



*It's The
Law*

IT'S THE LAW

DEUTORONOMY CHAPTER FOUR

1 Now therefore hearken O' Israel unto the statutes and unto the judgments which I teach you,

For to do them that you may live, and go in and possess the land which Yahweh, Elohim of your fathers gave you.

2 You shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall you diminish anything from it, that you keep the commandments of Yahweh, your Elohim which I command you.

3 Your eyes have seen what the Adonai did because of Baalpeor: for all the men that followed Baalpeor, Yahweh, your Elohim hath destroyed them from among you.

4 But you that did cleave unto Yahweh, your Elohim are alive every one of you this day.

5 Behold, I have taught you statutes, and judgments, even as Yahweh, my Elohim has commanded me, that you should do so in The land you go to possess it.

6 Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom, and understanding in the sight of nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.

7 For what nation is there so great, who has Elohim so near to them, as Yahweh, our Elohim is in all things that we call upon him for?

8 And what nation is there so great, that has statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law which I set before you this day.

SOME FEATURES OF THE LAW COVENANT

THEOCRATIC GOVERNMENT

- Yahweh Elohim is the Supreme Sovereign (Ex 19:5; 1Sa 12:12; Isa 33:22)
- King to sit on "Yahweh's throne, "representing," Him (1 Ch 29:23; De 17:14, 15)
- Other officers (chieftains of tribes; chiefs of thousands of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens) were selected on the basis of their fear of Elohim, as well as their trustworthiness and incorruptibility (Ex 18:21, 25; Nu 1:44)
- Respect was due to all who exercised Elohim-given authority; officers, priests, judges, parents (Ex 20:12; 22:28; De 17:8-13)

RELIGIOUS OBLIGATIONS

- These were summed up in the greatest commandment in the Law--to love Yahweh with one's whole heart, mind, soul, and strength; (De 6:5; 10:12; Mk 12:30)
- Worship was to go only to Yahweh (Ex 20:3; 22:20; De 5:7)
- Love should be a powerful motivating factor in one's relationship with Elohim (De 6:5, 6; 10:12; 30:16)
- All were to fear Elohim so as not to disobey Him (Ex 20:20; De 5:11)
- Yahweh's name was not to be taken up in a worthless way (Ex 20:7; De 5:11)
- They could approach him only in the way he approved (Nu 3:10; Le 10:1-3; 16:1)
- All were obligated to keep the Sabbath (Ex 20:8-11; 31:12-17)

Congregating for worship:

- All males were required to assemble on these holy days: Passover, Feast of Unleavened Bread, Feast of First Fruits, Feast of Pentecost, Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles (Le 23:1-43)
- All males were required to appear before Yahweh 3 times per year at: Unleavened Bread, Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) and Feast of Tabernacles (De 16:16; De 31:10-13;)
- Man who deliberately neglected to keep Passover was "cut off" (Nu 9:13)

Supporting Priesthood:

- Levites received a tithe, or tenth of all the produce of the land from the other tribes (Nu 18:21-24)
- Levites had to give to the priesthood a tithe made up of the very best of what they received (Nu 18:25-29)

Offering of sacrifices:

- Various offerings outlined in the Law: (Heb 8:3-5; 10:5-10)
- Regular burnt offerings (Le 1: Nu 28 :,) Communion Offerings (Le 3: 19-5) Sin offerings (Le 4: Nu 15:22-29), Guilt Offerings (Le 5:1- 6:7), Grain offerings (Le 2 :) Drink Offerings (Nu 15:5, 10), Wave offerings (Le 23:10-11, 15-17)

Practices of false religion forbidden:

- Idolatry (Ex 20:4-6; De 5:8-10),
- Making cuts in one's flesh for the dead/tattooing one's body (Le 19:28)
- Planting groves of trees near the altar (De 16:21), bringing things detestable, devoted to destruction into one's house (De 7:26),
- Speaking of revolt against Yahweh (De 13:5),
- Advocating false worship (De 13:6-10; 17-2-7); going over to false worship (De 13:12-16),
- Devoting offspring to false Elohim (Le 18:21; De 18-9-14),
- Spiritism, sorcery (Ex 22:18; Le 20:27; De 18:9-14)

