

# MOSES & THE LAW

## Week 8: Law of the Land (Exodus - Deuteronomy)

The first five books of the Old Testament are often referred to as *Torah*, sometimes translated, *The Law*. Traditionally, Moses is considered the author of these books (also called the Pentateuch). Within the Mosaic Law there are some 613 commandments. These commandments are scattered throughout the Pentateuch.:

Genesis	3*
Exodus	107
Leviticus	244
Numbers	56
Deuteronomy	203

### Week Eight Reading Plan

Psalms 119:97-120	The Law of the Lord
Lev. 16:1-34	Day of Atonement
Lev. 18:1-19:37	Some of God's Laws
Lev. 23:1-44	Feasts of the Lord
Lev. 25:1-38	Jubilee
Deut. 6:1-25	The Greatest Commandment
Deut. 10:12-11:32	The Essence of the Law

The Ten Commandments given in Exodus 20 (and also Deuteronomy 5) was a covenant established between God and the rescued pastoral, nomadic people wandering along the southeastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea. One can imagine that as a nation of people that left Egypt to travel in the wilderness, there was a great need for organization. They were organized into tribes. They were also organized into roles: some were administrative assistants, others were ordained priests, etc. One family, the descendants of Levi, was assigned to be priests. They cared for the tabernacle. They helped with the sacrifices. They “kept house” and cared for the precious artifacts that reminded their people of their relationship with the Lord.

After the tabernacle was completely constructed, and the priests were ready to serve at its altars, the Israelites were about to begin a new phase in the history of their young nation. They began functioning as a nation under covenant relationship, with virtually every daily action influenced, if not directly prescribed, by law.

During the first four decades following the Exodus from Egypt, God gave to Moses scores of laws—laws affecting their religious and ceremonial duties, laws regulating diet and hygiene; laws of dedication and religious symbolism; civil laws and laws affecting political leaders, the army, and the court system; criminal laws and offenses against religion, society, and morality; and various family and estate laws. Unfortunately, our reading program will not accommodate the reading of all of them!

Sometimes a simplified distinction of the laws given at Mt. Sinai and in the tabernacle in the wilderness can be stated as:

COMMANDMENTS—*governing Moral life*, such as the Ten Commandments;

JUDGMENTS—*governing Social life*, such as rules regarding masters and slaves, neighbors, property, and feasts; and

ORDINANCES—*governing Religious life*, such as the building codes for the tabernacle and priestly regulations.

The many laws within Israel's code are recorded in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Often the same laws are repeated on different occasions and in varying contexts. Sometimes a law is further expanded or more completely explained. As the Israelites became less nomadic and more settled, the laws appropriately reflected their changing circumstances and prepared them to enter into the Promised Land.

“Be holy, for I am holy”  
—the Lord

\*For those who are wondering what the three are in Genesis are: 1:28—*be fruitful and multiply (have children)*; 17:10—*circumcise all males on the eighth day after their birth*; 32:33—*do not eat the sinew of the thigh*.

