Blessings for Obedience and Curses for Disobedience (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC) Leviticus 26

Fundamentals of the Law

1 " 'You shall not make for yourselves idols and divine images, and you shall not raise up stone pillars for yourselves, and you shall not put a sculptured stone in your land in order to worship before it, because I *am* Yahweh your God.

2 " 'You shall keep my Sabbaths, and you shall revere my sanctuary; I am Yahweh.

Promised Blessings for Obedience

3 " 'If you walk in my statutes and you keep my commands and you do them,

4 then I will give you rains in their time, and the land shall give its produce, and the trees of the field shall give their fruit.

5 And for you *the* threshing season shall overtake *the* grape harvest, and the grape harvest shall overtake *the* sowing, and you shall eat your food to your fill and you shall live securely in your land.

6 And I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and there shall not be anybody who makes you afraid, and I will remove harmful animals from the land, and no sword shall pass through your land.

7 And you shall pursue your enemies, and they shall fall by the sword before you.

8 And five of you shall pursue a hundred, and a hundred of you shall pursue a myriad; and your enemies shall fall by the sword before you.

9 And I will turn to you, and I will make you fruitful, and I will make you numerous; and I will keep my covenant with you.

10 And you shall eat old grain, and you shall clear away the old before the new.

11 And I will put my dwelling place in your midst, and my inner self shall not abhor you.

12 And I will walk about in your midst, and I shall be your God, and you shall be my people. [2 Cor 6:16]

13 I *am* Yahweh, your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, from being their slaves; and I broke the bars of your yoke, and I caused you to walk erectly.

Promised Curses for Disobedience

14 " 'But if you do not listen to me and you do not carry out all these commands,

15 and if you reject my statutes and if your inner self abhors my regulations, to not carry out all my commands by your breaking my covenant,

16 I in turn will do this to you: then I will summon onto you horror, the wasting disease, and the fever that wastes eyes and that drains away life; and you shall sow your seed in vain, and your enemies shall eat it.

17 And I will set my face against you, and you shall be defeated before your enemies; and your haters shall rule over you, and you shall flee away, but there shall not be anybody who is pursuing you.

18 " 'And if in spite of these things you do not listen to me, then I will continue to discipline you seven times for your sins.

19 And I will break the pride of your strength; and I will make your heaven like iron and your land like copper.

20 And your strength shall be consumed in vain; and your land shall not give its produce, and the land's trees shall not give their fruit.

21 " 'And if you go against me *in* hostility and you are not willing to listen to me, then I will add a plague onto you seven times according to your sins.

22 And I will send wild animals out among you, and they shall make you childless, and they shall cut down your domestic animals, and they shall make you fewer; and your roads shall be desolate.

23 " 'And if you do not accept correction from me through these things, but you go against me in hostility,

24 then I myself will also go against you in hostility, and I myself also will strike you seven times for your sins.

25 And I will bring upon you a sword that seeks vengeance *for the* covenant, and you shall be gathered to your cities; and I will send a plague in your midst, and you shall be given into *the* hand of an enemy.

26 At my breaking *the* supply of bread for you, then ten women shall bake your bread in one oven, and they shall return your bread by weight; and you shall eat *it*, and you shall not be satisfied.

27 " 'And if through this you do not listen to me and you go against me in hostility,

28 then I will go against you in hostile anger, and also I myself will discipline you seven times for your sins.

29 And you shall eat the flesh of your sons; and the flesh of your daughters you shall eat.

30 And I will destroy your high places, and I will cut down your incense altars, and I will place your corpses on your idols' corpses; and my inner self shall abhor you.

31 And I will lay your cities *in* ruins, and I will lay waste your sanctuaries; and I shall not smell your *sacrifices*' appeasing fragrance. 32 And I myself will lay waste the land, and your enemies who are living in it shall be appalled over it.

33 And I will scatter you among the nations, and I will draw a sword behind you; and your land shall be a desolation, and your cities shall be a ruin.

34 Then the land shall enjoy its Sabbaths all the days of its lying desolate, and you *shall be* in the land of your enemies; then the land shall rest, and it shall enjoy its Sabbaths. [2 Chr 36:15–21; Jer 29:8–14]

35 All the days of its lying desolate it shall rest for the time that it had not rested during your Sabbaths while you were living on it.

36 As for the ones who remain among you, I will bring fearfulness in their hearts in the land of their enemies; and a sound of a windblown leaf shall pursue them, and they shall flee *like* flight before a sword, and they shall fall, but there shall not be a pursuer. 37 And they shall stumble over one another as from before a sword, but there shall not be a pursuer; and you shall have no resistance before your enemies.

38 And you shall perish among the nations, and the land of your enemies shall eat you.

39 And because of their guilt, the ones among you who remain shall decay in the land of their enemies; and also because of the iniquities of their ancestors, they shall decay with them.

Promised Restoration for Repentance—A Way Back from Apostasy

40 "'But when they confess their guilt and the guilt of their ancestors in their infidelity that they displayed against me, and moreover that they went against me in hostility—

41 I myself also went against them in hostility, and I brought them into the land of their enemies — or *if* then their uncircumcised heart is humbled and then they pay for their guilt,

42 I will remember my covenant with Jacob; and I will remember also my covenant with Isaac and also my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land.