DUTIES OF PRIESTHOOD

- In fulfilling their duties, the priests were assisted by the Levites (Nu 3:5-10);
- Teach the Law of Elohim (De 33:8-10; Mal 2:2);
- Serve as judges, applying divine law (De 17:8, 9; 19:16, 17);
- Use Urim Thummim to inquire of Elohim (Ex 28:30; Nu 27:18-21)

MEMBERSHIP IN THE CONGREGATION OF ISRAEL

- Membership in congregation of Israel not limited to those born in the nation;
- Persons of other nations could become circumcised worshipers, such as alien residents were bound to keep all the terms of the Law covenant (Le 24:22);

Restrictions limiting membership in congregation of Israel:

- No man castrated by crushing testicles or having male member cut off (De 23:1)
- No illegitimate son or his descendants to "tenth generation" (De 23:2)
- No Ammonite or Moabite (males) to time indefinite because they would not extend hospitality but opposed Israel at the time of the Exodus from Egypt (De 23:3-6)
- Sons born of Egyptians "as the third generation" could be admitted (De 23:7-8)

JUDICIAL SYSTEM

- Laws governing legal cases highlighted Yahweh's justice and mercy. Judges were given latitude to show mercy, depending on the circumstances. These laws also kept the nation uncontaminated and protected the welfare of each individual Israelite:

Judges:

- Priests, kings, and other men appointed as judges (Ex 18:25-26; De 16:18; 17:8-9; 1 Ki 3:6, 9-12; 2Ch 19:5-6)
- Standing before judges was regarded as standing before Yahweh (De 1:17; 19:16, 17)

Hearing Cases:

- Ordinary cases were submitted to judges (Ex 18:21, 22; De 25:1-2; 2 Chr 19:8-10)
- If lower court could not make a decision, case would go to higher courts (Ex 18:25-26; 1Ki 3:16-28)

Exceptional or hard cases that were taken to priests:

- Cases of jealousy or unchastity of wife (Nu 5:12-15);
- When witness charged another with revolt (De 19:16-17)
- When a violent deed or one causing bloodshed was committed or when decision was hard or it was disputed (De 17:8-9; 21:5)
- When man was found slain in field and murderer could not be identified (De 21:1-9)

Witnesses:

- At least two witnesses required to establish truth (De 17:6; 19:15); compare to John 8:17; 1 Ti 5:19)
- Hands of witnesses were to be the first to come upon guilty person in putting him to death. This was deterrent to false, hasty, or careless testimony (De 17:7)

Testifying falsely:

- Perjury was strictly forbidden (Ex 20:16; 23:1); (De 5:20)
- If false accusation against another person, false witness would receive punishment schemed for accused (De 19:16-19)

Bribery, partiality in judgment:

- Bribery prohibited (Ex 23:8; De 27:25)
- Perverting justice forbidden (Ex 23:1-7); (Le 19:15, 35); (De 16:19)
- Holding a person in custody was done only when case was difficult and had to be decided by Yahweh (Le 24:11-16, 23); (Nu 15:32-36)

Punishments:

- Strokes---limited to 40, to void disgraceful beating (De 25:1-3) compare to 2Co 11:24)
- Death by stoning---then body might be put on a stake as one accused (De 13:10; 21:22, 23)
- Retaliation---retribution, a like punishment (Le 24:19, 20)

Damages:

- If a person's animal damaged the property of another (Ex 22:5; 21:35, 36)
- If a person kindled fire that damaged another's property (Ex 22:6)
- If a person killed another's domestic animal (Le 24:18, 21); (Ex 21:33, 34);
- If a person unintentionally appropriated to his own use something "holy," such as tithes or sacrifices (Le 5:15, 16)
- If a person deceived an associate about something in his charge or a deposit in hand or robbery or something found, swearing falsely concerning these things (Le 6:2-7); (Nu 5:6-8)

Cities of refuge:

- Accidental manslayer could flee to nearest one, then trial was held in jurisdiction where incident occurred (Nu 35:12-15); (De 19:4, 5); (Jos 20:2-4)
- One found to be an unintentional manslayer had to live in city of refuge until the death of the high priest (Nu 35:22-25); (Jos 20:5, 6)
- A deliberated murderer was put to death (Nu 35:30, 31)

MARRIAGE, FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS, SEXUAL MORALITY

(The Law safeguarded Israel by preserving the sacred status of marriage and family life).

