

Guide to the Laws of the Bible

Laws of the Theocracy

God, the direct ruler

Exodus 19: 3-9

3 Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the sons of Israel: **4** 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and *how* I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself. **5** 'Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; **6** and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel." **7** So Moses came and called the elders of the people, and set before them all these words which the LORD had commanded him. **8** All the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do!" And Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD. **9** The LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will come to you in a thick cloud, so that the people may hear when I speak with you and may also believe in you forever." Then Moses told the words of the people to the LORD.

The constitutional law, or Ten Commandments

Exodus 20: 1-17

1 Then God spoke all these words, saying, **2** "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. **3** "You shall have no other gods before Me. **4** "You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. **5** "You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, **6** but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. **7** "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain. **8** "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. **9** "Six days you shall labor and do all your work, **10** but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; *in it* you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you. **11** "For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and made it holy. **12** "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you. **13** "You shall not murder. **14** "You shall not commit adultery. **15** "You shall not steal. **16** "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. **17** "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

Deut 5: 1-21

1 Then Moses summoned all Israel and said to them: "Hear, O Israel, the statutes and the ordinances which I am speaking today in your hearing, that you may learn them and observe them carefully. **2** "The LORD our God made a covenant with us at Horeb. **3** "The LORD did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us, *with* all those of us alive here today. **4** "The LORD spoke to you face to face at the mountain from the midst of the fire, **5** *while* I was standing between the LORD and you at that time, to declare to you the word of the LORD; for you were afraid because of the fire and did not go up the mountain. He said, **6** 'I am the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. **7** 'You shall have no other gods before Me. **8** 'You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. **9** 'You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, and on the third and the fourth *generations* of those who hate Me, **10** but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. **11** 'You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain. **12** 'Observe the sabbath day to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. **13** 'Six days you shall labor and do all your work, **14** but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; *in it*

you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant or your ox or your donkey or any of your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you, so that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. [15](#) 'You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out of there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to observe the sabbath day. [16](#) 'Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be prolonged and that it may go well with you on the land which the LORD your God gives you. [17](#) 'You shall not murder. [18](#) 'You shall not commit adultery. [19](#) 'You shall not steal. [20](#) 'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. [21](#) 'You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, and you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field or his male servant or his female servant, his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.'

Citizenship based upon the covenant of God in the Ten Commandments and obedience thereto

Exodus 19: 5-8

'Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; [6](#) and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel." [7](#) So Moses came and called the elders of the people, and set before them all these words which the LORD had commanded him. [8](#) All the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do!" And Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD.

Deut 4: 20

[20](#) "But the LORD has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, from Egypt, to be a people for His own possession, as today.

Deut. 7: 6-26

[6](#) "For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. [7](#) "The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples, [8](#) but because the LORD loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the LORD brought you out by a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. [9](#) "Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments; [10](#) but repays those who hate Him to their faces, to destroy them; He will not delay with him who hates Him, He will repay him to his face. [11](#) "Therefore, you shall keep the commandment and the statutes and the judgments which I am commanding you today, to do them. [12](#) "Then it shall come about, because you listen to these judgments and keep and do them, that the LORD your God will keep with you His covenant and His lovingkindness which He swore to your forefathers. [13](#) "He will love you and bless you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, your grain and your new wine and your oil, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock, in the land which He swore to your forefathers to give you. [14](#) "You shall be blessed above all peoples; there will be no male or female barren among you or among your cattle. [15](#) "The LORD will remove from you all sickness; and He will not put on you any of the harmful diseases of Egypt which you have known, but He will lay them on all who hate you. [16](#) "You shall consume all the peoples whom the LORD your God will deliver to you; your eye shall not pity them, nor shall you serve their gods, for that *would be* a snare to you. [17](#) "If you should say in your heart, 'These nations are greater than I; how can I dispossess them?' [18](#) you shall not be afraid of them; you shall well remember what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt: [19](#) the great trials which your eyes saw and the signs and the wonders and the mighty hand and the outstretched arm by which the LORD your God brought you out. So shall the LORD your God do to all the peoples of whom you are afraid. [20](#) "Moreover, the LORD your God will send the hornet against them, until those who are left and hide themselves from you perish. [21](#) "You shall not dread them, for the LORD your God is in your midst, a great and awesome God. [22](#) "The LORD your God will clear away these nations before you little by little; you will not be able to put an end to them quickly, for the wild beasts would grow too numerous for you. [23](#) "But the LORD your God

will deliver them before you, and will throw them into great confusion until they are destroyed. [24](#) “He will deliver their kings into your hand so that you will make their name perish from under heaven; no man will be able to stand before you until you have destroyed them. [25](#) “The graven images of their gods you are to burn with fire; you shall not covet the silver or the gold that is on them, nor take it for yourselves, or you will be snared by it, for it is an abomination to the LORD your God. [26](#) “You shall not bring an abomination into your house, and like it come under the ban; you shall utterly detest it and you shall utterly abhor it, for it is something banned.

Deut. 14: 2

“For you are a holy people to the LORD your God, and the LORD has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

Moabites and Ammonites excluded from citizenship

Deut 23: 3

“No Ammonite or Moabite shall enter the assembly of the LORD; none of their *descendants*, even to the tenth generation, shall ever enter the assembly of the LORD,

Neh. 13: 1-3

On that day they read aloud from the book of Moses in the hearing of the people; and there was found written in it that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever enter the assembly of God, [2](#) because they did not meet the sons of Israel with bread and water, but hired Balaam against them to curse them. However, our God turned the curse into a blessing. [3](#) So when they heard the law, they excluded all foreigners from Israel.

Other disqualifications for citizenship

Deut 23: 1, 2

“No one who is emasculated or has his male organ cut off shall enter the assembly of the LORD. [2](#) “No one of illegitimate birth shall enter the assembly of the LORD; none of his *descendants*, even to the tenth generation, shall enter the assembly of the LORD.

Regulations for citizenship of Edomites and Egyptians

Deut 23: 7, 8

“You shall not detest an Edomite, for he is your brother; you shall not detest an Egyptian, because you were an alien in his land. [8](#) “The sons of the third generation who are born to them may enter the assembly of the LORD.

Gen. 25: 24-26

When her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb. [25](#) Now the first came forth red, all over like a hairy garment; and they named him Esau. [26](#) Afterward his brother came forth with his hand holding on to Esau’s heel, so his name was called Jacob; and Isaac was sixty years old when she gave birth to them.

Laws Pertaining to Foreigners

No discrimination allowed toward foreigners living among the Israelites.

Exodus 12: 49

“The same law shall apply to the native as to the stranger who sojourns among you.”

Lev. 24: 22

‘There shall be one standard for you; it shall be for the stranger as well as the native, for I am the LORD your God.’

Num. 9: 14

'If an alien sojourns among you and observes the Passover to the LORD, according to the statute of the Passover and according to its ordinance, so he shall do; you shall have one statute, both for the alien and for the native of the land.'

Num. 15: 15, 16

As for the assembly, there shall be one statute for you and for the alien who sojourns *with you*, a perpetual statute throughout your generations; as you are, so shall the alien be before the LORD. **16** 'There is to be one law and one ordinance for you and for the alien who sojourns with you.'

Intermarriage with foreigners forbidden

Gen. 34: 6-14:

Then Hamor the father of Shechem went out to Jacob to speak with him. **7** Now the sons of Jacob came in from the field when they heard *it*; and the men were grieved, and they were very angry because he had done a disgraceful thing in Israel by lying with Jacob's daughter, for such a thing ought not to be done. **8** But Hamor spoke with them, saying, "The soul of my son Shechem longs for your daughter; please give her to him in marriage. **9** "Intermarry with us; give your daughters to us and take our daughters for yourselves. **10** "Thus you shall live with us, and the land shall be *open* before you; live and trade in it and acquire property in it." **11** Shechem also said to her father and to her brothers, "If I find favor in your sight, then I will give whatever you say to me. **12** "Ask me ever so much bridal payment and gift, and I will give according as you say to me; but give me the girl in marriage." **13** But Jacob's sons answered Shechem and his father Hamor with deceit, because he had defiled Dinah their sister. **14** They said to them, "We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one who is uncircumcised, for that would be a disgrace to us.

Ezra 10: 3, 10, 11

3 "So now let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives and their children, according to the counsel of my lord and of those who tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law.

10 Then Ezra the priest stood up and said to them, "You have been unfaithful and have married foreign wives adding to the guilt of Israel. **11** "Now therefore, make confession to the LORD God of your fathers and do His will; and separate yourselves from the peoples of the land and from the foreign wives."

Restrictions on foreigners owning Jewish Slaves

Lev. 25: 47-55

'Now if the means of a stranger or of a sojourner with you becomes sufficient, and a countryman of yours becomes so poor with regard to him as to sell himself to a stranger who is sojourning with you, or to the descendants of a stranger's family, **48** then he shall have redemption right after he has been sold. One of his brothers may redeem him, **49** or his uncle, or his uncle's son, may redeem him, or one of his blood relatives from his family may redeem him; or if he prospers, he may redeem himself. **50** 'He then with his purchaser shall calculate from the year when he sold himself to him up to the year of jubilee; and the price of his sale shall correspond to the number of years. *It is* like the days of a hired man *that* he shall be with him. **51** 'If there are still many years, he shall refund part of his purchase price in proportion to them for his own redemption; **52** and if few years remain until the year of jubilee, he shall so calculate with him. In proportion to his years he is to refund *the amount* for his redemption. **53** 'Like a man hired year by year he shall be with him; he shall not rule over him with severity in your sight. **54** 'Even if he is not redeemed by these *means*, he shall still go out in the year of jubilee, he and his sons with him. **55** 'For the sons of Israel are My servants; they are My servants whom I brought out from the land of Egypt. I am the LORD your God.

Jews permitted to charge interest of foreigners

Deut. 15: 3

"From a foreigner you may exact *it*, but your hand shall release whatever of yours is with your brother.

Deut. 23: 20

“You may charge interest to a foreigner, but to your countrymen you shall not charge interest, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all that you undertake in the land which you are about to enter to possess.

Laws Pertaining to Slavery

Regulations respecting the purchase, treatment and release of Hebrew slaves

Ex. 21: 2-11

“If you buy a Hebrew slave, he shall serve for six years; but on the seventh he shall go out as a free man without payment. **3** “If he comes alone, he shall go out alone; if he is the husband of a wife, then his wife shall go out with him. **4** “If his master gives him a wife, and she bears him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall belong to her master, and he shall go out alone. **5** “But if the slave plainly says, ‘I love my master, my wife and my children; I will not go out as a free man,’ **6** then his master shall bring him to God, then he shall bring him to the door or the doorpost. And his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him permanently. **7** “If a man sells his daughter as a female slave, she is not to go free as the male slaves do. **8** “If she is displeasing in the eyes of her master who designated her for himself, then he shall let her be redeemed. He does not have authority to sell her to a foreign people because of his unfairness to her. **9** “If he designates her for his son, he shall deal with her according to the custom of daughters. **10** “If he takes to himself another woman, he may not reduce her food, her clothing, or her conjugal rights. **11** “If he will not do these three *things* for her, then she shall go out for nothing, without *payment of money*.

Lev. 25: 39-43

‘If a countryman of yours becomes so poor with regard to you that he sells himself to you, you shall not subject him to a slave’s service. **40** ‘He shall be with you as a hired man, as if he were a sojourner; he shall serve with you until the year of jubilee. **41** ‘He shall then go out from you, he and his sons with him, and shall go back to his family, that he may return to the property of his forefathers. **42** ‘For they are My servants whom I brought out from the land of Egypt; they are not to be sold *in* a slave sale. **43** ‘You shall not rule over him with severity, but are to revere your God.

Deut. 15: 12-18

“If your kinsman, a Hebrew man or woman, is sold to you, then he shall serve you six years, but in the seventh year you shall set him free. **13** “When you set him free, you shall not send him away empty-handed. **14** “You shall furnish him liberally from your flock and from your threshing floor and from your wine vat; you shall give to him as the LORD your God has blessed you. **15** “You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God redeemed you; therefore I command you this today. **16** “It shall come about if he says to you, ‘I will not go out from you,’ because he loves you and your household, since he fares well with you; **17** then you shall take an awl and pierce it through his ear into the door, and he shall be your servant forever. Also you shall do likewise to your maidservant. **18** “It shall not seem hard to you when you set him free, for he has given you six years *with* double the service of a hired man; so the LORD your God will bless you in whatever you do.

Regulations governing ownership and treatment of foreigners as slaves

Lev. 25: 44-46

As for your male and female slaves whom you may have—you may acquire male and female slaves from the pagan nations that are around you. **45** ‘Then, too, it is out of the sons of the sojourners who live as aliens among you that you may gain acquisition, and out of their families who are with you, whom they will have produced in your land; they also may become your possession. **46** ‘You may even bequeath them to your sons after you, to receive as a possession; you can use them as permanent slaves. But in respect to your countrymen, the sons of Israel, you shall not rule with severity over one another.

1 Kings 9: 20,21

As for all the people who were left of the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, who were not of the sons of Israel, [21](#) their descendants who were left after them in the land whom the sons of Israel were unable to destroy utterly, from them Solomon levied forced laborers, even to this day.

Chastisement of slaves

Ex. 21: 20

"If a man strikes his male or female slave with a rod and he dies at his hand, he shall be punished.

Fugitive slaves not to be returned

Deut. 23:15, 16

"You shall not hand over to his master a slave who has escaped from his master to you. [16](#) "He shall live with you in your midst, in the place which he shall choose in one of your towns where it pleases him; you shall not mistreat him.

1 Sam. 30:15

Then David said to him, "Will you bring me down to this band?" And he said, "Swear to me by God that you will not kill me or deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will bring you down to this band."

Coveting another's slaves forbidden

Ex. 20: 17

"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

Deut. 5: 21

'You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, and you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field or his male servant or his female servant, his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.'

Laws Pertaining to Taxation

Taxes paid in Egypt

Gen. 41: 34

"Let Pharaoh take action to appoint overseers in charge of the land, and let him exact a fifth of *the produce* of the land of Egypt in the seven years of abundance.

Gen. 47: 26

Joseph made it a statute concerning the land of Egypt *valid* to this day, that Pharaoh should have the fifth; only the land of the priests did not become Pharaoh's.

Israelites above twenty required to pay tax for tabernacle

Ex. 30: 11-16

The LORD also spoke to Moses, saying, [12](#) "When you take a census of the sons of Israel to number them, then each one of them shall give a ransom for himself to the LORD, when you number them, so that there will be no plague among them when you number them. [13](#) "This is what everyone who is numbered shall give: half a shekel according to the shekel of the sanctuary (the shekel is twenty gerahs), half a shekel as a contribution to the LORD. [14](#) "Everyone who is numbered, from twenty years old and over, shall give the contribution to the LORD. [15](#) "The rich shall not pay more and the poor shall not pay less than the half shekel, when you give the contribution to the LORD to make atonement for yourselves. [16](#) "You shall take the atonement money from the sons of Israel and shall give it for the service of the tent of meeting, that it may be a memorial for the sons of Israel before the LORD, to make atonement for yourselves."

Ex. 38: 24-26

All the gold that was used for the work, in all the work of the sanctuary, even the gold of the wave offering, was 29 talents and 730 shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary. [25](#) The silver of those of the congregation who were numbered was 100 talents and 1,775 shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary; [26](#) a beka a head (*that is*, half a shekel according to the shekel of the sanctuary), for each one who passed over to those who were numbered, from twenty years old and upward, for 603,550 men.

Matt. 17: 24

When they came to Capernaum, those who collected the two-drachma *tax* came to Peter and said, “Does your teacher not pay the two-drachma *tax*?”

Military Laws

Universal conscription of all males over twenty

Num. 1: 1-3

Then the LORD spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tent of meeting, on the first of the second month, in the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying, [2](#) “Take a census of all the congregation of the sons of Israel, by their families, by their fathers’ households, according to the number of names, every male, head by head [3](#) from twenty years old and upward, whoever *is able to* go out to war in Israel, you and Aaron shall number them by their armies.

