

Exodus 20:22-23:33

“The Book of the Covenant” called this in Ex. 24:7

and also called “all Yahweh’s words and all the judgments(mishpatim)” in Ex. 24:3

<p>Exodus 20:22-26 General Form of Divine Worship</p> <p>²²Then the Lord said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: ‘You have seen that I have talked with you from heaven.</p> <p>²³‘You shall not make <i>anything to be</i> with Me—gods of silver or gods of gold you shall not make for yourselves.</p> <p>²⁴‘An altar of earth you shall make for Me, and you shall sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen.</p> <p>In every place where I record My name I will come to you, and I will bless you.</p> <p>²⁵‘And if you make Me an altar of stone, you shall not build it of hewn stone; for if you use your tool on it, you have profaned it.</p> <p>²⁶‘Nor shall you go up by steps to My altar, that your nakedness may not be exposed on it.’</p>	<p>Exodus 19:5-6</p> <p>⁵‘Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. ⁶‘And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These <i>are</i> the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”</p>
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Casuistic - Moral law applied to specific situations, often written as conditional statements that begin with "if" and end with "then"

Exodus 21:1-22:17, 22-25, 23:4-5

Apodictic - Moral law that is universal, often written as “you shall/shall not...”

Exodus 20:3-17, Exodus 20:22-26, and **Exodus 22:18-23:19**

Exodus 21:1-11 **The Personal Rights of Dependents and Slaves**

¹“Now these *are* the judgments (הַמִּשְׁפָּטִים) which you shall set (תָּשִׂים) before them:

²“If you buy a Hebrew servant, he shall serve six years; and in the seventh he shall go out free and pay nothing.

³“If he comes in by himself, he shall go out by himself; if he comes in married, then his wife shall go out with him.

⁴“If his master has given him a wife, and she has borne him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master’s, and he shall go out by himself. ⁵“But if the servant plainly says, ‘I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,’ ⁶“then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.

⁷“And if a man sells his daughter to be a female slave, she shall not go out as the male slaves do.

⁸“If she does not please her master, who has betrothed her to himself, then he shall let her be redeemed. He shall have no right to sell her to a foreign people, since he has dealt deceitfully with her. ⁹“And if he has betrothed her to his son, he shall deal with her according to the custom of daughters. ¹⁰“If he takes another wife, he shall not diminish her food, her clothing, and her marriage rights. ¹¹“And if he does not do these three for her, then she shall go out free, without paying money.

Exodus 21:12-35 **The Right of Existence deserving death**

¹²“He who strikes a man so that he dies shall surely be put to death. ¹³“However, if he did not lie in wait, but God delivered him into his hand, then I will appoint for you a place where he may flee.

¹⁴“But if a man acts with premeditation against his neighbor, to kill him by treachery, you shall take him from My altar, that he may die.

¹⁵“And he who strikes his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.

¹⁶“He who kidnaps a man and sells him, or if he is found in his hand, shall surely be put to death.

¹⁷“And he who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.

Physical Harm-deserving less than death

¹⁸“If men contend with each other, and one strikes the other with a stone or with his fist, and he does not die but is confined to his bed, ¹⁹“if he rises again and walks about outside with his staff, then he who struck him shall be acquitted. He shall only pay for the loss of his time, and shall provide for him to be thoroughly healed.

²⁰“And if a man beats his male or female servant with a rod, so that he dies under his hand, he shall surely be punished. ²¹“Notwithstanding, if he remains alive a day or two, he shall not be punished; for he is his property.

²²“If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely, yet no harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly as the woman’s husband imposes on him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. ²³“But if any harm follows, then you shall give life for life, ²⁴“eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, ²⁵“burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe. ²⁶“If a man strikes the eye of his male or female servant, and destroys it, he shall let him go free for the sake of his eye. ²⁷“And if he knocks out the tooth of his male or female servant, he shall let him go free for the sake of his tooth.