- Marriage first performed by Yahweh (Ge 2:18, 21-24)
- Husband was owner of his wife but was answerable to Yahweh for how he dealt with her (De 22:22); (Mal 2:13-16) (Eph 5:22-25); (Col 3:19)
- Polygamy was permitted but was regulated to safeguard wives and their offspring (De 21:15-17); (Ex 21:10); (Matt 22:23-30) - **The Messiah did not say this was done away with. The brother was to marry his brother's widow, no matter what (if he was married or not).**
- Marriage was compulsory after copulation or seduction (unless father of girl forbade it) (Ex 22:16, 17); (De 22:28, 29)
- Levirate marriage was the arrangement in which a man married his brother's widow if his deceased brother died sonless; the man failing to do so was reproached (De 25:5-10); (Matt 22:24-30)
- Marriage alliances with aliens were forbidden (Ex 34:12-16); (De 7:1-4) but marriage with captive women was permitted as the spoils of warfare (De 21:10-14)
- Women who were heirs of land were to marry only within tribe (Nu 36:6-9)
- Marriage bed is undefiled (Heb 13:4)
- Due benevolence (1 Cor 7:3-6)
- Fornication prohibited (1 Cor 7:1-2 & 9) (If a man engages in sexual activity with an unmarried woman and does not take on all the responsibilities of a husband, he has engaged in fornication).

Divorce:

- Only husband was allowed to divorce (for something indecent on wife's part); he was required to give wife written certificate of divorce (De 22:28, 29)
- No divorce allowed if husband had married wife after seducing her (De 24:1-4)
- Man could not remarry woman he divorced after she had married again and her second husband divorced her or died (De 24:1-4)
- Adultery carried death penalty for both guilty parties (the man and the married woman) (Ex 20:14); (De 22:22)
- Messiah's clarification (Matt 5:31-32); (Matt 19:3-9)**
- Lawful separation (1 Cor 7:10-16)

Incest:

An Israelite man could not uncover the nakedness of the following:

His mother, stepmother, or a secondary wife of his father (Le 18:7, 8; 20:11); (De 22:30; 27:20);

- his sister or half sister (Le 18:9, 11; 20:17); (De 27:22);
- his granddaughter (Le 18:10);
- his aunt (either his mother's or his father's sister) (Le 18:12, 13; 20:19);
- his aunt by marriage (either his father's brother's wife or his mother's brother's wife) (Le 18:14; 20:20);
- his daughter-in-law (Le 18:15; 20:12);
- his daughter, stepdaughter, stepdaughter's daughter, stepson's daughter, -mother-in-law (Le 18:17; 20:14); (De 27:23);
- brother's wife (Le 18:16; 20:21) except in levirate marriage (De 25:5, 6);
- his wife's sister, to vex her, during his wife's lifetime (Le 18:18)

An Israelite woman could not marry any of the following:

- Her son or stepson (Le 18:7,8; 20:11); (De 22:30; 27:20);
- her brother or her half brother (Le 18:9, 11; 20:17); (De 27:22);
- her grandfather (Le 18:10); her nephew (either her brother's son or her sister's son) (Le 18:12, 13; 20:19);
- her nephew (either her husband's brother's son or her husband's sister's son) (Le 18:14; 20:20);
- her father-in-law (Le 18:15; 20:12);
- her father, stepfather, mother's stepfather, father's stepfather, son-in-law (Le 18:7, 17; 20:21); (De 27:23);
- her husband's brother (Le 18:16; 20:21), except in levirate marriage (De 25:5,6);

Penalty for incest:

- Death (Le 18:29; 20:11, 12, 14, 17, 20, 21)

Intercourse during menstruation:

- If a man and a woman deliberately cohabited during menstruation they were cut off in death (Le 18:19; 20:18)
- Husband who unwittingly had intercourse with wife during uncleanness (at unexpected beginning of menstruation) was unclean seven days (Le 15:19-24)