Num. 26: 1-4

Then it came about after the plague, that the LORD spoke to Moses and to Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest, saying, [2](#) “Take a census of all the congregation of the sons of Israel from twenty years old and upward, by their fathers’ households, whoever is able to go out to war in Israel.” [3](#) So Moses and Eleazar the priest spoke with them in the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho, saying, [4](#) “*Take a census of the people* from twenty years old and upward, as the LORD has commanded Moses.”

Selective service practiced

Num. 31: 3-7

Moses spoke to the people, saying, “Arm men from among you for the war, that they may go against Midian to execute the LORD’S vengeance on Midian. [4](#) “A thousand from each tribe of all the tribes of Israel you shall send to the war.” [5](#) So there were furnished from the thousands of Israel, a thousand from each tribe, twelve thousand armed for war. [6](#) Moses sent them, a thousand from each tribe, to the war, and Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, to the war with them, and the holy vessels and the trumpets for the alarm in his hand. [7](#) So they made war against Midian, just as the LORD had commanded Moses, and they killed every male.

Levites and certain others exempt from military service

Num. 1: 49

“Only the tribe of Levi you shall not number, nor shall you take their census among the sons of Israel.

Num. 2: 33

The Levites, however, were not numbered among the sons of Israel, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

Deut. 20: 5-7

“The officers also shall speak to the people, saying, ‘Who is the man that has built a new house and has not dedicated it? Let him depart and return to his house, otherwise he might die in the battle and another man would dedicate it. [6](#) ‘Who is the man that has planted a vineyard and has not begun to use its fruit? Let him depart and return to his house, otherwise he might die in the battle and another man would begin to use its fruit.

The cowardly excused from battle

Deut. 20: 8

“Then the officers shall speak further to the people and say, ‘Who is the man that is afraid and fainthearted? Let him depart and return to his house, so that he might not make his brothers’ hearts melt like his heart.’

Jdgs. 7: 3

“Now therefore come, proclaim in the hearing of the people, saying, ‘Whoever is afraid and trembling, let him return and depart from Mount Gilead.’” So 22,000 people returned, but 10,000 remained.

Moral and physical cleanness required of soldiers

Num. 31: 19

“And you, camp outside the camp seven days; whoever has killed any person and whoever has touched any slain, purify yourselves, you and your captives, on the third day and on the seventh day.

Deut. 23: 9-14

“When you go out as an army against your enemies, you shall keep yourself from every evil thing. [10](#) “If there is among you any man who is unclean because of a nocturnal emission, then he must go outside the camp; he may not reenter the camp. [11](#) “But it shall be when evening approaches, he shall bathe himself with water, and at sundown he may reenter the camp. [12](#) “You shall also have a place outside the camp and go out there, [13](#) and you shall have a spade among your tools, and it shall be when you sit down outside, you shall dig with it and shall turn to cover up your excrement. [14](#) “Since the LORD your God walks in the midst of your camp to deliver you and to defeat your enemies before you, therefore your camp must be holy; and He must not see anything indecent among you or He will turn away from you.

Regulations for war:

Cities to be offered peaceful surrender prior to siege

Deut. 20: 10-12

“When you approach a city to fight against it, you shall offer it terms of peace. [11](#) “If it agrees to make peace with you and opens to you, then all the people who are found in it shall become your forced labor and shall serve you. [12](#) “However, if it does not make peace with you, but makes war against you, then you shall besiege it.

2 Sam. 20: 18-20

Then she spoke, saying, “Formerly they used to say, ‘They will surely ask *advice* at Abel,’ and thus they ended *the dispute*. [19](#) “I am of those who are peaceable *and* faithful in Israel. You are seeking to destroy a city, even a mother in Israel. Why would you swallow up the inheritance of the LORD?” [20](#) Joab replied, “Far be it, far be it from me that I should swallow up or destroy!

Fruit trees not to be cut down for purposes of siege

Deut. 20: 19-20

“When you besiege a city a long time, to make war against it in order to capture it, you shall not destroy its trees by swinging an axe against them; for you may eat from them, and you shall not cut them down. For is the tree of the field a man, that it should be besieged by you? [20](#) “Only the trees which you know are not fruit trees you shall destroy and cut down, that you may construct siegeworks against the city that is making war with you until it falls.

Rules for treatment of captives

Num. 31: 17-18

“Now therefore, kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman who has known man intimately. [18](#) “But all the girls who have not known man intimately, spare for yourselves.

Deut. 20: 14-18

“Only the women and the children and the animals and all that is in the city, all its spoil, you shall take as booty for yourself; and you shall use the spoil of your enemies which the LORD your God has given you. **15** “Thus you shall do to all the cities that are very far from you, which are not of the cities of these nations nearby. **16** “Only in the cities of these peoples that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance, you shall not leave alive anything that breathes. **17** “But you shall utterly destroy them, the Hittite and the Amorite, the Canaanite and the Perizzite, the Hivite and the Jebusite, as the LORD your God has commanded you, **18** so that they may not teach you to do according to all their detestable things which they have done for their gods, so that you would sin against the LORD your God.

Num. 21: 2, 3, 35

2 So Israel made a vow to the LORD and said, “If You will indeed deliver this people into my hand, then I will utterly destroy their cities.” **3** The LORD heard the voice of Israel and delivered up the Canaanites; then they utterly destroyed them and their cities. Thus the name of the place was called Hormah. **35** So they killed him and his sons and all his people, until there was no remnant left him; and they possessed his land.

Josh. 11: 14

14 All the spoil of these cities and the cattle, the sons of Israel took as their plunder; but they struck every man with the edge of the sword, until they had destroyed them. They left no one who breathed.

Regulations concerning spoils of war**Deut. 20: 14**

“Only the women and the children and the animals and all that is in the city, all its spoil, you shall take as booty for yourself; and you shall use the spoil of your enemies which the LORD your God has given you.

Josh. 8: 2

“You shall do to Ai and its king just as you did to Jericho and its king; you shall take only its spoil and its cattle as plunder for yourselves. Set an ambush for the city behind it.”

Laws Pertaining to Marriage**Ordained of God****Gen. 1: 27, 28**

27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. **28** God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Gen. 2: 18, 24

18 Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.” **19** Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought *them* to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. **20** The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him. **21** So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. **22** The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. **23** The man said, “This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.” **24** For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

Of Hebrews with heathens forbidden

Gen. 24: 3

3 and I will make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I live,

Gen. 28: 1

1 So Isaac called Jacob and blessed him and charged him, and said to him, "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan.

Deut. 7: 3, 4

3 "Furthermore, you shall not intermarry with them; you shall not give your daughters to their sons, nor shall you take their daughters for your sons. **4** "For they will turn your sons away from following Me to serve other gods; then the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you and He will quickly destroy you.

Within own tribe under certain circumstances

Num. 36: 6

"This is what the LORD has commanded concerning the daughters of Zelophehad, saying, 'Let them marry whom they wish; only they must marry within the family of the tribe of their father.'

Marriage between certain kinspeople forbidden

Lev. 18: 10-15

10 'The nakedness of your son's daughter or your daughter's daughter, their nakedness you shall not uncover; for their nakedness is yours. **11** 'The nakedness of your father's wife's daughter, born to your father, she is your sister, you shall not uncover her nakedness. **12** 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's sister; she is your father's blood relative. **13** 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister, for she is your mother's blood relative. **14** 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's brother; you shall not approach his wife, she is your aunt. **15** 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of your daughter-in-law; she is your son's wife, you shall not uncover her nakedness.

Lev. 20: 17-19

17 'If *there is* a man who takes his sister, his father's daughter or his mother's daughter, so that he sees her nakedness and she sees his nakedness, it is a disgrace; and they shall be cut off in the sight of the sons of their people. He has uncovered his sister's nakedness; he bears his guilt. **18** 'If *there is* a man who lies with a menstruous woman and uncovers her nakedness, he has laid bare her flow, and she has exposed the flow of her blood; thus both of them shall be cut off from among their people. **19** 'You shall also not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister or of your father's sister, for such a one has made naked his blood relative; they will bear their guilt.

Deut. 22: 30

30 "A man shall not take his father's wife so that he will not uncover his father's skirt.

Widow without children to be married to nearest kinsman

Gen. 38: 8

8 Then Judah said to Onan, "Go in to your brother's wife, and perform your duty as a brother-in-law to her, and raise up offspring for your brother."

Deut. 25: 5-10

5 "When brothers live together and one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the deceased shall not be *married* outside *the family* to a strange man. Her husband's brother shall go in to her and take her to himself as wife and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her. **6** "It shall be that the firstborn whom she bears shall assume the name of his dead brother, so that his name will not be blotted out from Israel. **7** "But if the man does not desire to take his brother's wife, then his brother's wife shall go up to the gate to the elders and say, 'My husband's brother refuses to establish a name for his brother in Israel; he is not willing to perform the duty of a husband's brother to me.' **8** "Then the elders of his city shall summon him

and speak to him. And *if* he persists and says, 'I do not desire to take her,' [9](#) then his brother's wife shall come to him in the sight of the elders, and pull his sandal off his foot and spit in his face; and she shall declare, 'Thus it is done to the man who does not build up his brother's house.' [10](#) "In Israel his name shall be called, 'The house of him whose sandal is removed.'

Ruth 1: 12, 13

[12](#) "Return, my daughters! Go, for I am too old to have a husband. If I said I have hope, if I should even have a husband tonight and also bear sons, [13](#) would you therefore wait until they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters; for it is harder for me than for you, for the hand of the LORD has gone forth against me."

Ruth 3: 9

[9](#) He said, "Who are you?" And she answered, "I am Ruth your maid. So spread your covering over your maid, for you are a close relative."

Monogamy, the divine ideal

Gen. 2: 18-24

[18](#) Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him." [19](#) Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought *them* to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. [20](#) The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him. [21](#) So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. [22](#) The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. [23](#) The man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." [24](#) For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

Ps. 128: 3

[3](#) Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine
Within your house,
Your children like olive plants
Around your table.

Polygamy practiced, but discouraged

Gen. 16: 4

[4](#) He went in to Hagar, and she conceived; and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her sight.

Lev. 18: 18

[18](#) 'You shall not marry a woman in addition to her sister as a rival while she is alive, to uncover her nakedness.

Deut. 17: 17

[17](#) "He shall not multiply wives for himself, or else his heart will turn away; nor shall he greatly increase silver and gold for himself.

Parents responsible of arranging the marriages of children

Gen. 21: 21

[21](#) He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Gen. 24: 51

[51](#) "Here is Rebekah before you, take *her* and go, and let her be the wife of your master's son, as the LORD has spoken."

Gen. 34: 4, 8, 11

4 So Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, "Get me this young girl for a wife."

8 But Hamor spoke with them, saying, "The soul of my son Shechem longs for your daughter; please give her to him in marriage.

11 Shechem also said to her father and to her brothers, "If I find favor in your sight, then I will give whatever you say to me.

Ex. 2: 21

21 Moses was willing to dwell with the man, and he gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses.

Jdgs. 14: 1-10

1 Then Samson went down to Timnah and saw a woman in Timnah, *one* of the daughters of the Philistines. **2** So he came back and told his father and mother, "I saw a woman in Timnah, *one* of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife." **3** Then his father and his mother said to him, "Is there no woman among the daughters of your relatives, or among all our people, that you go to take a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?" But Samson said to his father, "Get her for me, for she looks good to me." **4** However, his father and mother did not know that it was of the LORD, for He was seeking an occasion against the Philistines. Now at that time the Philistines were ruling over Israel. **5** Then Samson went down to Timnah with his father and mother, and came as far as the vineyards of Timnah; and behold, a young lion *came* roaring toward him. **6** The Spirit of the LORD came upon him mightily, so that he tore him as one tears a young goat though he had nothing in his hand; but he did not tell his father or mother what he had done. **7** So he went down and talked to the woman; and she looked good to Samson. **8** When he returned later to take her, he turned aside to look at the carcass of the lion; and behold, a swarm of bees and honey were in the body of the lion. **9** So he scraped the honey into his hands and went on, eating as he went. When he came to his father and mother, he gave *some* to them and they ate *it*; but he did not tell them that he had scraped the honey out of the body of the lion. **10** Then his father went down to the woman; and Samson made a feast there, for the young men customarily did this.

Divorce allowable under certain circumstances

Deut. 22: 19, 29

19 and they shall fine him a hundred *shekels* of silver and give it to the girl's father, because he publicly defamed a virgin of Israel. And she shall remain his wife; he cannot divorce her all his days.

29 then the man who lay with her shall give to the girl's father fifty *shekels* of silver, and she shall become his wife because he has violated her; he cannot divorce her all his days.

Deut. 24: 1-4

1 "When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts *it* in her hand and sends her out from his house, **2** and she leaves his house and goes and becomes another man's *wife*, **3** and if the latter husband turns against her and writes her a certificate of divorce and puts *it* in her hand and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her to be his wife, **4** *then* her former husband who sent her away is not allowed to take her again to be his wife, since she has been defiled; for that is an abomination before the LORD, and you shall not bring sin on the land which the LORD your God gives you as an inheritance.

Jer. 3: 1

1 *God* says, "If a husband divorces his wife
And she goes from him
And belongs to another man,
Will he still return to her?
Will not that land be completely polluted?
But you are a harlot *with* many lovers;
Yet you turn to Me," declares the LORD.

Purity in marital relationship required

Ex. 20: 14, 17

[14](#) "You shall not commit adultery.

[17](#) "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

Lev. 20: 10

[10](#) 'If *there is* a man who commits adultery with another man's wife, one who commits adultery with his friend's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.

Deut. 22: 22

[22](#) "If a man is found lying with a married woman, then both of them shall die, the man who lay with the woman, and the woman; thus you shall purge the evil from Israel.

Laws Pertaining to Parent and Child

Father's authority over the child final

Num. 30: 3-5

[3](#) "Also if a woman makes a vow to the LORD, and binds herself by an obligation in her father's house in her youth, [4](#) and her father hears her vow and her obligation by which she has bound herself, and her father says nothing to her, then all her vows shall stand and every obligation by which she has bound herself shall stand. [5](#) "But if her father should forbid her on the day he hears *of it*, none of her vows or her obligations by which she has bound herself shall stand; and the LORD will forgive her because her father had forbidden her.

Parental responsibility for religious instruction of children

Deut. 4: 9

[9](#) "Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life; but make them known to your sons and your grandsons.

Deut. 6: 7

[7](#) "You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.

Deut. 31: 13

[13](#) "Their children, who have not known, will hear and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as you live on the land which you are about to cross the Jordan to possess."

Prov. 22: 6

[6](#) Train up a child in the way he should go,
Even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Parental discipline of children

Deut. 21:20

[20](#) "They shall say to the elders of his city, 'This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey us, he is a glutton and a drunkard.'

Deut. 27: 16

[16](#) 'Cursed is he who dishonors his father or mother.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'

Prov. 22: 15

[15](#) Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child;
The rod of discipline will remove it far from him.

Children to be regarded as gifts of God

Gen. 33: 5

5 He lifted his eyes and saw the women and the children, and said, "Who are these with you?" So he said, "The children whom God has graciously given your servant."

Gen. 48: 9

9 Joseph said to his father, "They are my sons, whom God has given me here." So he said, "Bring them to me, please, that I may bless them."

Josh. 24: 3

3 'Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River, and led him through all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his descendants and gave him Isaac.

Parental love and solicitude

Gen. 37: 13, 14

13 Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing *the flock* in Shechem? Come, and I will send you to them." And he said to him, "I will go." **14** Then he said to him, "Go now and see about the welfare of your brothers and the welfare of the flock, and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron, and he came to Shechem

Ex. 2: 1-3

1 Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a daughter of Levi. **2** The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was beautiful, she hid him for three months. **3** But when she could hide him no longer, she got him a wicker basket and covered it over with tar and pitch. Then she put the child into it and set *it* among the reeds by the bank of the Nile.

Children to honor and obey parents

Ex. 20: 12

12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.

Deut. 5: 16

16 'Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be prolonged and that it may go well with you on the land which the LORD your God gives you.

Lev. 19: 3

3 'Every one of you shall reverence his mother and his father, and you shall keep My sabbaths; I am the LORD your God.

