
The Law of Moses¹

Introduction

The Law of Moses is divided into three parts, or codes, as follows.

Code I, **The Commandments, Exodus 20:1-17**, contains the laws of divine institution and establishment, including the moral law. This is the Magna Carta or Bill of Rights of human freedom.

Exodus 20.1-17

1 And 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 bondage.

3 "You shall have no other gods before Me.

4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;

5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy 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 hold him guiltless 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 the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates.

11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving 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, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."

Code II, **The Ordinances**, or the spiritual code, included a complete Christology also called the doctrine of Christ, and was designed to present Christ as the only savior. Included in the ordinances is a shadow Christology and a shadow soteriology also called the doctrine of salvation. These ideas

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are presented in the descriptions of the tabernacle, the holy days, the Levitical offerings and the daily activity of the priesthood.

Code III, **The Judgments**, was the social code. The divine laws of establishment applied to social living. Questions of diet, sanitation, quarantine, soil conservation, taxation, military service, how to spend a honeymoon, what to do about divorce, slavery, inheritances, etc., were all covered. It was a complete set of laws.

The Law of Moses is called the book of the covenant:

Exodus 24:7,8

Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the Lord has said we will do, and be obedient."

8 And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, "This is the blood of the covenant which the Lord has made with you according to all these words."

Exodus 34:27,28

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Write these words, for according to the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel."

28 So he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And He wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.

Deuteronomy 4:13

So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, the Ten Commandments; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone.

Deuteronomy 9:9,11,15

9 When I went up into the mountain to receive the tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant which the Lord made with you, then I stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights. I neither ate bread nor drank water.

11 And it came to pass, at the end of forty days and forty nights, that the Lord gave me the two tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant.

15 "So I turned and came down from the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire; and the two tablets of the covenant were in my two hands.

There is a written addendum to the Law in **Deuteronomy 29**.

The prophecy regarding the breaking of the covenant is found in

Deuteronomy 31:16,20

16 And the Lord said to Moses: "Behold, you will rest with your fathers; and this people will rise and play the harlot with the gods of the foreigners of the land, where they go to be among them, and they will forsake Me and break My covenant which I have made with them.

20 When I have brought them to the land flowing with milk and honey, of which I swore to their fathers, and they have eaten and filled themselves and grown fat, then they will turn to other gods and serve them; and they will provoke Me and break My covenant.

Jeremiah 22:9

Then they will answer, 'Because they have forsaken the covenant of the Lord their God, and worshiped other gods and served them.' "

The book of the covenant is the subject of Jeremiah 11; but it is not to be confused with the new covenant with Israel discussed in **Jeremiah 31 to 33**.

In the teaching of world history in universities, Hammurabi's code is set forth as the shining example of law giving in human history. The Law of Moses is far more comprehensive and far reaching.

Recipients of the Law of Moses

The Law was given to Israel.

Exodus 19:3

And 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 children of Israel:

Leviticus 26:46

These are the statutes and judgments and laws which the Lord made between Himself and the children of Israel on Mount Sinai by the hand of Moses.

Romans 3:19

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

Romans 9:4

who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises;

The Law was specifically not given to Gentiles.

Deuteronomy 4:8

And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day?

Romans 2:12-14

12 For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law

13 (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified;

14 for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves,

Born again believers of the church age are not under the Law. Therefore, the Mosaic Law was never given to the church.

Acts 15:5,24

5 But some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up, saying, "It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses."

24 Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, "You must be circumcised and keep the law"—to whom we gave no such commandment—

Romans 6:14

For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Galatians 2:19

For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God.

Jesus Christ fulfilled the Law: **Matthew 5:17**, "...I am not come to destroy the Law, but to fulfill..." He fulfilled the commandments by living perfectly under the Law. His perfect life fulfilled Code I. The Ordinances, Code II, were fulfilled by Christ's death, burial, resurrection, ascension and session. The Judgments, Code III, were fulfilled by Christ as He observed the law of the land by living under divine institutions and establishment.

Jesus Christ is the end of the Law for believers.