Parent- Child Relationships:

- Parents (especially men) were commanded to teach children Yahweh's Law (De 16:6-9, 20-25; 11:18-21); (Isa 38:19)
- Children to honor parents (Ex 20:12; 21:15, 17); (Le 19:3); (De 5:16; 21:18-21; 27:16)

Wearing dress of opposite sex:

- To deceive for immoral purposes was prohibited (De 22:5)
- Men lying with men carried death penalty for both persons involved (Le 18:22; 20:13)
- Bestiality resulted in death for person and beast (Ex 22:19); (Le 18:23, 29; 20:15, 16); (De 27:21)
- Indecent assault (woman in husband's fight grabbed hold of other man's private) punished by amputation of her hand, instead of penalty of like for like, out of Yahweh's regard for

her reproductive powers and her husband's right to have children by her (De 25:11, 12)

BUSINESS PRACTICES

The Law encouraged both honesty in business dealings and respect for the home and property of others:

Ownership of land:

- Land was allotted to families (Nu 33:54; 36:2)
- Land was not sold permanently but reverted owner at Jubilee; its sale value was based on the number of crops until Jubilee (Le 25:15, 16, 23-28)
- If there was a sale, nearest kinsman had right to buy (Jer 32:7-12)
- The state did not have right to seize one's land inheritance for public purposes simply by paying compensation (1Ki 21:2-4)

Share of Levites consisted of cities and the pasture ground:

- Of the 48 cities allotted, 13 were priestly cities (Nu 35:2-5); (Jos 21:3-42)
- Field of pasture ground of a Levite city could not be sold; it belonged to city, not to individuals (Le 25:34)
- If a man sanctified (set aside the use or production of) part of a field to Yahweh (sanctuary use, priesthood), the standard for estimating its value was that the area of ground seeded by a homer of barley would be worth 50 shekels of silver; the value diminished proportionately according to number of years left until next Jubilee (Le 27:16-18)
- If sanctifier wanted to buy it back, he had to add 20 percent to the estimated value (Le 27:19)
- If he did not buy it back but sold it to another man, at the time of Jubilee it became the possession of the priest as holy to Yahweh (Le 27:20,21)
- If a man sanctified to Yahweh part of field he had purchased from another, at Jubilee it returned to original holder (Le 27:22-24)
- If a man "devoted" anything of his own property ("devoted" things were permanently and solely for sanctuary use or for destruction; (Jos 6:17; 7:1, 15; (Eze 44:29), it could not be sold or bought back; it remained Yahweh's (Le 27:21, 28, 29)

Redemption of property:

- All land returned to original possessor at the Jubilee (with previously noted exceptions) (Le 25:8-10, 15, 16, 24-28)
- Levites could redeem their houses in Levite cities at any time (Le 25:32, 33)

Jubilee year:

- Began on Day of Atonement, in 50th year, counting started from year Israelites entered land (Le 25:2, 8-19)

Inheritance:

- Firstborn son inherited double share of property (inheritance) (De 21:15-17)
- When there was no son, the inheritance went to daughters. (Nu 27:6-8)

-If a man had neither sons nor daughters, it went to the brothers, to his father's brothers, or to his nearest blood relative (Nu 27:9-11)

Scales, weights, and measures:

-Yahweh demanded honesty and accuracy (Le 19:35, 36); (De 25:13-15)
-Cheating was detestable to him (Pr 11:1)

Debts:

At end of every seven years, Hebrew brothers were released from debts (De 15:1, 2)
Could press foreigner for payment of debt (De 15:3)

Security for a loan:

-If a person took a person's outer garment as security for a loan, he must not keep it overnight (the poor often slept in the garment for lack of other bed clothes) (Ex 22:26, 27); (De 24:12, 13)
-A person could not enter another man's house to get a pledge or something as a security for a loan. He had to remain outside the house and let the person bring it out to him (this maintained the inviolability of the man's domain) (De 24:10, 11)
-One could not take a hand mill or its upper grindstone for security (the person then could not grind grain to feed himself or his family) (De 24:6)

MILITARY LAWS

-The laws regulated Israel's Elohim-ordained warfare in the Promised Land. Wars of selfish aggression or conquest beyond Yahweh's given limits were strictly forbidden.

