

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

### Leviticus 26

#### Fundamentals of the Law

- 1 “You must not make for yourselves idols, so you must not set up for yourselves a carved image or a pillar, and you must not place a sculpted stone in your land to bow down before it, for I am the LORD your God.  
2 You must keep my Sabbaths and reverence my sanctuary. I am the LORD.

#### Promised Blessings for Obedience

- 3 “If you walk in my statutes and are sure to obey my commandments,  
4 I will give you your rains in their time so that the land will give its yield and the trees of the field will produce their fruit.  
5 Threshing season will extend for you until the season for harvesting grapes, and the season for harvesting grapes will extend until sowing season, so you will eat your bread until you are satisfied, and you will live securely in your land.  
6 I will grant peace in the land so that you will lie down to sleep without anyone terrifying you. I will remove harmful animals from the land, and no sword of war will pass through your land.  
7 You will pursue your enemies and they will fall before you by the sword.  
8 Five of you will pursue a hundred, and a hundred of you will pursue ten thousand, and your enemies will fall before you by the sword.  
9 I will turn to you, make you fruitful, multiply you, and maintain my covenant with you.  
10 You will still be eating stored produce from the previous year and will have to clean out what is stored from the previous year to make room for new.  
11 “I will put my tabernacle in your midst and I will not abhor you.  
12 I will walk among you, and I will be your God and you will be my people. [[2 Cor 6:16](#)]  
13 I am the LORD your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, from being their slaves, and I broke the bars of your yoke and caused you to walk upright.

#### Promised Curses for Disobedience

- 14 “If, however, you do not obey me and keep all these commandments—  
15 if you reject my statutes and abhor my regulations so that you do not keep all my commandments and you break my covenant—  
16 I for my part will do this to you: I will inflict horror on you, consumption and fever, which diminish eyesight and drain away the vitality of life. You will sow your seed in vain because your enemies will eat it.  
17 I will set my face against you. You will be struck down before your enemies, those who hate you will rule over you, and you will flee when there is no one pursuing you.  
18 “If, in spite of all these things, you do not obey me, I will discipline you seven times more on account of your sins.  
19 I will break your strong pride and make your sky like iron and your land like bronze.  
20 Your strength will be used up in vain, your land will not give its yield, and the trees of the land will not produce their fruit.  
21 “If you walk in hostility against me and are not willing to obey me, I will increase your affliction seven times according to your sins.  
22 I will send the wild animals against you and they will bereave you of your children, annihilate your cattle, and diminish your population so that your roads will become deserted.  
23 “If in spite of these things you do not allow yourselves to be disciplined and you walk in hostility against me,  
24 I myself will also walk in hostility against you and strike you seven times on account of your sins.  
25 I will bring on you an avenging sword, a covenant vengeance. Although you will gather together into your cities, I will send pestilence among you and you will be given into enemy hands.  
26 When I break off your supply of bread, ten women will bake your bread in one oven; they will ration your bread by weight, and you will eat and not be satisfied.  
27 “If in spite of this you do not obey me but walk in hostility against me,  
28 I will walk in hostile rage against you and I myself will also discipline you seven times on account of your sins.  
29 You will eat the flesh of your sons and the flesh of your daughters.  
30 I will destroy your high places and cut down your incense altars, and I will stack your dead bodies on top of the lifeless bodies of your idols. I will abhor you.  
31 I will lay your cities waste and make your sanctuaries desolate, and I will refuse to smell your soothing aromas.  
32 I myself will make the land desolate and your enemies who live in it will be appalled.  
33 I will scatter you among the nations and unsheathe the sword after you, so your land will become desolate and your cities will become a waste.  
34 “Then the land will make up for its Sabbaths all the days it lies desolate while you are in the land of your enemies; then the land will rest and make up its Sabbaths. [[2 Chr 36:15–21](#); [Jer 29:8–14](#)]  
35 All the days of the desolation it will have the rest it did not have on your Sabbaths when you lived on it.  
36 “As for the ones who remain among you, I will bring despair into their hearts in the lands of their enemies. The sound of a

blowing leaf will pursue them, and they will flee as one who flees the sword and fall down even though there is no pursuer.  
 37 They will stumble over each other as those who flee before a sword, though there is no pursuer, and there will be no one to take a stand for you before your enemies.  
 38 You will perish among the nations; the land of your enemies will consume you.  
 39 “As for the ones who remain among you, they will rot away because of their iniquity in the lands of your enemies, and they will also rot away because of their ancestors’ iniquities which are with them.

#### **Promised Restoration for Repentance—A Way Back from Apostasy**

40 However, when they confess their iniquity and their ancestors’ iniquity which they committed by trespassing against me, by which they also walked in hostility against me  
 41 (and I myself will walk in hostility against them and bring them into the land of their enemies), and then their uncircumcised hearts become humbled and they make up for their iniquity,  
 42 I will remember my covenant with Jacob and also my covenant with Isaac and also my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land.  
 43 The land will be abandoned by them in order that it may make up for its Sabbaths while it is made desolate without them, and they will make up for their iniquity because they have rejected my regulations and have abhorred my statutes.  
 44 In spite of this, however, when they are in the land of their enemies I will not reject them and abhor them to make a complete end of them, to break my covenant with them, for I am the LORD their God.  
 45 I will remember for them the covenant with their ancestors whom I brought out from the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations to be their God. I am the LORD.”

