



THE MARION COUNTY MANNA PROJECT

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THE LAW

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OT/NT: Old Testament

SECTION: The Law ("Pentateuch" or "Torah") (5 books)

BOOKS: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.

SUMMARY: Canonically, the books of The Law (1) are the first 5 books of the Holy Bible (2) and the Old Testament (3).

The Law

What is the Jewish law, and how does it relate to us today? Read on to learn about the Old Testament law and see how Christ (4) fulfilled it.

There are a total of 613 different commands given to the Israelite people (5), the most famous of which being the Ten Commandments (6), in the first five books of the Bible alone. These first five books are collectively called "The Torah" (7) which, in English, means "The Law."

That name is a little misleading, though. While the Torah does have plenty of laws in it, it's more of a story about how God (8) is creating people to love (9) Him and love others. When Jesus spoke about the Torah, He talked about how He was bringing this story to its fulfillment.

What then is the Mosaic law definition, and how does the story of the Torah play out?

In the Torah, we see God create humanity, but humanity rebels (10). Later, God chooses Abraham (11) to bless all of the nations through his family and bring them back to God. Abraham's descendants, though, end up as slaves to the Egyptians. After God rescues them, He makes a covenant (12) with them, agreeing to protect them and bless them if they follow a set of rules and rituals that we now refer to as the Old Testament law.

While much of the rest of the Torah is spent explaining these laws, the laws are still only a part of the Torah's overall narrative. Throughout the rest of the Torah, we see a continuous pattern of the Israelites receiving laws from God and breaking them. This pattern of instruction leading to rebellion continues all the way up to the conclusion of the Torah, where Moses (13) tells the people that the only way they will ever be able to follow God's laws is if their hearts are transformed.

www.marionmannaproject.com/the-law

Moses's words were true, and throughout much of the rest of the Old Testament we see the death and destruction that besieges Israel because they are unable to follow God's laws. Later in the story, though, we begin to hear from prophets ([14](#)) who spoke of a day when following God's commands would feel like a pleasure rather than a duty. The prophet Isaiah ([15](#)) also spoke of a Messiah ([16](#)) who would lead all the people in obedience ([17](#)) to the law.

Together, all of these books form a cohesive story - one that Jesus saw Himself as continuing. Jesus preached that He came to solve the problem with humans' hearts and in His words "fulfill the law." Jesus explained that all of the laws of the Torah could be fulfilled if we were to just follow one law: to love God and love others.

Love God & Love Others

This, however, is not as easy as it seems. For example, Jesus quotes the Jewish law that says we are not to murder but explains that treating others poorly or holding resentment for them is equivalent to murdering them in our hearts. In fact, Jesus explains that we are supposed to even extend love to our own enemies.

Through just this one example we see how the hearts of man are so poorly equipped to follow God's laws and show the love of God to the world. Thankfully, where Israel (and all of the mankind) has failed, Christ succeeded, demonstrating love even unto death ([18](#)). Today, Christ has sent the Holy Spirit ([19](#)) so that the hearts of all His followers ([20](#)) may be touched, allowing them to fully love others and love God, fulfilling the law that God put into place at the very beginning of the story.

Considering sharing the printer friendly (PDF) version of this page with family, friends and strangers alike to utilize in Bible Studies ([21](#)), Home and/or Church Faith Sharing Groups ([22](#)), Discipleship Encounters and Personal Faith Enrichment!

COMING UP: Next up is the book of Genesis ([23](#)). Click to explore!

Narrative Source and Footnote links are provided on page 3.

SOURCE LINK:

- (a) <https://www.thebibleproject.com/explore/the-law/>

FOOTNOTES:

- (1) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/the-law>
- (2) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/the-good-news>
- (3) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/old-testament>
- (4) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/jesus-christ>
- (5) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/twelve-tribes-of-israel>
- (6) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/ten-commandments>
- (7) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/about-the-torah>
- (8) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/god-of-the-bible>
- (9) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/love>
- (10) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/sin>
- (11) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/father-of-many-nations>
- (12) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/covenants>
- (13) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/moses>
- (14) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/prophets-of-the-bible>
- (15) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/isaiah-1>
- (16) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/jesus-the-messiah>
- (17) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/obedience>
- (18) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/crucifixion-of-christ>
- (19) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/the-holy-spirit>
- (20) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/discipleship>
- (21) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/bible-studies>
- (22) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/christian-education>
- (23) <https://www.marionmannaproject.com/genesis>