

Second Mosaic Speech: Specific Covenant Stipulations – Part 4 (February 1406 BC)**Deuteronomy 23–26****Those Excluded from the Assembly of Yahweh**

23:1 “No man with crushed testicles or *whose* male organ is cut off may come into the assembly of Yahweh.

2 An illegitimate child may not come into the assembly of Yahweh; even *to* the tenth generation none of his descendants may come into the assembly of Yahweh.

3 An Ammonite or a Moabite may not come into the assembly of Yahweh; even *to* the tenth generation none of his descendants may come into the assembly of Yahweh forever,

4 because they did not come to meet you with food and with water when you came out of Egypt, and *also* because they hired Balaam, son of Beor, from Pethor, in Aram Naharaim *to act* against you to curse you.

5 But Yahweh your God was not willing to listen to Balaam, and Yahweh your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because Yahweh your God loved you.

6 You shall not promote their welfare or their prosperity all your days forever.

7 “You shall not abhor an Edomite, because he *is* your brother; you shall not abhor an Egyptian because you were an alien in his land.

8 The children *that* are born to them *in* the third generation may come representing them in the assembly of Yahweh.

Uncleanness and Sanitary Conditions in the Military Camp

9 “If you go out to encamp against your enemies, then you shall guard against *doing* anything evil.

10 “If *there* is among you a man that is not clean because of a seminal emission during the night, he shall go outside the camp; he shall not come within the camp.

11 And then toward the coming of the evening, he shall bathe with water, and at the going down of the sun, he may come to the midst of the camp.

12 “And there shall be for you a designated place outside the camp; and you shall go there to relieve yourself,

13 and a digging tool shall *be included* in addition to your *other* utensils for yourself; and then when you relieve yourself outside *the camp* you shall dig with it, and *then* you shall turn, and you shall cover your excrement.

14 For Yahweh your God *is* walking about in the midst of your camp to deliver you and to hand your enemies over to you before you, and so let your camp be holy, so that he shall not see in it anything indecent, and he shall turn away from going with you.

Fugitive Slaves

15 “And you shall not hand over a slave to his master who has escaped *and fled* to you from his master.

16 He shall reside with you in your midst in the place that he chooses in one of your towns wherever he pleases; you shall not oppress him.

Cult Prostitution Forbidden

17 “No woman of Israel shall be a temple prostitute, and no man of Israel shall be a male shrine prostitute.

18 You may not bring the hire of a prostitute or the earnings of a male prostitute *into* the house of Yahweh your God, for any vow offerings, because both are a detestable thing to Yahweh your God.

Interest on Loans

19 “You shall not charge your brother interest on money, interest on food, or interest on anything that one could lend on interest. [[Exod 22:25](#); [Lev 25:35–37](#); [Ps 15:5](#)]

20 You may lend on interest to the foreigner, but to your countryman you may not lend on interest, so that Yahweh your God may bless you in all your undertakings in the land where you are going, in order to take possession of it.

Keeping Vows

21 “When you make a vow to Yahweh your God, you shall not postpone fulfillment of it, *for* certainly Yahweh your God shall require it from you and *if postponed* you will incur guilt.

22 And if you refrain from vowing, you shall not incur guilt.

23 The utterance of your lips you must perform diligently *just* as you have vowed freely to Yahweh your God whatever *it was* that you promised with your mouth.

Permission to Satisfy Hunger

24 “When you come into the vineyard of your neighbor, then you may eat grapes as you please and until you are full, but you shall not put *any* into your container.

25 “When you come into the standing grain of your neighbor, then you may pluck ears with your hand, but you may not swing a sickle among the standing grain of your neighbor.”

Case Law—Remarriage to a Previous Wife Subsequent to Her Remarriage is Forbidden

24:1 “When a man takes a wife and he marries her and then she does not please him, because he found something objectionable and writes her a letter of divorce and puts *it* in her hand and sends her *away* from his house,
2 and she goes from his house, and she goes *out* and becomes *a wife* for another man,
3 and *then* the second man dislikes her and he writes her a letter of divorce and places *it* into her hand and sends her from his house, or if the second man dies who took her to himself as a wife,
4 her first husband who sent her *away* is not allowed to take her again to become a wife to him after she has been defiled, for that *is* a detestable thing before Yahweh, and so you shall not mislead into sin the land that Yahweh your God *is* giving to you *as an* inheritance. [[Matt 5:31–32](#); [19:3–9](#); [Mark 10:2–9](#)]

Exemption from Military Service

5 “When a man takes a new wife he shall not go out with the army, and he shall not be obligated with anything; he shall be free from obligation, to stay at home for one year, and he shall bring joy *to* his wife that he took.

