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The laws of this chapter relate, **1.** To the eighth commandment, concerning: theft (1-4); trespass by cattle (5); damage by fire (6); trusts (7-13); borrowing cattle (14-15); borrowing money (25-27). **2.** To the seventh commandment: against fornication (16-17); bestiality (19). **3.** To the first table, forbidding witchcraft (18); idolatry (20); commanding offering the first fruits (29-30). **4.** To the poor (21-24); **5.** To the civil government (28). **6.** To the unique nation (31) – Matthew Henry.

Other than the unique nation of the children of **Israel**, led by Moses, that exited Egypt in the Middle East 3,500 years ago, who received this body of law from the Lord; the only other country in the world... to be built on these laws as a foundation was **the United States of America**.



Laws concerning theft

- ¹ If a man steals an ox or a sheep, and kills it, or sells it; in order to restore peace, he will repay five oxen for the ox, and four sheep for the sheep.
- ² If a thief is found breaking in, and is struck so that he dies, there will be no guilt for his bloodshed,
- ³ but if the sun rises on him, there will be bloodshed for him / if in the daylight, he was struck and died; the one who killed him would be considered a murderer. Regardless of the thief, he will surely make full compensation; if he has nothing, then he will be sold for his theft.
- ⁴ If certainly the theft is found in his hand, whether it is an ox or an ass, or sheep; he will repay double, to restore peace.
- ⁵ If a man lets a field or vineyard be grazed in, and lets loose his animal to graze in the field of another man; then with the best of his field, or the best of his own vineyard, he must make compensation.
- ⁶ If fire breaks out, and catches in thorns, so that it consumes stacks of grain, or the standing corn, or the field; he who started the fire will surely make restitution.

Laws concerning honesty

- ⁷ If a man delivers to his neighbor money or stuff to keep, and it is stolen from the house of the man; if the thief is found, he will pay double.
- ⁸ If the thief is not found, then the master of the house will be brought to the judges, to see whether he put his hand on the goods of his neighbor.

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- ⁹ For any kind of trespass, whether an ox, an ass, a sheep, for clothing, or any manner of lost thing which another claims to be his, before the judges the cause of both parties will come; and whomever the judges condemn, he will pay double to his neighbor.
- ¹⁰ If a man delivers to his neighbor an ass, or an ox, or a sheep, or any animal, to keep; and it dies, or is hurt, or driven away, with no one seeing it:
- ¹¹ then an oath before the LORD will be between both of them whether or not he put his hand into the goods of his neighbor; and its owner must accept the oath, so he will not make restitution.
- 12 but if it was stolen from him, to restore the peace he must compensate the owner.
- ¹³ If it is torn in pieces by an animal, then let him bring it for evidence, and he will not make restitution foe what was torn.
- ¹⁴ And if a man borrows anything from his neighbor, and it is injured, or dies, its owner was not there with it, he will surely restore the peace.
- ¹⁵ But if its owner is there with it, he will not make it good: if it is a rented thing, the fees are covered by the hire.

Laws concerning morality

- 16 And if a man entice a virgin who is not engaged, and lies with her, he must surely pay the dowry for her to be his wife.
- 17 If her father utterly refuses to give her to him, he will pay bride price of virgins.

Laws concerning Civil and Religious obligations

- ¹⁸ You will not permit a sorceress to live.
- ¹⁹ Whoever lies with an animal will surely be put to death.
- ²⁰ He who sacrifices to any god, he will be utterly destroyed; except the LORD only.
- 21 You must not mistreat a stranger, nor oppress him: for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.
- ²² Any widow or fatherless child, you will not oppress.
- 23 If in any way you afflict them, and if at all they cry out to Me, surely I will hear their cry;

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²⁴ and My wrath will grow hot, and I will kill you with the sword; then your wives will be widows, and your children, fatherless.

²⁵ If you lend money to any of My people who are poor, do not be to him as a creditor, and do not impose interest on them.

²⁶ If ever you take as a pledge the garment of your neighbor, before the sun goes down, you must return it to him:

²⁷ for that is his only covering, it is clothing for his body: what will he sleep in? and if it happens, when he cries to Me, I will hear; for I am gracious.

²⁸ With God, do not be trifling, do not curse the ruler of your people.

²⁹ The first of your ripe fruits, and your vintage juices do not delay to offer: the firstborn of your sons you will give to Me.

³⁰ Likewise do with your oxen, and with your sheep: seven days it will be with its mother; on the eighth day you will give it to Me.

³¹ And you will be wholly men to Me: not any meat that is torn by beasts in the field will vou eat; to the dogs you will throw it.

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