

C. The Giving of the Law 20-23

1. The Ten commands

Often called the "moral law" these are the basic concepts on which all the rest of Israel's law is built. (Remember that the word "law" has several areas of meaning, both old Testament and New.) The commands begin with a reminder of God's service to the people in their history.

We often see them in two tables:

No Gods before me	--do not kill
no image for worship	--no adultery
honor God's name	--do not steal
keep God's day	--no false witness
respect God's order	--do not covet
Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, etc.	Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

They are sometimes called the "ten words" You will notice the first table is "god-ward" and the next may be called "man-ward". The commands enunciate what pleases God and what enables us to live with others. They are supreme as foundational statements to what man needs to know to live before the Lord and fellow man.

2. The worship laws 20:18-26; 23:14-33.

Note the altar regulations and the charge to singularity of worship in chapter 23. I will not spend a lot of time on these but notice vs 19 as an example of a verse which we now know is telling Israel to avoid pagan practices and notice also verse 25 in context. The section closes with the assurance that if they make no allegiances with pagan gods, God will secure them and keep them inviolate.

3. The civil laws...governmentally inclined for the exercise of equity and justice among the people of God. These laws cover a wide range of performance and they show an interest in qualities of life that mirror the Divine character. The basic content goes like this:

a. servant laws 21:1-11