Wars:

-To be only wars of Yahweh (Nu 21:14); 2Ch 20:15
-Soldiers were sanctified before going into battle (1Sa 21:1-6); compare to (Le 15:16, 18)

Age of soldiers:

-Males twenty years old and upward (Nu 1:2,3; 26:1-4)
-According to *Jewish Antiquities*, 111, 288 (xii, 4) by Josephus, they served until 50 years old of age

Exemptions from military service:

-Levites, as ministers of Yahweh (Nu 1:47-49; 2:33)
-Man who has not inaugurated newly built house or had not used newly planted vineyard (De 20:5, 6) compare (Ec 2:24; 3:12, 13)
-Man who had become engaged and had not yet taken his wife. The newly married man continued exempt for one year (man had the right to have heir and to see this heir) (De 20:7; 24:5)
-Man who was fearful (he would tend to break down morale of fellow soldiers) (De 20:8); (Jg 7:3)
-Cleanliness was required in camp (since soldiers were sanctified for warfare) (De 23:9-14)
-No women were allowed as camp followers for sex relations;

relations with women were abstained from during campaign.
-This ensured religious and physical cleanliness (Le 15:16); (1Sa 21:5); 2Sa 11:6-11)

-No raping of women among enemy was allowed, for this would be fornication; and no marriage with such women was permitted until campaign was over. This provided for religious cleanliness and it also was an inducement for enemy surrender, for they would be assured that their women would not be molested (De 21:10-13)

Military procedures against enemy cities:

-If that city was attacked belonged to one of seven nations of land of Canaan (mentioned at De 7:1), all inhabitants were to be devoted to destruction (De 20:15-17); (Jos 11:11-14); (De 2:32-34; 3:1-7)
-If left in the land, these would be a danger to continued relationship of Israel with Yahweh Elohim. He had let them live in land until their iniquity came to completion (Ge 15:11-21)
-For cities not belonging to the seven nations, terms of peace would first be proclaimed. (De 20:10, 15)
-If city surrendered, inhabitants were put to forced labor. If they did not surrender, all males and all women not virgins were killed. Others were spared as captives (De 20:11-14); compare (Nu 31:7, 17, 18) (Killing all men removed danger of later revolt by city and also marriage of these men to Israelite women. These measures also helped to avoid phallic worship and diseases among Israelites).
-Trees producing food could not be cut down and used for siege works (De 20:19, 20)
-Chariots were burned; horses were hamstringed to incapacitate them for battle and later they were killed (Jos 11:6)

DIETARY AND SANITARY LAWS

-These served to keep the Israelites separate from pagan nations, to promote cleanliness and health, and to remind them of their holiness to Elohim (Le 19:2)

Use of blood:

-Eating of blood was strictly forbidden (Ge 9:4); (Le 7:26, 17:12) (De 12:23-25)
-Penalty for violation: death (Le 7:27; 17:10)
-Life (soul) is in the blood (Le 17:11, 14)
-Blood of slaughtered animal had to be poured out on ground like water and covered with dust (Le 17:13); (De 12:16)
-No animal dying of itself or found dead could be eaten (because it was unclean and had not been properly bled) (De 14:21)
-Only legal uses: put upon altar for atonement; used for prescribed cleansing purposes (Le 17:11, 12) (De 12:27); (Nu 19:1-9)

Use of fat:

-No fat could be eaten; fat belonged to Yahweh

(Le 17:16, 17; De 22:23, 24)

-Eating fat offering brought death penalty (Le 7:25)

Slaughtered animals:

-In wilderness, any domestic animals that were to be slaughtered were to be brought to tabernacle. They would be eaten as communion sacrifices (Le 17:3-6)

-Wild clean animals caught in hunting could be killed on the spot; blood had to be poured out (Le 17:13, 14)

-After entering Promised Land clean animals could be slaughtered for food in the place of a person's residence if he was far from the sanctuary, but blood had to be poured on the ground (De 12:20-25)

