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Civil Law.

Given to Moses on Mount Sinai.

(Scriptures Only)

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Civil Law (Given to Moses on Mount Sinai).

(Scriptures Only).

Topics.

- Civil laws given to Moses at Mount Sinai for the nation of Israel.
- Laws regarding witnesses, murder and injuring a person.
- Laws relating to sexual sins, property, slaves and hired servants.
- Laws relating to family, the poor, enemies, money and lending.
- Laws relating to land, justice, health and the valuation of people.
- Laws relating to the valuation of animals and of property.

The civil law for the nation of Israel: were given to Moses on Mount Sinai and in the wilderness of Sinai and all the laws given to Moses in Leviticus were given at Mount Sinai.

Moses judges the people.

- **Exodus 18:13:** The next day Moses sat to judge the people, and the people stood around Moses from morning till evening.

Laws given to Moses at Mount Sinai.

- **Leviticus 27:34:** These are the commandments which the LORD commanded Moses for the sons of Israel at Mount Sinai. (All the commandments given to Moses in Leviticus were given at Mount Siani).

Must have two or more witnesses.

- **Deuteronomy 19:15:** A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established.

EXODUS

Laws that relate to killing and injuring a person

Do not murder.

- **Exodus 20:** You shall not murder.

Laws for manslaughter.

- **Exodus 21:12:** Whoever strikes a man so that he dies shall be put to death.

NOTE: Murder leads to capital punishment. In the New Testament murder is called a sin that leads to death, because the punishment for it is death.

Intentional murder.

- **Exodus 21:14:** But if a man willfully attacks another to kill him by cunning, you shall take him from my altar, that he may die.

Laws for striking mother or father.

- **Exodus 21:15:** Whoever strikes his father or his mother shall be put to death.

Laws for fighting.

- **Exodus 21:18-19:** When men quarrel and one strikes the other with a stone or with his fist and the man does not die but takes to his bed, ¹⁹then if the man rises again and walks outdoors with his staff, he who struck him shall be clear; only he shall pay for the loss of his time, and shall have him thoroughly healed.

Laws for striking or hitting slaves.

- **Exodus 21:20-21:** 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.

Laws for injuring a pregnant woman.

- **Exodus 21:22-25:** When men strive together and hit a pregnant woman, so that her children come out, but there is no harm, the one who hit her shall surely be fined, as the woman's husband shall impose on him, and he shall pay as the judges determine. ²³But if there is harm, then you shall pay life for life, ²⁴eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, ²⁵burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.

Laws for injuring slaves.

- **Exodus 21:26-27:** 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.

Do not kill the innocent.

- **Exodus 23:7:** Keep far from a false charge, and do not kill the innocent and righteous.

LEVITICUS

Laws that relate to killing and injuring a person

Murder.

- **Leviticus 24:17-18:** Whoever takes a human life shall surely be put to death. ¹⁸Whoever takes an animal's life shall make it good, life for life.

Do not injure a person.

- **Leviticus 24:19-20:** If anyone injures his neighbour, as he has done it shall be done to him, ²⁰fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth; whatever injury he has given a person shall be given to him.

Do not kill any human.

- **Leviticus 24:21-22:** Whoever kills an animal shall make it good, and whoever kills a person shall be put to death. ²²You shall have the same rule for the sojourner and for the native, for I am the LORD your God."

Those sentenced to death cannot be ransomed.

- **Leviticus 27:29:** No one devoted, who is to be devoted for destruction from mankind, shall be ransomed; he shall surely be put to death.

DEUTERONOMY

Laws that relate to killing and injuring a person

Murder.

- **Deuteronomy 5:17:** You shall not murder.

Laws for unintentional murder.

- **Deuteronomy 19:2-3:** You shall set apart three cities for yourselves in the land that the LORD your God is giving you to possess. ³You shall measure the distances and divide into three parts the area of the land that the LORD your God gives you as a possession, so that any manslayer can flee to them.

Laws for unintentional murder.

- **Deuteronomy 19:4-6:** This is the provision for the manslayer, who by fleeing there may save his life. If anyone kills his neighbor unintentionally without having hated him in the past—⁵as when someone goes into the forest with his neighbor to cut wood, and his hand swings the axe to cut down a tree, and the head slips from the handle and strikes his neighbor so that he dies—he may flee to one of these cities and live, ⁶lest the avenger of blood in hot anger pursue the manslayer and overtake him, because the way is long, and strike him fatally, though the man did not deserve to die, since he had not hated his neighbor in the past.

Murder.

- **Deuteronomy 19:11-13:** If anyone hates his neighbour and lies in wait for him and attacks him and strikes him fatally so that he dies, and he flees into one of these cities, ¹²then the elders of his city shall send and take him from there, and hand him over to the avenger of blood, so that he may die. ¹³Your eye shall not pity him, but you shall purge the guilt of innocent blood from Israel, so that it may be well with you.

Do not commit sin worthy of death.

- **Deuteronomy 21:22-23:** If a man has committed a crime punishable by death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, ²³his body shall not remain all night on the tree, but you shall bury him the same day, for a hanged man is cursed by God. You shall not defile your land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance.