#### **Summary**

46 These are the statutes, regulations, and instructions which the LORD established between himself and the Israelites at Mount Sinai through Moses.

## **Vows (c. 8–11 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)**

### **Leviticus 27**

#### **Vows Involving People and Animals**

1 The LORD spoke to Moses:  
 2 “Speak to the Israelites and tell them, ‘When a man makes a special votive offering based on the conversion value of persons to the LORD,  
 3 the conversion value of the male from twenty years old up to sixty years old is fifty shekels by the standard of the sanctuary shekel.  
 4 If the person is a female, the conversion value is thirty shekels.  
 5 If the person is from five years old up to twenty years old, the conversion value of the male is twenty shekels, and for the female ten shekels.  
 6 If the person is one month old up to five years old, the conversion value of the male is five shekels of silver, and for the female the conversion value is three shekels of silver.  
 7 If the person is from sixty years old and older, if he is a male the conversion value is fifteen shekels, and for the female ten shekels.  
 8 If he is too poor to pay the conversion value, he must stand the person before the priest and the priest will establish his conversion value; according to what the man who made the vow can afford, the priest will establish his conversion value.  
 9 “If what is vowed is a kind of animal from which an offering may be presented to the LORD, anything which he gives to the LORD from this kind of animal will be holy.  
 10 He must not replace or exchange it, good for bad or bad for good, and if he does indeed exchange one animal for another animal, then both the original animal and its substitute will be holy.  
 11 If what is vowed is an unclean animal from which an offering must not be presented to the LORD, then he must stand the animal before the priest,  
 12 and the priest will establish its conversion value, whether good or bad. According to the assessed conversion value of the priest, thus it will be.  
 13 If, however, the person who made the vow redeems the animal, he must add one fifth to its conversion value.

#### **Dedication of Houses and Land**

14 “If a man consecrates his house as holy to the LORD, the priest will establish its conversion value, whether good or bad. Just as the priest establishes its conversion value, thus it will stand.  
 15 If the one who consecrates it redeems his house, he must add to it one fifth of its conversion value in silver, and it will belong to him.  
 16 “If a man consecrates to the LORD some of his own landed property, the conversion value must be calculated in accordance with

the amount of seed needed to sow it, a homer of barley seed being priced at fifty shekels of silver.

17 If he consecrates his field in the jubilee year, the conversion value will stand,

18 but if he consecrates his field after the jubilee, the priest will calculate the price for him according to the years that are left until the next jubilee year, and it will be deducted from the conversion value.

19 If, however, the one who consecrated the field redeems it, he must add to it one fifth of the conversion price and it will belong to him.

20 If he does not redeem the field, but sells the field to someone else, he may never redeem it.

21 When it reverts in the jubilee, the field will be holy to the LORD like a permanently dedicated field; it will become the priest's property.

22 "If he consecrates to the LORD a field he has purchased, which is not part of his own landed property,

23 the priest will calculate for him the amount of its conversion value until the jubilee year, and he must pay the conversion value on that jubilee day as something that is holy to the LORD.

24 In the jubilee year the field will return to the one from whom he bought it, the one to whom it belongs as landed property.

#### **Miscellaneous Regulations about Vows**

25 Every conversion value must be calculated by the standard of the sanctuary shekel; twenty gerahs to the shekel.

26 "Surely no man may consecrate a firstborn that already belongs to the LORD as a firstborn among the animals; whether it is an ox or a sheep, it belongs to the LORD.

27 If, however, it is among the unclean animals, he may ransom it according to its conversion value and must add one fifth to it, but if it is not redeemed it must be sold according to its conversion value.

28 "Surely anything which a man permanently dedicates to the LORD from all that belongs to him, whether from people, animals, or his landed property, must be neither sold nor redeemed; anything permanently dedicated is most holy to the LORD.

29 Any human being who is permanently dedicated [to destruction] must not be ransomed; such a person must be put to death. [cf. [Num 21:2–3](#); [Josh 6:16–19](#); [1 Sam 15](#)]

30 "Any tithe of the land, from the grain of the land or from the fruit of the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.

31 If a man redeems part of his tithe, however, he must add one fifth to it.

32 All the tithe of herd or flock, everything which passes under the rod, the tenth one will be holy to the LORD.

33 The owner must not examine the animals to distinguish between good and bad, and he must not exchange it. If, however, he does exchange it, both the original animal and its substitute will be holy. It must not be redeemed."

#### **Conclusion**

34 These are the commandments which the LORD commanded Moses to tell the Israelites at Mount Sinai.

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