keep Passover. They were told to stay where they were while Moses checked with God.

God told Moses to let people know that if they were contaminated or away on a journey they could still have Passover. It is the person who can keep Passover and does not, that has gone astray. They will be removed from among you. The rules for strangers to be part of Passover still stood.

There was still the guiding cloud by day and fire by night. When it settled they would set up camp. When it lifted up and moved they would journey. When the chest set out Moses would say, "Arise God, let your enemies be scattered and the haters flee before you. When it rested he would say, God of Israelite thousands, return.

God told Moses to have two silver trumpets made. They would be used for calling the leaders or people to the Sanctuary Tent. Also for having the Israelites advance in groups when they started to journey. They would be sounded in war, at feasts, at the start of the year and at offerings.

On the first, two years and two months after they had left Egypt, God told them to take a census. It would be done with the father of each house and number of war aged males. They were to appoint a man to be the head of each tribe. God had asked that the Levites were not counted.

<Lists of men omitted><Two paragraphs above and rest of page are a repositioned fragment>

God also wanted the Israelites to each camp in their own area, by the emblem of their house. They did so and each houses army was counted. They camped and moved in family groups.

<Priest recap omitted>

The Levites were to be presented to God. Their duty was to care for the sanctuary, the needs of the Israelites and the work of the sanctuary. Aaron's family could do the duties of priests and anyone else trying would be put to death.

God said he had taken the Levites from among the Israelites instead of the firstborns. The Levites were his because of how he struck people and animals in Egypt. God asked that the Levites were counted. He wanted every male one month or older counted.

< List of Levites omitted>

Next God wanted all the firstborn Israelite children, a month or older, counted. Then Levites would be instead of the Israelite firstborns. Their livestock instead of the firstborn Israelite livestock. There were twenty-two thousand, two hundred and seventy-three firstborn Israelites.

There was two hundred and seventy-three more firstborn Israelites than Levites. So at five shekels a head, Moses collected one thousand, three hundred and sixty-five as redemption.

God also wanted the Levite children of Kotath, from thirty to fifty years of age counted. They would handle he most holy things of the sanctuary and moving it when they journeyed.

<More priestly instructions omitted.>

The Israelites set up camp again. The sanctuary was anointed and cleaned again. A huge offering was gathered, to set the priests up to live well and do the work of the sanctuary.

<The details of a huge offering, repeated for each of the tribes, has been omitted>

Moses went into the sanctuary and heard God speaking from above the Mercy seat. He asked Moses to make the lamps so that they gave light forwards. The stands were planned to be hammered gold, with flower decoration and so Aaron got them made.

The Levites were brought from among the people. They were sprinkled with purifying water. They shaved their bodies, washed their clothes and made themselves clean. A young bull, grain and oil, will be a going astray offering. Then you will bring them to the sanctuary and assemble the people.

The Israelites put their hands on the Levites. Aaron would wave offer the Levites to God and so the Levites would be set apart from the Israelites. Wholly given to God from among the Israelites. Those serving at the sanctuary would be between twenty-five and fifty years of age. After fifty they could minister to the people but they would not work.

Twenty days into the second month, they journeyed from the wilderness of Sinai toward the wilderness of Paran.

People complained and God was not pleased. His fire consumed in the outskirts of the camp. The people cried out to Moses and he prayed to God. The fire was quenched. The place was named Taberah.

The Israelites craved meat. They reminisced about plentiful fish, cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic in Egypt. Now they were withering, eating nothing except manna. The people were weeping at the doors of their tents and God was pissed.

Moses asked why God had brought such trouble upon him. Did God not think well of him, if he had been burdened with all these people? He hadn't given birth to them all, so couldn't be expected to carry them like babies. They were crying for meat. Where would he get meat for all these people? If things were going to be this difficult God should kill him now.

God told Moses to gather seventy of the elders and bring them to the meeting area of the sanctuary. Tell them to cleanse themselves for they would eat meat the next day. If they were going to cry, wondering about meat and talk of Egypt well, then God will give you meat. Not for a day, or five or twenty, but for a whole month.

They would eat meat till it comes out their noses, because they hated God and being brought out of Egypt.

Moses said there was at least six hundred-thousand of them now. Would the flocks and herds be slaughtered or the ocean be emptied of fish.

God asked Moses if they were suddenly out of reach for his help. He would see if what he said, would happen or not.

So Moses gathered the elders and told them what God had said. God came down in the cloud and put the same spirit on them. When the spirit rested on them this one time they all prophesied. Two elders that stayed in the camp also prophesied.

