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# Restatement of the Law

— Good news for the whole world —

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# Order & Structure of Deuteronomy

Who, what, when,  
where & why

Deut. 1-4: Prologue

**Chapter 6-12: Hear & Obey**

Chapter 5: Ten Commandments

Chapters 13-25: Commentary

Chapters 26ff: Blessings and  
Cursings; Epilogue

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# Who needs to be concerned with Covenant Vitality of the Moral Law Legalism & the Statutes of God

Love and Obedience to the One True God (Deut. 6)

Promise of Victory and Call to Separation (Deut. 7-10.9)

Love is fulfillment of the law (Deut. 10.10-11.25)

*Portent of Blessings and Cursings* (Deut. 11.26-32)

Roughly based on New Geneva Bible outline ad loc

**Who needs to be concerned with Covenant?**



# Are you talking to me?

For the Lord said unto them, "They shall die in the wilderness." So therefore was not left a man of them [that were at Sinai]. Num. 26.65

Now therefore hearken, O Israel ... Deut. 4.1

And the Lord spoke unto you out of the midst of the fire ... Deut. 4.12

The Lord made not this covenant with our fathers only, but with us, even with us all that are alive this day. Deut 5.3

# I think He's talking to me

God ... is given to *you* as the liberating Lord and a given that makes it impossible for you to act as if the reality of God is not before you, behind you, beside you, over against you, the starting point and ending point ...

Each individual as individual, the whole community as a group, a people, a worshiping assembly, etc. that is the *you* to whom God addresses ... each commandment.

Miller, The God You Have, 7-8

# With great power comes great responsibility

During forty years in the wilderness, the nation was thoroughly centralized. ... All were under the eyes of Moses, so that sins were more readily detected. Decentralization would make for ... more opportunities for sinning without priestly detection. R.J. Rushdoony, Deuteronomy, 198

Circumcise **therefore** the foreskin of your heart, and harden your necks no more. Deut. 10.16

# **Vitality of the Moral Law**

**Reformed Beliefs in the Moral Law**



# Unimpeachable Divine Law: All Else Commentary

Due largely to its role in Deuteronomy, the Decalogue has even since been viewed as the primary and essential code of biblical religious law -- the Code to which, for the Rabbis, Philo, and the New Testament, for Jew and Protestant Reformers, and for the Bible Commentators throughout the ages was and is the eternal and unimpeachable divine law upon which all else is but commentary. It was then only natural for systematizers such as Philo and Calvin to view the Ten Commandments of the Decalogues as the general headings under which the specific enactments of Pentateuchal law may be grouped.

Stephen A. Kaufman, *The Structure of Deuteronomical Law*, MAARAV (1978-79)

# Calvin's Calvinism: Obedience is not moot

The Lord, in delivering a perfect rule of righteousness, has reduced it in all its parts ... and in this way has shown that there is nothing more acceptable to him than obedience. ... God, seeing the Israelites would not rest ... declares that the Law comprehended a perfect righteousness. ... We are certainly under the same obligation as they were: for there cannot be a doubt that the claim of absolute perfection which God made for his law is perpetually in force. John Calvin, Institutes, II.vii.5.

# Westminster Confession

God gave Adam a law ... This law ... was delivered by God upon Mount Sinai, in ten commandments, and written on two tables; the four first commandments containing our duty towards God; and the other six our duty to man. XIX.1-2

This law, commonly called moral ... doth for ever bind all, as well justified persons as others, to the obedience thereof. XIX 3, 5

*(The duty which God requireth of man is obedience to his revealed will. WLC 91)*