EXODUS

Laws that relate to sexual sins

Do not commit adultery.

- **Exodus 20:14:** You shall not commit adultery.

Laws for a man seducing a woman.

- **Exodus 22:16-17:** If a man seduces a virgin who is not engaged to be married and lies with her, he shall give the bride-price for her and make her his wife. ¹⁷If her father utterly refuses to give her to him, he shall pay money equal to the bride-price for virgins.

Do not have intercourse with animals.

- **Exodus 22:19:** Whoever lies with an animal shall be put to death.

LEVITICUS

Laws that relate to sexual sins

Do not uncover the nakedness of your father or mother.

- **Leviticus 18:6-7:** None of you shall approach any one of his close relatives to uncover nakedness. I am the LORD. ⁷You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father, which is the nakedness of your mother; she is your mother, you shall not uncover her nakedness.

Do not uncover the nakedness of your father's wife.

- **Leviticus 18:8:** You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's wife; it is your father's nakedness.

Do not uncover the nakedness of your sister.

- **Leviticus 18:9:** you shall not uncover the nakedness of your sister, your father's daughter or your mother's daughter, whether brought up in the family or in another home.

Do not uncover the nakedness of your daughter or son's daughter.

- **Leviticus 18:10:** You shall not uncover the nakedness of your son's daughter or of your daughter's daughter, for their nakedness is your own nakedness.

Do not uncover the Nakedness of your Sister.

- **Leviticus 18:11:** You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's wife's daughter, brought up in your father's family, since she is your sister.

Do not uncover the nakedness of your father's sister.

- **Leviticus 18:12:** You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's sister; she is your father's relative.

Do not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister.

- **Leviticus 18:13:** You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister, for she is your mother's relative.

Do not uncover the nakedness of your father's brother's wife.

- **Leviticus 18:14:** ¹⁴You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's brother, that is, you shall not approach his wife; she is your aunt.

Do not uncover the nakedness of you daughter in law.

- **Leviticus 18:15:** You shall not uncover the nakedness of your daughter-in-law; she is your son's wife, you shall not uncover her nakedness.

Do not uncover the nakedness of your brother's wife.

- **Leviticus 18:16:** You shall not uncover the nakedness of your brother's wife; it is your brother's nakedness.

Do not uncover the nakedness of a woman and her daughter.

- **Leviticus 18:17:** You shall not uncover the nakedness of a woman and of her daughter, and you shall not take her son's daughter or her daughter's daughter to uncover her nakedness; they are relatives; it is depravity.

Do not marry your wife's sister.

- **Leviticus 18:18:** You shall not take a woman as a rival wife to her sister, uncovering her nakedness while her sister is still alive.

Do not uncover a woman during her menstrual impurity.

- **Leviticus 18:19:** You shall not approach a woman to uncover her nakedness while she is in her menstrual uncleanness.

Do not have intercourse with your neighbour's wife.

- **Leviticus 18:20:** You shall not lie sexually with your neighbour's wife and so make yourself unclean with her.

Do not offer your children to Molech.

- **Leviticus 18:21:** You shall not give any of your children to offer them to Molech, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.

Do not lie, a male with a male.

- **Leviticus 18:22:** You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.

Since this verse has been used as a lethal weapon to condemn those in same sex relationships it should be noted here that pride, lying, gossiping, degrading people and many other things throughout Scripture are an abomination to God.

Do not have intercourse with animals.

- **Leviticus 18:23:** You shall not lie with any animal and so make yourself unclean with it, neither shall any woman give herself to an animal to lie with it: it is perversion.

Do not lie with a slave woman.

- **Leviticus 19:20-22:** If a man lies sexually with a woman who is a slave, assigned to another man and not yet ransomed or given her freedom, a distinction shall be made. They shall not be put to death, because she was not free; ²¹but he shall bring his compensation to the LORD, to the entrance of the tent of meeting, a ram for a guilt offering. ²²And the priest shall make atonement for him with the ram of the guilt offering before the LORD for his sin that he has committed, and he shall be forgiven for the sin that he has committed.

Laws for a harlot

- **Leviticus 19:29:** Do not profane your daughter by making her a prostitute, lest the land fall into prostitution and the land become full of depravity.

Do not Commit adultery.

- **Leviticus 20:10:** If a man commits adultery with the wife of his neighbour, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.

Do not lie with your father's wife.

- **Leviticus 20:11:** If a man lies with his father's wife, he has uncovered his father's nakedness; both of them shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them.

Do not lie with your daughter in law.

- **Leviticus 20:12:** If a man lies with his daughter-in-law, both of them shall surely be put to death; they have committed perversion; their blood is upon them.
- **Leviticus 20:13:** If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them.

This verse has been used as a lethal weapon to condemn everyone who lives in a committed and devoted same sex relationship. It should be noted that pride, lying, gossiping, degrading or slandering a person and such like things are all an abomination before the LORD.

For further information see the title:

- Same Sex Relationships (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Do not marry a woman and her mother.

- **Leviticus 20:14:** If a man takes a woman and her mother also, it is depravity; he and they shall be burned with fire, that there may be no depravity among you.