When a messenger came back and told them, Joshua wanted Moses to give them a talking to. Moses checked if he was getting rilled up for his sake. He wished God would put his spirit on all the people. Moses went back to camp, so the elders did too.

God made a wind leave quail fluttering all around the camp, for a day's journey in all directions. People stayed up for two days, including the night in-between, gathering the quail. Some people were so desperate, that God got angry and killed them as they chewed. They buried the people of craving and named the place Kiborth Hattaavah. They moved and camped at Hazeroth.

Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because his wife was Ethiopian. Was there any need for God to rely on him. They had passed on what God had said as well.

Suddenly Moses, Aaron and Miriam were called to the meeting area of the sanctuary. God told them to listen carefully. If he had prophets he would communicate with visions and dreams. This was not the case with Moses. Faithful, able to speak face to face, able to communicate about mysteries and he has seen my form. Why had they not been afraid to speak against Moses?

God left angry and when the cloud lifted, Miriam became leprous.

Aaron was suddenly talked with more respect to Moses and asked that their foolishly going astray did not rest on them. He asked that she was not be one as dead, with flesh half consumed in the womb. So Moses asked God to heal her.

God pointed out if a father spat in a daughters face; they would be shamed for seven days. So Miriam was shut out of camp for seven days and they did not journey again till she was brought in.

God told Moses to send spies into Canaan and to pick them from the leaders of each tribe. They would head in through the mountains in the south. Checking what the land, peoples' strength, peoples' numbers were and whether the land was good. What their cities, camps and strongholds were like? Whether they were rich and had forests.

So they checked out from the wilderness of Zin to Rehob. They came to the valley of Eshcol and cut a branch with a cluster of grapes. It was carried back on a pole between two people. Pomegranates and figs were taken. It took forty days.

They returned to the people in Paran and showed them the fruit of the land. They reported back that it was a land of milk and honey, but the people were strong. They had large fortified cities and some of them looked to be the descendants of giants.

Caleb quietened the peoples talk before Moses and said they should go and take the land. Those who had spied said the people were stronger than them. The land devours its inhabitants and some of the people were huge. They reported they would be like grasshoppers against some of them.

The people wept that night, complaining against Moses and Aaron. The people would have rather died in Egypt or the wilderness. Instead the men would be slaughtered, the women and children victims. They started to figure out who should lead them back to Egypt.

Moses and Aaron bowed before the people, but Joshua and Caleb tore their clothes. They told them that the land they had passed through had been exceedingly good. If God delighted in them he would lead them into the land.

Don't rebel against God or fear the people in the land. They would instead devour them, their protection is gone and God was with the people. They were not to fear them.

The people decided to stone them.

God's glory appeared in the meeting area of the sanctuary, for all of Israel to see. God asked Moses how long the people would reject him and not believe the signs performed? I'll hit them with trouble and disown them. Then make a greater and mightier nation from you.

Moses said the Egyptians know you took the people out of the land, talk face to face, travel with people, are in the pillar of cloud by day and fire by night. Now if you kill them they will think you were unable to bring the people to the land you swore.

Moses asked if he was still the Lord God, long-suffering and abounding in mercy. Forgiving of wrong, offences and going astray. Yet leaving wrong to affect three or four generations till it should be cleared. Please pardon the people with your great mercy as you have done since they left Egypt.

God pardoned as Moses had said, but still wanted to fill the earth with his glory. The people had seen his glory, the signs done in Egypt and the signs in the wilderness. They had put God to the test ten times not listening and so none who had rejected him would see the land. Because Caleb has a different spirit, following God fully, he will be brought into the land to inherit it.

For now, they would leave the inhabitants to live in the valley. Tomorrow they would head back into the wilderness by the Red Sea.

God spoke to Moses and Aaron wondering how long the evil people would complain against him. God wanted them to let the people know that they would have their complaint acknowledged. Those over twenty that complained and would have their corpses fall in the wilderness.

The people's sons would be shepherds in the wilderness for forty years. They would bear the brunt of their unfaithfulness, till the wilderness consumed their corpses. The guilt was one year for each day they spied in the land. The men that brought a bad report died in a plague, except for Joshua and Caleb

When Moses told the people this they mourned. They got up early in the morning and though they would fix going astray, heading to the mountain. Moses asked why they would go against God's command. If God was not with them, they would be defeated. But they headed up anyway, without the chest or Moses. The Amalekites and Canaanites in the mountain came down and attacked. They drove them as far as Hormah.

