

## The Torah: What Is the Story?

### Review

The *Torah* is the first major section of the *Tanakh*, the Hebrew Scriptures.

- Torah (Law)
- Nevi'im (Prophets)
- Ketuvim (Writings)

LAW	PROPHETS	WRITINGS
Genesis	Joshua	Psalms
Exodus	Judges	Job
Leviticus	1-2 Samuel	Proverbs
Numbers	1-2 Kings	Ruth
Deuteronomy	Isaiah	Song of Songs
	Jeremiah	Ecclesiastes
	Ezekiel	Lamentations
	The Twelve	Esther
		Daniel
		Ezra-Nehemiah
		1-2 Chronicles

It is most commonly translated with the word \_\_\_\_\_ in English Bibles.

It is a single, unified \_\_\_\_\_ designed to reveal God's wisdom for a complicated human life.

The *Torah* tells the story of \_\_\_\_\_.

### The Decalogue (Ten Words)

What did the people of Israel do to earn YHWH's deliverance?

*We've already considered the larger context, noting that they don't receive the law until after their deliverance from Egypt. Now we'll consider the immediate context. The first statement is not 'Thou shalt not,' but rather 'I am'--'I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery' (Exodus 20:2)....If we post these commands in public but leave off verse 2, we could easily give the impression that these commands are a burden or form of bondage for those unlucky Israelites. But no, these commands are given to them by a God who rescued them from slavery, a God who has entered into a committed relationship with them, a God who reveals his personal name. Whatever follows must be a dimension of the freedom made possible by these ten boundaries, within which their lives can flourish. The God who saved them is giving them a gift!*

— Carmen Joy Imes, *Bearing God's Name: Why Sinai Still Matters*, 44-45

Table Discussion: Read Exodus 20:4-6, Genesis 1:26-28, and Romans 1:21-23. What reflections do you have on the Second Word?

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Group Discussion: Read Exodus 20:7, and then 28:21, 29. What does it mean to “take” the name of the Lord in vain?

What does the Fourth Word (the Sabbath command) teach us about our time?

Which of the commandments are about external behavior, and which are about internal motivation?

Additional notes:

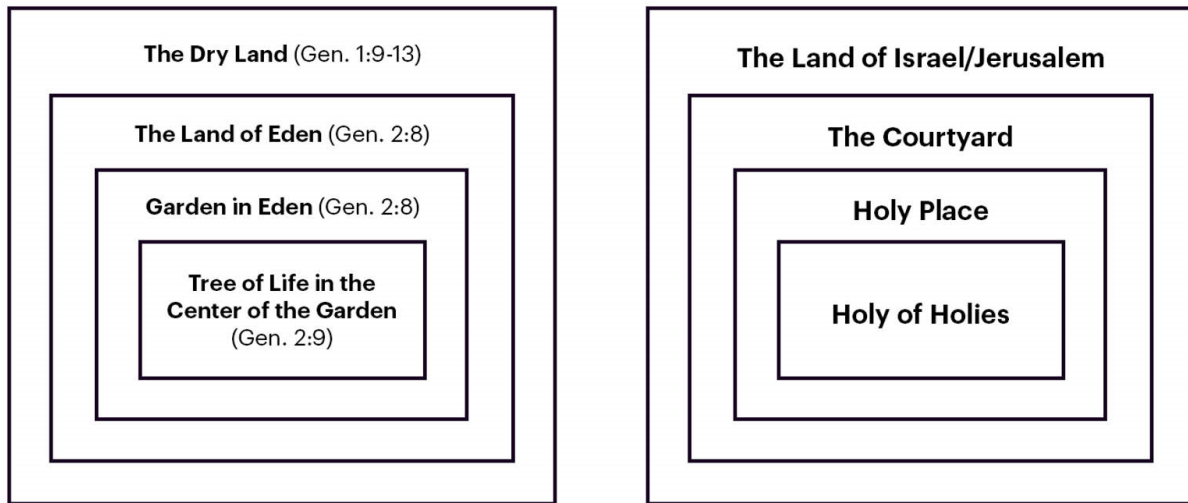
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### **Making, Breaking, and Remaking the Covenant**

Read Exodus 24:3-8. Who does YHWH covenant with?

What was the purpose of the Tabernacle?