Animals, fish, insects permitted for food:

-Every creature that splits hoof, forming a cleft therein, and chews cud (Le 11:2, 3); (De 14:6)

-Everything in the water that has fins and scales (Le 11:9-12); (De 14:9, 10)

-Insects and winged swarming creatures that go upon all fours and have leaper legs: migratory locust, edible locust, cricket, and grasshopper (all according to their kind) (Le 11:21, 22)

Animals, fish, birds, swarming creatures prohibited for food:

-Animals: camels, rock badger, hare, pig (Le 11:4-8); (De 14:7, 8)

-Fish and other swarming creatures in the water that have no fins or scales (Le 11:10)

-Birds and flying creatures: eagle, osprey, black vulture, red kite, black kite, glede, raven, ostrich, owl, gull, falcon, little owl, long-eared owl, swan, pelican, vulture, cormorant, stork, heron, hoopoe, bat, any winged swarming creature that goes on all fours (that is having locomotion in the manner of animals that walk on four legs). The factors determining which flying creatures were designated ceremonially "unclean" are not expressly stated in the Bible. While most of the "unclean" birds were birds of prey or scavengers, not all of them were (De 14:12-19); (Le 11:13-20) (see Birds and articles on individual birds)

Swarming creatures on the earth:

-Mole, rat, jerboa, lizard, gecko fan foot, large lizard, newt, sand lizard, chameleon, any creature that goes upon the bell, on all fours (style of locomotion), or on any great number of feet (Le 11:29, 30, 42)

-Animal that died of itself or was already dead or torn by wild beast (Le 17:15, 16); (De 14:21); (Ex 22:31)

-Animals presented as vow or voluntary offering, communion sacrifice could be eaten on day offered and on second but not on third day; penalty for violation, death.

-Thanksgiving sacrifice is to be eaten on that day; none to be saved over until morning (second day).

-Passover must not be left over; what was not eaten was to be burned.

Things causing uncleanness:

-Emission of semen, person had to bathe and was unclean until evening (Le 15:16); (De 23:10, 11)

-Garment touched by semen was washed and was unclean until evening. (Le 15:17)

-A discharge, other than blood, that is not normal (men and women) would require separation for 7 days. (Le 15:25)

-Husband and wife, after having intercourse, had to bath and were unclean until evening (Le 15:18)

Childbirth:

-Women was unclean 7 days after bearing a male, plus 33 days for a total of 40 days, unclean to all, as in menstruation, 33 days unclean only in relation to touching holy things such as sacrificial meals or coming into the holy place. (Le 12:2-4)

-If child is a female, woman unclean 14 days, plus 66 days for a total of 80 days (Le 12:5)

Woman's menstruation:

-Woman unclean seven days in regular menstruation; during entire period of abnormal or extended discharge of blood, plus seven days (Le 15:19, 25, 28)

-During her uncleanness anything on which she sat or lay down was unclean (Le 15:21-23)

-Person who touched her or her bed or what she sat on had to wash garments and bathe and was unclean until evening (Le 15:21-23)

-If her menstrual impurity came to be upon a man, he was unclean for seven days, and any bed upon which he would lie was unclean (Le 15:25)

-Anytime she had running discharge she was unclean (Le 15:25)

Safeguards against disease Leprosy and other plagues:

-Priest determined whether it was leprosy or not (Le 13:2)

-Person was quarantined seven days and then examined;

-If plague had stopped, seven more days (Le 13:4, 5, 21, 26)

-If plague did not spread then, he was pronounced clean (Le 13:6)

- If plague spread, it was leprosy (Le 13:7, 8)

- If leprosy person had to have garments torn, let his head become un-groomed, cover over mustache (or upper lip), call out "unclean, unclean!" Dwelt isolated outside camp until plague cured (Le 13:45, 46) (Nu 5:2-4)

-Genital discharge (evidently due to diseased condition) (Le 5:2, 3)

-Bed or articles that such a person would sit or lie on were unclean (Le 15:4)

-Anyone who touched the affected person, his bed, or whatever he was sitting on was unclean, or if affected person spat on another, he was rendered unclean (Le 15:5-11)