Judgment and punishment for children who dishonor parents

Deut. 21: 18-21:

18 "If any man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey his father or his mother, and when they chastise him, he will not even listen to them, **19** then his father and mother shall seize him, and bring him out to the elders of his city at the gateway of his hometown. **20** "They shall say to the elders of his city, 'This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey us, he is a glutton and a drunkard.'

21 "Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death; so you shall remove the evil from your midst, and all Israel will hear *of it* and fear.

Deut. 27: 16

16 'Cursed is he who dishonors his father or mother.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'

Lev. 20: 9

9 'If *there is* anyone who curses his father or his mother, he shall surely be put to death; he has cursed his father or his mother, his bloodguiltiness is upon him.

Laws Pertaining to Sanitation and Cleanliness

Purification of woman after childbirth

Lev. 12: 1-8:

1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, **2** “Speak to the sons of Israel, saying: ‘When a woman gives birth and bears a male *child*, then she shall be unclean for seven days, as in the days of her menstruation she shall be unclean. **3** ‘On the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised. **4** ‘Then she shall remain in the blood of *her* purification for thirty-three days; she shall not touch any consecrated thing, nor enter the sanctuary until the days of her purification are completed. **5** ‘But if she bears a female *child*, then she shall be unclean for two weeks, as in her menstruation; and she shall remain in the blood of *her* purification for sixty-six days. **6** ‘When the days of her purification are completed, for a son or for a daughter, she shall bring to the priest at the doorway of the tent of meeting a one year old lamb for a burnt offering and a young pigeon or a turtledove for a sin offering. **7** ‘Then he shall offer it before the LORD and make atonement for her, and she shall be cleansed from the flow of her blood. This is the law for her who bears a *child*, whether a male or a female. **8** ‘But if she cannot afford a lamb, then she shall take two turtledoves or two young pigeons, the one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering; and the priest shall make atonement for her, and she will be clean.’”

Isolation of the leper

Lev. 13: 1-59:

1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying, **2** “When a man has on the skin of his body a swelling or a scab or a bright spot, and it becomes an infection of leprosy on the skin of his body, then he shall be brought to Aaron the priest or to one of his sons the priests. **3** “The priest shall look at the mark on the skin of the body, and if the hair in the infection has turned white and the infection appears to be deeper than the skin of his body, it is an infection of leprosy; when the priest has looked at him, he shall pronounce him unclean. **4** “But if the bright spot is white on the skin of his body, and it does not appear to be deeper than the skin, and the hair on it has not turned white, then the priest shall isolate *him who has* the infection for seven days. **5** “The priest shall look at him on the seventh day, and if in his eyes the infection has not changed *and* the infection has not spread on the skin, then the priest shall isolate him for seven more days. **6** “The priest shall look at him again on the seventh day, and if the infection has faded and the mark has not spread on the skin, then the priest shall pronounce him clean; it is *only* a scab. And he shall wash his clothes and be clean. **7** “But if the scab spreads farther on the skin after he has shown himself to the priest for his cleansing, he shall appear again to the priest. **8** “The priest shall look, and if the scab has spread on the skin, then the priest shall pronounce him unclean; it is leprosy. **9** “When the infection of leprosy is on a man, then he shall be brought to the priest. **10** “The priest shall then look, and if there is a white swelling in the skin, and it has turned the hair white, and there is quick raw flesh in the swelling, **11** it is a chronic leprosy on the skin of his body, and the priest shall pronounce him unclean; he shall not isolate him, for he is unclean. **12** “If the leprosy breaks out farther on the skin, and the leprosy covers all the skin of *him who has* the infection from his head even to his feet, as far as the priest can see, **13** then the priest shall look, and behold, *if* the leprosy has covered all his body, he shall pronounce clean *him who has* the infection; it has all turned white *and* he is clean. **14** “But whenever raw flesh appears on him, he shall be unclean. **15** “The priest shall look at the raw flesh, and he shall pronounce him unclean; the raw flesh is unclean, it is leprosy. **16** “Or if the raw flesh turns again and is changed to white, then he shall come to the priest, **17** and the priest shall look at him, and behold, *if* the infection has turned to white, then the priest shall pronounce clean *him who has* the infection; he is clean. **18** “When the body has a boil on its skin and it is healed, **19** and in the place of the boil there is a white swelling or a reddish-white, bright spot, then it shall be shown to the priest; **20** and the priest shall look, and behold, *if* it appears to be lower than the skin, and the hair on it has turned white, then the priest shall pronounce him unclean; it is the infection of leprosy, it has broken out in the boil. **21** “But if the priest looks at it, and behold, there are no white hairs in it and it is not lower than the skin and is faded, then the priest shall isolate him for seven days; **22** and if it spreads farther on the skin, then the priest shall pronounce him unclean; it is an infection. **23** “But if the bright spot remains in its place and does not spread, it is *only* the scar of the boil; and the priest shall pronounce him clean. **24** “Or if the body sustains in its skin a burn by fire, and the raw *flesh* of the burn becomes a bright spot, reddish-white, or white, **25** then the priest shall look at it. And if the hair in the bright spot has turned white and it appears to be deeper than the skin, it is leprosy; it has broken out in the burn. Therefore, the priest shall pronounce him unclean; it is an infection

of leprosy. **26** “But if the priest looks at it, and indeed, there is no white hair in the bright spot and it is no deeper than the skin, but is dim, then the priest shall isolate him for seven days; **27** and the priest shall look at him on the seventh day. If it spreads farther in the skin, then the priest shall pronounce him unclean; it is an infection of leprosy. **28** “But if the bright spot remains in its place and has not spread in the skin, but is dim, it is the swelling from the burn; and the priest shall pronounce him clean, for it is *only* the scar of the burn. **29** “Now if a man or woman has an infection on the head or on the beard, **30** then the priest shall look at the infection, and if it appears to be deeper than the skin and there is thin yellowish hair in it, then the priest shall pronounce him unclean; it is a scale, it is leprosy of the head or of the beard. **31** “But if the priest looks at the infection of the scale, and indeed, it appears to be no deeper than the skin and there is no black hair in it, then the priest shall isolate *the person* with the scaly infection for seven days. **32** “On the seventh day the priest shall look at the infection, and if the scale has not spread and no yellowish hair has grown in it, and the appearance of the scale is no deeper than the skin, **33** then he shall shave himself, but he shall not shave the scale; and the priest shall isolate *the person* with the scale seven more days. **34** “Then on the seventh day the priest shall look at the scale, and if the scale has not spread in the skin and it appears to be no deeper than the skin, the priest shall pronounce him clean; and he shall wash his clothes and be clean. **35** “But if the scale spreads farther in the skin after his cleansing, **36** then the priest shall look at him, and if the scale has spread in the skin, the priest need not seek for the yellowish hair; he is unclean. **37** “If in his sight the scale has remained, however, and black hair has grown in it, the scale has healed, he is clean; and the priest shall pronounce him clean. **38** “When a man or a woman has bright spots on the skin of the body, *even* white bright spots, **39** then the priest shall look, and if the bright spots on the skin of their bodies are a faint white, it is eczema that has broken out on the skin; he is clean. **40** “Now if a man loses the hair of his head, he is bald; he is clean. **41** “If his head becomes bald at the front and sides, he is bald on the forehead; he is clean. **42** “But if on the bald head or the bald forehead, there occurs a reddish-white infection, it is leprosy breaking out on his bald head or on his bald forehead. **43** “Then the priest shall look at him; and if the swelling of the infection is reddish-white on his bald head or on his bald forehead, like the appearance of leprosy in the skin of the body, **44** he is a leprous man, he is unclean. The priest shall surely pronounce him unclean; his infection is on his head. **45** “As for the leper who has the infection, his clothes shall be torn, and the hair of his head shall be uncovered, and he shall cover his mustache and cry, ‘Unclean! Unclean!’ **46** “He shall remain unclean all the days during which he has the infection; he is unclean. He shall live alone; his dwelling shall be outside the camp. **47** “When a garment has a mark of leprosy in it, whether it is a wool garment or a linen garment, **48** whether in warp or woof, of linen or of wool, whether in leather or in any article made of leather, **49** if the mark is greenish or reddish in the garment or in the leather, or in the warp or in the woof, or in any article of leather, it is a leprous mark and shall be shown to the priest. **50** “Then the priest shall look at the mark and shall quarantine the article with the mark for seven days. **51** “He shall then look at the mark on the seventh day; if the mark has spread in the garment, whether in the warp or in the woof, or in the leather, whatever the purpose for which the leather is used, the mark is a leprous malignancy, it is unclean. **52** “So he shall burn the garment, whether the warp or the woof, in wool or in linen, or any article of leather in which the mark occurs, for it is a leprous malignancy; it shall be burned in the fire. **53** “But if the priest shall look, and indeed the mark has not spread in the garment, either in the warp or in the woof, or in any article of leather, **54** then the priest shall order them to wash the thing in which the mark occurs and he shall quarantine it for seven more days. **55** “After the article with the mark has been washed, the priest shall again look, and if the mark has not changed its appearance, even though the mark has not spread, it is unclean; you shall burn it in the fire, whether an eating away has produced bareness on the top or on the front of it. **56** “Then if the priest looks, and if the mark has faded after it has been washed, then he shall tear it out of the garment or out of the leather, whether from the warp or from the woof; **57** and if it appears again in the garment, whether in the warp or in the woof, or in any article of leather, it is an outbreak; the article with the mark shall be burned in the fire. **58** “The garment, whether the warp or the woof, or any article of leather from which the mark has departed when you washed it, it shall then be washed a second time and will be clean.” **59** This is the law for the mark of leprosy in a garment of wool or linen, whether in the warp or in the woof, or in any article of leather, for pronouncing it clean or unclean.

Cleansing of leprous house

Lev. 14: 37-57:

37 “So he shall look at the mark, and if the mark on the walls of the house has greenish or reddish depressions and appears deeper than the surface, **38** then the priest shall come out of the house, to the doorway, and quarantine the house for seven days. **39** “The priest shall return on the seventh day and make an inspection. If the mark has indeed spread in the walls of the house, **40** then the priest shall order them to tear out the stones with the mark in them and throw them away at an unclean place outside the city. **41** “He shall have the house scraped all around inside, and they shall dump the plaster that they scrape off at an unclean place outside the city. **42** “Then they shall take other stones and replace *those* stones, and he shall take other plaster and replaster the house. **43** “If, however, the mark breaks out again in the house after he has torn out the stones and scraped the house, and after it has been replastered, **44** then the priest shall come in and make an inspection. If he sees that the mark has indeed spread in the house, it is a malignant mark in the house; it is unclean. **45** “He shall therefore tear down the house, its stones, and its timbers, and all the plaster of the house, and he shall take *them* outside the city to an unclean place. **46** “Moreover, whoever goes into the house during the time that he has quarantined it, becomes unclean until evening. **47** “Likewise, whoever lies down in the house shall wash his clothes, and whoever eats in the house shall wash his clothes. **48** “If, on the other hand, the priest comes in and makes an inspection and the mark has not indeed spread in the house after the house has been replastered, then the priest shall pronounce the house clean because the mark has not reappeared. **49** “To cleanse the house then, he shall take two birds and cedar wood and a scarlet string and hyssop, **50** and he shall slaughter the one bird in an earthenware vessel over running water. **51** “Then he shall take the cedar wood and the hyssop and the scarlet string, with the live bird, and dip them in the blood of the slain bird as well as in the running water, and sprinkle the house seven times. **52** “He shall thus cleanse the house with the blood of the bird and with the running water, along with the live bird and with the cedar wood and with the hyssop and with the scarlet string. **53** “However, he shall let the live bird go free outside the city into the open field. So he shall make atonement for the house, and it will be clean.” **54** This is the law for any mark of leprosy—even for a scale, **55** and for the leprous garment or house, **56** and for a swelling, and for a scab, and for a bright spot— **57** to teach when they are unclean and when they are clean. This is the law of leprosy.

Purification of men from running issue

Lev. 15: 1-15:

1 The LORD also spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying, **2** “Speak to the sons of Israel, and say to them, ‘When any man has a discharge from his body, his discharge is unclean. **3** ‘This, moreover, shall be his uncleanness in his discharge: it is his uncleanness whether his body allows its discharge to flow or whether his body obstructs its discharge. **4** ‘Every bed on which the person with the discharge lies becomes unclean, and everything on which he sits becomes unclean. **5** ‘Anyone, moreover, who touches his bed shall wash his clothes and bathe in water and be unclean until evening; **6** and whoever sits on the thing on which the man with the discharge has been sitting, shall wash his clothes and bathe in water and be unclean until evening. **7** ‘Also whoever touches the person with the discharge shall wash his clothes and bathe in water and be unclean until evening. **8** ‘Or if the man with the discharge spits on one who is clean, he too shall wash his clothes and bathe in water and be unclean until evening. **9** ‘Every saddle on which the person with the discharge rides becomes unclean. **10** ‘Whoever then touches any of the things which were under him shall be unclean until evening, and he who carries them shall wash his clothes and bathe in water and be unclean until evening. **11** ‘Likewise, whomever the one with the discharge touches without having rinsed his hands in water shall wash his clothes and bathe in water and be unclean until evening. **12** ‘However, an earthenware vessel which the person with the discharge touches shall be broken, and every wooden vessel shall be rinsed in water. **13** ‘Now when the man with the discharge becomes cleansed from his discharge, then he shall count off for himself seven days for his cleansing; he shall then wash his clothes and bathe his body in running water and will become clean. **14** ‘Then on the eighth day he shall take for himself two turtledoves or two young pigeons, and come before the LORD to the doorway of the tent of meeting and give them to the priest; **15** and the priest shall offer them, one for a sin offering and the other for a burnt offering. So the priest shall make atonement on his behalf before the LORD because of his discharge.

Rules governing women during menstruation

Lev. 15: 19-33

19 'When a woman has a discharge, *if* her discharge in her body is blood, she shall continue in her menstrual impurity for seven days; and whoever touches her shall be unclean until evening.
20 'Everything also on which she lies during her menstrual impurity shall be unclean, and everything on which she sits shall be unclean. **21** 'Anyone who touches her bed shall wash his clothes and bathe in water and be unclean until evening. **22** 'Whoever touches any thing on which she sits shall wash his clothes and bathe in water and be unclean until evening. **23** 'Whether it be on the bed or on the thing on which she is sitting, when he touches it, he shall be unclean until evening. **24** 'If a man actually lies with her so that her menstrual impurity is on him, he shall be unclean seven days, and every bed on which he lies shall be unclean. **25** 'Now if a woman has a discharge of her blood many days, not at the period of her menstrual impurity, or if she has a discharge beyond that period, all the days of her impure discharge she shall continue as though in her menstrual impurity; she is unclean. **26** 'Any bed on which she lies all the days of her discharge shall be to her like her bed at menstruation; and every thing on which she sits shall be unclean, like her uncleanness at that time. **27** 'Likewise, whoever touches them shall be unclean and shall wash his clothes and bathe in water and be unclean until evening. **28** 'When she becomes clean from her discharge, she shall count off for herself seven days; and afterward she will be clean. **29** 'Then on the eighth day she shall take for herself two turtledoves or two young pigeons and bring them in to the priest, to the doorway of the tent of meeting. **30** 'The priest shall offer the one for a sin offering and the other for a burnt offering. So the priest shall make atonement on her behalf before the LORD because of her impure discharge.' **31** "Thus you shall keep the sons of Israel separated from their uncleanness, so that they will not die in their uncleanness by their defiling My tabernacle that is among them." **32** This is the law for the one with a discharge, and for the man who has a seminal emission so that he is unclean by it, **33** and for the woman who is ill because of menstrual impurity, and for the one who has a discharge, whether a male or a female, or a man who lies with an unclean woman.

Ceremonial pollutions of various kinds

Lev. 7: 21:

21 'When anyone touches anything unclean, whether human uncleanness, or an unclean animal, or any unclean detestable thing, and eats of the flesh of the sacrifice of peace offerings which belong to the LORD, that person shall be cut off from his people.'"

Lev. 15: 11:

11 'Likewise, whomever the one with the discharge touches without having rinsed his hands in water shall wash his clothes and bathe in water and be unclean until evening.

Num. 9: 6, 7:

6 But there were *some* men who were unclean because of *the* dead person, so that they could not observe Passover on that day; so they came before Moses and Aaron on that day. **7** Those men said to him, "*Though* we are unclean because of *the* dead person, why are we restrained from presenting the offering of the LORD at its appointed time among the sons of Israel?"