**1-7  
OFFERINGS**

of Dedication  
 ☪ Burnt  
 ☪ Grain  
 ☪ Fellowship  
  
 of Restoration  
 ☪ Sin  
 ☪ Guilt

**8-15  
PRIESTS &  
CLEANNESS**

Work of the  
Priest  
  
 Unholy fire  
  
 Food  
 Health

**16  
DAY OF  
ATONEMENT**

Showing the  
importance  
of mediation  
before God  
  
 At-One-ment  
with God

**17-20  
HOLINESS**

Sacrifices  
  
 Sexual Relations  
  
 Daily Life  
  
 Consequences

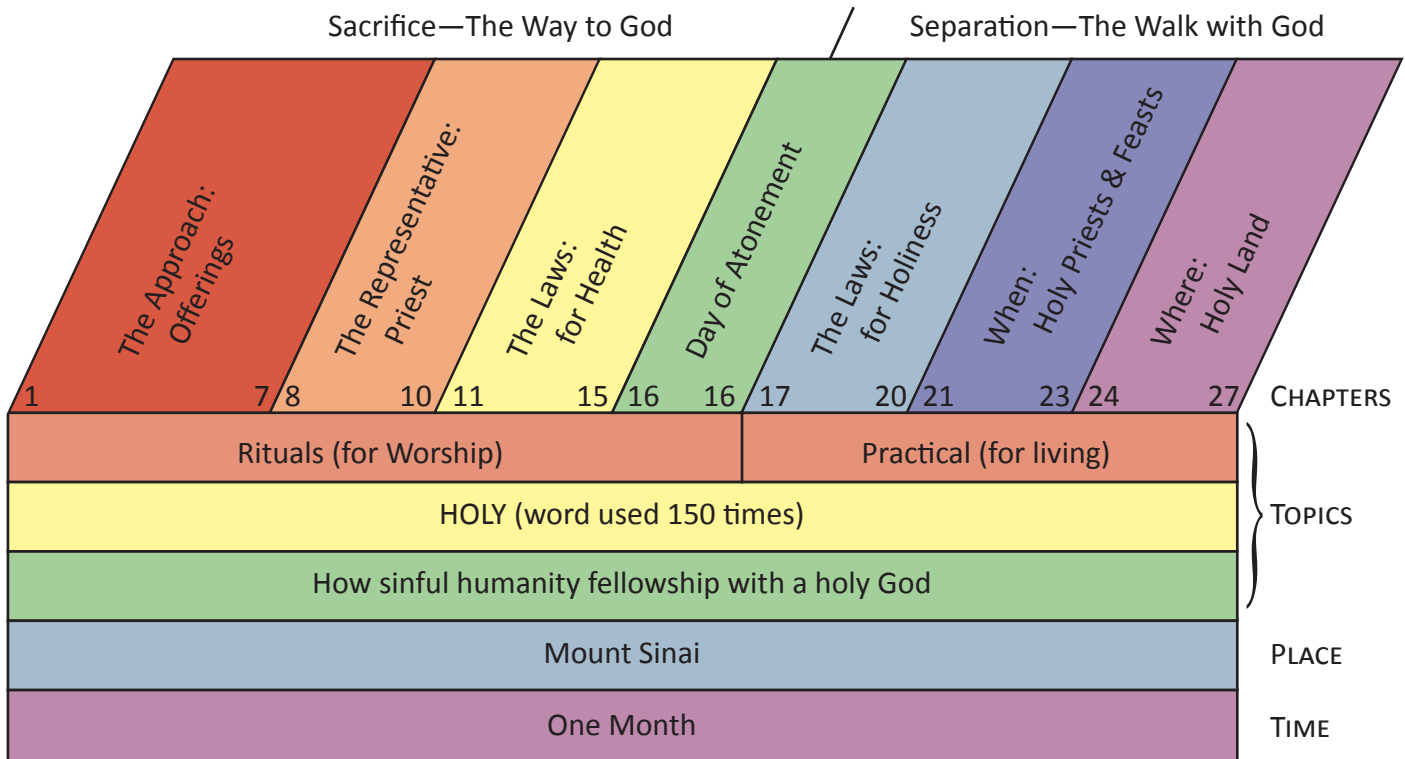
**21-23  
PRIESTS &  
FEASTS**

Sabbath  
 Passover  
 Unleavened Bread  
 Firstfruits  
 Pentecost  
 Trumpets  
 Day of Atonement  
 Tabernacles

**24-27  
CIVIL LIFE**

Sabbath year  
  
 Year of Jubilee  
  
 Blessings &  
Consequences  
  
 Redeeming

## LEVITICUS AS A WHOLE BOOK



The name of the third book of the Bible is associated with the Levites (although they are only mentioned in two verses). It is full, however, with the Levite's vocabulary. Frequently the words *priests*, *blood*, *offering*, and *sacrifice* appear. *Godesh*, rendered *holy* or *holiness* is used 150+ times. While the book of Leviticus may seem difficult at first, we have an inspired commentary on it in the book of Hebrews. In fact, Leviticus is referred to over forty times in the New Testament. It is a practical treatise on how to worship, how to live in community, and how to stay alive. In the situation for which it was written, Leviticus is the most practical of the books. The directives given in the book of Leviticus showed that Israel was to walk before God as a holy people. It was designed to teach Israel (1) how to worship and walk with God and (2) how the nation was to fulfill its calling as a nation of priests.

