

E. The Law, the Tabernacle, and the Priestly Order (Exodus-Deuteronomy)

1. The Law was a covenant that God gave to the Israelites so that they might know how to obey and worship him. The essence or the supreme summation of the law is the Decalogue (Exo 20:1-17; 24:1-18; Deut 5:1-21).
2. The Mosaic covenant is a conditional covenant, which means if Israel obeys God he will bless them; however, if they disobey him he will judge them.
3. God recounts what he has done for the Israelites and tells them three things they will be to him should they obey his voice.
 - a. His own or treasured possession (Exo 19:5)
 - b. A kingdom of priests (Exo 19:6)
 - c. A holy nation (Exo 19:6)
4. God reminds the Israelites that he did not have to choose them for the whole earth is his (Exo 19:5). However, he did choose them (Deut 4:20; 7:6; 6:6-11; 10:15) and bore them on eagles wings (Exo 19:4; Deut 32:11; cf., Isa 40:31).
5. In Exodus 20-24 God formally comes into covenant with his people (God's rule). To better understand the idea of the Mosaic covenant is to understand the idea of marriage.
 - a. God reminds Israel what he has done for her (Exo 20:1-2).
 - b. God tells the people to be holy (Exo 20-23).
 - c. The people affirm this covenant-marriage by saying "I do" (Exo 24:3).
 - d. Israel has a marriage feast to celebrate their union to God (Exo 24:9-11).

6. The law that God gives the Israelites is to encompass all aspects of their lives: their civil, social, moral, worship, and family life. The command of the law is love (Lev 19:18; Deut 6:4-6).
7. The way in which Israel would approach her God would be through temple worship. This sanctuary or house is furnished with things that represent God's presence and holiness (e.g., lamp, gold, etc.).
8. God would dwell with his people by means of a tabernacle and his house would be his holy habitation (Exo 25:8; 29:45; 40:34-38; Lev 26:12).
9. The tabernacle not only represented God's holy habitation in heaven, but also the purpose of creation (Exo 25:40; Psa 78:69; 150:1; cf., Heb 8:5; Rev 21-22).
10. By building the tabernacle according to the pattern of heaven, Israel is carrying out God's will on earth as it is in heaven.
11. The stone tablets are placed in the ark, along with Aaron's rod that budded (Num 17:1-13), and the manna God gave the people (Heb 9:4). Each represented the rebellion of the people.
12. Israel would annually celebrate three festivals: Passover, Pentecost, and Booths or Tabernacles. These festivals were meant to remind the people of what God had done for them (Deut 16:1-17).
13. The Passover along with the rest of the sacrificial offerings demonstrates that death or payment is needed to appease God's wrath.
14. The idea of atonement becomes crucial to Israel's life and worship. Here is a basic breakdown of what the sacrifices represent.

Act	Meaning
Laying hands (Lev 1:3-4)	Substitution (sinner draws near through another)
Slaughter (Lev 1:5)	Penalty for sin (death)
Blood (Lev 1:5)	Atonement (evidence of death; Lev 16:19; 17:11)
Burning (Lev 1:6-9)	Transformation (becomes food for God)
Meal	Fellowship (renewal of covenant)

15. The major theme that arises from each of these offerings is restoration and fellowship with God.

16. The priest, his qualifications, his garments, and his activity were to reflect the Lord (holiness) and were symbolic of what he intended for all of his people if they obeyed his commandments (Exo 19:6; 28:1ff; 29:5ff; Lev 8:9).

17. The priestly function on the Day of Atonement when he entered the Most Holy Place represented what was lost in the garden when Adam experienced intimate fellowship with God (Lev 16).

18. The continued practice and annual offering for sin reminded the people of their need for God's grace, mercy, and faithfulness.

19. Israel remained in fellowship with God by obeying his commandment, which meant bringing offerings (gifts) and meals for the Lord.

a. Offerings or Gifts (Lev 1:2; 2:1; 3:1-2; 4:23; 5:11; 7:38)

b. Meals or Food (Lev 3:11, 16; 21:6; Num 28:2)

20. God reaffirms his covenant with this new Israel (generation) in the book of Deuteronomy.

- a. Foreword (1:1-8) and historical recap (1:9-4:43)
- b. The Decalogue (4:44-5:33) and exposition of the Decalogue (6:1-26:19)
- c. Covenant ratification (27:1-31:29)
- d. God's servant Moses (31:30-34:12)

21. In the book of Deuteronomy four major themes arise:

- a. Israel's main job is to utterly destroy the Canaanites (Deut 12:2-3).
 - i. The charge to destroy foreign nations applied to those nations occupying the promised land (cf., Deut 2:26ff; Josh 1:1ff).
 - ii. These nations were guilty of sin (cf., Gen 9:25; 15:7-16; 19:1ff; Lev 18:1ff; Deut 18:1ff).
 - iii. Mercy is offered (cf., Deut 2:26-29; Josh 2:1ff; 9:1ff).
- b. Israel is to remain faithful to the covenant in order to remain in the land (Deut 30:11-18).
- c. Moses speaks of a future prophet and king to come (Deut 17:14-20; 18:15-19).
- d. Israel will go into captivity, but God will bring them back (Deut 29:28; 30:1-5).

22. In the land, through Israel, God will carry forth his establishment of his kingdom and rule before nations.