Do not allow a man to lie with animals.

- **Leviticus 20:15:** If a man lies with an animal, he shall surely be put to death, and you shall kill the animal.

Do not allow a woman to lie with animals.

- **Leviticus 20:16:** If a woman approaches any animal and lies with it, you shall kill the woman and the animal; they shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them.

Do not uncover the nakedness of your sister.

- **Leviticus 20:17:** If a man takes his sister, a daughter of his father or a daughter of his mother, and sees her nakedness, and she sees his nakedness, it is a disgrace, and they shall be cut off in the sight of the children of their people. He has uncovered his sister's nakedness, and he shall bear his iniquity.

Do not uncover the nakedness of your mothers or father's sister.

- **Leviticus 20:19:** You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister or of your father's sister, for that is to make naked one's relative; they shall bear their iniquity.

Do not lie with your uncle's wife.

- **Leviticus 20:20:** If a man lies with his uncle's wife, he has uncovered his uncle's nakedness; they shall bear their sin; they shall die childless.

Do not lie with your brother's wife.

- **Leviticus 20:21:** If a man takes his brother's wife, it is impurity. He has uncovered his brother's nakedness; they shall be childless.

DEUTERONOMY

Laws that relate to sexual sins

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Do not Commit adultery.

- **Deuteronomy 5:18:** You shall not commit adultery.

Do not lie with a married woman.

- **Deuteronomy 22:22:** If a man is found lying with the wife of another man, both of them shall die, the man who lay with the woman, and the woman. So you shall purge the evil from Israel.

Do not rape a girl.

- **Deuteronomy 22:25-27:** But if in the open country a man meets a young woman who is betrothed, and the man seizes her and lies with her, then only the man who lay with her shall die. ²⁶But you shall do nothing to the young woman; she has committed no offense punishable by death. For this case is like that of a man attacking and murdering his neighbour, ²⁷because he met her in the open country, and though the betrothed young woman cried for help there was no one to rescue her.

Do not rape a girl.

- **Deuteronomy 22:28-29:** If a man meets a virgin who is not betrothed, and seizes her and lies with her, and they are found, ²⁹then the man who lay with her shall give to the father of the young woman fifty shekels of silver, and she shall be his wife, because he has violated her. He may not divorce her all his days.

As harsh as this may sound to us today (at first glance), it shows how much God and society valued the virginity of a woman. It also meant that by law the man was bound to financially provide a home, food and clothing for the woman for the rest of his life and though it says he can never cast her out, it does not say that she could not chose to leave if she so chooses.

Do not lie with your father's wife.

- **Deuteronomy 22:30:** A man shall not take his father's wife, so that he does not uncover his father's nakedness.

Do not make your daughter a cult prostitutes.

- **Deuteronomy 23:17:** None of the daughters of Israel shall be a cult prostitute, and none of the sons of Israel shall be a cult prostitute.

Laws for a king and his wives

- **Deuteronomy 17:17:** He (the king) shall not acquire many wives for himself, lest his heart turn away, nor shall he acquire for himself excessive silver and gold.

Laws that relate to stealing

Do not steal.

- **Exodus 20:15:** You shall not steal.

Stealing an ox or sheep.

- **Exodus 22:1-4:** If a man steals an ox or a sheep, and kills it or sells it, he shall repay five oxen for an ox, and four sheep for a sheep. ²If a thief is found breaking in and is struck so that he dies, there shall be no bloodguilt for him, ³but if the sun has risen on him, there shall be bloodguilt for him. He shall surely pay. If he has nothing, then he shall be sold for his theft. ⁴If the stolen beast is found alive in his possession, whether it is an ox or a donkey or a sheep, he shall pay double.

Laws for beasts.

- **Exodus 22:5:** If a man causes a field or vineyard to be grazed over, or lets his beast loose and it feeds in another man's field, he shall make restitution from the best in his own field and in his own vineyard.

Laws for robbery and extortion.

- **Leviticus 6:1-4:** The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²"If anyone sins and commits a breach of faith against the LORD by deceiving his neighbor in a matter of deposit or security, or through robbery, or if he has oppressed his neighbor ³or has found something lost and lied about it, swearing falsely—in any of all the things that people do and sin thereby— ⁴if he has sinned and has realized his guilt and will restore what he took by robbery or what he got by oppression or the deposit that was committed to him or the lost thing that he found ⁵or anything about which he has sworn falsely, he shall restore it in full and shall add a fifth to it, and give it to him to whom it belongs on the day he realizes his guilt. ⁶And he shall bring to the priest as his compensation to the LORD a ram without blemish out of the flock, or its equivalent for a guilt offering.
- **Leviticus 19:11:** You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another.

Do not use false scales.

- **Leviticus 19:35:** You shall do no wrong in judgment, in measures of length or weight or quantity.

Do not steal.

- **Deuteronomy 5:19:** You shall not steal.

Do not use false scales.

- **Deuteronomy 25:13-16:** You shall not have in your bag two kinds of weights, a large and a small. ¹⁴You shall not have in your house two kinds of measures, a large and a small. ¹⁵A full and fair weight you shall have, a full and fair measure you shall have, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. ¹⁶For all who do such things, all who act dishonestly, are an abomination to the LORD your God.