<Updates on giving offerings for when they make it to the land they will inhabit are omitted>

While they were in the wilderness, they found a man gathering sticks on the Sabbath, so they took him to where Moses, Aaron and the people were gathered. They kept him guarded till they found out what should be done with him. God said he would need death by stoning, done outside the camp. So they took him outside the camp, stoned him and he died.

God spoke to Moses again. The people were to put tassels with blue thread on the corners of their garments. It would remind them to follow God's commands, to stay faithful despite their hearts or eyes and be holy for their God.

Korah faced Moses with two hundred and fifty leaders, representatives and respected members of the Israelites. He questioned why Moses kept a higher position than the rest of the people. Moses fell on his face before Korah and his company saying tomorrow God will show who is his and who is holy.

The next day they would take incense burners and burn incense before God. God would choose. Moses told these Levites that they were the ones raising their position too much. Was it too little that God raised you from the people to his work at the sanctuary tent? You're gathering against God and showing that you are not satisfied with Aaron.

Moses sent for Dathan and Abiram, but they would not come. They though he couldn't go on acting like a prince, if he had brought them out of a land of milk and honey, only to die the wilderness. Worse than that you didn't take us into the land of milk, honey, fields and vineyards. You probably just want support to gouge their eyes out, we aren't coming.

Moses was pissed and asked God not to respect their offerings as he hadn't taken a donkey from them or hurt anyone. He told them that all two hundred and fifty of them would bring their incense burners and Aaron would bring one as well.

They all burnt incense and put it at the door of the sanctuary meeting room. God told Moses to step away from everyone and he would consume them in a second. The people bowed down and asked God if one man going astray should mean that anger would extend to all the people.

God wanted Moses to let people know to get away from the tents of Korah. They were to leave the tents of the evil and touch nothing unless they were consumed with those that had gone astray. People got away from the tents of Korah, Dathan and Abiram, who stood at the door of their tents with their families.

Moses let the people know that if they died naturally, he was not sent by God. But if the God did something new by having the earth swallow them, they were to understand it was because they had rejected God.

As soon as he had finished speaking the earth split apart and swallowed all the people with Korah including their possessions. Anyone with them went as well and the earth closed over them. All of Israel fled at their cry, worried they would be swallowed. Those still offering incense were consumed by God's fire.

God wanted Eleazar to take the incense burners and scatter the fire in the distance. The incense burners would be hammered into an altar covering, because they were holy once offered to God. It would be a reminder that people outside of Aaron's family should not make offerings like the priests.

The next day the people complained that Moses and Aaron were killing everyone off. The cloud covered the sanctuary. Moses and Aaron rushed back to the meeting area. God said to separate themselves so that he could consume the people.

Moses told Aaron to put a burner on the altar with incense beneath it. God was pissed and another plague was underway. Aaron did and things were made right for the people. This was what separated the people that died from those that remained. The plague stopped after leaving fourteen thousand, seven hundred dead, on top of those that died because of Korah.

God said to get a stick from the father of each of the twelve houses of Israel. They would write their names on their stick. Aaron's name would be written for the house of Levi. They would go in the meeting area of the sanctuary. One of these would blossom to show who God had chosen and stop the Israelite complaints. So Moses placed them in the area of witness.

The next day Aaron's stick had sprouted buds, grown blossoms and almonds. Moses took them to the people and gave each man his stick. The Israelites thought that they were doomed, that it was a sign that they would all die.

God told Aaron his family would bear the wrong at the sanctuary and how they served there. They could help, but they had to stay away from the altar unless they wanted to die. The same with outsiders. They were to stay away from the altar to avoid the consequences of God getting pissed again.

The Levites and the work they do, are what God has taken from the people as a gift for them. So for the work at the altar and behind the veil it is only for the Levites. Outsiders trying to get involved will be put to death.

<God reminding Aaron of his privilege and responsibility omitted>

From then on the people were not to come near the meeting area of the sanctuary.

God talked to Moses. From what they offered at the sanctuary, a tenth would be offered as a heave offering. Offered to God it would be the best of what was set aside. The rest would be for the Levites and they could have it without going astray. But they would not tarnish the holy gifts of the Israelites, otherwise they would die.

<More sacrifice details and health related rules omitted>

All of Israel arrived in the wilderness of Zin. In the first month they stayed there Kadesh and Miriam died. They were buried there. There was no water there so the people gathered against Moses and Aaron.

Speakers for the people said they wished they had been wiped out by God in earlier events. Why had they brought the people and their animals into the wilderness? Why did they take them from Egypt to this evil place? It had no grain, figs, vines or pomegranates. It didn't even have water.