Eden and the Tabernacle/Temple (image accessed at <https://bibleproject.com/articles/were-adam-and-eve-priests-eden/>):



Personal Reflection: What parallels do you see between Aaron in Exodus 32 and Adam, Eve, and the Snake in Genesis 3?

According to Exodus 40:34-35, why was Moses unable to enter the Tabernacle?

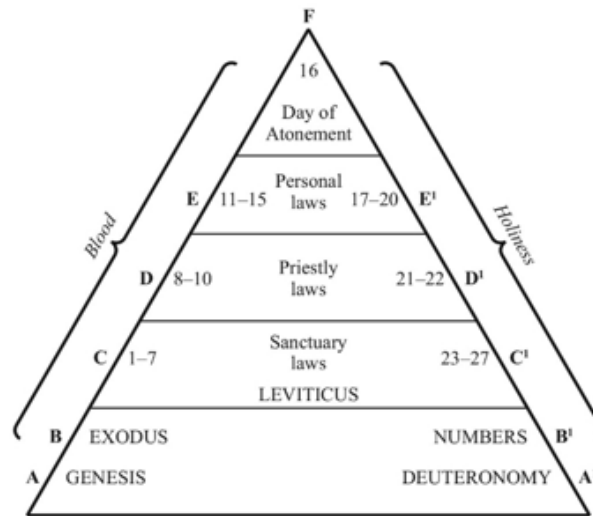
Additional notes:

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### Dwelling at Sinai

*The aim of Levitical legislation must be kept in view. Whether the laws pertain to sacrifice, to distinguishing between clean and unclean, or to ethical and moral behavior, the aim of the laws is fellowship and union with the living God. For this reason, though Leviticus is often characterized thematically by holiness, it is preferable to discern holiness not as an end in itself but rather as a means to an end, which is the real theme, the abundant life of joy with God in the house of God.*

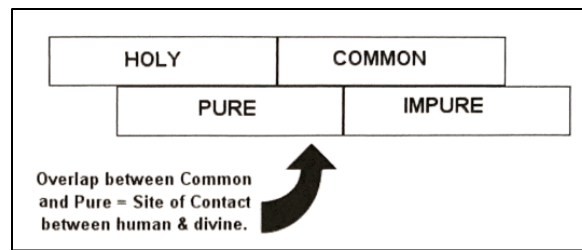
— Michael Morales, *Who Shall Ascend the Mountain of the Lord?*, 30



What was the purpose of animal sacrifice?

What do the deaths of Nadab and Abihu teach us about God's character?

How does this chart influence your view of God dwelling among his people?



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Statutory law = \_\_\_\_\_ of the law

Common law = \_\_\_\_\_ of the law

*Within common-law systems, the law is not found in a written code which serves as the judges' point of reference and which delimits what they may decide. Adjudication is a process whereby the judge concludes the correct judgment based on the mores and spirit of the community and its customs.*

— Joshua Berman, *Inconsistency in the Torah*, 109

Additional notes:

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## Leaving Sinai

Table Discussion: Read Numbers 6:22-27. What is the purpose of this blessing?

Read Numbers 13:21-33. What was false about the report the spies gave about the Land?

Read Numbers 20:8-12. How does the false report from the spies tie to Moses's striking the rock instead of speaking to it?

How does the case of the daughters of Zelophehad (Num 27:1-11) present a pattern to be followed?

Table Discussion: Compare Exodus 20:8-11 with Deuteronomy 5:12-15. What is the same and what is different?

Group Discussion: Compare Exodus 12:9 (do not *bashal* – boil) with Deuteronomy 16:7 (you shall *bashal* – boil). Why did the authors include this obvious inconsistency?

What does YHWH predict in Deuteronomy 31:16-21?

*The Torah opens with a story about the rise and fall of Adam in the "beginning of days". The Torah's introductory story serves as a prologue to God's ultimate plan to remedy mankind's greatest problem: our separation from God, caused by unbelief and disobedience. This remedy will not come through the Law, but in spite of Israel's repeated disobedience to the Law. Instead, God will provide the only sufficient remedy for sin through the Messiah-King in "the end of days" (see Gen 49:1, 8-12; Num 24:14, 17-19).*

— Seth Postell et al., *Reading Moses Seeing Jesus*, 41

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Additional notes: