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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 5: Ten Commandments**

Chapter 6-12: Hear & Obey

**Chapters 13-25: Commentary**

Chapters 26ff: Blessings and  
Cursings; Epilogue

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# 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>

# What's in a Name?

# So Much More Than Anti-OMG

- A. Do not add or subtract to God's Law (12.32)\*
  - B1. Expel a small-time prophets (13.1-5)
  - B2. Prosecute a friendly/familial prophet (13.6-11)
  - B3. Wage war against influential prophets (13.12-19)
- C. Don't deface the image of God (14.1-2)
  - D1. Don't eat that (14.3)
  - D2. Permitted/Prohibited food (14.4-20)
  - D3. Respect life of animal (14.21)
- E. Tithe (14.22-27)

# Three of These Things Belong Together ...

The new regulations of the reform are joined with pre-existent law to form a composition of consummate literary artistry -- a code whose provisions flow smoothly and logically from one to the other while the sequence of its major topical divisions consciously reflects the order of the Decalogue.

Kaufman, *The Deuteronomic Law*, 125

# Don't Add or Subtract

Although this paragraph seems ... to be a general comment on all DL ... its position between I-II D and the laws of apostasy in the transitional paragraph I-II D and the laws of apostasy themselves, is undoubtedly intentional, conveying the clear message:

*Altering ... God's law, or adding to it is tantamount to apostasy*

Kaufman: *The Deuteronomic Law*, 126-27

# Hear, Listen, Obey: B1-B3

- Thou shalt not **hear** (13.3)
- Thou shalt not consent, nor **hear** him (13.8)
- If thou shalt **hear** (13.12)

Text is linked to Exodus 23.1 & 13 (connecting false witness to profaning God's name)



# Small-Time Hustlers (B1: Deut. 13.1-5)

## Him

- Any ol' Israelite
- Proof by signs and wonders, but says let's commit treason against god

## You

- Do not listen
- God's testing you; fear and obey Him
- Prosecute -- the man is a society destroyer

# Friends and Family (B2: Deut. 13.6-11)

## Him

- Arise from within your home
- “Entice thee secretly” (i.e. not open apostasy)

## You

- Do not listen
- Do not pity
- Do not hide
- Testify against him/cast the first stone

# There's Something in Your Eye (B3: Deut 13.12-19)

## Them

- Scoundrels seeks to subvert the city,
- Saying "Come, let us worship"

## You

- Diligently investigate
- Wage war
- Burn all the booty

# Attack on Paganism

C. Don't deface the image of God (14.1-2)

D1. Don't eat that (14.3)

D2. Permitted/Prohibited food (14.4-20)

D3. Respect life of animal (14.21)

# When Does it Cross from Bad to Abominable?

**Wicked Canaanite Practices** (Deut. 7.25, 26; 12.31; 18.9, 12; 20.18; 22.5; 23.19; 27.15; 32:16)

**Remarriage to a Wife** (Deut. 24.4)

**False Weights & Measures** (Deut. 25.16)

# A Priesthood of Believers

For Deuteronomy ... being a holy people means adopting as universal practice procedures and prohibitions which, in other societies (and in earlier Israel), were limited to priestly personnel -- democratization of sacred rights and responsibilities as it were.

Kaufman, *The Deuteronomic Law*, 128

*Compare* Deut. 14.1 to Lev. 21.5 and Deut. 14.21 to Lev. 22.8

# Restatement of the Restatement

# A Dream Within a Dream

- Treason (utterly destroy) Deut. 13-14.2; 12.2
- Eating Flesh Deut. 14.3-23; 12.5-10
- Tithes Deut. 14.24-26; 12.11-16
- Levites Deut. 14.27-29; 12.19



# Remember From Whence Ye Came

- Three-year Tithe for Levite (Deut. 14.28-29)
- Remissions of Debts (Deut. 15.1-11)
- Release of Slaves (Deut. 15.12-18)
- Dedicate the Firstborn (Deut. 15.19-23)
- Holy-days

The final significant feature of Word IV is the socio-economic priority system ... freemen-slaves-animals, just as proclaimed in [Fourth Commandment].

Kaufman, *The Deuteronomic Law*, 132-33

# Bibliography

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