Laws that relate to kidnapping

Do not kidnap.

- **Exodus 21:16:** Whoever steals a man and sells him, and anyone found in possession of him, shall be put to death.
- **Deuteronomy 24:7:** If a man is found stealing one of his brothers, of the people of Israel, and if he treats him as a slave or sells him, then that thief shall die. So you shall purge the evil from your midst.

EXODUS

Laws that relate to our Neighbour

Do not wrong a stranger.

- **Exodus 22:21:** You shall not wrong a sojourner or oppress him, for you were sojourners in Egypt.

Laws for a promise to a neighbour.

- **Exodus 22:26-27:** If ever you take your neighbour's cloak in pledge, you shall return it to him before the sun goes down, ²⁷for that is his only covering, and it is his cloak for his body; in what else shall he sleep? And if he cries to me, I will hear, for I am compassionate.

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Do not oppress a stranger.

- **Exodus 23:9:** You shall not oppress a sojourner you know the heart of a sojourner, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

LEVITICUS

Laws regarding our neighbour

Do not oppress your neighbour.

- **Leviticus 19:13:** You shall not oppress your neighbour or rob him. The wages of a hired servant shall not remain with you all night until the morning.

Do not slander or act against your neighbour.

- **Leviticus 19:16:** You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbour: I am the LORD.

Do not seek vengeance against a neighbour.

- **Leviticus 19:18:** You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD. (Should continue into the NT).

Honour the aged.

- **Leviticus 19:32:** You shall stand up before the gray head and honor the face of an old man, and you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

Do not wrong a stranger.

- **Leviticus 19:33-34:** When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. ³⁴You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

Do not treat a countryman as a slave.

- **Leviticus 25:39-40:** --- ³⁹If your brother becomes poor beside you and sells himself to you, you shall not make him serve as a slave: ⁴⁰he shall be with you as a hired servant and as a sojourner. He shall serve with you until the year of the jubilee.

DEUTERONOMY

Laws regarding our neighbour

Do not keep your neighbours property.

- **Deuteronomy 22:1:** You shall not see your brother's ox or his sheep going astray and ignore them. You shall take them back to your brother.

Do not keep your neighbours property.

- **Deuteronomy 22:3:** You shall do the same with his donkey or with his garment, or with any lost thing of your brother's, which he loses and you find; you may not ignore it.

Do not neglect to help your neighbour.

- **Deuteronomy 22:4:** You shall not see your brother's donkey or his ox fallen down by the way and ignore them. You shall help him to lift them up again.

Put safety rails on your roof.

- **Deuteronomy 22:8:** When you build a new house, you shall make a parapet for your roof, that you may not bring the guilt of blood upon your house, if anyone should fall from it.

Do not steal your neighbour's fruit.

- **Deuteronomy 23:24:** If you go into your neighbour's vineyard, you may eat your fill of grapes, as many as you wish, but you shall not put any in your bag.

Do not steal your neighbour's crops.

- **Deuteronomy 23:25:** If you go into your neighbour's standing grain, you may pluck the ears with your hand, but you shall not put a sickle to your neighbour's standing grain.

Leave food in the field for the poor.

- **Deuteronomy 24:19:** When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.
- **Deuteronomy 24:20:** When you beat your olive trees, you shall not go over them again. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow.

Laws for property

Laws for looking after people's property.

- **Exodus 22:7-9:** If a man gives to his neighbour money or goods to keep safe, and it is stolen from the man's house, then, if the thief is found, he shall pay double. ⁸If the thief

is not found, the owner of the house shall come near to God to show whether or not he has put his hand to his neighbour's property. ⁹For every breach of trust, whether it is for an ox, for a donkey, for a sheep, for a cloak, or for any kind of lost thing, of which one says, 'This is it,' the case of both parties shall come before God. The one whom God condemns shall pay double to his neighbour.

- **Exodus 22:10-13:** If a man gives to his neighbour a donkey or an ox or a sheep or any beast to keep safe, and it dies or is injured or is driven away, without anyone seeing it, ¹¹an oath by the LORD shall be between them both to see whether or not he has put his hand to his neighbour's property. The owner shall accept the oath, and he shall not make restitution. ¹²But if it is stolen from him, he shall make restitution to its owner. ¹³If it is torn by beasts, let him bring it as evidence. He shall not make restitution for what has been torn.

Laws for borrowing people's property.

- **Exodus 22:14-15:** If a man borrows anything of his neighbour, and it is injured or dies, the owner not being with it, he shall make full restitution. ¹⁵If the owner was with it, he shall not make restitution; if it was hired, it came for its hiring fee.

Laws for finding lost property.

- **Exodus 23:4-5:** If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey going astray, you shall bring it back to him. ⁵If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying down under its burden, you shall refrain from leaving him with it; you shall rescue it with him.

Laws that relate to slaves and hired servants

Laws for male slaves.

- **Exodus 21:2-6:** 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,’ ⁶then 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.

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Laws for female slaves.

