

AN OVERVIEW OF HEBREW JUSTICE

Part One - FUNDAMENTAL LAW - *The Ten Commandments*

Exodus 20:1-17

First Table of the Law - *religious liberty*

1. No other Gods served as the *preamble* - the **source** of all law - Jehovah is Sovereign!
2. No graven images protected one's right of **worship** and the *right of assembly and petition*
3. Not take the name of God in vain protected the right of **vows**; *voluntary association with others*
4. Remember the Sabbath protected the right to **work**; *14% of the week preserved; not idolize work*

Second Table of the Law - *civil liberty*

5. Honor Father/Mother protected the family's **liberty** to *properly train their children*
6. Do not kill protected individual **life** and the *right of personal self-defense*
7. No adultery protected the **liberty** of marriage and *individual rights of men and women in the home*
8. Do not steal protected private **property** and the *right to a local, speedy trial with restitution*
9. No false witness protected the **liberty** of one's reputation to be *innocent until proven guilty*
10. Do not covet protected one's **property** from the unlawful desires of others through *due process, confrontation and an impartial jury of one's peers.*

Part Two - STATUTE LAW - *Case Law (Equity)*

Selected examples from Exodus and Deuteronomy

1. Exodus 20:24-26 - modesty in worship - an application of the 2nd commandment
2. Exodus 21:1-11; 22:16-17, 19 - protection of women in marriage - 7th commandment
3. Exodus 21:12-14,16,18-23 - murder, vengeance, kidnapping, assault - 6th commandment
4. Exodus 21:15,17 - honoring of parents - 5th commandment
5. Exodus 21:24-36; 22:1-15 - restitution for property crimes - 8th commandment
6. Exodus 22:18,20 - Sovereignty of God - 1st commandment
7. Exodus 22:21-31 - protection from greed; due process of law - 10th commandment
8. Exodus 23:1-9 - protection of witnesses - 9th commandment
9. Exodus 23:10-13 - protection of work - 4th commandment
10. Exodus 23:32-33 - protection of vows - 3rd commandment

Part Three - QUALIFICATIONS to hold Civil Office

1. Exodus 18:21-22 - *good character above reproach*
2. Deuteronomy 1:13 - *proven wisdom in applying principles of justice*
3. Deuteronomy 16:19 - *unwilling to take a bribe; won't buy or sell principles of justice*
4. Deuteronomy 17:12 - *obedience to the laws; no insurrection spirit*
5. Deuteronomy 19:18 - *willing to conduct investigations to make a just decision*
6. 2nd Samuel 23:3 - *personally just, ruling in the fear of God*
7. Matthew 21:18-31 - *one who keeps his word and is consistent in his actions*

Part Four - DUE PROCESS of civil Justice

1. Deuteronomy 1:16-17 - *justice must be the ultimate goal*
2. Leviticus 19:15 - *there can be no respecter of persons (all go by the same rules)*
3. Deuteronomy 17:6 - *there must be two or three independent witnesses prior to conviction*
4. Deuteronomy 17:7; 19:21; Exodus 21:24-25 - *victim must be satisfied by law of restitution*
5. Ezra 7:26 - *forms of punishment include death, banishment, confiscation, imprisonment, slavery*
6. Deuteronomy 25:2-3 - *punishment must fit the crime by laws of restitution*