

The First Great Altar Erected on Mount Ebal

Καὶ προσέταξε Μωυσῆς καὶ ἡ γερουσία Ἰσραὴλ λέγων, Φυλάσσετε πάσας τὰς
And commanded Moses and the elders of Israel saying, Let you keep all the
ἐντολάς ταύτας, ὅσας ἐγὼ ἐντέλλομαι ὑμῖν σήμερον.
commandments these, as many as I command you this day.

2 Καὶ ἔσται ἡ ἄν ἡμέρα διαβῆτε τὸν Ἰορδάνην εἰς τὴν γῆν, ἣν Κύριος ὁ Θεὸς
And it shall be in the day you should cross over the Jordan into the land, which Lord the God
σου δίδωσί σοι, καὶ στήσεις σεαυτῷ λίθους μεγάλους, καὶ κονιάσεις αὐτοὺς
of you gives to you, and you shall set up for yourself stones great, and you shall plaster them
κονία
with plaster

3 καὶ γράψεις ἐπὶ τῶν λίθων τούτων πάντα τοὺς λόγους τοῦ νόμου τούτου, ὡς
and you shall write upon of the stones of these all the words of the law of this, as
ἄν διαβῆτε τὸν Ἰορδάνην, ἡνίκα ἄν εισέλθητε εἰς τὴν γῆν, ἣν Κύριος ὁ Θεὸς
when you should cross over the Jordan, when you should enter into the land, which Lord the God
τῶν πατέρων σου δίδωσί σοι, γῆν ῥέουσαν γάλα καὶ μέλι, ὃν τρόπον εἶπε Κύριος
of the fathers of you gives to you, a land flowing with milk and honey, in which way said Lord
ὁ Θεὸς τῶν πατέρων σου σοι.
the God of the fathers of you to you.

4 Καὶ ἔσται ὡς ἄν διαβῆτε τὸν Ἰορδάνην, στήσετε τοὺς λίθους τούτους, οὓς ἐγὼ
And it shall be as you should cross over the Jordan, let you set up the stones these, which I
ἐντέλλομαί σοι σήμερον, ἐν ὄρει Γαιβάλ, καὶ κονιάσεις αὐτοὺς κονία.
commanded to you this day, on mount Gaebal,¹ and you shall plaster them with plaster.

5 Καὶ οἰκοδομήσεις ἐκεῖ θυσιαστήριον Κυρίῳ τῷ Θεῷ σου, θυσιαστήριον ἐκ λίθων,
And you shall build there an altar to Lord the God of you, an altar out of stones,
οὐκ ἐπιβαλεῖς ἐπ' αὐτὸ σίδηρον·
not shall you lay upon it iron;

6 λίθους ὀλοκλήρους οἰκοδομήσεις θυσιαστήριον Κυρίῳ τῷ Θεῷ σου, καὶ ἀνοίσεις
of stones perfect shall you build an altar to Lord the God of you, and you shall offer up
ἐπ' αὐτὸ ὀλοκαυτώματα Κυρίῳ τῷ Θεῷ σου.
upon it whole-burnt-offerings to Lord the God of you.

7 Καὶ θύσεις ἐκεῖ θυσίαν σωτηρίου, καὶ φαγῆ καὶ ἐμπλησθήση, καὶ
And you shall offer there sacrifice of deliverance, and you shall eat and shall be filled, and
εὐφρανθήση ἔναντι Κυρίου τοῦ Θεοῦ σου.
you shall rejoice before of Lord the God of you.

8 Καὶ γράψεις ἐπὶ τῶν λίθων πάντα τὸν νόμον τοῦτον σαφῶς σφόδρα.
And you shall write upon of the stones all the law this distinctly exceedingly.

1 **Ebal** Stony. A mountain 3,076 feet above the level of the sea, and 1,200 feet above the level of the valley, on the north side of which stood the city of Shechem (q.v.). On this mountain six of the tribes ([Deu 27:12](#), [Deu 27:13](#)) were appointed to take their stand and respond according to a prescribed form to the imprecations uttered in the valley, where the law was read by the Levites ([Deu 11:29](#); [Deu 29:4](#), [Deu 29:13](#)). This mountain was also the site of the first great altar erected to Jehovah ([Deu 27:5](#); [Jos 8:30](#)). After this the name of Ebal does not again occur in Jewish history.

