

O GOD WHO SHAPED THE STARRY SKIES
and made the sun in splendour rise,
whose love our life imparts,
still may that same creative word
which formless void and darkness heard
be known within our hearts.

Teach us to see, as Moses saw,
your will revealed in perfect law,
a covenant divine;
a word to make the simple wise,
a light of truth before our eyes,
and on our souls to shine.

Move every heart in holy fear
the judgements of the Lord to hear,
your word about our way;
and in that law let all rejoice
to find a loving Father's voice
and his command obey.

So may we share for evermore
the sweetness of that golden store,
and taste its rich reward;
and make the Scriptures our delight
and walk as pleasing in your sight,
our great redeeming Lord.

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ALL SCRIPTURE IS GOD-BREATHED



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LEVITICUS & DEUTERONOMY

God's Law ...

... in commandment

... in sacrifice

... and in priesthood.

"He said to them, 'How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory? And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the scriptures concerning himself.'"

LUKE 24:25-27



THE LAW OF GOD

**Law (Torah) = instruction and guidance
for living and worship.**

The Law was given by God through Moses to Israel soon after God had rescued Israel from captivity in Egypt (Exodus and Leviticus). Note the order! The Law was given to a redeemed people.

It was restated by Moses forty years later to the second generation of Israelites shortly before Moses' death and Israel's entry into the Promised Land (Deuteronomy).

The Law of God can be divided into three sections though there is some overlap.

Moral Law

The Ten Commandments (Ex. 20 and Deut. 5) The heart of God's Law. Spoken directly by God to the people. Written "by the finger of God" on two stone tablets. Stored inside the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies.

- a) **Our Duty to God.** To honour him in thought (1 and 2), word (3) and deed (4). (Commandment 5 should probably be included in this section)
- b) **Our Duty to Others.** To honour others in deed (6, 7, 8), word (9) and thought (10). To regard our neighbour's life (6), marriage (7), property (8) and reputation (9) as sacred.

Note Jesus' summary of the 10 commandments as love for God and love for neighbour.

Community Law

Instructions for living together as a nation and a community. Scattered throughout Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. Some basic principles:

- a) Generosity to the underprivileged
- b) Equality and impartiality before the law.
- c) The sanctity of Life.
- d) High sexual standards.
- e) Punishments to fit the crime.

Ceremonial Law

Instructions for the formal worship of God. Included detailed provision for atonement and forgiveness. Second half of Exodus and a large part of Leviticus.

- a) The Place of worship. The Tabernacle (Exodus 35-40)
- b) The Priests. Uniform. (Ex. 39) Consecration (Lev. 8). Personal holiness (Lev. 21-22) Duties.
- c) The sacrifices and offerings (Lev. 1-7; 16-17; 22 etc.)
- d) The Feasts (Lev. 23 etc.)
- e) Cleanliness (Lev. 11-15 etc.)

Concluding observations

- a) God's lordship over the whole of life.
- b) The priority of obedience over ritual. "To obey is better than sacrifice."
- c) Christ's fulfilment of the Law.