²⁸“If an ox gores a man or a woman to death, then the ox shall surely be stoned, and its flesh shall not be eaten; but the owner of the ox *shall be acquitted*. ²⁹“But if the ox tended to thrust with its horn in times past, and it has been made known to his owner, and he has not kept it confined, so that it has killed a man or a woman, the ox shall be stoned and its owner also shall be put to death. ³⁰“If there is imposed on him a sum of money, then he shall pay to redeem his life, whatever is imposed on him. ³¹“Whether it has gored a son or gored a daughter, according to this judgment it shall be done to him. ³²“If the ox gores a male or female servant, he shall give to their master thirty shekels of silver, and the ox shall be stoned.
³³“And if a man opens a pit, or if a man digs a pit and does not cover it, and an ox or a donkey falls in it, ³⁴“the owner of the pit shall make *it* good; he shall give money to their owner, but the dead *animal* shall be his.
³⁵“If one man’s ox hurts another’s, so that it dies, then they shall sell the live ox and divide the money from it; and the dead *ox* they shall also divide. ³⁶“Or if it was known that the ox tended to thrust in time past, and its owner has not kept it confined, he shall surely pay ox for ox, and the dead animal shall be his own.

Exodus 22:1-15 **The Right of Property and Loss through theft, negligence, etc**

¹“If a man steals an ox or a sheep, and slaughters it or sells it, he shall restore five oxen for an ox and four sheep for a sheep. ²“If the thief is found breaking in, and he is struck so that he dies, *there shall be* no guilt for his bloodshed. ³“If the sun has risen on him, *there shall be* guilt for his bloodshed. He should make full restitution; if he has nothing, then he shall be sold for his theft. ⁴“If the theft is certainly found alive in his hand, whether it is an ox or donkey or sheep, he shall restore double.
⁵“If a man causes a field or vineyard to be grazed, and lets loose his animal, and it feeds 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 fire breaks out and catches in thorns, so that stacked grain, standing grain, or the field is consumed, he who kindled the fire shall surely make restitution.
⁷“If a man delivers to his neighbor money or articles to keep, and it is stolen out of the man’s house, if the thief is found, he shall pay double. ⁸“If the thief is not found, then the master of the house shall be brought to the judges *to see* whether he has put his hand into his neighbor’s goods.
⁹“**For any kind of trespass**, *whether it concerns* an ox, a donkey, a sheep, or clothing, or for any kind of lost thing which *another* claims to be his, the cause of both parties shall come before the judges; and whomever the judges condemn shall pay double to his neighbor. ¹⁰“If a man delivers to his neighbor a donkey, an ox, a sheep, or any animal to keep, and it dies, is hurt, or driven away, no one seeing it, ¹¹“*then* an oath of the Lord shall be between them both, that he has not put his hand into his neighbor’s goods; and the owner of it shall accept *that*, and he shall not make *it* good. ¹²“But if, in fact, it is stolen from him, he shall make restitution to the owner of it. ¹³“If it is torn to pieces *by a beast*, then he shall bring it as evidence, and he shall not make good what was torn.
¹⁴“And if a man borrows *anything* from his neighbor, and it becomes injured or dies, the owner of it not *being* with it, he shall surely make *it* good. ¹⁵“If its owner *was* with it, he shall not make *it* good; if it *was* hired, it came for its hire.

¹⁶“If a man entices a virgin who is not betrothed, and lies with her, he shall surely pay the bride-price for her *to be* his wife. ¹⁷“If her father utterly refuses to give her to him, he shall pay money according to the bride-price of virgins.

Exodus 22:17-31 [The Laws Demanded of Israel](#)

Death Penalty

¹⁸“You shall not permit a sorceress to live.

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

²⁰“He who sacrifices to *any* god, except to the Lord only, he shall be utterly destroyed.

Defenseless/Disadvantaged

²¹“You shall neither mistreat a stranger nor oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

²²“You shall not afflict any widow or fatherless child. ²³“If you afflict them in any way, *and* they cry at all to Me, I will surely hear their cry; ²⁴“and My wrath will become hot, and I will kill you with the sword; your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless.

²⁵“If you lend money to *any of* My people *who are* poor among you, you shall not be like a moneylender to him; you shall not charge him interest. ²⁶“If you ever take your neighbor’s garment as a pledge, you shall return it to him before the sun goes down. ²⁷“For that *is* his only covering, it *is* his garment for his skin. What will he sleep in? And it will be that when he cries to Me, I will hear, for I *am* gracious.

Disrespect

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

²⁹“You shall not delay *to offer* the first of your ripe produce and your juices. The firstborn of your sons you shall give to Me. ³⁰“Likewise you shall do with your oxen *and* your sheep. It shall be with its mother seven days; on the eighth day you shall give it to Me.