# Legalism & the Statutes of God

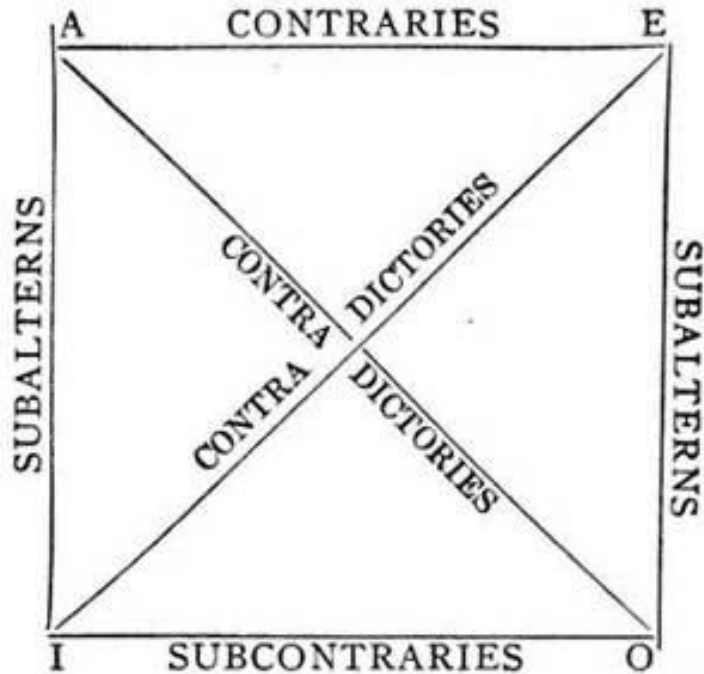
# Moses's Exposition on the Moral Law: Deut. 6-25

<u>Moral Law</u>	<u>Exposition</u>	<u>Topic</u>	
I-II: 5.6-10	12.1-31	Worship	
III: 5.11	13.1-14.27	Name of God	
IV: 5.12-15	14.28-16.17	Sabbath	
V: 5.16	16.18-18.22	Authority	
VI: 5.17	19.1-22.8	Homicide	
VII: 5.18	22.9-23.19	Adultery	
VIII: 5.19	23.20-24.7	Theft	
IX: 5.20	24.8-25.4	False Charges	
X: 5.21	25.5-16	Coveting	Kaufman, <i>Structure</i>

# Westminster Confession: The Law of God

Besides this law, commonly called Moral, God was pleased to give to the people of Israel ... as a body politic ... sundry judicial laws, which expired together with the State of that people; not obliging any other now, further than the rules of general equity thereof may require. XIX.3-4.

# Westminster Confession: Necessary deductions



## The Law of God

Besides [the ten commandments] God was pleased to give ... sundry judicial laws, which ... oblig[e all] now, [according to] the rules of general equity. XIX.3-4.

# Repaying the debt ...

And the Lord showed signs and wonders ... and brought us out from thence to bring us in ... Therefore the Lord hath commanded us to do all these ordinances, and to fear the Lord our God ... This shall be our righteousness.

Deut. 6.16-25

Because the Lord loved you ... That thou mayest know that the Lord thy God ... keepeth covenant and mercy unto them that love him and keep his commandments ... Keep thou therefore the Commandments ...and the ordinances ... and the laws ...

The graven images of their gods shall ye burn. Deut. 7.25



# The Gospel puts the Law on Steroids

At sundry times and in divers manners God spake in old time to our fathers by the Prophets: in these last days he hath spoken to us by his Son. ... How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation. Hebrews 1.1, 2.3

The moral law doth for ever bind ... neither doth Christ, in the gospel, in any way dissolve, but much strengthen this obligation. WCF XIX.5

What was exhibited in a shadow under the law is fully and actually manifested in the Son of God. Calvin, Harmony of Matthew, Mark & Luke, i.36

# The Gospel puts the Law on Steroids

For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me, for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words. John 5.46-47

If ye love me, keep my commandments. John 14.15

[For the summary of the Second Table] is briefly comprehended in this saying, *Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself* ... therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. And that ... our salvation is nearer ... let us therefore cast away the works for darkness and let us put on the armor of light. Romans 13.9-12.

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