-If touched by one having running discharge, earthen ware vessels were smashed, wooden one was rinsed with water (Le 15:12)

-After discharge stopped, person was unclean seven days (Le 15:13)

-Cleanness of military camp was safeguarded by requiring

that excrement be deposited outside the camp and be covered over (De 23:12, 13)

(Ex 22:21; 23:9) (Le 19:33, 34) (De 10:17-19; 24:14, 15, 17; 27:19)

Regulations concerning bodies of dead persons:

- Touching corpse, bone, or burial place of human made one unclean seven days even when on open field (Nu 19:11, 16)
- Death for refusing to purify self (Nu 19:12, 130) (See cleansing procedure) (Nu 19:17-19)
- All who were in or came into tent containing dead person were unclean as was any opened vessel there on which no lid was tied down (Nu 19:14, 15)

Regulations concerning bodies of dead animals:

- The body of a clean animal that dies of itself made the one who carried, touched it, or ate it unclean; the dead body of any unclean animals made the one who touched it unclean
- Cleansing was required (Le 11:8-40; 17:15, 16)
- Bodies of unclean animals would make items such as vessels, jar stands, ovens, garments, skins, and sack cloth unclean by contact (Le 11:32-35)

Spoil taken from city:

- Everything that could be processed with fire had to be so processed (metals), then purified by water for cleansing; other things had to be washed (Nu 31:20-23)

OTHER OBLIGATIONS INVOLVING FELLOW CREATURES

- The Law specified that "you must love your fellow man as yourself," (Le 19:18)
- Yahshua indicated that this was the second greatest commandment in the Law (Mt. 22:37-40)

Toward fellow Israelites:

- Love was to be shown; murder was forbidden (Ex 20:13; Ro 13:9, 10)
- Must not take vengeance or hold a grudge against one's fellowman (Le 19:18)
- Care for the poor (Ex 23:6); (Le 25:35, 39-43)
- Care for the widows, orphans and the fatherless (Ex 22:22-24); (De 24:17-21; 27:19)

Respect for property:

- Stealing was forbidden; compensation was required (Ex 20:15; 22:1-4, 7)
- Wrongful desire for property and possessions belonging to one's fellowman was forbidden (Ex 20:17)

Consideration for the handicapped:

- Could not ridicule or call down evil upon deaf person; he could not defend himself against statements he could not hear (Le 19:14)
- One who put obstacle in the way of a blind person or misled him was cursed (Le 19:14-14); (De 27:18)

Toward alien residents:

- They were not to be mistreated

Toward slaves:

- Hebrew slave was released in seventh year of his (or her) servitude or at Jubilee year, whichever came first. During slavery only he went free; if this wife had borne him children, she and children remained property of master (Ex 21:4)
- On freeing Hebrew slave, master had to give gift according to his ability to give (De 15:13-15)
- Slave could be flogged by master (Ex 21:20, 21)
- If maimed, was given freedom (Ex 21:26, 27)
- If slave died under his master's beating, master could be punished by death; judges would decide the penalty (Ex 21:20); (Le 24:17)

Toward animals:

- If one came upon a domestic animal in distress, he was obligated to help it even if it belonged to an enemy of his (Ex 23:4, 5); (De 22:4)
- Beast of burden were not to be overworked or mistreated (De 22:10) compare (Pr 12:10)
- Bull not to be muzzled when threshing, so that it could feed on the grain it was threshing (De 25:4); compare (1Co:7-10)
- A person was not to take both a mother bird and her eggs, thereby wiping out family (De 22:6,7)
- A person was not to slaughter a bull or a sheep and its young on the same day (Le 22:28)

PURPOSES SERVED BY THE LAW

- It made transgressions manifest; it showed that the Israelites needed to be forgiven of their transgressions and that a greater sacrifice was required that could really atone for their sins (Ga 3:19)
- As a tutor, the law safeguarded and disciplined the Israelites, preparing them for the Messiah as their instructor (3:24)
- Various aspects of the Law were shadows that represented greater things to come; these shadows helped right-hearted Israelites to identify the Messiah, since they could see how he fulfilled these prophetic patterns (Heb 10:1); (Col 2:17)