# WHOLLY for a HOLY GOD

Part one (chs. 1-17)

RELATIONSHIP THROUGH SACRIFICE

Part two (chs. 18-27)

FELLOWSHIP THROUGH SEPARATION

① chs. 1-7 *The PEOPLE offer their SACRIFICES*

- i) The BURNT OFFERING (Heb. *Olah*)
- ii) The MEAL OFFERING (Heb. *Minchah*)
- iii) The PEACE OFFERING (Heb. *Shelem*)
- iv) The SIN OFFERING (Heb. *Chattath*)
- v) The TRESPASS OFFERING (Heb. *Asham*)
- vi) The LAW of the OFFERINGS

① chs. 18-20 *The PEOPLE offer their THEMSELVES*

- i) FAMILY LIFE
- ii) RELIGIOUS LIFE
- iii) SOCIAL LIFE *According to the doings of the land of Egypt, where you dwelt, you shall not do; and according to the doings of the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you, you shall not do...you shall observe My judgments.*



② chs. 8-10 *The CONSECRATION of the PRIESTS*

- i) PREPARATION FOR THE MINISTRY: washed, clothed, anointed, sprinkled with blood (ch. 8)
- ii) PRACTICE OF THE MINISTRY (ch. 9)
- iii) PROHIBITIONS OF THE MINISTRY (ch. 10)

② chs. 21-22 *The REGULATION of the PRIESTS*

- i) DISQUALIFICATION from the Priesthood (ch. 21-22:16)
- ii) DISQUALIFICATION of a Sacrifice (ch. 22:17-33)

③ chs. 11-16 *HOLINESS IN DAILY LIFE*

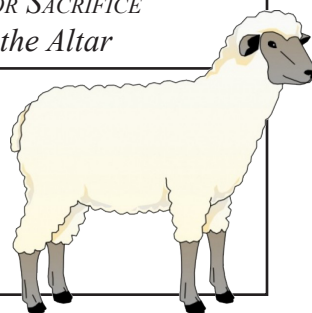
- i) DIETARY LAWS (ch. 11)
- ii) LAWS OF MOTHERHOOD (ch. 12)
- iii) LAWS OF LEPROSY (chs. 13-14)
- iv) LAWS OF CLEANSING (ch. 15)
- v) THE GREAT DAY OF AT-ONE-MENT (ch. 16)

③ chs. 23-24 *SPECIAL HOLY DAYS*

- i) The SABBATH—every seven days
- ii) PASSOVER, UNLEAVENED BREAD, and FIRSTFRUITS in Nisan (March-April)
- iii) PENTECOST (Weeks) 50 days after Firstfruits
- iv) TRUMPETS, ATONEMENT, and TABERNACLES in the month of Tishri (Sept-Oct)

④ ch. 17 *The PLACE FOR SACRIFICE —coming to the Altar*

- i) The SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PLACE (vv. 1-9)
- ii) The SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BLOOD (vv. 10-16)