- **Exodus 21:7-11:** 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“And 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“And if he will not do these three *things* for her, then she shall go out for nothing, without *payment of money*.

Do not hold the wages of a hired man.

- **Leviticus 19:13:** You shall not oppress your neighbour or rob him. The wages of a hired servant shall not remain with you all night until the morning.

Do not return a slave who has escaped.

- **Deuteronomy 23:15-16:** You shall not give up to his master a slave who has escaped from his master to you. ¹⁶He shall dwell with you, in your midst, in the place that he shall choose within one of your towns, wherever it suits him. You shall not wrong him.

Do not oppress a hired servant.

- **Deuteronomy 24:14:** You shall not oppress a hired servant who is poor and needy, whether he is one of your brothers or one of the sojourners who are in your land within your towns.

Do not hold the wages of a hired man.

- **Deuteronomy 24:15:** You shall give him his wages on the same day, before the sun sets (for he is poor and counts on it), lest he cry against you to the LORD, and you be guilty of sin.

Do not treat slaves with severity.

- **Leviticus 25:53-55:** He shall treat him as a servant hired year by year. He shall not rule ruthlessly over him in your sight. ⁵⁴And if he is not redeemed by these means, then he and his children with him shall be released in the year of jubilee. ⁵⁵For it is to me that the people of Israel are servants. They are my servants whom I brought out of the land of Egypt.

Do not muzzle an ox.

- **Deuteronomy 25:4:** You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain.

Laws that relate to family

Honour your father and your mother.

- **Exodus 20:12:** Honour your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you (Exodus 20:12)

In the New Testament the apostle Paul wrote, "Honour your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise) (Ephes. 6:2) Family respect is the ground of national permanence though these divine words were addressed emphatically to Israel they set forth a universal principle of national life. Our parents stand between us and God in a way in which no other man or women can. This is because the command for reverence to parents lays the foundation for the whole of society and social life since if a child learns to respect their parents they will not only respect and honour God in the same manner, but will also respect other authorities in societies as they grow, i.e. teachers, police, bosses, governments etc., thus the reason it is important for children to learn to respect and honour their godly parents.

It is through honouring and obeying parents that a child learns that they are not always able to do what *self* and the *flesh* desires and a child who grows up with *self-control* is an asset to any relationship, community and society. The command to "Honour your father and your mother" is not limited to only obeying our parents, but also carries with it the idea of doing what we are able to help them when they fall weak, feeble, or sick (especially in their old age) in the same manner that God required them to love, feed, nourish, support, instruct, and defend us when we were in the lowest state of providing for ourselves.

The first commandment with promise: though no particular promise is promised with the observance of the four first commandments it should never be supposed that keeping them does not result in a blessing since within these four commandments God states, "He will show steadfast love to thousands of those who love him and keep his commandments" (Exodus 20:3-6).

These first four commandments are focused on our relationship toward God whereas the fifth commandment is the first of the six commandments that are focused on our relationship toward our neighbour. It is in this sense that the commandment, "Honour your Mother and Father" is the first given with a promise. The promise was that as long as the nation of Israel could rejoice in the possession of obedient children they were

assured of a long existence in the *promised land of Canaan*. From generation to generation no nation would be able to drive them out and their children's children would continue to inherit the land. Though these laws, promises and blessings were given specifically to Israel they extend to all mankind.

This is because those who respect their godly parents and endeavour to live their life in a manner that brings honour God may be sure that they will avoid much trouble that comes to the wicked and that they will be resurrected to eternal life in everlasting glory the *heavenly promised land of Canaan* which God has promised to all who keep his laws and trust in his eternal plan of salvation.

Do not curse father or mother.

- **Exodus 21:17:** Whoever curses his father or his mother shall be put to death.

Honour your father and mother.

Leviticus 19:3: Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and you shall keep my Sabbaths: I am the LORD your God.

Do not punish fathers for their son's sin.

- **Deuteronomy 24:16:** Fathers shall not be put to death because of their children, nor shall children be put to death because of their fathers. Each one shall be put to death for his own sin.

Laws that relate to the poor

Do not afflict widows and orphans.

- **Exodus 22:22-24:** You shall not mistreat any widow or fatherless child. ²³If you do mistreat them, and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry, ²⁴and my wrath will burn, and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives shall become widows and your children fatherless.

Do not reap gleanings of a field.

- **Leviticus 19:9:** When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest.

Do not cause a deaf or blind man to stumble.

- **Leviticus 19:14:** You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

Do not keep a poor man's pledge overnight.

- **Deuteronomy 24:10-12:** When you make your neighbour a loan of any sort, you shall not go into his house to collect his pledge. ¹¹You shall stand outside, and the man to whom you make the loan shall bring the pledge out to you. ¹²And if he is a poor man, you shall not sleep in his pledge. ¹³You shall restore to him the pledge as the sun sets, that he may sleep in his cloak and bless you. And it shall be righteousness for you before the LORD your God.

Do not remove food in the field.

- **Deuteronomy 24:19:** When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.
- **Deuteronomy 24:20:** When you beat your olive trees, you shall not go over them again. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow.

Leave food in the field for the poor.

