

# Old Testament Lesson 15a

## THE LAW OF MOSES

Prepared by Duane S. Crowther, April 2002

### 1. An Important Document Reprinted:

A. *Be aware that “The Father & The Son: A Doctrinal Exposition by the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles”* has been reprinted in the April 2002 *Ensign*, pp. 13-18. It explains four ways in which “the term ‘Father’ as applied to Deity occurs in sacred writ”:

(1) “Father” as Literal Parent; (2) “Father” as Creator; (3) Jesus Christ the “Father” of Those Who Abide in His Gospel; and (4) Jesus Christ the “Father” by Divine Investiture of Authority.

### 2. Review: the Giving of the Ten Commandments and the Judgments:

A. *Ex. 19:1-24*: The LORD’s “peculiar treasure” covenant with the people [vv. 3-6], the people’s acceptance of the covenant [v. 8]; the three days of preparation and sanctification [vv. 9-15]; lightning, thick clouds, the trumpet call [vv. 16-19]; Moses ascends the mount but is sent back by the Lord; he’s told to ascend again with Aaron [vv. 20-25].

B. *Ex. 20:1-17*: The Ten Commandments are given.

C. *Ex. 20:18-22*: Moses tells the people the LORD’s words: “Thus thou shalt say unto the children of Israel: Ye have seen that I have talked with you from heaven.”

D. *Ex. 21:1-23:25*: “Now these are the *judgments* which thou shalt set before them.” [21:1] *These “judgments” are a summary and overview of what is today called the Law of Moses.*

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| 1. Rules concerning servants. [21:2-10]               | 25. Don’t talk about [false] gods. [23:13]             |
| 2. Plural marriage rules. [21:10-11]                  |  |
| 3. The death penalty. [21:12-23]                      | 26. Three feasts are to be observed: [23:14-16]        |
| 4. The eye for an eye commandment. [21:23-27]         | A. Feast of unleavened bread [Passover]                |
| 5. Damage done by oxen. [21:28-36]                    | B. Feast of harvest.                                   |
| 6. Stealing. [22:1-5]                                 | C. Feast of ingathering.                               |
| 7. If fire breaks out. [22:6]                         | 27. All males shall appear before the LORD three       |
| 8. Care of property belonging to others. [22:7-13]    | times a year. [23:17]                                  |
| 9. Responsibilities of those who borrow. [14-15]      | 28. Obey the Angel the LORD sends to guide you.        |
| 10. Responsibility for sexual acts. [22:16-17]        | [23:20-23]   |
| 11. Death penalty: for witches, those who lie with    | 29. Don’t serve false gods; overthrow them. [23:24]    |
| beasts; those who sacrifice to false gods. [22:18-20] | 30. Serve the LORD your God. [23:25]                   |
| 12. Afflicting strangers, widows, orphans             | 31. Drive out inhabitants of the [promised] land,      |
| [22:21-24; 23:9]                                      | and make no covenant with them. [23:31-33]             |
| 13. Lending unjustly. [22:25-27]                      | 32. The former inhabitants shall not dwell in thy      |
| 14. Reviling against God, rulers. [22:28]             | land. [23:33]  |
| 15. Commandment: offer first fruits and the first-    |  |
| born to the LORD. [22:29-30, 23:19]                   | <b>E. <i>Promises if they will serve the LORD:</i></b> |
| 16. Be holy men unto me. [22:31]                      | 1. Nothing shall cast their young or be barren.        |
| 17. Don’t eat flesh torn from beasts. [22:31]         | [23:26]  |
| 18. Don’t be a false witness. [23:1-3]                | 2. The number of thy days shall I fulfill. [23:26]     |
| 19. Caring for others’ animals. [23:4-5]              | 3. I will send my fear before thee. [23:27]            |
| 20. Stay away from false matters. [23:6-7]            | 4. I will make all thine enemies turn their backs      |
| 21. Take no gift [bribe]. [23:8]                      | unto thee. [23:27]                                     |
| 22. Let fields and vineyards rest the seventh year.   | 5. I will drive out the Hivites, Canaanites, and       |
| [23:10-11]  | Hittites with hornets. [23:28]                         |
| 23. Rest on the seventh day. [23:12]                  | 6. I will drive them out little by little. [23:30]     |
| 24. In all things be circumspect. [23:13]             | 7. Future borders: from the Red Sea to the River       |

### 3. **Appearances of the Lord and Receiving the Stone Tablets:**

A. *Ex. 24:1-2*: Called to “Come up unto the LORD”: Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel. [*Nadab*: eldest son of Aaron (Ex. 6:23, Num. 3:2); *Abihu*: another son of Aaron (Ex. 6:23; 24:1, 9; 28:1). Both offered “strange fire” before the Lord and were struck down. [Lev. 10:1-3; see Ex. 30:6-10]

B. *Ex. 24:9-11*: ***They saw the God of Israel.*** (Compare with D&C 110:1-2.)

C. *Ex. 24:4, 7*: “Moses wrote all the words of the LORD, . . . and he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient.”

D. *Ex. 24:12-18*: “The LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them.” [v. 12] “Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights.” [v. 18]

E. *Ex. 25:1-40*: “Speak unto the children of Israel, that they (1) bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart . . .” [v. 2]; (2) “Let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.” [v. 8]; (3) “make an ark of shittim wood; [v. 10]; (4) put into the ark the testimony which I shall give thee.” [v. 16] (5) “make a mercy seat of pure gold.” [v. 17]; (6) make two cherubims of gold.” [v. 18]; (7) make a table [v. 23], a candlestick [*menorah*] [vv. 31-32, 37], “and the seven lamps thereof.” [v. 37].

F. *Ex. 25:22*: ***The LORD’s promise***: “I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.”

G. *Ex. 26-27*: Instructions for building the tabernacle.

H. *Ex. 28-29*: Instructions for the consecration and apparel of Aaron and his sons.

I. *Ex. 29:31-42*: Instructions for daily worship through burnt offerings:

J. *Ex. 29:42, 45*: ***The LORD’s promise***: [at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation] “there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be filled with my glory. . . . And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will be their God.”

K. *Ex. 30:12-16*: Every male 20 and over, shall “give a ransom for his soul unto the LORD, when thou numberest them . . . half a shekel.” “An offering unto the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls.”

L. *Ex. 31:13-17*: The LORD’s commandment to keep His sabbaths, for a perpetual covenant, with the death penalty attached for sabbath-breakers.

M. *Ex. 31:18*: Moses receives the two tablets of testimony, written with the LORD’s finger. See Ex. 32:15-16 for a description of the tablets.

N. *Ex. 32:1-32*: Aaron yields to the people’s demands and makes a golden calf, which they begin to worship. [vv. 1-6]. Moses descends from the mount, sees the calf and dancing, and throws down the stone tablets, which break. [vv. 15-19] He destroys the golden calf, and then sends the Levites to slay the false worshipers. They kill 3,000 men. [vv. 20-29]

O. *Ex. 33:9, 11*: “The cloudy pillar descended, and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the LORD talked with Moses. . . . And The LORD spake unto Moses face to face, . . .”

P. *Ex. 33:20*: comments on “thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.”  
See JST of *Ex. 33:20* [Appendix p. 800]

Q. *Ex. 34:1-29*: Moses received the ten commandments again, but with changes in the accompanying laws. See JST *Ex. 34:1-2* [Appendix p. 800]

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