Deut. 21: 22, 23

22 "If a man has committed a sin worthy of death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, **23** his corpse shall not hang all night on the tree, but you shall surely bury him on the same day (for he who is hanged is accursed of God), so that you do not defile your land which the LORD your God gives you as an inheritance.

Laws Pertaining to Food

Clean and unclean animals listed

Lev. 11: 2-31:

2 "Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, 'These are the creatures which you may eat from all the animals that are on the earth. **3** 'Whatever divides a hoof, thus making split hoofs, *and* chews the cud, among the animals, that you may eat. **4** 'Nevertheless, you are not to eat of these, among those which chew the cud, or among those which divide the hoof: the camel, for though it chews cud, it does not divide the hoof, it is

unclean to you. **5** 'Likewise, the shaphan, for though it chews cud, it does not divide the hoof, it is unclean to you; **6** the rabbit also, for though it chews cud, it does not divide the hoof, it is unclean to you; **7** and the pig, for though it divides the hoof, thus making a split hoof, it does not chew cud, it is unclean to you. **8** 'You shall not eat of their flesh nor touch their carcasses; they are unclean to you. **9** 'These you may eat, whatever is in the water: all that have fins and scales, those in the water, in the seas or in the rivers, you may eat. **10** 'But whatever is in the seas and in the rivers that does not have fins and scales among all the teeming life of the water, and among all the living creatures that are in the water, they are detestable things to you, **11** and they shall be abhorrent to you; you may not eat of their flesh, and their carcasses you shall detest. **12** 'Whatever in the water does not have fins and scales is abhorrent to you. **13** 'These, moreover, you shall detest among the birds; they are abhorrent, not to be eaten: the eagle and the vulture and the buzzard, **14** and the kite and the falcon in its kind, **15** every raven in its kind, **16** and the ostrich and the owl and the sea gull and the hawk in its kind, **17** and the little owl and the cormorant and the great owl, **18** and the white owl and the pelican and the carrion vulture, **19** and the stork, the heron in its kinds, and the hoopoe, and the bat. **20** 'All the winged insects that walk on *all fours* are detestable to you. **21** 'Yet these you may eat among all the winged insects which walk on *all fours*: those which have above their feet jointed legs with which to jump on the earth. **22** 'These of them you may eat: the locust in its kinds, and the devastating locust in its kinds, and the cricket in its kinds, and the grasshopper in its kinds. **23** 'But all other winged insects which are four-footed are detestable to you. **24** 'By these, moreover, you will be made unclean: whoever touches their carcasses becomes unclean until evening, **25** and whoever picks up any of their carcasses shall wash his clothes and be unclean until evening. **26** 'Concerning all the animals which divide the hoof but do not make a split *hoof*, or which do not chew cud, they are unclean to you: whoever touches them becomes unclean. **27** 'Also whatever walks on its paws, among all the creatures that walk on *all fours*, are unclean to you; whoever touches their carcasses becomes unclean until evening, **28** and the one who picks up their carcasses shall wash his clothes and be unclean until evening; they are unclean to you. **29** 'Now these are to you the unclean among the swarming things which swarm on the earth: the mole, and the mouse, and the great lizard in its kinds, **30** and the gecko, and the crocodile, and the lizard, and the sand reptile, and the chameleon. **31** 'These are to you the unclean among all the swarming things; whoever touches them when they are dead becomes unclean until evening.

Deut. 14: 3-20

3 "You shall not eat any detestable thing. **4** "These are the animals which you may eat: the ox, the sheep, the goat, **5** the deer, the gazelle, the roebuck, the wild goat, the ibex, the antelope and the mountain sheep. **6** "Any animal that divides the hoof and has the hoof split in two *and* chews the cud, among the animals, that you may eat. **7** "Nevertheless, you are not to eat of these among those which chew the cud, or among those that divide the hoof in two: the camel and the rabbit and the shaphan, for though they chew the cud, they do not divide the hoof; they are unclean for you. **8** "The pig, because it divides the hoof but *does not chew* the cud, it is unclean for you. You shall not eat any of their flesh nor touch their carcasses. **9** "These you may eat of all that are in water: anything that has fins and scales you may eat, **10** but anything that does not have fins and scales you shall not eat; it is unclean for you. **11** "You may eat any clean bird. **12** "But these are the ones which you shall not eat: the eagle and the vulture and the buzzard, **13** and the red kite, the falcon, and the kite in their kinds, **14** and every raven in its kind, **15** and the ostrich, the owl, the sea gull, and the hawk in their kinds, **16** the little owl, the great owl, the white owl, **17** the pelican, the carrion vulture, the cormorant, **18** the stork, and the heron in their kinds, and the hoopoe and the bat. **19** "And all the teeming life with wings are unclean to you; they shall not be eaten. **20** "You may eat any clean bird.

Eating of blood forbidden

Lev. 3: 17:

17 'It is a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all your dwellings: you shall not eat any fat or any blood.'

Lev. 7: 26, 27

26 'You are not to eat any blood, either of bird or animal, in any of your dwellings. **27** 'Any person who eats any blood, even that person shall be cut off from his people.'

Lev. 17: 10-15

10 'And any man from the house of Israel, or from the aliens who sojourn among them, who eats any blood, I will set My face against that person who eats blood and will cut him off from among his people.

11 'For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.' **12** "Therefore I said to the sons of Israel, 'No person among you may eat blood, nor may any alien who sojourns among you eat blood.'

13 "So when any man from the sons of Israel, or from the aliens who sojourn among them, in hunting catches a beast or a bird which may be eaten, he shall pour out its blood and cover it with earth. **14** "For as for the life of all flesh, its blood is *identified* with its life. Therefore I said to the sons of Israel, 'You are not to eat the blood of any flesh, for the life of all flesh is its blood; whoever eats it shall be cut off.'

15 "When any person eats *an animal* which dies or is torn *by beasts*, whether he is a native or an alien, he shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and remain unclean until evening; then he will become clean.

Animals dying of disease or from injuries by beasts not to be eaten

Ex. 22: 31:

31 "You shall be holy men to Me, therefore you shall not eat *any* flesh torn to pieces in the field; you shall throw it to the dogs.

Lev. 22: 8:

8 'He shall not eat *an animal* which dies or is torn *by beasts*, becoming unclean by it; I am the LORD.

Lev. 17: 15:

15 "When any person eats *an animal* which dies or is torn *by beasts*, whether he is a native or an alien, he shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and remain unclean until evening; then he will become clean.

Fruit of tree not to be eaten during first three years of its life

Lev. 19: 23-25:

23 'When you enter the land and plant all kinds of trees for food, then you shall count their fruit as forbidden. Three years it shall be forbidden to you; *it* shall not be eaten. **24** 'But in the fourth year all its fruit shall be holy, an offering of praise to the LORD. **25** 'In the fifth year you are to eat of its fruit, that its yield may increase for you; I am the LORD your God.

Laws Pertaining to Business and Economics

Just weights, measures, and financial payments required

Lev. 19: 35-37:

35 'You shall do no wrong in judgment, in measurement of weight, or capacity. **36** 'You shall have just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin; I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from the land of Egypt. **37** 'You shall thus observe all My statutes and all My ordinances and do them; I am the LORD.'"

Deut. 25: 13-15:

13 "You shall not have in your bag differing weights, a large and a small. **14** "You shall not have in your house differing measures, a large and a small. **15** "You shall have a full and just weight; you shall have a full and just measure, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.

Prov. 11: 1:

1 A false balance is an abomination to the LORD,
But a just weight is His delight.

The accumulation of property commended

Gen. 14: 16

16 He brought back all the goods, and also brought back his relative Lot with his possessions, and also the women, and the people.

Gen. 31: 18

18 and he drove away all his livestock and all his property which he had gathered, his acquired livestock which he had gathered in Paddan-aram, to go to the land of Canaan to his father Isaac.

The practice of trading and bartering

Gen. 34: 10

10 "Thus you shall live with us, and the land shall be *open* before you; live and trade in it and acquire property in it."

Gen. 42: 34

34 'But bring your youngest brother to me that I may know that you are not spies, but honest men. I will give your brother to you, and you may trade in the land.'

Gen. 47: 17

17 So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph gave them food in exchange for the horses and the flocks and the herds and the donkeys; and he fed them with food in exchange for all their livestock that year.

Prov. 20: 14

14 "Bad, bad," says the buyer,
But when he goes his way, then he boasts.

Lev. 25: 14

14 'If you make a sale, moreover, to your friend or buy from your friend's hand, you shall not wrong one another.'

Integrity in business

Num. 16: 15

15 Then Moses became very angry and said to the LORD, "Do not regard their offering! I have not taken a single donkey from them, nor have I done harm to any of them."

1 Sam. 12: 1-5

1 Then Samuel said to all Israel, "Behold, I have listened to your voice in all that you said to me and I have appointed a king over you. **2** "Now, here is the king walking before you, but I am old and gray, and behold my sons are with you. And I have walked before you from my youth even to this day. **3** "Here I am; bear witness against me before the LORD and His anointed. Whose ox have I taken, or whose donkey have I taken, or whom have I defrauded? Whom have I oppressed, or from whose hand have I taken a bribe to blind my eyes with it? I will restore *it* to you." **4** They said, "You have not defrauded us or oppressed us or taken anything from any man's hand." **5** He said to them, "The LORD is witness against you, and His anointed is witness this day that you have found nothing in my hand." And they said, "*He is witness.*"

Fraud and dishonesty denounced

Gen. 21: 25

25 But Abraham complained to Abimelech because of the well of water which the servants of Abimelech had seized.

Gen. 31: 45

45 Then Jacob took a stone and set it up as a pillar.

Josh. 7: 11

11 "Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. And they have even taken some of the things under the ban and have both stolen and deceived. Moreover, they have also put *them* among their own things.

Borrowing and lending regulations

Ex. 22: 14, 15, 25

14 "If a man borrows *anything* from his neighbor, and it is injured or dies while its owner is not with it, he shall make full restitution.

15 "If its owner is with it, he shall not make restitution; if it is hired, it came for its hire.

25 "If you lend money to My people, to the poor among you, you are not to act as a creditor to him; you shall not charge him interest.

Deut. 15: 8

8 but you shall freely open your hand to him, and shall generously lend him sufficient for his need *in* whatever he lacks.

Honest payment of wages at the close of each day

Lev. 19: 13

13 'You shall not oppress your neighbor, nor rob *him*. The wages of a hired man are not to remain with you all night until morning.

Deut. 24: 14, 15

14 "You shall not oppress a hired servant *who is* poor and needy, whether *he is* one of your countrymen or one of your aliens who is in your land in your towns.

15 "You shall give him his wages on his day before the sun sets, for he is poor and sets his heart on it; so that he will not cry against you to the LORD and it become sin in you.

Special provision for the poor and strangers

Lev. 19: 9, 10

9 'Now when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest.

10 'Nor shall you glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather the fallen fruit of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the needy and for the stranger. I am the LORD your God.

Deut. 24: 19-22

19 "When you reap your harvest in your field and have forgotten a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be for the alien, for the orphan, and for the widow, in order that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. **20** "When you beat your olive tree, you shall not go over the boughs again; it shall be for the alien, for the orphan, and for the widow.

21 "When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you shall not go over it again; it shall be for the alien, for the orphan, and for the widow. **22** "You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore I am commanding you to do this thing.

Regulations for pledges or mortgages of personal property

Ex. 22: 26, 27

26 "If you ever take your neighbor's cloak as a pledge, you are to return it to him before the sun sets,

27 for that is his only covering; it is his cloak for his body. What else shall he sleep in? And it shall come about that when he cries out to Me, I will hear *him*, for I am gracious.

Deut. 24: 6, 10-13

6 “No one shall take a handmill or an upper millstone in pledge, for he would be taking a life in pledge.

10 “When you make your neighbor a loan of any sort, you shall not enter his house to take his pledge. **11** “You shall remain outside, and the man to whom you make the loan shall bring the pledge out to you. **12** “If he is a poor man, you shall not sleep with his pledge. **13** “When the sun goes down you shall surely return the pledge to him, that he may sleep in his cloak and bless you; and it will be righteousness for you before the LORD your God.

Job 22: 6

6 “For you have taken pledges of your brothers without cause,
And stripped men naked.

Job 24: 3

3 “They drive away the donkeys of the orphans;
They take the widow’s ox for a pledge.

Laws Pertaining to Real Estate

Land purchased by Abraham

Gen. 23: 13-16

13 He spoke to Ephron in the hearing of the people of the land, saying, “If you will only please listen to me; I will give the price of the field, accept *it* from me that I may bury my dead there.”
14 Then Ephron answered Abraham, saying to him, **15** “My lord, listen to me; a piece of land worth four hundred shekels of silver, what is that between me and you? So bury your dead.” **16** Abraham listened to Ephron; and Abraham weighed out for Ephron the silver which he had named in the hearing of the sons of Heth, four hundred shekels of silver, commercial standard.

Land purchased by Jacob

Gen. 33: 18, 19

18 Now Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Paddan-aram, and camped before the city. **19** He bought the piece of land where he had pitched his tent from the hand of the sons of Hamor, Shechem’s father, for one hundred pieces of money.

Land purchased by Joseph for Pharaoh

Gen. 47: 20

20 So Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh, for every Egyptian sold his field, because the famine was severe upon them. Thus the land became Pharaoh’s.

Land in Canaan allotted to tribes of Israel

Num. 26: 52-56

52 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, **53** “Among these the land shall be divided for an inheritance according to the number of names. **54** “To the larger *group* you shall increase their inheritance, and to the smaller *group* you shall diminish their inheritance; each shall be given their inheritance according to those who were numbered of them. **55** “But the land shall be divided by lot. They shall receive their inheritance according to the names of the tribes of their fathers. **56** “According to the selection by lot, their inheritance shall be divided between the larger and the smaller *groups*.”

Num. 33: 54

54 ‘You shall inherit the land by lot according to your families; to the larger you shall give more inheritance, and to the smaller you shall give less inheritance. Wherever the lot falls to anyone, that shall be his. You shall inherit according to the tribes of your fathers.

Josh. 11: 23

23 So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD had spoken to Moses, and Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. Thus the land had rest from war.

Josh. 14: 1

1 Now these are *the territories* which the sons of Israel inherited in the land of Canaan, which Eleazar the priest, and Joshua the son of Nun, and the heads of the households of the tribes of the sons of Israel apportioned to them for an inheritance,

Lands passed to father's sons by inheritance

Gen. 25: 5

5 Now Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac;

Deut. 21: 16, 17

16 then it shall be in the day he wills what he has to his sons, he cannot make the son of the loved the firstborn before the son of the unloved, who is the firstborn. **17** "But he shall acknowledge the firstborn, the son of the unloved, by giving him a double portion of all that he has, for he is the beginning of his strength; to him belongs the right of the firstborn.

The first-born or eldest son given a double portion

Gen. 25: 31-33

31 But Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." **32** Esau said, "Behold, I am about to die; so of what *use* then is the birthright to me?" **33** And Jacob said, "First swear to me"; so he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob.

Deut. 21: 17

17 "But he shall acknowledge the firstborn, the son of the unloved, by giving him a double portion of all that he has, for he is the beginning of his strength; to him belongs the right of the firstborn.

Conditional inheritance of land by daughters where there were no sons

Num. 27: 6-11

6 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, **7** "The daughters of Zelophehad are right in *their* statements. You shall surely give them a hereditary possession among their father's brothers, and you shall transfer the inheritance of their father to them. **8** "Further, you shall speak to the sons of Israel, saying, 'If a man dies and has no son, then you shall transfer his inheritance to his daughter. **9** 'If he has no daughter, then you shall give his inheritance to his brothers. **10** 'If he has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to his father's brothers. **11** 'If his father has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to his nearest relative in his own family, and he shall possess it; and it shall be a statutory ordinance to the sons of Israel, just as the LORD commanded Moses.'"