Proper Security for Loans (grouped)

6 “A person shall not take a pair of millstones or an upper millstone, for he is taking necessities of life as a pledge.
10 “When you make a loan to your neighbor, a loan of any kind, you shall not go into his house to take his pledge.
11 You shall wait outside, and the man *to* whom you *are* lending, he shall bring the pledge outside to you.
12 And if *he is* a needy man, you shall not sleep in his pledge.
13 You shall certainly return the pledge to him as the sun sets, so that he may sleep in his cloak and may bless you, and it shall be *considered* righteousness on your behalf before Yahweh your God.
17 You shall not subvert the rights of an alien *or* an orphan, and you shall not take as pledge *the* garment of a widow.
18 And you shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt and *that* Yahweh your God redeemed you from there; therefore I *am* commanding you to do this commandment.

Capital Punishment for Kidnapping and Selling into Slavery

7 “If a man is caught kidnapping somebody from *among* his countrymen, the Israelites, and he treats him as a slave or he sells him, then that kidnapper shall die, and so you shall purge the evil from among you.

Leprosy

8 Be watchful with respect to *an* outbreak of *any* infectious skin disease, by being very careful and by acting according to all that the priests and the Levites have instructed you, *just* as I have commanded them, so you shall diligently observe.
9 So remember what Yahweh your God did to Miriam on the journey when you went out from Egypt.

Proper Treatment of Poor Workers

14 “You shall not exploit a hired worker, *who is* needy and poor, from among your fellow men or from *among* your aliens who are in your land *and* in your towns.
15 On his day you shall give his wage, and the sun shall not go down, because *he is* poor and his life depends on it; *do this* so that he does not cry out against you to Yahweh, and you incur guilt.

Trans-generational Punishment Forbidden

16 “Fathers shall not be put to death because of *their* children, and children shall not be put to death because of *their* fathers; each one shall be put to death for his *own* sin.

Loving the Poor

19 “When you reap your harvest in your field and you forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not return to get it, for it shall be for the alien, for the orphan, and for the widow, so that Yahweh your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. [cf. [Ruth 2:2–3](#)]
20 When you beat off the fruit of your olive trees you shall not search through the branches afterward, for it shall be for the alien, for the orphan, and for the widow.
21 When you harvest *grapes*, you shall not glean your vineyards again; it shall be for the alien, for the orphan, and for the widow.
22 And you shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, therefore I *am* commanding you to do this thing.”

Appropriate Punishment for the Guilty

25:1 “When a legal dispute takes place between men and they come near to the court, and *the judges* judge *with respect to* them, then they shall declare the righteous *to be* in the right and they shall condemn the wicked,
2 then it will happen if the guilty *one* deserves beating, then the judge shall make him lie, and he shall beat him before him, according to the prescribed number of lashes proportionate to the offense.
3 He may beat him *with* forty lashes, and he shall not do more *than these*, so that he *will* not beat more in addition to these many

blows, and your countryman would be degraded before your eyes.

Those Who Work are Entitled to Profit from their Labor

4 “You shall not muzzle an ox when he is threshing. [[1 Cor 9:3–11](#); [1 Tim 5:17–18](#)]

Case Law—Preserving the Family Line

5 “When brothers dwell together and one of them dies and has no son, the wife of the deceased shall not become the wife of a man of another family; her brother-in-law shall have sex with her, and he shall take her to himself as *a* wife, and he shall perform his duty as *a* brother-in-law *with respect to* her. [[Matt 22:23–32](#); [Mark 12:18–27](#); [Luke 20:27–38](#)]

6 And then the firstborn that she bears shall represent his dead brother, so that his name is not blotted out from Israel.

7 But if the man *does* not want to take his sister-in-law, then his sister-in-law shall go up to the gate, to the elders, and she shall say, ‘My brother-in-law refused to perpetuate his brother’s name in Israel, *for* he is not willing to marry me.’

8 Then the elders of his town shall summon him and speak to him, and *if* he persists and says, ‘I do not desire to marry her’

9 *then* his sister-in-law shall go near him before the eyes of the elders, and she shall pull off his sandal from his foot, and she shall spit in his face, and she shall declare and she shall say, ‘This is how it is done to the man who does not build the house of his brother.’