The Septuagint, Deuteronomy, Chapter 27, Interlinear English – G.T. Emery.

9 Καὶ ἐλάλησε Μωυσῆς καὶ οἱ ἱερεῖς οἱ Λευῖται παντὶ Ἰσραὴλ λέγοντες, Σιώπα καὶ
And said Moses and the priests the Levites to all Israel saying, Let you be silent and
ἄκουε, Ἰσραὴλ· ἐν τῇ ἡμέρᾳ ταύτῃ γέγονας εἰς λαὸν Κυρίῳ τῷ Θεῷ σου.
hear, O Israel; in the day this you have become for a people to Lord the God of you.
10 Καὶ εἰσακούσητῆς φωνῆς Κυρίου τοῦ Θεοῦ σου, καὶ ποιήσεις πάσας τὰς ἐντολάς
And you shall listen to voice of Lord of the God of you, and you shall do all the commands
αὐτοῦ, καὶ τὰ δικαιώματα αὐτοῦ, ὅσα ἐγὼ ἐντέλλομαί σοι σήμερον.
of Him, and the ordinances of Him, as many as I command to you this day.

11 Καὶ ἐνετείλατο Μωυσῆς τῷ λαῷ ἐν τῇ ἡμέρᾳ ἐκείνῃ λέγων,
And commanded Moses to the people in the day that saying,
12 Οὗτοι στήσονται εὐλογεῖν τὸν λαὸν ἐν ὄρει Γαριζὶν διαβάντες τὸν Ἰορδάνην·
These shall stand to bless the people on mount Garizin² having crossed over the Jordan;
Συμεῶν, Λευί, Ἰούδας, Ἰσάχαρ, Ἰωσήφ καὶ Βενιαμίν.
Symeon, Levi, Judas, Issachar, Joseph and Benjamin.
13 Καὶ οὗτοι στήσονται ἐπὶ τῆς κατάρας ἐν ὄρει Γαιβάλ· Ῥουβὴν, Γὰδ καὶ Ἀσήρ,
And these shall stand upon of the curse on mount Gaebal; Ruben, Gad, and Aser,
Ζαβουλῶν, Δὰν καὶ Νεφθαλί.
Zabulon, Dan and Nephthali.

Curses Pronounced on Mount Ebal.

14 Καὶ ἀποκριθέντες ἐροῦσιν οἱ Λευῖται παντὶ Ἰσραὴλ φωνῇ μεγάλῃ,
And shall answer shall say the Levites to all Israel in a voice loud,
15 Ἐπικατάρατος ἄνθρωπος, ὅστις ποιήσῃ γλυπτὸν καὶ χωνευτὸν, βδέλυγμα
Cursed man, whosoever shall make a carved image and cast image, an abomination
Κυρίῳ, ἔργον χειρῶν τεχνιτῶν, καὶ θήσῃ αὐτὸ ἐν ἀποκρύφῳ· καὶ ἀποκριθεὶς
to Lord, work of hands of craftsmen, and shall set it in a concealed place; and shall answer
πᾶς ὁ λαὸς ἐροῦσι, Γένοιτο.
all the people will say, May it be.
16 Ἐπικατάρατος ὁ ἀτιμάζων πατέρα αὐτοῦ ἢ μητέρα αὐτοῦ· καὶ ἐροῦσι πᾶς ὁ λαός,
Cursed he dishonouring father of him or mother of him; and will say all the people,
Γένοιτο.
May it be.

2 **Gerizim** A mountain of Samaria, about 3,000 feet above the Mediterranean. It was on the left of the valley containing the ancient town of Shechem (q.v.), on the way to Jerusalem. It stood over against Mount Ebal, the summits of these mountains being distant from each other about 2 miles (Deut. 27; [Jos 8:30](#)). On the slopes of this mountain the tribes descended from the handmaids of Leah and Rachel, together with the tribe of Reuben, were gathered together, and gave the responses to the blessing pronounced as the reward of obedience, when Joshua in the valley below read the whole law in the hearing of all the people; as those gathered on Ebal responded with a loud Amen to the rehearsal of the curses pronounced on the disobedient. It was probably at this time that the coffin containing the embalmed body of Joseph was laid in the "parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the sons of Hamor" ([Gen 33:19](#); [Gen 50:25](#)). Josephus relates (Ant. [Jos 11:8](#), [Jos 11:2](#)) that Sanballat built a temple for the Samaritans on this mountain, and instituted a priesthood, as rivals to those of the Jews at Jerusalem. This temple was destroyed after it had stood two hundred years. It was afterwards rebuilt by Herod the Great. There is a Samaritan tradition that it was the scene of the incident recorded in Gen. 22. There are many ruins on this mountain, some of which are evidently of Christian buildings. To this mountain the woman of Sychar referred in [Joh 4:20](#). For centuries Gerizim was the centre of political outbreaks. (Easton).