Num. 36: 2-6

2 and they said, "The LORD commanded my lord to give the land by lot to the sons of Israel as an inheritance, and my lord was commanded by the LORD to give the inheritance of Zelophehad our brother to his daughters. **3** "But if they marry one of the sons of the *other* tribes of the sons of Israel, their inheritance will be withdrawn from the inheritance of our fathers and will be added to the inheritance of the tribe to which they belong; thus it will be withdrawn from our allotted inheritance. **4** "When the jubilee of the sons of Israel comes, then their inheritance will be added to the inheritance of the tribe to which they belong; so their inheritance will be withdrawn from the inheritance of the tribe of our fathers." **5** Then Moses commanded the sons of Israel according to the word of the LORD, saying, "The tribe of the sons of Joseph are right in *their* statements. **6** "This is what the LORD has commanded concerning the daughters of Zelophehad, saying, 'Let them marry whom they wish; only they must marry within the family of the tribe of their father.'

Josh. 17: 3, 4

3 However, Zelophehad, the son of Hopher, the son of Gilead, the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, had no sons, only daughters; and these are the names of his daughters: Mahlah and Noah, Hoglah, Milcah and Tirzah. **4** They came near before Eleazar the priest and before Joshua the son of Nun and before the leaders, saying, "The LORD commanded Moses to give us an inheritance among our brothers." So according to the command of the LORD he gave them an inheritance among their father's brothers.

Land inheritance could not remove from one tribe to another

Num. 36: 7

7 "Thus no inheritance of the sons of Israel shall be transferred from tribe to tribe, for the sons of Israel shall each hold to the inheritance of the tribe of his fathers.

1 Kings 21: 3

3 But Naboth said to Ahab, "The LORD forbid me that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers."

Land could not be permanently sold

Lev. 25: 23, 24

23 'The land, moreover, shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are *but* aliens and sojourners with Me. **24** 'Thus for every piece of your property, you are to provide for the redemption of the land.

Transferred lands reverted to original heirs the year of jubilee

Lev. 25: 10, 13, 34

10 'You shall thus consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim a release through the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, and each of you shall return to his own property, and each of you shall return to his family.

13 'On this year of jubilee each of you shall return to his own property.

34 'But pasture fields of their cities shall not be sold, for that is their perpetual possession.

Removal or marring of landmarks a criminal offense

Deut. 19: 14

14 "You shall not move your neighbor's boundary mark, which the ancestors have set, in your inheritance which you will inherit in the land that the LORD your God gives you to possess.

Deut. 27: 17

17 'Cursed is he who moves his neighbor's boundary mark.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'

Job. 24: 2

2 "Some remove the landmarks;
They seize and devour flocks.

Prov. 22: 28

28 Do not move the ancient boundary
Which your fathers have set.

Real estate laws altered in later history of Israel

Jer. 32: 9-14

9 "I bought the field which was at Anathoth from Hanamel my uncle's son, and I weighed out the silver for him, seventeen shekels of silver. **10** "I signed and sealed the deed, and called in witnesses, and weighed out the silver on the scales. **11** "Then I took the deeds of purchase, both the sealed *copy containing* the terms and conditions and the open *copy*; **12** and I gave the deed of purchase

to Baruch the son of Neriah, the son of Mahseiah, in the sight of Hanamel my uncle's *son* and in the sight of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, before all the Jews who were sitting in the court of the guard. **13** "And I commanded Baruch in their presence, saying, **14** 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, "Take these deeds, this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware jar, that they may last a long time."

Neh. 5: 2-5

2 For there were those who said, "We, our sons and our daughters are many; therefore let us get grain that we may eat and live." **3** There were others who said, "We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards and our houses that we might get grain because of the famine." **4** Also there were those who said, "We have borrowed money for the king's tax *on* our fields and our vineyards. **5** "Now our flesh is like the flesh of our brothers, our children like their children. Yet behold, we are forcing our sons and our daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters are forced into bondage *already*, and we are helpless because our fields and vineyards belong to others."

Criminal Laws of the Theocracy

Under the theocratic government of the Patriarchal period and during the Exodus, all forms of crime were regarded, primarily, as sins against Jehovah. Certain classifications are possible, however, such as crimes of immorality, crimes against the public, crimes against one's fellowman, crimes against property, and crimes against God.

Crimes against the Theocracy or Society

Perverting justice, or obstructing judgment

Lev. 19: 15

15 'You shall do no injustice in judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor nor defer to the great, but you are to judge your neighbor fairly.

Deut. 16: 19, 20

19 "You shall not distort justice; you shall not be partial, and you shall not take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and perverts the words of the righteous.

20 "Justice, *and only* justice, you shall pursue, that you may live and possess the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

Deut. 24: 17

17 "You shall not pervert the justice due an alien *or* an orphan, nor take a widow's garment in pledge.

Ps. 82: 2

2 How long will you judge unjustly
And show partiality to the wicked?

Contempt for the law

Num. 15: 29-31

29 'You shall have one law for him who does *anything* unintentionally, for him who is native among the sons of Israel and for the alien who sojourns among them. **30** 'But the person who does *anything* defiantly, whether he is native or an alien, that one is blaspheming the LORD; and that person shall be cut off from among his people. **31** 'Because he has despised the word of the LORD and has broken His commandment, that person shall be completely cut off; his guilt *will be* on him.'"

Deut. 6: 16, 17

16 "You shall not put the LORD your God to the test, as you tested *Him* at Massah. **17** "You should diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and His testimonies and His statutes which He has commanded you.

Perjury, or false swearing

Lev. 6: 3, 4

3 or has found what was lost and lied about it and sworn falsely, so that he sins in regard to any one of the things a man may do; **4** then it shall be, when he sins and becomes guilty, that he shall restore what he took by robbery or what he got by extortion, or the deposit which was entrusted to him or the lost thing which he found,

Lev. 19: 12

12 'You shall not swear falsely by My name, so as to profane the name of your God; I am the LORD.

Bribery for the defeat of justice

Ex. 23: 8

8 "You shall not take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the clear-sighted and subverts the cause of the just.

Jdgs. 16: 5

5 The lords of the Philistines came up to her and said to her, "Entice him, and see where his great strength *lies* and how we may overpower him that we may bind him to afflict him. Then we will each give you eleven hundred *pieces* of silver."

Prov. 17: 23

23 A wicked man receives a bribe from the bosom
To pervert the ways of justice.

Rebellion against rulers

Deut. 17: 12

12 "The man who acts presumptuously by not listening to the priest who stands there to serve the LORD your God, nor to the judge, that man shall die; thus you shall purge the evil from Israel.

Ezra 7: 26

26 "Whoever will not observe the law of your God and the law of the king, let judgment be executed upon him strictly, whether for death or for banishment or for confiscation of goods or for imprisonment."

Treason

2 Sam. 15: 10-12

10 But Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then you shall say, 'Absalom is king in Hebron.'" **11** Then two hundred men went with Absalom from Jerusalem, who were invited and went innocently, and they did not know anything. **12** And Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, from his city Giloh, while he was offering the sacrifices. And the conspiracy was strong, for the people increased continually with Absalom.

Purity, integrity, and honesty required of rulers

Gen. 41: 33

33 "Now let Pharaoh look for a man discerning and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt.

Ex. 18: 21,22

21 “Furthermore, you shall select out of all the people able men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain; and you shall place *these* over them as leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens.

22 “Let them judge the people at all times; and let it be that every major dispute they will bring to you, but every minor dispute they themselves will judge. So it will be easier for you, and they will bear *the burden* with you.

Deut. 1: 13

13 ‘Choose wise and discerning and experienced men from your tribes, and I will appoint them as your heads.’

Deut. 16: 18

18 “You shall appoint for yourself judges and officers in all your towns which the LORD your God is giving you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with righteous judgment.

Deut. 17: 14-20

14 “When you enter the land which the LORD your God gives you, and you possess it and live in it, and you say, ‘I will set a king over me like all the nations who are around me,’ **15** you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses, *one* from among your countrymen you shall set as king over yourselves; you may not put a foreigner over yourselves who is not your countryman.

16 “Moreover, he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor shall he cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, since the LORD has said to you, ‘You shall never again return that way.’ **17** “He shall not multiply wives for himself, or else his heart will turn away; nor shall he greatly increase silver and gold for himself. **18** “Now it shall come about when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself a copy of this law on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. **19** “It shall be with him and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, by carefully observing all the words of this law and these statutes, **20** that his heart may not be lifted up above his countrymen and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, to the right or the left, so that he and his sons may continue long in his kingdom in the midst of Israel.

Rulers to be honored

Ex. 22: 28

28 “You shall not curse God, nor curse a ruler of your people.

Civil liberty and patriotism

Lev. 25: 10

10 ‘You shall thus consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim a release through the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, and each of you shall return to his own property, and each of you shall return to his family.

2 Sam. 10: 12

12 “Be strong, and let us show ourselves courageous for the sake of our people and for the cities of our God; and may the LORD do what is good in His sight.”

Crimes of Immorality

Adultery and its punishment

Ex. 20: 14

14 “You shall not commit adultery.

Lev. 20: 10

10 ‘If *there is* a man who commits adultery with another man’s wife, one who commits adultery with his friend’s wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.

Deut. 5: 18

18 'You shall not commit adultery

Deut. 22: 22

22 "If a man is found lying with a married woman, then both of them shall die, the man who lay with the woman, and the woman; thus you shall purge the evil from Israel.

Sexual relations with near of kin and its punishment

Lev. 18: 6-18

6 'None of you shall approach any blood relative of his to uncover nakedness; I am the LORD. **7** 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father, that is, the nakedness of your mother. She is your mother; you are not to uncover her nakedness. **8** 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's wife; it is your father's nakedness. **9** 'The nakedness of your sister, *either* your father's daughter or your mother's daughter, whether born at home or born outside, their nakedness you shall not uncover. **10** 'The nakedness of your son's daughter or your daughter's daughter, their nakedness you shall not uncover; for their nakedness is yours.

Lev. 20: 11-21

11 'If *there is* a man who lies with his father's wife, he has uncovered his father's nakedness; both of them shall surely be put to death, their bloodguiltiness is upon them. **12** 'If *there is* a man who lies with his daughter-in-law, both of them shall surely be put to death; they have committed incest, their bloodguiltiness is upon them. **13** 'If *there is* a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act; they shall surely be put to death. Their bloodguiltiness is upon them. **14** 'If *there is* a man who marries a woman and her mother, it is immorality; both he and they shall be burned with fire, so that there will be no immorality in your midst. **15** 'If *there is* a man who lies with an animal, he shall surely be put to death; you shall also kill the animal. **16** 'If *there is* a woman who approaches any animal to mate with it, you shall kill the woman and the animal; they shall surely be put to death. Their bloodguiltiness is upon them. **17** 'If *there is* a man who takes his sister, his father's daughter or his mother's daughter, so that he sees her nakedness and she sees his nakedness, it is a disgrace; and they shall be cut off in the sight of the sons of their people. He has uncovered his sister's nakedness; he bears his guilt. **18** 'If *there is* a man who lies with a menstruous woman and uncovers her nakedness, he has laid bare her flow, and she has exposed the flow of her blood; thus both of them shall be cut off from among their people. **19** 'You shall also not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister or of your father's sister, for such a one has made naked his blood relative; they will bear their guilt. **20** 'If *there is* a man who lies with his uncle's wife he has uncovered his uncle's nakedness; they will bear their sin. They will die childless. **21** 'If *there is* a man who takes his brother's wife, it is abhorrent; he has uncovered his brother's nakedness. They will be childless.

Sodomy and its punishment

Lev. 18: 22

22 'You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination.

Lev. 20: 13

13 'If *there is* a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act; they shall surely be put to death. Their bloodguiltiness is upon them.

Deut. 23: 17

17 "None of the daughters of Israel shall be a cult prostitute, nor shall any of the sons of Israel be a cult prostitute.

Whoredom and its punishment

Lev. 19: 29

29 'Do not profane your daughter by making her a harlot, so that the land will not fall to harlotry and the land become full of lewdness.

Deut. 23: 17, 18

17 “None of the daughters of Israel shall be a cult prostitute, nor shall any of the sons of Israel be a cult prostitute. **18** “You shall not bring the hire of a harlot or the wages of a dog into the house of the LORD your God for any votive offering, for both of these are an abomination to the LORD your God.

Prov. 23: 27

27 For a harlot is a deep pit
And an adulterous woman is a narrow well.

Bestiality and its punishment

Lev. 18: 23

23 ‘Also you shall not have intercourse with any animal to be defiled with it, nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it; it is a perversion.

Lev. 20: 15, 16

15 ‘If *there is* a man who lies with an animal, he shall surely be put to death; you shall also kill the animal. **16** ‘If *there is* a woman who approaches any animal to mate with it, you shall kill the woman and the animal; they shall surely be put to death. Their bloodguiltiness is upon them.

Ex. 22: 19

19 “Whoever lies with an animal shall surely be put to death.

Deut. 27: 21

21 ‘Cursed is he who lies with any animal.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’

Rape and its punishment

Deut. 22: 25-29

25 “But if in the field the man finds the girl who is engaged, and the man forces her and lies with her, then only the man who lies with her shall die. **26** “But you shall do nothing to the girl; there is no sin in the girl worthy of death, for just as a man rises against his neighbor and murders him, so is this case. **27** “When he found her in the field, the engaged girl cried out, but there was no one to save her. **28** “If a man finds a girl who is a virgin, who is not engaged, and seizes her and lies with her and they are discovered, **29** then the man who lay with her shall give to the girl’s father fifty *shekels* of silver, and she shall become his wife because he has violated her; he cannot divorce her all his days.

Seduction and its punishment

Ex. 22: 16, 17

16 “If a man seduces a virgin who is not engaged, and lies with her, he must pay a dowry for her *to be* his wife. **17** “If her father absolutely refuses to give her to him, he shall pay money equal to the dowry for virgins.

Crimes against Property

Theft and its penalty

Ex. 20: 15

15 “You shall not steal.

Ex. 22: 1-9

1 “If a man steals an ox or a sheep and slaughters it or sells it, he shall pay five oxen for the ox and four sheep for the sheep.

2 “If the thief is caught while breaking in and is struck so that he dies, there will be no bloodguiltiness on his account. **3** “*But* if the sun has risen on him, there will be bloodguiltiness on his account. He shall surely make restitution; if he owns nothing, then he shall be sold for his theft. **4** “If what he stole is actually found alive in his possession, whether an ox or a donkey or a sheep, he shall pay double.

5 “If a man lets a field or vineyard be grazed *bare* and lets his animal loose so that it grazes in another man’s field, he shall make restitution from the best of his own field and the best of his own vineyard.
6 “If a fire breaks out and spreads to thorn bushes, so that stacked grain or the standing grain or the field *itself* is consumed, he who started the fire shall surely make restitution.
7 “If a man gives his neighbor money or goods to keep *for him* and it is stolen from the man’s house, if the thief is caught, he shall pay double. **8** “If the thief is not caught, then the owner of the house shall appear before the judges, *to determine whether he laid his hands on his neighbor’s property.* **9** “For every breach of trust, *whether it is for ox, for donkey, for sheep, for clothing, or for any lost thing about which one says, ‘This is it,’* the case of both parties shall come before the judges; he whom the judges condemn shall pay double to his neighbor.

Deut. 23: 24, 25

24 “When you enter your neighbor’s vineyard, then you may eat grapes until you are fully satisfied, but you shall not put any in your basket.

25 “When you enter your neighbor’s standing grain, then you may pluck the heads with your hand, but you shall not wield a sickle in your neighbor’s standing grain.

Dishonesty in trading

Deut. 25: 13-15

13 “You shall not have in your bag differing weights, a large and a small. **14** “You shall not have in your house differing measures, a large and a small. **15** “You shall have a full and just weight; you shall have a full and just measure, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.

Prov. 21: 6

6 The acquisition of treasures by a lying tongue
Is a fleeting vapor, the pursuit of death.

Carelessness with fire

Ex. 22: 6

6 “If a fire breaks out and spreads to thorn bushes, so that stacked grain or the standing grain or the field *itself* is consumed, he who started the fire shall surely make restitution.

Removal of landmark

Deut. 19: 14

14 “You shall not move your neighbor’s boundary mark, which the ancestors have set, in your inheritance which you will inherit in the land that the LORD your God gives you to possess.