43 And the land shall be deserted by them, and it shall enjoy its Sabbaths in its being desolate from them, and they themselves must pay for their guilt, simply because they rejected my regulations, and their inner self abhorred my statutes.

44 And in spite of this, when they are in the land of their enemies I will not reject them, and I will not abhor them to destroy them, to break my covenant with them, because I *am* Yahweh their God.

45 And I will remember *the* first covenant for them—whom I brought out from the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations to be their God. I *am* Yahweh.'"

Summary

46 These are the rules and the regulations and the laws that Yahweh gave between himself and the Israelites on Mount Sinai through Moses.

Vows (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Leviticus 27

Vows Involving People and Animals

1 Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

2 "Speak to the Israelites, and say to them, 'When a man makes a vow according to your proper value of persons to Yahweh,

3 if your proper value is *for* a male from twenty years of age up to sixty years of age, then your proper value shall be fifty shekels *of* money according to the sanctuary's shekel.

4 But if it *is for* a female, then your proper value shall be thirty shekels.

5 And if from five years of age up to twenty years of age, then your proper value shall be twenty shekels *for* the male and ten shekels for the female.

6 And if from a month of age up to five years of age, then your proper value shall be five shekels *of* money *for* the male, and your proper value for the female *shall be* three shekels *of* money.

7 And if from sixty years of age and above: if a male, then your proper value shall be fifteen shekels; and for the female, ten shekels. 8 But if he *is* poorer than your proper value, then he shall present himself before the priest, and the priest shall set a value *on* him; the priest shall value him according to what the person who made a vow can afford.

9 " 'And if *it is* a domestic animal from which they present an offering for Yahweh, all that he gives from it for Yahweh shall be a holy object.

10 He shall not replace it, nor shall he exchange it, *either* good with bad or bad with good; and if he indeed exchanges a domestic animal with a domestic animal, then it and its substitution shall be a holy object.

11 But if *it is* any unclean animal from which they may not present an offering for Yahweh, then he shall present the animal before the priest.

12 And the priest shall set a value on it, either good or bad; as the priest sets your proper value, so it shall be.

13 And if he indeed wants to redeem it, then he shall add a fifth of it onto your proper value.

Dedication of Houses and Land

14 "'And if a man consecrates his house *as* a holy object for Yahweh, then the priest shall set a value on it, either good or bad; *just* as the priest sets a value on it, so it shall remain.

15 But if the one who consecrates *it* wants to redeem his house, then he shall add a fifth of your proper value's money onto it, and it shall be his.

16 " 'And if a man consecrates some of his property's fields for Yahweh, then your proper value shall be in accordance with its seed requirements: a homer of barley seed for fifty shekels of money.

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17 If he consecrates his field from the Year of Jubilee, it shall stand as your proper value.

18 But if he consecrates his field after the Jubilee, then the priest shall calculate the money for him according to the number of years that are left over until the Year of Jubilee; and it shall be deducted from your proper value.

19 And if he indeed redeems the field that is consecrated, then he shall add a fifth of your proper value's money onto it, and it shall stand for him.

20 And if he does not redeem the field and if he sells the field to another man, it may not be redeemed again,

21 and the field shall be a holy object for Yahweh when it goes out in the Jubilee, like a devoted field; it shall be the priest's property.

22 " 'And if he consecrates for Yahweh his acquired field that is not the field of his inherited possession,

23 then the priest shall calculate for him the amount of your proper value until the year of the Jubilee, and he shall give your proper value on that day *as* a holy object for Yahweh.

24 In the Year of the Jubilee the field shall return to the one who bought it from him, to the one whose property the land is.

Miscellaneous Regulations about Vows

25 And every proper value of yours shall be in the sanctuary's shekel—the shekel shall be twenty gerahs.

26 "'However, a man shall not consecrate a firstborn among livestock, which belongs as firstborn to Yahweh; whether an ox or small livestock, it is for Yahweh.

27 And if *it is* among the unclean animals, then he shall ransom *it* according to your proper value, and he shall add a fifth of its *value* onto it; and if it is not redeemed, then it shall be sold according to your proper value.

28 However, anything devoted that a man has devoted to Yahweh from all that he has, from human or animal, or from the field of his property, may not be sold, and it may not be redeemed; anything devoted *is* a most holy thing for Yahweh.

29 Anyone devoted who is devoted [to destruction] from human beings cannot be ransomed—he shall surely be put to death. [cf. <u>Num 21:2–3; Josh 6:16–19; 1 Sam 15</u>]

30 " 'And any tithe of the land from the land's seed *or* from the fruit of the trees *is* for Yahweh; it *is* a holy object for Yahweh. 31 And if a man indeed redeems from his tithe, he shall add a fifth of its *value* onto it.

32 As for every tithe of cattle or of the flock, all which crosses under the rod, the tenth shall be a holy object for Yahweh.

33 He shall not inspect between *the* good and *the* bad, and he shall not exchange it; but if he indeed exchanges it, then it and its substitution shall be a holy object—it shall not be redeemed.^{'''}

Conclusion

34 These are the commands that Yahweh commanded Moses for the Israelites on Mount Sinai.

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