The Septuagint, Deuteronomy, Chapter 27, Interlinear English – G.T. Emery.

- 17 Ἐπικατάρατος ὁ μετατιθεὶς ὄρια τοῦ πλησίον· καὶ ἐροῦσι πᾶς ὁ λαός, Γένοιτο.
Cursed he altering boundaries of the neighbour; and will say the people, May it be.
- 18 Ἐπικατάρατος ὁ πλανῶν τυφλὸν ἐν ὁδῷ· καὶ ἐροῦσι πᾶς ὁ λαός, Γένοιτο.
Cursed he causing to wander blind in way; and will say all the people, May it be.
- 19 Ἐπικατάρατος ὃς ἂν ἐκκλίνῃ κρίσιν προσηλύτου, καὶ ὀρφανοῦ, καὶ χήρας· καὶ ἐροῦσι πᾶς ὁ λαός, Γένοιτο.
Cursed who should pervert judgement of stranger, and orphan, and widow and will say all the people, May it be.
- 20 Ἐπικατάρατος ὁ κοιμώμενος μετὰ γυναῖκος τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτοῦ, ὅτι ἀπεκάλυψε συγκάλυμμα τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτοῦ· καὶ ἐροῦσι πᾶς ὁ λαός, Γένοιτο.
Cursed he lying with wife of the father of him, for he uncovered cover of the father of him; and will say all the people, May it be.
- 21 Ἐπικατάρατος ὁ κοιμώμενος μετὰ παντὸς κτήνους· καὶ ἐροῦσι πᾶς ὁ λαός, Γένοιτο.
Cursed he lying with of any animal and will say all the people, May it be.
- 22 Ἐπικατάρατος ὁ κοιμώμενος μετὰ ἀδελφῆς ἐκ πατρὸς ἢ μητρὸς αὐτοῦ· καὶ ἐροῦσι πᾶς ὁ λαός, Γένοιτο.
Cursed he lying with sister from father or mother of him; and shall say all the people, May it be.
- 23 Ἐπικατάρατος ὁ κοιμώμενος μετὰ πενθερᾶς αὐτοῦ· καὶ ἐροῦσι πᾶς ὁ λαός, Γένοιτο.
Cursed he lying with daughter-in-law of him; and will say all the people, May it be.
- Ἐπικατάρατος ὁ κοιμώμενος μετὰ τῆς ἀδελφῆς τῆς γυναῖκος αὐτοῦ· καὶ ἐροῦσι πᾶς ὁ λαός, Γένοιτο.
Cursed he lying with the sister of the wife of him; and will say all the people, May it be.
- 24 Ἐπικατάρατος ὁ τύπτων τὸν πλησίον δόλω· καὶ ἐροῦσι πᾶς ὁ λαός, Γένοιτο.
Cursed he beating the neighbour by cunning; and will say all the people, May it be.
- 25 Ἐπικατάρατος ὃς ἂν λάβῃ δῶρα πατάξαι ψυχὴν αἵματος ἀθώου· καὶ ἐροῦσι πᾶς ὁ λαός, Γένοιτο.
Cursed who should take a bribe to slaughter of life blood innocent; and will say all the people, May it be.
- 26 Ἐπικατάρατος πᾶς ἄνθρωπος ὃς οὐκ ἐμμενεῖ ἐν πᾶσι τοῖς λόγοις τοῦ νόμου τούτου ποιῆσαι αὐτούς· καὶ ἐροῦσι πᾶς ὁ λαός, Γένοιτο.
Cursed every man which not abides in all the words of the law of this to do them; and will say all the people, May it be.