Moses and Aaron headed to the door of the meeting area. The glory of God appeared. He told the two to take the stick and gather the people. They would tell the rock to give its water while the people watched.

Moses and Aaron gathered the people at the rock. He called them rebels. He asked them to pay attention, did they have to bring water out of a rock? Moses hit the rock twice with his stick and water gushed out. The people and their animals drank.

Moses sent messengers to the king of Edom. He reminded him that their relatives had had it tough in Egypt. God had heard them and guided them. They were now close to his border and wanted to pass through. They would not cut through any fields of vineyards. They would stick to the king's highway until they had gone through his territory.

The king said not to travel through, otherwise he would face them with the sword. The people put in a request to, that they would stick to the highway and pay for any water. He came against them with many strong men, so Israel turned away.

They journeyed from Kadesh to Mount Hor. God told Moses and Aaron, that Aaron would be gathered to his ancestors. He would not enter the land given to the Israelites. With the people watching, they went up the mountain with Eleazar.

So Moses took the garments off Aaron and put them on Eleazar. Aaron died there. They went down the mountain. When the people saw that Aaron was dead they mourned him for thirty days.

The king of Arad heard that Israel was on the road to Atharim. He fought them and took prisoners. So the Israelites made a vow, that if God made it happen, they would destroy the cities. God listened and made it happen. Those Canaanites and their cities were destroyed. The place was called Hormah.

They left Mount Hor, heading past the Red Sea, as they journeyed toward Edom. The people spoke against God and Moses. They wanted to know why they had been brought out of Egypt, to die in the wilderness. No food or water was not helping them, as they were sick of the manna.

So God sent fiery serpents among the people. They bit the people and many died. So the people came to Moses acknowledging they had gone astray by speaking against God. They wanted him to pray to have the serpents taken away. So Moses prayed for the people.

God said to make a fiery and put it on a pole. Those that had been bitten when they saw this, they would live. So a bronze serpent was made. Anyone that had been bitten, when they looked at the bronze serpent, they lived.

The Israelites moved on and camped in Oboth. Then they camped at Ije Abarim east of Moab. Then the Valley of Zered and Arnon. Then they went to Beer, where the people were so grateful for the water, that they sang. Then they went to Mattanah, Nahaliel, Bamoth and then Pisgah.

Israel sent messengers to Sihon, the Amorite king, asking to pass through their land on the King's Highway. Sihon gathered his people and fought. Israel defeated them and took possession from the Arnon to the Jabbok. They took those Amorite cities and dwelt there.

That was how Israel came to dwell in the land of the Amorites. Next Moses sent spies to Jazer. They took those villages and drove out those Amorites. They went up to Bashan. King Og went out with his people, to battle. God said not to fear them. So they defeated the Amorites there, leaving no survivors.

The Israelites camped in Moab by the Jordan. Balak (Zippor's son) was the king of the Moabites at that time. They were really afraid of the Israelite numbers and what they had done to the Amorites. They were worried that the people would devour everything around them like an ox in the field.

The elders of Midian were informed by the people. Then Balak sent messages to Balaam in Pethor, near the river. They wanted him to come and curse the Israelites who were too mighty to handle.

They sent the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian with a diviner's fee for Balaam. They passed on Balak's message. Balaam told them to stay the night and he would let them know what God said.

God talked to Balaam about things. He told Balaam not to go with them or curse the people, they were blessed. So Balaam got up in the morning and told them to go back, God had refused.

The princes of Moab went back to Balak and told him that Balaam had refused. So Balak sent even more princes, that were more important. The message was not to be hindered in coming to him, because he would be honoured greatly and his advice would be followed.

Balaam told them even if he was given a house full of silver and gold he could not do anything unless God said so. He asked them to stay the night till he heard what God had to say. That night God told him he could go if asked, but he would only speak as instructed. So in the morning Balaam saddled his donkey and went with the princes of Moab.

God was angry that he went, so his angel went to stand in the way. Balaam was riding on the donkey with two servants. The donkey saw the angel of God with sword in hand and turned off into a field. Balaam hit the donkey to turn it back onto the road.

Then the angel stood in a path between vineyards, with a wall on either side. When the donkey saw the angel she pushed against the wall, crushing Balaam's foot. So he hit her again. Then the angel went to a spot where there was no way around. When she saw this she lay down, Balaam got angry and hit her with his stick.

Then God let the donkey speak and she asked what she had done to be hit three times. The severe action made him wish he had a sword to kill her. Then the donkey asked in all the time he'd ridden her, if she'd done anything like this before. He said no.