- **Deuteronomy 24:21:** When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you shall not strip it afterward. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow.

Laws that relate to your enemies

Do not make covenants with the enemy.

- **Exodus 34:12:** Take care, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land to which you go, lest it become a snare in your midst.

Do not make covenants with your enemies.

- **Exodus 23:32:** You shall make no covenant with them and their gods.

Offer cities peace before war.

- **Deuteronomy 20:10-11:** When you draw near to a city to fight against it, offer terms of peace to it. ¹¹And if it responds to you peaceably and it opens to you, then all the people who are found in it shall do forced labour for you and shall serve you.

Utterly destroy enemies if they don't accept peace.

- **Deuteronomy 20:12-14:** But if it (enemies) makes no peace with you, but makes war against you, then you shall besiege it. ¹³And when the LORD your God gives it into your hand, you shall put all its males to the sword, ¹⁴but the women and the little ones, the livestock, and everything else in the city, all its spoil, you shall take as plunder for yourselves. And you shall enjoy the spoil of your enemies, which the LORD your God has given you.

The reason for utterly destroying enemies.

- **Deuteronomy 20:16-18:** But in the cities of these peoples that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance, you shall save alive nothing that breathes, ¹⁷but you shall devote them to complete destruction, the Hittites and the Amorites, the Canaanites and the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, as the LORD your God has commanded, ¹⁸that they may not teach you to do according to all their abominable practices that they have done for their gods, and so you sin against the LORD your God.

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Laws that relate to money

Do not take a bribe.

- **Exodus 23:8:** You shall take no bribe, for a bribe blinds the clear-sighted and subverts the cause of those who are in the right.

Do not charge a countryman interest.

- **Leviticus 25:35-37:** If your brother becomes poor and cannot maintain himself with you, you shall support him as though he were a stranger and a sojourner, and he shall live with you. ³⁶Take no interest from him or profit, but fear your God, that your brother may live beside you. ³⁷You shall not lend him your money at interest, nor give him your food for profit.

Do not take a bribe.

- **Deuteronomy 16:19:** You shall not pervert justice. You shall not show partiality, and you shall not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of the righteous.

Charge interest to a foreigner.

- **Deuteronomy 23:20:** You may charge a foreigner interest, but you may not charge your brother interest, that the LORD your God may bless you in all that you undertake in the land that you are entering to take possession of it.

Laws for lending money

Lending Money to the Poor.

- **Exodus 22:25:** If you lend money to any of my people with you who is poor, you shall not be like a moneylender to him, and you shall not exact interest from him.

Laws that relate to land and fields

- **Exodus 22:5:** If a man causes a field or vineyard to be grazed over, or lets his beast loose and it feeds in another man's field, he shall make restitution from the best in his own field and in his own vineyard.

Bush fires.

- **Exodus 22:6:** If fire breaks out and catches in thorns so that the stacked grain or the standing grain or the field is consumed, he who started the fire shall make full restitution.

Laws for digging pits.

- **Exodus 21:33-34:** When a man opens a pit, or when a man digs a pit and does not cover it, and an ox or a donkey falls into it, ³⁴the owner of the pit shall make restoration. He shall give money to its owner, and the dead beast shall be his.

Do not sow the land the seventh year.

- **Exodus 23:10:** For six years you shall sow your land and gather in its yield.

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Do not eat planted trees for three years.

- **Leviticus 19:23-25:** When you come into the land and plant any kind of tree for food, then you shall regard its fruit as forbidden. Three years it shall be forbidden to you; it must not be eaten. ²⁴And in the fourth year all its fruit shall be holy, an offering of praise to the LORD. ²⁵But in the fifth year you may eat of its fruit, to increase its yield for you: I am the LORD your God.

Do not sell land permanently.

- **Leviticus 25:23:** The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine. For you are strangers and sojourners with me.

Do not move your neighbour's boundary.

- **Deuteronomy 19:14:** You shall not move your neighbour's landmark, which the men of old have set, in the inheritance that you will hold in the land that the LORD your God is giving you to possess.

Do not cut down fruit trees.

- **Deuteronomy 20:20:** Only the trees that you know are not trees for food you may destroy and cut down, that you may build siegeworks against the city that makes war with you, until it falls.

Return neighbours property.

- **Deuteronomy 22:1:** You shall not see your brother's ox or his sheep going astray and ignore them. You shall take them back to your brother.

- **Deuteronomy 22:3:** You shall do the same with his donkey or with his garment, or with any lost thing of your brother's, which he loses and you find; you may not ignore it.

Do not leave your excrement uncovered.

- **Deuteronomy 23:12-14:** You shall have a place outside the camp, and you shall go out to it. ¹³And you shall have a trowel with your tools, and when you sit down outside, you shall dig a hole with it and turn back and cover up your excrement. ¹⁴Because the LORD your God walks in the midst of your camp, to deliver you and to give up your enemies before you, therefore your camp must be holy, so that he may not see anything indecent among you and turn away from you.

Laws that relate to justice

Do not bear false witness or a false report.