Crimes against One’s Fellowman

Murder and its punishment

Gen. 9: 6

6 “Whoever sheds man’s blood,
By man his blood shall be shed,
For in the image of God
He made man.

Ex. 20: 13

13 “You shall not murder.

Ex. 21: 12

12 “He who strikes a man so that he dies shall surely be put to death.

Lev. 24: 17

17 ‘If a man takes the life of any human being, he shall surely be put to death.

Malicious assassination and its penalty

Num. 35: 16-21

16 'But if he struck him down with an iron object, so that he died, he is a murderer; the murderer shall surely be put to death. **17** 'If he struck him down with a stone in the hand, by which he will die, and *as a result* he died, he is a murderer; the murderer shall surely be put to death. **18** 'Or if he struck him with a wooden object in the hand, by which he might die, and *as a result* he died, he is a murderer; the murderer shall surely be put to death. **19** 'The blood avenger himself shall put the murderer to death; he shall put him to death when he meets him. **20** 'If he pushed him of hatred, or threw something at him lying in wait and *as a result* he died, **21** or if he struck him down with his hand in enmity, and *as a result* he died, the one who struck him shall surely be put to death, he is a murderer; the blood avenger shall put the murderer to death when he meets him.

Deut. 19: 11, 12

11 "But if there is a man who hates his neighbor and lies in wait for him and rises up against him and strikes him so that he dies, and he flees to one of these cities, **12** then the elders of his city shall send and take him from there and deliver him into the hand of the avenger of blood, that he may die.

Manslaughter

Ex. 21: 12-14

12 "He who strikes a man so that he dies shall surely be put to death. **13** "But if he did not lie in wait *for him*, but God let *him* fall into his hand, then I will appoint you a place to which he may flee. **14** "If, however, a man acts presumptuously toward his neighbor, so as to kill him craftily, you are to take him *even* from My altar, that he may die.

Num. 35: 22-25

22 'But if he pushed him suddenly without enmity, or threw something at him without lying in wait, **23** or with any deadly object of stone, and without seeing it dropped on him so that he died, while he was not his enemy nor seeking his injury, **24** then the congregation shall judge between the slayer and the blood avenger according to these ordinances. **25** 'The congregation shall deliver the manslayer from the hand of the blood avenger, and the congregation shall restore him to his city of refuge to which he fled; and he shall live in it until the death of the high priest who was anointed with the holy oil.

Bodily injury from violent fightings

Ex. 21: 18-27

18 "If men have a quarrel and one strikes the other with a stone or with *his* fist, and he does not die but remains in bed, **19** if he gets up and walks around outside on his staff, then he who struck him shall go unpunished; he shall only pay for his loss of time, and shall take care of him until he is completely healed. **20** "If a man strikes his male or female slave with a rod and he dies at his hand, he shall be punished. **21** "If, however, he survives a day or two, no vengeance shall be taken; for he is his property. **22** "If men struggle with each other and strike a woman with child so that she gives birth prematurely, yet there is no injury, he shall surely be fined as the woman's husband may demand of him, and he shall pay as the judges *decide*. **23** "But if there is *any further* injury, then you shall appoint *as a penalty* life for life, **24** eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, **25** burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise. **26** "If a man strikes the eye of his male or female slave, and destroys it, he shall let him go free on account of his eye. **27** "And if he knocks out a tooth of his male or female slave, he shall let him go free on account of his tooth.

Lev. 24: 19, 20

19 'If a man injures his neighbor, just as he has done, so it shall be done to him: **20** fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth; just as he has injured a man, so it shall be inflicted on him.

Deut. 19: 21

21 "Thus you shall not show pity: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

Injuries by another's animals

Ex. 21: 28-32

28 "If an ox gores a man or a woman to death, the ox shall surely be stoned and its flesh shall not be eaten; but the owner of the ox shall go unpunished. **29** "If, however, an ox was previously in the habit of goring and its owner has been warned, yet he does not confine it and it kills a man or a woman, the ox shall be stoned and its owner also shall be put to death. **30** "If a ransom is demanded of him, then he shall give for the redemption of his life whatever is demanded of him. **31** "Whether it gores a son or a daughter, it shall be done to him according to the same rule. **32** "If the ox gores a male or female slave, the owner shall give his *or her* master thirty shekels of silver, and the ox shall be stoned.

Loss of animals of another by carelessness

Ex. 21: 33-36

33 "If a man opens a pit, or digs a pit and does not cover it over, and an ox or a donkey falls into it, **34** the owner of the pit shall make restitution; he shall give money to its owner, and the dead *animal* shall become his.

35 "If one man's ox hurts another's so that it dies, then they shall sell the live ox and divide its price equally; and also they shall divide the dead ox. **36** "Or *if* it is known that the ox was previously in the habit of goring, yet its owner has not confined it, he shall surely pay ox for ox, and the dead *animal* shall become his.

The loss of borrowed property

Ex. 22: 14, 15

14 "If a man borrows *anything* from his neighbor, and it is injured or dies while its owner is not with it, he shall make full restitution. **15** "If its owner is with it, he shall not make restitution; if it is hired, it came for its hire.

Kidnapping and its penalty; stealing men for profit

Ex. 21: 16

16 "He who kidnaps a man, whether he sells him or he is found in his possession, shall surely be put to death.

Deut. 24: 7

7 "If a man is caught kidnapping any of his countrymen of the sons of Israel, and he deals with him violently or sells him, then that thief shall die; so you shall purge the evil from among you.

Slander and its penalty

Ex. 23: 1

1 "You shall not bear a false report; do not join your hand with a wicked man to be a malicious witness.

Lev. 19: 16

16 "You shall not go about as a slanderer among your people, and you are not to act against the life of your neighbor; I am the LORD.

Ps. 101: 5

5 Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, him I will destroy;
No one who has a haughty look and an arrogant heart will I endure.

Humane Laws

Benevolences and Philanthropies

Special provision for the poor

Ex. 23:11

11 but *on* the seventh year you shall let it rest and lie fallow, so that the needy of your people may eat; and whatever they leave the beast of the field may eat. You are to do the same with your vineyard *and* your olive grove.

Lev. 19: 9, 10

9 'Now when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. **10** 'Nor shall you glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather the fallen fruit of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the needy and for the stranger. I am the LORD your God

Deut. 15: 7, 11

7 "If there is a poor man with you, one of your brothers, in any of your towns in your land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart, nor close your hand from your poor brother;

11 "For the poor will never cease *to be* in the land; therefore I command you, saying, 'You shall freely open your hand to your brother, to your needy and poor in your land.'

Lev. 25: 35

35 'Now in case a countryman of yours becomes poor and his means with regard to you falter, then you are to sustain him, like a stranger or a sojourner, that he may live with you.

Retribution for those who oppress or neglect the poor

Deut. 24: 14, 15

14 "You shall not oppress a hired servant *who is* poor and needy, whether *he is* one of your countrymen or one of your aliens who is in your land in your towns. **15** "You shall give him his wages on his day before the sun sets, for he is poor and sets his heart on it; so that he will not cry against you to the LORD and it become sin in you.

Prov. 21: 13

13 He who shuts his ear to the cry of the poor
Will also cry himself and not be answered.

Prov. 28: 3

3 A poor man who oppresses the lowly
Is *like* a driving rain which leaves no food.

Rewards for those who aid the poor

Ps. 41: 1

1 How blessed is he who considers the helpless;
The LORD will deliver him in a day of trouble.

Prov. 14: 21

21 He who despises his neighbor sins,
But happy is he who is gracious to the poor.

Prov. 19: 17

17 One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the LORD,
And He will repay him for his good deed.

Kindness and aid to widows and orphans

Ex. 22: 22, 23

[22](#) “You shall not afflict any widow or orphan. [23](#) “If you afflict him at all, *and* if he does cry out to Me, I will surely hear his cry;

Deut. 27: 18

[18](#) ‘Cursed is he who misleads a blind *person* on the road.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’

Deut. 26: 12

[12](#) “When you have finished paying all the tithe of your increase in the third year, the year of tithing, then you shall give it to the Levite, to the stranger, to the orphan and to the widow, that they may eat in your towns and be satisfied.

Protection for the unfortunate and helpless

Lev. 19: 14

[14](#) ‘You shall not curse a deaf man, nor place a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall revere your God; I am the LORD.

Deut. 27: 18

[18](#) ‘Cursed is he who misleads a blind *person* on the road.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’

Justice and kindness toward servants

Deut. 24: 14, 15

[14](#) “You shall not oppress a hired servant *who is* poor and needy, whether *he is* one of your countrymen or one of your aliens who is in your land in your towns. [15](#) “You shall give him his wages on his day before the sun sets, for he is poor and sets his heart on it; so that he will not cry against you to the LORD and it become sin in you.

Job. 31: 13, 14

[13](#) “If I have despised the claim of my male or female slaves
When they filed a complaint against me,

[14](#) What then could I do when God arises?

And when He calls me to account, what will I answer Him?

Humane Treatment of Animals

Care and food for work animals

Deut. 25: 4

[4](#) “You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing.

Prov. 12: 10

[10](#) A righteous man has regard for the life of his animal,
But *even* the compassion of the wicked is cruel.

Sabbath rest for work animals

Ex. 23: 12

[12](#) “Six days you are to do your work, but on the seventh day you shall cease *from labor* so that your ox and your donkey may rest, and the son of your female slave, as well as your stranger, may refresh themselves.

Aid to be given to neighbor's animal in distress

Ex. 23: 4, 5

4 "If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey wandering away, you shall surely return it to him. **5** "If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying *helpless* under its load, you shall refrain from leaving it to him, you shall surely release *it* with him.

Deut. 22: 4

4 "You shall not see your countryman's donkey or his ox fallen down on the way, and pay no attention to them; you shall certainly help him to raise *them* up

Protection for wild birds

Deut. 22: 6, 7

6 "If you happen to come upon a bird's nest along the way, in any tree or on the ground, with young ones or eggs, and the mother sitting on the young or on the eggs, you shall not take the mother with the young; **7** you shall certainly let the mother go, but the young you may take for yourself, in order that it may be well with you and that you may prolong your days.

Laws Relating to Man's Duties to God

Jehovah alone to be worshiped; worship of other gods forbidden

Ex. 20: 1-3

1 Then God spoke all these words, saying,

2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

3 "You shall have no other gods before Me.

Deut. 5: 6, 7

6 'I am the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

7 'You shall have no other gods before Me.

Deut. 6: 14

14 "You shall not follow other gods, any of the gods of the peoples who surround you,

Deut. 26: 10

10 'Now behold, I have brought the first of the produce of the ground which You, O LORD have given me.' And you shall set it down before the LORD your God, and worship before the LORD your God;

The making and worshiping of graven images forbidden

Ex. 20: 4, 5

4 "You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. **5** "You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me,

Lev. 26: 1

1 'You shall not make for yourselves idols, nor shall you set up for yourselves an image or a *sacred* pillar, nor shall you place a figured stone in your land to bow down to it; for I am the LORD your God.

Deut. 4: 16

16 so that you do not act corruptly and make a graven image for yourselves in the form of any figure, the likeness of male or female,

Deut. 5: 8, 9

8 'You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. **9** 'You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, and on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me,

Reverence for the name of Jehovah required

Ex. 20: 7

7 "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.

Lev. 19: 12

12 'You shall not swear falsely by My name, so as to profane the name of your God; I am the LORD

Deut. 5: 11

11 'You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.

Blasphemy of God's name and its penalty

Lev. 24: 16

16 'Moreover, the one who blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death; all the congregation shall certainly stone him. The alien as well as the native, when he blasphemes the Name, shall be put to death.

Ps. 74: 10, 18

10 How long, O God, will the adversary revile,
And the enemy spurn Your name forever?

18 Remember this, O LORD, that the enemy has reviled,
And a foolish people has spurned Your name.

Sorcery and similar cults forbidden

Ex. 22: 18

18 "You shall not allow a sorceress to live.

Lev. 19: 26, 31

26 'You shall not eat *anything* with the blood, nor practice divination or soothsaying.

31 'Do not turn to mediums or spiritists; do not seek them out to be defiled by them. I am the LORD your God.

Lev. 20: 27

27 'Now a man or a woman who is a medium or a spiritist shall surely be put to death. They shall be stoned with stones, their bloodguiltiness is upon them.'"

Deut. 18: 10-12

10 "There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, one who uses divination, one who practices witchcraft, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, **11** or one who casts a spell, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. **12** "For whoever does these things is detestable to the LORD; and because of these detestable things the LORD your God will drive them out before you.

Ordinances of God to be faithfully obeyed and taught

Ex. 18: 20

20 then teach them the statutes and the laws, and make known to them the way in which they are to walk and the work they are to do.

Num. 9: 14

14 'If an alien sojourns among you and observes the Passover to the LORD, according to the statute of the Passover and according to its ordinance, so he shall do; you shall have one statute, both for the alien and for the native of the land.'

Deut. 4: 1, 5

1 "Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I am teaching you to perform, so that you may live and go in and take possession of the land which the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you.

5 "See, I have taught you statutes and judgments just as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should do thus in the land where you are entering to possess it.

Deut. 6: 1, 2, 6-9

1 "Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the judgments which the LORD your God has commanded *me* to teach you, that you might do *them* in the land where you are going over to possess it, **2** so that you and your son and your grandson might fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.

6 "These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. **7** "You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. **8** "You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. **9** "You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates

Sacred Obligations and Dues to God

Dedication and consecration to the Lord of the first born of both man and cattle

Ex. 13: 2, 12, 13

2 "Sanctify to Me every firstborn, the first offspring of every womb among the sons of Israel, both of man and beast; it belongs to Me."

12 you shall devote to the LORD the first offspring of every womb, and the first offspring of every beast that you own; the males belong to the LORD. **13** "But every first offspring of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, but if you do not redeem *it*, then you shall break its neck; and every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem.

Ex. 22: 29

29 "You shall not delay *the offering from* your harvest and your vintage. The firstborn of your sons you shall give to Me.

Ex. 34: 19, 20

19 "The first offspring from every womb belongs to Me, and all your male livestock, the first offspring from cattle and sheep. **20** "You shall redeem with a lamb the first offspring from a donkey; and if you do not redeem *it*, then you shall break its neck. You shall redeem all the firstborn of your sons. None shall appear before Me empty-handed.

Lev. 27: 26, 27

26 'However, a firstborn among animals, which as a firstborn belongs to the LORD, no man may consecrate it; whether ox or sheep, it is the LORD'S. **27** 'But if *it is* among the unclean animals, then he shall redeem it according to your valuation and add to it one-fifth of it; and if it is not redeemed, then it shall be sold according to your valuation.

Num. 8: 17

17 "For every firstborn among the sons of Israel is Mine, among the men and among the animals; on the day that I struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt I sanctified them for Myself.

Deut. 15: 19

19 "You shall consecrate to the LORD your God all the firstborn males that are born of your herd and of your flock; you shall not work with the firstborn of your herd, nor shear the firstborn of your flock.

Dedication and consecration of first fruits all increase

Ex. 22: 29

29 "You shall not delay *the offering from* your harvest and your vintage. The firstborn of your sons you shall give to Me.

Ex. 23: 19

19 "You shall bring the choice first fruits of your soil into the house of the LORD your God. "You are not to boil a young goat in the milk of its mother.

Ex. 34: 26

26 "You shall bring the very first of the first fruits of your soil into the house of the LORD your God.

"You shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk."

Deut. 26: 2, 10

2 that you shall take some of the first of all the produce of the ground which you bring in from your land that the LORD your God gives you, and you shall put *it* in a basket and go to the place where the LORD your God chooses to establish His name

10 'Now behold, I have brought the first of the produce of the ground which You, O LORD have given me.' And you shall set it down before the LORD your God, and worship before the LORD your God;

Payment of tithes unto the Lord

Gen. 14: 20

20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." He gave him a tenth of all.

Gen. 28: 22

22 "This stone, which I have set up as a pillar, will be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You."

Lev. 27: 30-33

30 'Thus all the tithe of the land, of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S; it is holy to the LORD. **31** 'If, therefore, a man wishes to redeem part of his tithe, he shall add to it one-fifth of it. **32** 'For every tenth part of herd or flock, whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the LORD. **33** 'He is not to be concerned whether *it is* good or bad, nor shall he exchange it; or if he does exchange it, then both it and its substitute shall become holy. It shall not be redeemed.'"

Num. 18: 21

21 “To the sons of Levi, behold, I have given all the tithe in Israel for an inheritance, in return for their service which they perform, the service of the tent of meeting.

The sanctuary tax

Ex. 30: 12-16

12 “When you take a census of the sons of Israel to number them, then each one of them shall give a ransom for himself to the LORD, when you number them, so that there will be no plague among them when you number them. **13** “This is what everyone who is numbered shall give: half a shekel according to the shekel of the sanctuary (the shekel is twenty gerahs), half a shekel as a contribution to the LORD. **14** “Everyone who is numbered, from twenty years old and over, shall give the contribution to the LORD. **15** “The rich shall not pay more and the poor shall not pay less than the half shekel, when you give the contribution to the LORD to make atonement for yourselves. **16** “You shall take the atonement money from the sons of Israel and shall give it for the service of the tent of meeting, that it may be a memorial for the sons of Israel before the LORD, to make atonement for yourselves.”

Freewill offerings

Lev. 22: 17-20

17 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, **18** “Speak to Aaron and to his sons and to all the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘Any man of the house of Israel or of the aliens in Israel who presents his offering, whether it is any of their votive or any of their freewill offerings, which they present to the LORD for a burnt offering— **19** for you to be accepted—*it must be* a male without defect from the cattle, the sheep, or the goats. **20** ‘Whatever has a defect, you shall not offer, for it will not be accepted for you.

Deut. 16: 10

10 “Then you shall celebrate the Feast of Weeks to the LORD your God with a tribute of a freewill offering of your hand, which you shall give just as the LORD your God blesses you;

Deut. 23: 23

23 “You shall be careful to perform what goes out from your lips, just as you have voluntarily vowed to the LORD your God, what you have promised.

Sacred Seasons, or Time Dedicated to the Lord

The holy Sabbath

Gen. 2: 3

3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

Ex. 16: 22-26

22 Now on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for each one. When all the leaders of the congregation came and told Moses, **23** then he said to them, “This is what the LORD meant: Tomorrow is a sabbath observance, a holy sabbath to the LORD. Bake what you will bake and boil what you will boil, and all that is left over put aside to be kept until morning.” **24** So they put it aside until morning, as Moses had ordered, and it did not become foul nor was there any worm in it. **25** Moses said, “Eat it today, for today is a sabbath to the LORD; today you will not find it in the field. **26** “Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, *the sabbath*, there will be none.”

Ex. 20: 8

8 “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Deut. 5: 12-15

12 ‘Observe the sabbath day to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you.

13 ‘Six days you shall labor and do all your work, **14** but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; *in it* you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female

servant or your ox or your donkey or any of your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you, so that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. **15** 'You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out of there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to observe the sabbath day.

Feast of the Passover

Ex. 12: 3-20

3 "Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying, 'On the tenth of this month they are each one to take a lamb for themselves, according to their fathers' households, a lamb for each household. **4** 'Now if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his neighbor nearest to his house are to take one according to the number of persons *in them*; according to what each man should eat, you are to divide the lamb. **5** 'Your lamb shall be an unblemished male a year old; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. **6** 'You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month, then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel is to kill it at twilight. **7** 'Moreover, they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. **8** 'They shall eat the flesh that *same* night, roasted with fire, and they shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. **9** 'Do not eat any of it raw or boiled at all with water, but rather roasted with fire, *both* its head and its legs along with its entrails. **10** 'And you shall not leave any of it over until morning, but whatever is left of it until morning, you shall burn with fire. **11** 'Now you shall eat it in this manner: *with* your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste—it is the LORD'S Passover. **12** 'For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments—I am the LORD. **13** 'The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy *you* when I strike the land of Egypt. **14** 'Now this day will be a memorial to you, and you shall celebrate it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations you are to celebrate it as a permanent ordinance. **15** 'Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, but on the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses; for whoever eats anything leavened from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. **16** 'On the first day you shall have a holy assembly, and *another* holy assembly on the seventh day; no work at all shall be done on them, except what must be eaten by every person, that alone may be prepared by you. **17** 'You shall also observe the *Feast of Unleavened Bread*, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt; therefore you shall observe this day throughout your generations as a permanent ordinance. **18** 'In the first *month*, on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty-first day of the month at evening. **19** 'Seven days there shall be no leaven found in your houses; for whoever eats what is leavened, that person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether *he is* an alien or a native of the land. **20** 'You shall not eat anything leavened; in all your dwellings you shall eat unleavened bread.'"

Deut. 16: 1-7

1 "Observe the month of Abib and celebrate the Passover to the LORD your God, for in the month of Abib the LORD your God brought you out of Egypt by night. **2** "You shall sacrifice the Passover to the LORD your God from the flock and the herd, in the place where the LORD chooses to establish His name. **3** "You shall not eat leavened bread with it; seven days you shall eat with it unleavened bread, the bread of affliction (for you came out of the land of Egypt in haste), so that you may remember all the days of your life the day when you came out of the land of Egypt. **4** "For seven days no leaven shall be seen with you in all your territory, and none of the flesh which you sacrifice on the evening of the first day shall remain overnight until morning. **5** "You are not allowed to sacrifice the Passover in any of your towns which the LORD your God is giving you; **6** but at the place where the LORD your God chooses to establish His name, you shall sacrifice the Passover in the evening at sunset, at the time that you came out of Egypt. **7** "You shall cook and eat *it* in the place which the LORD your God chooses. In the morning you are to return to your tents.

Feast of Weeks or Pentecost

Ex. 23: 16

16 "Also *you shall observe* the Feast of the Harvest of the first fruits of your labors *from*

what you sow in the field; also the Feast of the Ingathering at the end of the year when you gather in *the fruit* of your labors from the field.

Lev. 23: 16

16 'You shall count fifty days to the day after the seventh sabbath; then you shall present a new grain offering to the LORD.

Deut. 16: 9-11

9 "You shall count seven weeks for yourself; you shall begin to count seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the standing grain. **10** "Then you shall celebrate the Feast of Weeks to the LORD your God with a tribute of a freewill offering of your hand, which you shall give just as the LORD your God blesses you; **11** and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God, you and your son and your daughter and your male and female servants and the Levite who is in your town, and the stranger and the orphan and the widow who are in your midst, in the place where the LORD your God chooses to establish His name.

Feast of Trumpets

Lev. 23: 24

24 "Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, 'In the seventh month on the first of the month you shall have a rest, a reminder by blowing *of trumpets*, a holy convocation.

Num. 29: 1

1 'Now in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall also have a holy convocation; you shall do no laborious work. It will be to you a day for blowing trumpets.

Feast of Tabernacles

Lev. 23: 34, 39

34 "Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, 'On the fifteenth of this seventh month is the Feast of Booths for seven days to the LORD.

39 'On exactly the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the crops of the land, you shall celebrate the feast of the LORD for seven days, with a rest on the first day and a rest on the eighth day.

Deut. 16: 13-17

13 "You shall celebrate the Feast of Booths seven days after you have gathered in from your threshing floor and your wine vat; **14** and you shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son and your daughter and your male and female servants and the Levite and the stranger and the orphan and the widow who are in your towns. **15** "Seven days you shall celebrate a feast to the LORD your God in the place which the LORD chooses, because the LORD your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you will be altogether joyful. **16** "Three times in a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses, at the Feast of Unleavened Bread and at the Feast of Weeks and at the Feast of Booths, and they shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed. **17** "Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you.

Sabbatical year

Deut. 15: 1-3

1 "At the end of every seven years you shall grant a remission of *debts*. **2** "This is the manner of remission: every creditor shall release what he has loaned to his neighbor; he shall not exact it of his neighbor and his brother, because the LORD'S remission has been proclaimed. **3** "From a foreigner you may exact *it*, but your hand shall release whatever of yours is with your brother.

Day of atonement

Lev. 23: 26-32

26 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, **27** “On exactly the tenth day of this seventh month is the day of atonement; it shall be a holy convocation for you, and you shall humble your souls and present an offering by fire to the LORD. **28** “You shall not do any work on this same day, for it is a day of atonement, to make atonement on your behalf before the LORD your God. **29** “If there is any person who will not humble himself on this same day, he shall be cut off from his people. **30** “As for any person who does any work on this same day, that person I will destroy from among his people. **31** “You shall do no work at all. It is to be a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all your dwelling places. **32** “It is to be a sabbath of complete rest to you, and you shall humble your souls; on the ninth of the month at evening, from evening until evening you shall keep your sabbath.”

Legal Procedure in Israel

Under Jurisdictional Judges

Moses, the supreme judge

Ex. 18: 26

26 They judged the people at all times; the difficult dispute they would bring to Moses, but every minor dispute they themselves would judge.

Subordinate judges appointed

Ex. 18: 13-27

13 It came about the next day that Moses sat to judge the people, and the people stood about Moses from the morning until the evening. **14** Now when Moses' father-in-law saw all that he was doing for the people, he said, “What is this thing that you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit *as judge* and all the people stand about you from morning until evening?” **15** Moses said to his father-in-law, “Because the people come to me to inquire of God. **16** “When they have a dispute, it comes to me, and I judge between a man and his neighbor and make known the statutes of God and His laws.”

17 Moses' father-in-law said to him, “The thing that you are doing is not good. **18** “You will surely wear out, both yourself and these people who are with you, for the task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone. **19** “Now listen to me: I will give you counsel, and God be with you. You be the people's representative before God, and you bring the disputes to God, **20** then teach them the statutes and the laws, and make known to them the way in which they are to walk and the work they are to do.

21 “Furthermore, you shall select out of all the people able men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain; and you shall place *these* over them as leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens. **22** “Let them judge the people at all times; and let it be that every major dispute they will bring to you, but every minor dispute they themselves will judge. So it will be easier for you, and they will bear *the burden* with you. **23** “If you do this thing and God so commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all these people also will go to their place in peace.” **24** So Moses listened to his father-in-law and did all that he had said. **25** Moses chose able men out of all Israel and made them heads over the people, leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens. **26** They judged the people at all times; the difficult dispute they would bring to Moses, but every minor dispute they themselves would judge. **27** Then Moses bade his father-in-law farewell, and he went his way into his own land.

Deut. 16: 18

18 “You shall appoint for yourself judges and officers in all your towns which the LORD your God is giving you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with righteous judgment.

Priests as appeal judges

Deut. 17: 8-11

8 “If any case is too difficult for you to decide, between one kind of homicide or another,

between one kind of lawsuit or another, and between one kind of assault or another, being cases of dispute in your courts, then you shall arise and go up to the place which the LORD your God chooses. **9** “So you shall come to the Levitical priest or the judge who is *in office* in those days, and you shall inquire of *them* and they will declare to you the verdict in the case. **10** “You shall do according to the terms of the verdict which they declare to you from that place which the LORD chooses; and you shall be careful to observe according to all that they teach you. **11** “According to the terms of the law which they teach you, and according to the verdict which they tell you, you shall do; you shall not turn aside from the word which they declare to you, to the right or the left.

Deut. 19: 15-19

15 “A single witness shall not rise up against a man on account of any iniquity or any sin which he has committed; on the evidence of two or three witnesses a matter shall be confirmed. **16** “If a malicious witness rises up against a man to accuse him of wrongdoing, **17** then both the men who have the dispute shall stand before the LORD, before the priests and the judges who will be *in office* in those days. **18** “The judges shall investigate thoroughly, and if the witness is a false witness *and* he has accused his brother falsely, **19** then you shall do to him just as he had intended to do to his brother. Thus you shall purge the evil from among you.

Judges required to render righteous judgments

Ex. 23: 6-8

6 “You shall not pervert the justice *due* to your needy *brother* in his dispute. **7** “Keep far from a false charge, and do not kill the innocent or the righteous, for I will not acquit the guilty. **8** “You shall not take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the clear-sighted and subverts the cause of the just.

Deut. 16: 18-20

18 “You shall appoint for yourself judges and officers in all your towns which the LORD your God is giving you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with righteous judgment. **19** “You shall not distort justice; you shall not be partial, and you shall not take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and perverts the words of the righteous. **20** “Justice, *and only* justice, you shall pursue, that you may live and possess the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

Civil disputes and criminal offenses submitted to judges

Deut. 19: 16-19

16 “If a malicious witness rises up against a man to accuse him of wrongdoing, **17** then both the men who have the dispute shall stand before the LORD, before the priests and the judges who will be *in office* in those days. **18** “The judges shall investigate thoroughly, and if the witness is a false witness *and* he has accused his brother falsely, **19** then you shall do to him just as he had intended to do to his brother. Thus you shall purge the evil from among you.

Deut. 25: 1

1 “If there is a dispute between men and they go to court, and the judges decide their case, and they justify the righteous and condemn the wicked,

Jehovah’s aid to be sought in the punishment of crime

Num. 5: 12-31

12 “Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘If any man’s wife goes astray and is unfaithful to him, **13** and a man has intercourse with her and it is hidden from the eyes of her husband and she is undetected, although she has defiled herself, and there is no witness against her and she has not been caught in the act, **14** if a spirit of jealousy comes over him and he is jealous of his wife when she has defiled herself, or if a spirit of jealousy comes over him and he is jealous of his wife when she has not defiled herself, **15** the man shall then bring his wife to the priest, and shall bring as an offering for her one-tenth of an ephah of barley meal; he shall not pour oil on it nor put frankincense on it, for it is a grain offering of jealousy, a grain offering of memorial, a reminder of iniquity.

16 ‘Then the priest shall bring her near and have her stand before the LORD, **17** and the priest shall take holy water in an earthenware vessel; and he shall take some of the dust that is on the floor of the

tabernacle and put *it* into the water. **18** 'The priest shall then have the woman stand before the LORD and let *the hair* of the woman's head go loose, and place the grain offering of memorial in her hands, which is the grain offering of jealousy, and in the hand of the priest is to be the water of bitterness that brings a curse. **19** 'The priest shall have her take an oath and shall say to the woman, "If no man has lain with you and if you have not gone astray into uncleanness, *being* under *the authority* of your husband, be immune to this water of bitterness that brings a curse; **20** if you, however, have gone astray, *being* under *the authority* of your husband, and if you have defiled yourself and a man other than your husband has had intercourse with you" **21** (then the priest shall have the woman swear with the oath of the curse, and the priest shall say to the woman), "the LORD make you a curse and an oath among your people by the LORD'S making your thigh waste away and your abdomen swell; **22** and this water that brings a curse shall go into your stomach, and make your abdomen swell and your thigh waste away." And the woman shall say, "Amen. Amen."

23 'The priest shall then write these curses on a scroll, and he shall wash them off into the water of bitterness. **24** 'Then he shall make the woman drink the water of bitterness that brings a curse, so that the water which brings a curse will go into her and *cause* bitterness. **25** 'The priest shall take the grain offering of jealousy from the woman's hand, and he shall wave the grain offering before the LORD and bring it to the altar; **26** and the priest shall take a handful of the grain offering as its memorial offering and offer *it* up in smoke on the altar, and afterward he shall make the woman drink the water. **27** 'When he has made her drink the water, then it shall come about, if she has defiled herself and has been unfaithful to her husband, that the water which brings a curse will go into her and *cause* bitterness, and her abdomen will swell and her thigh will waste away, and the woman will become a curse among her people. **28** 'But if the woman has not defiled herself and is clean, she will then be free and conceive children. **29** 'This is the law of jealousy: when a wife, *being* under *the authority* of her husband, goes astray and defiles herself, **30** or when a spirit of jealousy comes over a man and he is jealous of his wife, he shall then make the woman stand before the LORD, and the priest shall apply all this law to her. **31** 'Moreover, the man will be free from guilt, but that woman shall bear her guilt.'"

Deut. 21: 1-9

1 "If a slain person is found lying in the open country in the land which the LORD your God gives you to possess, *and* it is not known who has struck him, **2** then your elders and your judges shall go out and measure *the distance* to the cities which are around the slain one. **3** "It shall be that the city which is nearest to the slain man, that is, the elders of that city, shall take a heifer of the herd, which has not been worked and which has not pulled in a yoke; **4** and the elders of that city shall bring the heifer down to a valley with running water, which has not been plowed or sown, and shall break the heifer's neck there in the valley. **5** "Then the priests, the sons of Levi, shall come near, for the LORD your God has chosen them to serve Him and to bless in the name of the LORD; and every dispute and every assault shall be settled by them. **6** "All the elders of that city which is nearest to the slain man shall wash their hands over the heifer whose neck was broken in the valley; **7** and they shall answer and say, 'Our hands did not shed this blood, nor did our eyes see *it*. **8** 'Forgive Your people Israel whom You have redeemed, O LORD, and do not place the guilt of innocent blood in the midst of Your people Israel.' And the bloodguiltiness shall be forgiven them. **9** "So you shall remove the guilt of innocent blood from your midst, when you do what is right in the eyes of the LORD.

Righteous judgment to be accepted as from Jehovah

Deut. 1: 17

17 'You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall hear the small and the great alike. You shall not fear man, for the judgment is God's. The case that is too hard for you, you shall bring to me, and I will hear it.'

2 Chr. 19: 6

6 He said to the judges, "Consider what you are doing, for you do not judge for man but for the LORD who is with you when you render judgment.

Two or more witnesses required in criminal prosecution

Num. 35: 30

30 'If anyone kills a person, the murderer shall be put to death at the evidence of witnesses, but no person shall be put to death on the testimony of one witness.

Deut. 17: 6

6 "On the evidence of two witnesses or three witnesses, he who is to die shall be put to death; he shall not be put to death on the evidence of one witness.

Deut. 19: 15

15 "A single witness shall not rise up against a man on account of any iniquity or any sin which he has committed; on the evidence of two or three witnesses a matter shall be confirmed.

Difficult cases to be carried to a supreme court

Deut. 17: 8, 9

8 "If any case is too difficult for you to decide, between one kind of homicide or another, between one kind of lawsuit or another, and between one kind of assault or another, being cases of dispute in your courts, then you shall arise and go up to the place which the LORD your God chooses.

9 "So you shall come to the Levitical priest or the judge who is *in office* in those days, and you shall inquire *of them* and they will declare to you the verdict in the case.

2 Chr. 19: 8-10

8 In Jerusalem also Jehoshaphat appointed some of the Levites and priests, and some of the heads of the fathers' *households* of Israel, for the judgment of the LORD and to judge disputes among the inhabitants of Jerusalem. **9** Then he charged them saying, "Thus you shall do in the fear of the LORD, faithfully and wholeheartedly. **10** "Whenever any dispute comes to you from your brethren who live in their cities, between blood and blood, between law and commandment, statutes and ordinances, you shall warn them so that they may not be guilty before the LORD, and wrath may *not* come on you and your brethren. Thus you shall do and you will not be guilty.

Sentence to be faithfully executed

Deut. 17: 10, 11

10 "You shall do according to the terms of the verdict which they declare to you from that place which the LORD chooses; and you shall be careful to observe according to all that they teach you.

11 "According to the terms of the law which they teach you, and according to the verdict which they tell you, you shall do; you shall not turn aside from the word which they declare to you, to the right or the left.

Deut. 25: 1-3

1 "If there is a dispute between men and they go to court, and the judges decide their case, and they justify the righteous and condemn the wicked, **2** then it shall be if the wicked man deserves to be beaten, the judge shall then make him lie down and be beaten in his presence with the number of stripes according to his guilt. **3** "He may beat him forty times *but* no more, so that he does not beat him with many more stripes than these and your brother is not degraded in your eyes.

Protection for Men Accused of Murder

Cities of refuge appointed

Num. 35: 6-15

6 "The cities which you shall give to the Levites *shall be* the six cities of refuge, which you shall give for the manslayer to flee to; and in addition to them you shall give forty-two cities. **7** "All the cities which you shall give to the Levites *shall be* forty-eight cities, together with their pasture lands. **8** "As for the cities which you shall give from the possession of the sons of Israel, you shall take more from the larger and you shall take less from the smaller; each shall give some of his cities to the Levites in proportion to his possession which he inherits."

9 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, **10** "Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, 'When you cross the Jordan into the land of Canaan, **11** then you shall select for yourselves cities to be your cities of refuge, that the manslayer who has killed any person unintentionally may flee there. **12** 'The cities shall

be to you as a refuge from the avenger, so that the manslayer will not die until he stands before the congregation for trial. [13](#) 'The cities which you are to give shall be your six cities of refuge. [14](#) 'You shall give three cities across the Jordan and three cities in the land of Canaan; they are to be cities of refuge. [15](#) 'These six cities shall be for refuge for the sons of Israel, and for the alien and for the sojourner among them; that anyone who kills a person unintentionally may flee there.

Protection until trial given

Num. 35: 12

[12](#) 'The cities shall be to you as a refuge from the avenger, so that the manslayer will not die until he stands before the congregation for trial.

Continual protection for unintentional manslayer

Josh. 20: 4-6

[4](#) 'He shall flee to one of these cities, and shall stand at the entrance of the gate of the city and state his case in the hearing of the elders of that city; and they shall take him into the city to them and give him a place, so that he may dwell among them. [5](#) 'Now if the avenger of blood pursues him, then they shall not deliver the manslayer into his hand, because he struck his neighbor without premeditation and did not hate him beforehand. [6](#) 'He shall dwell in that city until he stands before the congregation for judgment, until the death of the one who is high priest in those days. Then the manslayer shall return to his own city and to his own house, to the city from which he fled.'"

A proven murderer not protected

Num. 35: 31, 32

[31](#) 'Moreover, you shall not take ransom for the life of a murderer who is guilty of death, but he shall surely be put to death. [32](#) 'You shall not take ransom for him who has fled to his city of refuge, that he may return to live in the land before the death of the priest.

Methods of Punishment for Criminal Offenses

Capital Punishment for Certain Crimes

By burning

Gen. 38: 24

[24](#) Now it was about three months later that Judah was informed, "Your daughter-in-law Tamar has played the harlot, and behold, she is also with child by harlotry." Then Judah said, "Bring her out and let her be burned!"

Lev. 20: 14

[14](#) 'If *there is* a man who marries a woman and her mother, it is immorality; both he and they shall be burned with fire, so that there will be no immorality in your midst.

Lev. 21: 9

[9](#) 'Also the daughter of any priest, if she profanes herself by harlotry, she profanes her father; she shall be burned with fire.

By hanging

Gen. 40: 22

[22](#) but he hanged the chief baker, just as Joseph had interpreted to them.

Deut. 21: 22, 23

[22](#) "If a man has committed a sin worthy of death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, [23](#) his corpse shall not hang all night on the tree, but you shall surely bury him on the same day (for he who is hanged is accursed of God), so that you do not defile your land which the LORD your God gives you as an inheritance.

Josh. 8: 29

29 He hanged the king of Ai on a tree until evening; and at sunset Joshua gave command and they took his body down from the tree and threw it at the entrance of the city gate, and raised over it a great heap of stones *that stands* to this day.

By stoning

Lev. 20: 2

2 “You shall also say to the sons of Israel:

‘Any man from the sons of Israel or from the aliens sojourning in Israel who gives any of his offspring to Molech, shall surely be put to death; the people of the land shall stone him with stones.

Lev. 24: 14, 16

14 “Bring the one who has cursed outside the camp, and let all who heard him lay their hands on his head; then let all the congregation stone him. **15** “You shall speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘If anyone curses his God, then he will bear his sin. **16** ‘Moreover, the one who blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death; all the congregation shall certainly stone him. The alien as well as the native, when he blasphemes the Name, shall be put to death.

Deut. 13: 6-10

6 “If your brother, your mother’s son, or your son or daughter, or the wife you cherish, or your friend who is as your own soul, entice you secretly, saying, ‘Let us go and serve other gods’ (whom neither you nor your fathers have known, **7** of the gods of the peoples who are around you, near you or far from you, from one end of the earth to the other end), **8** you shall not yield to him or listen to him; and your eye shall not pity him, nor shall you spare or conceal him. **9** “But you shall surely kill him; your hand shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of all the people. **10** “So you shall stone him to death because he has sought to seduce you from the LORD your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

Deut. 17: 2-5

2 “If there is found in your midst, in any of your towns, which the LORD your God is giving you, a man or a woman who does what is evil in the sight of the LORD your God, by transgressing His covenant, **3** and has gone and served other gods and worshiped them, or the sun or the moon or any of the heavenly host, which I have not commanded, **4** and if it is told you and you have heard of it, then you shall inquire thoroughly. Behold, if it is true and the thing certain that this detestable thing has been done in Israel, **5** then you shall bring out that man or that woman who has done this evil deed to your gates, *that is*, the man or the woman, and you shall stone them to death.

Deut. 22: 23, 24

23 “If there is a girl who is a virgin engaged to a man, and *another* man finds her in the city and lies with her, **24** then you shall bring them both out to the gate of that city and you shall stone them to death; the girl, because she did not cry out in the city, and the man, because he has violated his neighbor’s wife. Thus you shall purge the evil from among you.

Infliction of Physical Pain for Certain Crimes

By beatings or scourging

Deut. 25: 2, 3

2 then it shall be if the wicked man deserves to be beaten, the judge shall then make him lie down and be beaten in his presence with the number of stripes according to his guilt. **3** “He may beat him forty times *but* no more, so that he does not beat him with many more stripes than these and your brother is not degraded in your eyes

By mutilation

Deut. 25: 11, 12

[11](#) "If *two* men, a man and his countryman, are struggling together, and the wife of one comes near to deliver her husband from the hand of the one who is striking him, and puts out her hand and seizes his genitals, [12](#) then you shall cut off her hand; you shall not show pity.

Jdgs. 1: 6

[6](#) But Adoni-bezek fled; and they pursued him and caught him and cut off his thumbs and big toes.

Jdgs. 16: 21

[21](#) Then the Philistines seized him and gouged out his eyes; and they brought him down to Gaza and bound him with bronze chains, and he was a grinder in the prison.

By infliction in kind

Ex. 21: 22-25

[22](#) "If men struggle with each other and strike a woman with child so that she gives birth prematurely, yet there is no injury, he shall surely be fined as the woman's husband may demand of him, and he shall pay as the judges *decide*. [23](#) "But if there is *any further* injury, then you shall appoint as a *penalty* life for life, [24](#) eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, [25](#) burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise.

Lev. 24: 19, 20

[19](#) 'If a man injures his neighbor, just as he has done, so it shall be done to him: [20](#) fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth; just as he has injured a man, so it shall be inflicted on him.

Deut. 19: 21

[21](#) "Thus you shall not show pity: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

Punishment for Religious and Civil Crimes

Excommunication for certain religious crimes

Ex. 12: 15

[15](#) 'Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, but on the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses; for whoever eats anything leavened from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel.

Ex. 30: 33

[33](#) 'Whoever shall mix *any* like it or whoever puts any of it on a layman shall be cut off from his people."

Lev. 17: 8, 9

[8](#) "Then you shall say to them, 'Any man from the house of Israel, or from the aliens who sojourn among them, who offers a burnt offering or sacrifice, [9](#) and does not bring it to the doorway of the tent of meeting to offer it to the LORD, that man also shall be cut off from his people.

Lev. 23: 29

[29](#) "If there is any person who will not humble himself on this same day, he shall be cut off from his people.

By compensation for damages

Ex. 21: 19, 32-36

[19](#) if he gets up and walks around outside on his staff, then he who struck him shall go unpunished; he shall only pay for his loss of time, and shall take care of him until he is completely healed.

32 “If the ox gores a male or female slave, the owner shall give his *or her* master thirty shekels of silver, and the ox shall be stoned.

33 “If a man opens a pit, or digs a pit and does not cover it over, and an ox or a donkey falls into it, **34** the owner of the pit shall make restitution; he shall give money to its owner, and the dead *animal* shall become his.

35 “If one man’s ox hurts another’s so that it dies, then they shall sell the live ox and divide its price equally; and also they shall divide the dead *ox*. **36** “Or *if* it is known that the ox was previously in the habit of goring, yet its owner has not confined it, he shall surely pay ox for ox, and the dead *animal* shall become his.

Lev. 24: 18-21

18 ‘The one who takes the life of an animal shall make it good, life for life. **19** ‘If a man injures his neighbor, just as he has done, so it shall be done to him: **20** fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth; just as he has injured a man, so it shall be inflicted on him. **21** ‘Thus the one who kills an animal shall make it good, but the one who kills a man shall be put to death

By restitution for stolen or borrowed property

Ex. 22: 12, 14, 15

12 “But if it is actually stolen from him, he shall make restitution to its owner.

14 “If a man borrows *anything* from his neighbor, and it is injured or dies while its owner is not with it, he shall make full restitution. **15** “If its owner is with it, he shall not make restitution; if it is hired, it came for its hire.

Lev. 6: 2-5

2 “When a person sins and acts unfaithfully against the LORD, and deceives his companion in regard to a deposit or a security entrusted *to him*, or through robbery, or *if* he has extorted from his companion, **3** or has found what was lost and lied about it and sworn falsely, so that he sins in regard to any one of the things a man may do; **4** then it shall be, when he sins and becomes guilty, that he shall restore what he took by robbery or what he got by extortion, or the deposit which was entrusted to him or the lost thing which he found, **5** or anything about which he swore falsely; he shall make restitution for it in full and add to it one-fifth more. He shall give it to the one to whom it belongs on the day *he presents* his guilt offering.

By servitude and hard labor

Josh. 9: 27

27 But Joshua made them that day hewers of wood and drawers of water for the congregation and for the altar of the LORD, to this day, in the place which He would choose.

Jdgs. 16: 21

21 Then the Philistines seized him and gouged out his eyes; and they brought him down to Gaza and bound him with bronze chains, and he was a grinder in the prison.

Payment of Damages Exacted

For theft of property

Ex. 22: 4, 5

4 “If what he stole is actually found alive in his possession, whether an ox or a donkey or a sheep, he shall pay double. **5** “If a man lets a field or vineyard be grazed *bare* and lets his animal loose so that it grazes in another man’s field, he shall make restitution from the best of his own field and the best of his own vineyard.

For loss by fire caused by carelessness

Ex. 22: 6

6 “If a fire breaks out and spreads to thorn bushes, so that stacked grain or the standing grain or the field *itself* is consumed, he who started the fire shall surely make restitution.

For breach of trust

Lev. 6: 1-5

1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, **2** “When a person sins and acts unfaithfully against the LORD, and deceives his companion in regard to a deposit or a security entrusted *to him*, or through robbery, or *if* he has extorted from his companion, **3** or has found what was lost and lied about it and sworn falsely, so that he sins in regard to any one of the things a man may do; **4** then it shall be, when he sins and becomes guilty, that he shall restore what he took by robbery or what he got by extortion, or the deposit which was entrusted to him or the lost thing which he found, **5** or anything about which he swore falsely; he shall make restitution for it in full and add to it one-fifth more. He shall give it to the one to whom it belongs on the day *he presents* his guilt offering.

For killing another’s animal

Ex. 21: 35, 36

35 “If one man’s ox hurts another’s so that it dies, then they shall sell the live ox and divide its price equally; and also they shall divide the dead ox. **36** “Or *if* it is known that the ox was previously in the habit of goring, yet its owner has not confined it, he shall surely pay ox for ox, and the dead *animal* shall become his.

Lev. 24: 18-21

18 ‘The one who takes the life of an animal shall make it good, life for life. **19** ‘If a man injures his neighbor, just as he has done, so it shall be done to him: **20** fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth; just as he has injured a man, so it shall be inflicted on him. **21** ‘Thus the one who kills an animal shall make it good, but the one who kills a man shall be put to death.

For loss of animal caused by carelessness of neighbor

Ex. 21: 33, 34

33 “If a man opens a pit, or digs a pit and does not cover it over, and an ox or a donkey falls into it, **34** the owner of the pit shall make restitution; he shall give money to its owner, and the dead *animal* shall become his.

For maiming a person

Lev. 24: 10, 19, 20

10 Now the son of an Israelite woman, whose father was an Egyptian, went out among the sons of Israel; and the Israelite woman’s son and a man of Israel struggled with each other in the camp.

19 ‘If a man injures his neighbor, just as he has done, so it shall be done to him: **20** fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth; just as he has injured a man, so it shall be inflicted on him.