Romans 10:4

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Believers in the church age are under a higher law of spirituality.

Romans 8:2-4

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,

4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Galatians 5:18,22,23

18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

READ 1 Corinthians 13

The believer who functions under the filling of the Holy Spirit takes up where Christ left off and fulfills the Law.

Limitations of the Mosaic Law

The Law cannot provide justification either for individuals or for groups.

Galatians 2:16

knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

Romans 3:20,28

20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

Acts 13:39

and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Philippians 3:9

and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

The Law cannot give life

Galatians 3:21

Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law.

The Law cannot give God the Holy Spirit nor the divine power and energy from the Holy Spirit

Galatians 3:2

This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

The Law cannot solve the problem of the sin nature.

Romans 8:3

For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,

While there were laws of punishment in varying degrees, and fear of punishment helps keep people in line, the Law does nothing to provide victory over sin.

Present Purpose of Mosaic Law

The commandments provide laws of human freedom and provide a divine standard to which the sinner can compare himself and his actions and recognize that he is a sinner and needs a savior.

Romans 3:20,28

20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

1 Timothy 1:8, 9

8 But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, 9 knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,

The ordinances are designed to communicate God's grace in salvation and restoration to fellowship.

The social code is designed to provide a true concept of a national function and freedom under the laws of divine establishment.

Salvation in the Old Testament

Salvation is the adjustment a person makes to the Justice of God when he believes on the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. The justice of God was satisfied when Christ bore our sins in His body on the cross. This makes it possible for God to reconcile the believer to Himself and to impute righteousness to the believer.

Genesis 15:6

And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

The Gospel is the information provided in the Bible to give us the facts about God's provision for us.

The death of Christ on the cross was predetermined by the decisions of the Divine Decrees so that, from the standpoint of the Old Testament times, Jesus Christ's substitutionary atonement was certain to take place, even though the actual efficacious sacrifice had not yet occurred. The justice of God was satisfied.

Old Testament (OT) believers received Jesus Christ as Savior as He was revealed in OT times. Sometimes He was called Elohim, Jehovah-Elohim, or Jehovah plus a noun (God our Righteousness, etc.). Whenever there was positive volition at the point of God consciousness, God provided Gospel information to the individual.

The first statement of the Gospel is recorded in Genesis 3, at the time of original sin, Man's fall. When Adam and Eve fell, they only had one count against them - negative volition to the command regarding good and evil. Good and Evil is the plan of Satan; so knowledge of good and evil is knowledge of Satan's plan. Adam and Eve, in their innocence in the garden of Eden did not need to be introduced to Satan's plan or to be inculcated with it. Therefore, this one tree was forbidden.

Eve partook of the tree in innocence, Adam partook in cognizance. He had seen the first sinner, Eve, disobey God, but he took part anyway. Remember, there was no immorality involved here, because at the time they were neither moral or immoral. Their sin was merely rejection of what God had commanded. This brought instant spiritual death.

At this instant, man no longer ruled the world; Satan became the ruler of this kosmos. The coup d'etat was complete; and man was now subject to Satan as far as this world is concerned. Mankind immediately became marked with the "mark of Adam", the Sin Nature.

To the question "Which came first, personal sin or the Sin Nature?" the answer is that personal sin came first and caused the existence of the Sin Nature. The human spirit was cancelled out in the sense of spiritual death.

For the rest of the human race, the Sin Nature is inherited at birth, so the Sin Nature is present before there is any opportunity for personal sin. Also, Adam's sin is imputed to us, so that we are born with two strikes against us. "For as in Adam all die ..." Note : we are not called sinners because we sin; we are sinners because we are born, with a Sin Nature, and having Adam's sin imputed to us.

This is the reason that God, with His character of absolute Justice and Righteousness, is not free to enter into a relationship with us unless it can be done without compromising his integrity. And that is only possible if all the sins of the world are judged.