- **Exodus 20:16:** You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.
- **Exodus 23:1-3:** You shall not spread a false report. You shall not join hands with a wicked man to be a malicious witness. ²You shall not fall in with the many to do evil, nor shall you bear witness in a lawsuit, siding with the many, so as to pervert justice, ³nor shall you be partial to a poor man in his lawsuit.

Do not pervert justice.

- **Exodus 23:6:** You shall not pervert the justice due to your poor in his lawsuit.

Do not lie.

- **Leviticus 19:11:** You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another.

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Do not be partial in judgment.

- **Leviticus 19:15:** You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbour.

Do not bear false witness.

- **Deuteronomy 5:20:** You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Do not distort justice or be a false witness.

- **Deuteronomy 16:19:** You shall not pervert justice. You shall not show partiality, and you shall not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of the righteous.
- **Deuteronomy 19:16-21:** If a malicious witness arises to accuse a person of wrongdoing, ¹⁷then both parties to the dispute shall appear before the LORD, before the priests and the judges who are in office in those days. ¹⁸The judges shall inquire diligently, and if the witness is a false witness and has accused his brother falsely, ¹⁹then you shall do to him as he had meant to do to his brother. So you shall purge the evil from your midst. ²⁰And the rest shall hear and fear, and shall never again commit any such evil among you. ²¹Your eye shall not pity. It shall be life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

Do not pervert justice.

- **Deuteronomy. 24:17-18:** You shall not pervert the justice due to the sojourner or to the fatherless, or take a widow's garment in pledge, ¹⁸but you shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you from there; therefore I command you to do this.

Do not beat a man more than forty-times.

- **Deuteronomy 25:1-3:** If there is a dispute between men and they come into court and the judges decide between them, acquitting the innocent and condemning the guilty, ²then if the guilty man deserves to be beaten, the judge shall cause him to lie down and be beaten in his presence with a number of stripes in proportion to his offense. ³Forty stripes may be given him, but not more, lest, if one should go on to beat him with more stripes than these, your brother be degraded in your sight.

Laws that relate to health

No disease will come upon you if you do what is right.

- **Exodus 15:26:** If you will diligently listen to the voice of the LORD your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, your healer."

Do not ignore infection laws.

- **Deuteronomy 24:8:** Take care, in a case of leprous disease, to be very careful to do according to all that the Levitical priests shall direct you. As I commanded them, so you shall be careful to do.

Laws that relate to the valuation of people

- **Leviticus 27:2:** Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, If anyone makes a special vow to the LORD involving the valuation of persons.

Valuation of males 20-60 years.

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- **Leviticus 27:3:** Then the valuation of a male from twenty years old up to sixty years old shall be fifty shekels of silver, according to the shekel of the sanctuary.

valuation of females 20-60 years.

- **Leviticus 27:4:** If the person is a female, the valuation shall be thirty shekels.

Valuation of males 5-20 years.

- **Leviticus 27:5:** If the person is from five years old up to twenty years old, the valuation shall be for a male twenty shekels, and for a female ten shekels.

Valuation of females 5-20 years.

- **Leviticus 27:5:** If the person is from five years old up to twenty years old, the valuation shall be for a male twenty shekels, and for a female ten shekels.

Valuation of males 1 month up to 5 years.

- **Leviticus 27:6:** If the person is from a month old up to five years old, the valuation shall be for a male five shekels of silver, and for a female the valuation shall be three shekels of silver.

Valuation of females 1 month up to 5 years.

- **Leviticus 27:6:** If the person is from a month old up to five years old, the valuation shall be for a male five shekels of silver, and for a female the valuation shall be three shekels of silver.

Valuation of males 60+ years.

- **Leviticus 27:7:** If the person is sixty years old or over, then the valuation for a male shall be fifteen shekels, and for a female ten shekels.

Valuation of females 60+ years.

- **Leviticus 27:7:** If the person is sixty years old or over, then the valuation for a male shall be fifteen shekels, and for a female ten shekels.

Valuation of the very poor person.

- **Leviticus 27:8:** If someone is too poor to pay the valuation, then he shall be made to stand before the priest, and the priest shall value him according to what the vower can afford.

Laws that relate to valuation of animals

Laws for oxen.

- **Exodus 21:28-31:** When an ox gores a man or a woman to death, the ox shall be stoned, and its flesh shall not be eaten, but the owner of the ox shall not be liable. ²⁹But if the ox has been accustomed to gore in the past, and its owner has been warned but has not kept it in, and it kills a man or a woman, the ox shall be stoned, and its owner also shall be put to death. ³⁰If a ransom is imposed on him, then he shall give for the redemption of his life whatever is imposed on him. ³¹If it gores a man's son or daughter, he shall be dealt with according to this same rule.

Laws for oxen.

- **Exodus 21:35:** When one man's ox butts another's, so that it dies, then they shall sell the live ox and share its price, and the dead beast also they shall share. ³⁶Or if it is known that the ox has been accustomed to gore in the past, and its owner has not kept it in, he shall repay ox for ox, and the dead beast shall be his. (Should continue into the NT).

Do not kill a neighbour's animal.

- **Leviticus 24:21:** Whoever kills an animal shall make it good, and whoever kills a person shall be put to death.

Valuation of clean animals.