³¹“And you shall be holy men to Me: you shall not eat meat torn *by beasts* in the field; you shall throw it to the dogs.

Exodus 23:1-9 [False Testimony and Oppression](#)

¹“You shall not circulate a false report. Do not put your hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness.

²“You shall not follow a crowd to do evil; nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after many to pervert *justice*.

³“You shall not show partiality to a poor man in his dispute.

⁴“If you meet your enemy’s ox or his donkey going astray, you shall surely bring it back to him again.

⁵“If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying under its burden, and you would refrain from helping it, you shall surely help him with it.

⁶“You shall not pervert the judgment of your poor in his dispute.

⁷“Keep yourself far from a false matter; do not kill the innocent and righteous. For I will not justify the wicked.

⁸“And you shall take no bribe, for a bribe blinds the discerning and perverts the words of the righteous.

⁹“Also you shall not oppress a stranger, for you know the heart of a stranger, because you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

Exodus 23:10-13 **Sabbath Year and Day**

¹⁰“Six years **you shall** sow your land and gather in its produce, ¹¹“but the seventh year **you shall** let it rest and lie fallow, that the poor of your people may eat; and what they leave, the beasts of the field may eat.

In like manner **you shall** do with your vineyard *and* your olive grove.

¹²“Six days **you shall** do your work, and on the seventh day **you shall** rest, that your ox and your donkey may rest, and the son of your female servant and the stranger may be refreshed.

¹³“And in all that I have said to you, be circumspect and make no mention of the name of other gods, nor let it be heard from your mouth.

Exodus 23:14-19 **The Three Feasts**

¹⁴“Three times **you shall** keep a feast to Me in the year:

¹⁵“**You shall** keep **the Feast of Unleavened Bread** (**you shall** eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded you, at the time appointed in the month of Abib, for in it you came out of Egypt; none shall appear before Me empty);

¹⁶“and **the Feast of Harvest**, the firstfruits of your labors which you have sown in the field; and **the Feast of Ingathering** at the end of the year, when you have gathered in *the fruit of* your labors from the field.

¹⁷“Three times in the year all your males shall appear before the Lord God.

¹⁸“**You shall** not offer the blood of My sacrifice with leavened bread; nor shall the fat of My sacrifice remain until morning.

¹⁹“The first of the firstfruits of your land **you shall** bring into the house of the Lord your God. **You shall** not boil a young goat in its mother’s milk.

Exodus 23:20-33 **The Promises of Yahweh**

²⁰“Behold, I send **an Angel before you** to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared.

²¹“Beware of Him and **obey His voice**; do not provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions; for **My name is in Him**.

Genesis 16, 22, 24, 31, 48

Exodus 3:2, 4, “And **the Angel of the Lord** appeared to him in a flame of fire **from the midst of a bush**. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush *was* not consumed....

⁴So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, **God called to him from the midst of the bush** and said, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.”

Promises:

1. Keep you in the way
2. Bring you to Promised Land

<p>²²“But if you indeed obey His voice and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries. ²³“For My Angel will go before you and bring you in to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites and the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will cut them off.</p>	<p>3. Bless those who bless you, curse those who curse you.</p>
<p>²⁴“You shall not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do according to their works; but you shall utterly overthrow them and completely break down their <i>sacred</i> pillars. ²⁵“So you shall serve the Lord your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you. ²⁶“No one shall suffer miscarriage or be barren in your land; I will fulfill the number of your days.</p>	<p>Civil and Religious Together</p> <p>4. Food 5. Health/Sickness 6. Children</p>
<p>²⁷“I will send My fear before you, I will cause confusion among all the people to whom you come, and will make all your enemies turn <i>their</i> backs to you. ²⁸“And I will send hornets before you, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite from before you. ²⁹“I will not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become desolate and the beast of the field become too numerous for you. ³⁰“Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have increased, and you inherit the land.</p>	<p>Send Fear on Enemies Drive them out of the Promised Land</p>
<p>³¹“And I will set your bounds from the Red Sea to the sea, Philistia, and from the desert to the River. For I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you shall drive them out before you. ³²“You shall make no covenant with them, nor with their gods. ³³“They shall not dwell in your land, lest they make you sin against Me. For <i>if</i> you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you.”</p>	<p><u>Boundaries of Promised Land</u> East: Southern desert Midbar West: Mediterranean North: River Euphrates South: Border of Egypt and Red Sea</p>