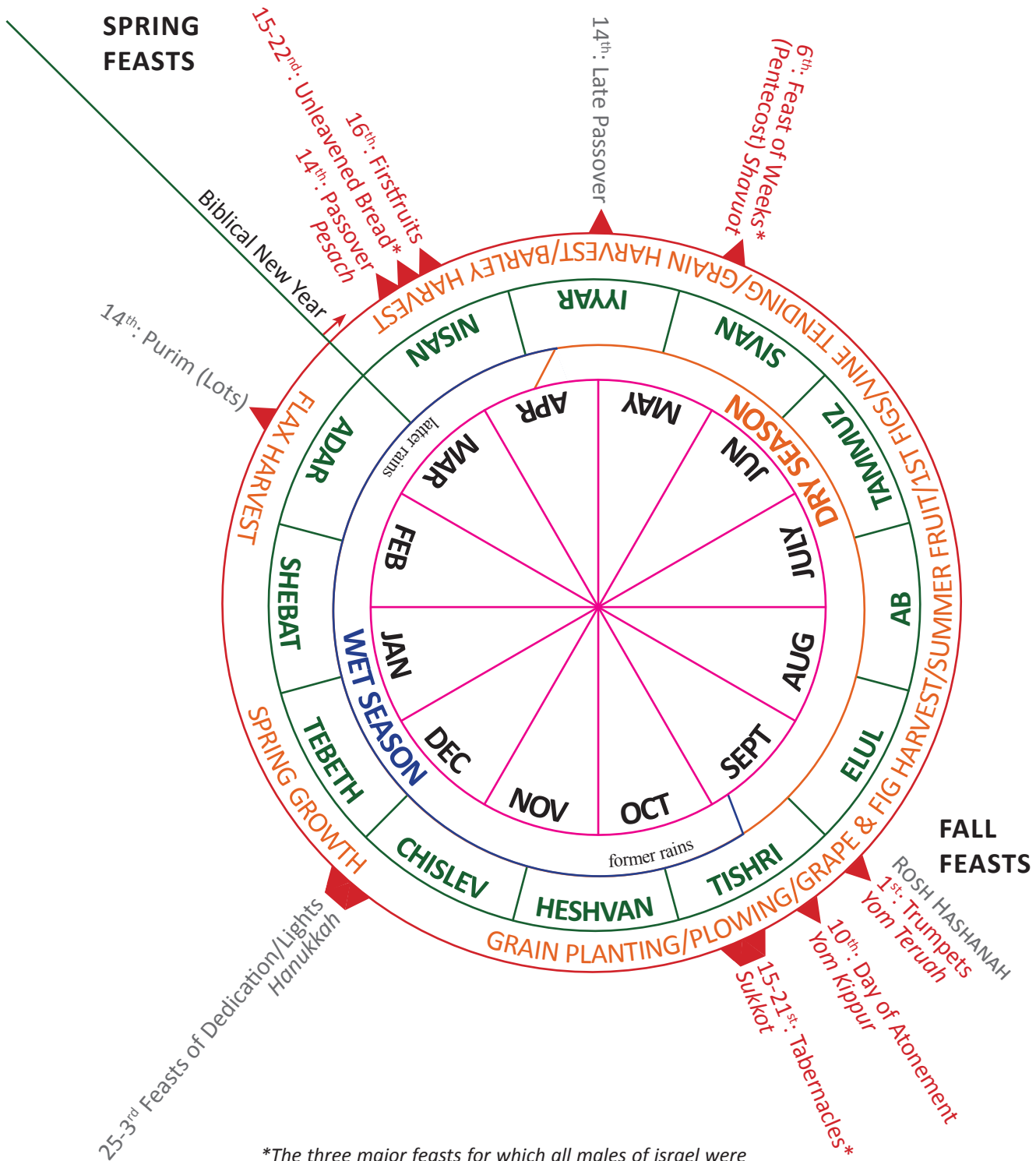


④ chs. 25-27 *The PLACE OF SEPARATION —coming into Canaan*

- i) Law of the Land—the sabbath year
- ii) Law of the Land—the Jubilee year
- iii) Law of the Land—redeeming it
- iv) Law of the Land—redeeming the poor
- v) Law of the Land—blessing and cursing

# BIBLICAL JEWISH YEAR

## Agricultural and Ceremonial



\*The three major feasts for which all males of Israel were required to travel to the temple in Jerusalem (Ex. 23:14-19)