But the Lord has found a way to save mankind. Gen. 3:15, "I will put enmity (hostility) between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; it shall bruise (crush) thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

The "seed of the woman" is the title for the Lord Jesus Christ in virgin birth. The Sin Nature and Adam's imputed sin is passed down through the male; and Christ was not born of a male-female relationship. He was able to avoid that result of the curse. The Lamb of God had to be without spot or blemish.

At the Second Advent of Christ, the head of Satan will be crushed, and he will no longer rule the world -- Christ will rule the world and Satan will be imprisoned for 1,000 years.

The pattern of salvation in the Old Testament is exactly the same as the pattern of New Testament salvation. Gen. 15:6, "Abraham believed God, and God imputed it to him for righteousness." Imputed righteousness means that God's Justice has been satisfied. This verse is found in the context of

Romans 4:1-4

- 1 What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh?
- 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.
- 3 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."
- 4 Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.

Comments:

There never was a time, and there never will be a time when God is not saving mankind.

Romans 10:13

For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

The Gospel was clearly declared in Old Testament times.

Romans 1:1-4

- 1 Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God
- 2 which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures,
- 3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh,
- 4 and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

- 3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,
- 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

Acts 3:18

But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.

The passage in Isaiah 53:5,6 has exactly the same boundaries as are found in 1 Corinthians 15:3.

Isaiah 53:5,6

- 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.
- 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

1 Corinthians 15:3

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

Daniel 12:2,3 has the boundary of the resurrection.**Daniel 12:2,3**

2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt.

3 Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.

Regardless of age or dispensation, man is always saved in the same manner - positive volition to the Gospel expressed in a non-meritorious way, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.**Acts 4:12**

Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Galatians 3:6-8

6 just as Abraham "believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."

7 Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.

8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed."

Positive volition existed in Old Testament times, both at the point of God consciousness and the point of Gospel hearing.**Exodus 33:7**

Moses took his tent and pitched it outside the camp, far from the camp, and called it the tabernacle of meeting. And it came to pass that everyone who sought the Lord went out to the tabernacle of meeting which was outside the camp.

Genesis 15:6

And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

While revelation from God is progressive, reaching its peak with the New Testament scriptures, it has always been, nevertheless, sufficient for salvation of souls at all periods of time.**The object of faith in salvation is the Lord Jesus Christ****Galatians 3:26**

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

However, the revelation concerning Christ varies in different ages.**Jesus Christ was first revealed as Savior at the time of man's fall, Genesis 3:15. He is represented as the "seed of the woman".****Jesus Christ is usually revealed in the Old Testament by "shadows". For example, in the Tabernacle, in the feasts, in the modus operandi of the Levitical priests.**

Another means of revealing Christ was through "inanimate revelation", that is, through things in nature like the burning bush, the Rock, the Shekinah Glory, or through the typology of the

furniture in the Tabernacle (Numbers 17:7). The Mercy Seat, the **hilasterion**, was the place of propitiation in the Holy of Holies.

Numbers 17:7

And Moses placed the rods before the Lord in the tabernacle of witness.

The Levitical offerings were "witnessing by ritual". The burnt offerings taught propitiation, with emphasis on the word of Christ, the Lamb of God. The meal and fruit offerings revealed the Person of Christ on the cross. The peace offering taught about the barrier between God and man being removed.

The gospel was presented in the Old Testament directly in theological teaching. **Isaiah 53** was straight doctrinal teaching which showed that Christ carried our guilt as well as our sins.

Once the reality is come, we have the New Testament, which is historical Christology.

According to **Isaiah 55:6**, salvation in the person of Jesus Christ, is always available.

Acts 4:12

Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Many conversions are recorded in the Old Testament, including:

Noah was declared "just" in **Genesis 6:8,9**, and was said to have righteousness in **Hebrews 11:7**.

Hebrews 11 shows the spiritual life of Old Testament believers. The OT imputation of righteousness is seen in **Psalms 24:5** and **Isaiah 61:10**.

Job gave perfect testimony to salvation in Gospel form -- death, burial, and resurrection.

Job 19:23-27

Many Gentiles were saved in the Old Testament. The citizens of Nineveh responded to the Gospel when Jonah preached to them. **Matthew 12:41; Luke 11:32**.