Then God opened his eyes and he saw the angel standing with sword in hand. The angel asked why he hit his donkey three times. He had come because what Balaam was doing was messed up. If the donkey had not turned aside, he would have been killed and his donkey would have lived. Balaam said he had gone astray because he had not known the angel was there. If the angel was still unhappy, he would turn and head back. The angel told him to go, but only speak what he was told. So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.

Balak heard Balaam was coming and went to meet him in Moab. He said he had earnestly asked Balaam to come. What would stop him from coming and being honoured? Balaam replied that showing up, would not give him power to speak. The word God gave, he would speak.

They went to Kirjath Huzoth. Balak offered oxen and sheep. Then sent some to Balaam and the princes. The next day Balak showed Balaam around Bamoth, so he could see the extent of the people.

Then Balaam asked for seven altars, seven bulls and seven rams to be prepared. Balak did so and they offered a bull and a ram on each altar. So he asked Balak to wait by the altars and he went to a high barren place on the off-chance God had something to say.

God showed up, so Balaam told him about the altars. Then God gave Balaam a message. So Balaam went back to Balak and told him with mystical style.

You see he'd been brought, from Aram  
From the mountains, of the east  
To curse those of Jacob  
And say Israel messed up

So how would he curse  
What God had not cursed  
And proclaim messed up.  
When God had not.

Cause from the hilltop he saw  
From the rocks he beheld  
A people dwelling alone  
Without co-dependence

Who could count the dust, of the cloud of Jacob  
Or number a quarter of the Israelite nation  
Let me die the death of the righteous  
And let my end, be like his.

Balak wanted to know what he had done. What bit of curse his enemies had he confused, with blessing bountifully?

Balaam said he could only speak the words God gave.

Balak tried the sacrifices at a different spot and got stylings about how it was a bit silly trying to tell God to turn things around and get on the right track. Balak tried another place with seven more altars, seven more bulls and seven more rams.

Balaam didn't even go to use sorcery this time. He faced Israel to bless them and God's spirit came to him. He said Jacob would be lovely in the land, strong as a wild ox and consume his enemies in a styling. Balak and Balaam argued again. Balaam gave one more prophetic styling and left.

Israel stayed in Acacia Grove. People began to have improper relations with the women of Moab. They ate and bowed at their sacrifices. So Israel was joined with the Spirit of Opening. God was angry with Israel.

God told Moses to get the leaders and hang offenders, so that God's anger would turn from Israel. So he told them to kill any of their men involved with the Spirit of Opening. An Israelite came to show off one of these women, in the sight of Moses and the people weeping at the sanctuary tent.

Phinehas, Eleazar's son saw this and grabbed a javelin. He went after them, into their tent. He thrust the javelin through both of them. This stopped the plague in which twenty-four thousand had died. God told Moses, that Phinehas' zealous action had turned away his wrath. Therefore, he would have peace and an ongoing priesthood for his descendants.

The Israelite Zimri and the Midianite Cozbi were the names of the ones killed. God told them to harass and attack the Midianites, because this harassment was their scheme. The plague was about the seduction related to Opening and Cozbi, the Midianite leader's daughter.

After the plague God told Moses and Eleazar to take a census of Israelites able to go to war, that were over the age of twenty. God told Moses that land to be inherited would be divided according to the number of names. The large would be given a large inheritance and the small, a small inheritance. The inheritance would be divided by lot.

There was one of Joseph's descendants called Zelophehad. He had five daughters named Mahlah, Noah, Hohlah, Milcah and Tirzah. They went to see Moses and Eleazar when they were with the leaders by the sanctuary. They wanted to know what would happen about an inheritance for their family since their father had died and they had no brothers.

Moses went to check with God. God said that Zelophehad's daughters were correct. If a man died with no son, the inheritance would pass to his daughter. If he has no daughter, it would pass to his brothers. If he has no brothers it would pass to his closest relative. This became statute.

God told Moses to go up the mountain to see the land he had given to Israel and then be gathered to his ancestors like Aaron. Moses wanted God to set someone to lead them. God told Moses to take Joshua with him and lay hands on him before Eleazar.

Moses did so, then he gave a final blessing to the Israelites

<A lot of law revisits and a land agreement omitted>

<A hugely enormous recap omitted>

He headed to the top of Pisgah, looked at all the land and died. He was buried in Moab. Despite being a hundred and twenty, his eyes had not gone dim nor had his vigour diminished. The people now listened to Joshua.