10 And his family shall be called in Israel, ‘The house where the sandal was pulled off.’

Case Law—Improper Intervention

11 “If a man and his brother fight each other and the wife of the one *man* comes near to rescue her husband from the hand of his attacker and she stretches *out* her hand and she seizes his genitals,

12 then you shall cut off her hand; your eye shall not take pity.

Honest Weights and Measures

13 “There shall not be for your use in your bag two kinds of stone weights, a large one and a small one.

14 There shall not be in your house for your use two kinds of measures.

15 *Rather* a full and honest weight shall be for your use; there shall be for you a full and honest measure, so that your days on the land that Yahweh your God *is* giving to you may be long.

16 For detestable to Yahweh your God *is* everyone who *is* doing such things, everyone who *is* acting dishonestly.

Complete Destruction of the Amalekites

17 “Remember what Amalek did to you on the journey when you went out from Egypt,

18 that he met you on the journey and attacked you, all those lagging behind you and *when* you were weary and worn out, and he did not fear God.

19 And when Yahweh your God gives rest to you from all your enemies from around *about you* in the land that Yahweh your God *is* giving to you *as an* inheritance to take possession of it, you shall blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under the heavens; you shall not forget!”

Ceremony Celebrating Possession of Canaan

26:1 “And then when you come to the land that Yahweh your God *is* giving to you *as an* inheritance, and you take possession of it and you settle in it,

2 then you shall take from the firstfruit of all the fruit of the ground that you harvest from your land that Yahweh your God *is* giving to you, and you shall put *it* in a basket, and you shall go to the place that Yahweh your God will choose to make his name to dwell there.

3 And you shall go to the priest who is *in office* in those days, and you shall say, ‘I declare today to Yahweh your God that I have come into the land that Yahweh swore to our ancestors to give to us.’

4 Then the priest takes the basket from your hand and places it before the altar of Yahweh your God.

5 And you shall declare and you shall say before your God, ‘My ancestor *was* a wandering Aramean, and he went down to Egypt, and there he dwelt as an alien few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and numerous.

6 And the Egyptians treated us badly, and they oppressed us and imposed on us hard labor.

7 And we cried to Yahweh, the God of our ancestors, and Yahweh heard our voice and saw our affliction and our toil and our oppression.

8 And Yahweh brought us *out* from Egypt with a strong hand and an outstretched arm and with great terror and with signs and with wonders.

9 And he brought us to this place and gave to us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey.

10 And now, look, I am bringing the firstfruit of the fruit of the ground that you gave to me, Yahweh,’ and you shall place it before Yahweh your God, and you shall bow down before Yahweh your God.

11 And you shall celebrate with all of the bounty that Yahweh your God gave to you and to your family, you and the Levite and the

alien who *is* in your midst.

12 “When you are finished giving a tithe, all of the tithe of your produce in the third year, the year of the tithe, then you shall give to the Levite, to the alien, to the orphan, and to the widow, so that they may eat in your towns and they may be satisfied.

13 And you shall say before Yahweh your God, ‘I have removed the sacred portion from the house and, moreover, I have given it to the Levite and to the alien and to the orphan and to the widow according to all your commandment that you commanded me; I have not transgressed any of your commandments, and I have not forgotten *any of them*.

14 I have not eaten during my *time of mourning*, and I have not removed *anything* from it while *being* unclean, and I have not offered any of it to someone who *has* died. I have listened to the voice of Yahweh my God; I have done all that you commanded me *to do*.

15 Look down from the dwelling place of your holiness, from heaven, and bless your people Israel, and the land that you have given to us, as you swore to our ancestors, a land flowing with milk and honey.’

Covenant Summary and Conclusion

16 “This day Yahweh your God is commanding you to do these rules and regulations, and you must observe them diligently with all your heart and with all your soul.

17 Yahweh you *have* declared today to be for you as *your* God, and to go in his ways and to observe his rules and his commandments and his regulations and to listen to his voice.

18 And Yahweh *has* declared you today to be for him as a people, a treasured possession, as he promised to you, and *that you are* to observe all his commandments,

19 and that he then will set you high above all the nations that he has made for his praise and for fame and for honor and for you to be a holy people to Yahweh your God, as he promised.”

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