

HOW TO STUDY OLD TESTAMENT LAW

Which books of the Bible are considered the “Books of the Law”?

- The first 5 (the Pentateuch): Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
- Not everything in the “Books of the Law” is necessarily a list of commandments.
Genesis 1–Exodus 19 is mostly history; **Exodus 20–Deuteronomy 33** is mostly what we would think of as “law,” i.e., rules and regulations.

What is the Law?

- Covenant — The law is *how* God marked His covenant people.
- Constitution — For the nation of Israel
- Instruction in how to have peace with God.

Types of Law in the Old Testament

1. Moral Law — i.e., the Ten Commandments
2. Civil Law — “case law” or “judicial law” which deals with penalties and restoration for specific infractions
3. Cermonial Law — Laws of purification, sacrifice, special feasts, priests, etc. (SEE DIAGRAM BELOW)

The 3 “Uses” of the Moral Law

1. Leads us to Christ. *Romans 3:21–31*
2. Restrains evil. *Romans 13*
3. Instructs us in righteous living. *Ps. 1, Ps. 19, Ps. 119...*

“By studying or meditating on the law of God, we attend the school of righteousness. We learn what pleases God and what offends Him. The moral law that God reveals in Scripture is always binding upon us. Our redemption is from the curse of God’s law, not from our duty to obey it. We are justified, not because of our obedience to the law, but in order that we may become obedient to God’s law. To love Christ is to keep His commandments. To love God is to obey His law.”

—R. C. Sproul

What to learn when studying OT Law:

- God’s Character and Ways — Particularly *holiness, wrath, and mercy*
- Man’s Character and Ways — Man is *spiritual, physical, and sexual*
- Principles for Godly Living — Jesus does this, Matthew 18:16.
- Types and Shadows of Christ — The Old Testament Law is ultimately fulfilled in the person and work of **Jesus Christ**. “*Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes*” (Romans 10:4).
- Blessing from Obedience / Curse from Disobedience

Spirit vs. Letter of the Law

- Watch out for Pharisaism: self-righteousness, sacramentalism
- Regulatory & Revelatory aspects of the law
- Find the Principle