- **Leviticus 27:9-10:** If the vow is an animal that may be offered as an offering to the LORD, all of it that he gives to the LORD is holy. ¹⁰He shall not exchange it or make a substitute for it, good for bad, or bad for good; and if he does in fact substitute one animal for another, then both it and the substitute shall be holy.

Valuation of unclean animals.

- **Leviticus 27:11-13** ---- ¹¹If it is any unclean animal that may not be offered as an offering to the LORD, then he shall stand the animal before the priest, ¹²and the priest shall value it as either good or bad; as the priest values it, so it shall be. ¹³But if he wishes to redeem it, he shall add a fifth to the valuation.

Laws that relate to the valuation of property

Valuation of houses.

- **Leviticus 27:14-15:** When a man dedicates his house as a holy gift to the LORD, the priest shall value it as either good or bad; as the priest values it, so it shall stand. ¹⁵And if the donor wishes to redeem his house, he shall add a fifth to the valuation price, and it shall be his.

Valuation of part of a field.

- **Leviticus 27:16:** If a man dedicates to the LORD part of the land that is his possession, then the valuation shall be in proportion to its seed. A homer of barley seed shall be valued at fifty shekels of silver.

Valuation of part of a field after the jubilee.

- **Leviticus 27:17:** If he dedicates his field from the year of jubilee, the valuation shall stand.
- **Leviticus 27:18:** If he dedicates his field after the jubilee, then the priest shall calculate the price according to the years that remain until the year of jubilee, and a deduction shall be made from the valuation.

Valuation for redeeming the field.

- **Leviticus 27:19:** If he who dedicates the field wishes to redeem it, then he shall add a fifth to its valuation price, and it shall remain his.

Valuation of a field not redeemed.

- **Leviticus 27:20-21:** If he does not wish to redeem the field, or if he has sold the field to another man, it shall not be redeemed anymore. ²¹But the field, when it is released in the jubilee, shall be a holy gift to the LORD, like a field that has been devoted. The priest shall be in possession of it.

Valuation of part of a field that is not part of the owners own property.

- **Leviticus 27:22-23:** If he dedicates to the LORD a field that he has bought, which is not a part of his possession, ²³then the priest shall calculate the amount of the valuation for it up to the year of jubilee, and the man shall give the valuation on that day as a holy gift to the LORD.

Valuation in the year of jubilee.

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- **Leviticus 27:24:** In the year of jubilee the field shall return to him from whom it was bought, to whom the land belongs as a possession. ²⁵ Every valuation shall be according to the shekel of the sanctuary: twenty gerahs shall make a shekel.

SUMMARY

All these laws can be summed up in the Law of love and the following scriptures. Jesus said:

- You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind and strength and 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these (Mark 12:30-31).

Paul said the whole law is fulfilled in the words:

- You shall love your neighbour as yourself (Gal 5:14).

James wrote:

- If you really fulfil the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself," you are doing well (James 2:8).

The greatest two commandments in the entire Bible are:

- You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and you shall love your neighbour as yourself (Matt. 22:37-39).

Love your neighbour as yourself, means do not deliberately do harm to other humans. No sane person deliberately does things to inflict pain on themselves, loving others as you love yourself is not about feeling some

warm and fuzzy emotion towards others, it is about not hurting others as you would not hurt yourself. The thing God hates the most is when we do harm to another person, physically, financially, sexually, verbally, mentally, emotionally or spiritually and the thing God loves the most is when we do good to others. It is interesting to notice that the major crime that God points out in Noah's time and one of the main reasons for the flood was because of all the violence in the land.

Micah, Isaiah and Jeremiah.

- **Micah wrote:** "What the LORD requires of mankind is to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with their God" (Micah 6:5-10).
- **Isaiah says:** "The LORD loves justice, hates robbery and wrong doing" (Isaiah 61:8).
- **Jeremiah said:** "Those who know God practise steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth, because it is in these things that God delights" (Jer. 9:24).

The great prophets Micah, Isaiah and Jeremiah clearly show us that the people the LORD loves are not only those who acknowledge God, but who also uphold justice, do not lie, deceive or make promises they do not intend to keep, but speak the truth, do what is right, show respect and give help to others when able and make choices that lead to peace. These are the things the LORD delights in and that bring His favour.

Jesus famous sermon on the Mount: the constant theme throughout Jesus famous Sermon on the Mount is doing what is right before God by seeking the way of peace in all situations. Jesus calls Christians to treat people fairly and with respect, dignity, decency grace compassion, kindness, mercy and to be quick to forgive. This means that living a life that honours God and the Lord Jesus Christ is about doing all we can do to protect people from harm and being dominated by the thought:

- What action can I take or do that will help and encourage this person.

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It is all about doing right to others, thus the reason the message Jesus spoke on the mountain is referred to as, "The Famous Sermon" because the principals if followed not only by Christians but all humanity are the only way to peace (Matt 5).

- These are the things that delight the heart of God.

A wicked person is primarily one who deliberately and consciously denies the existence of God and does harm to other humans.

For further information on Jesus Famous Sermon see:

- Matthew 5 in Commentary New Testament (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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