

**Other Laws** (from *The Hebrew Bible* in English, published by the Jewish Publication Society of America, 1917 Edition. The covenant given on Mount Sinai were only ten of some six hundred and thirteen other laws that govern Jewish life. The following verses provide a glimpse of some of the perennially relevant moral attitudes in Judaism. Source: Phillip Novak. *The World's Wisdom*. Edison, NJ: Castle Books. 1994:188.)

**a. Concern for the Unfortunate**

**Exodus 22:21** Ye shall not afflict any widow, or fatherless child. **22** If thou afflict them in any wise--for if they cry at all unto Me, I will surely hear their cry--

**22:24** If thou lend money to any of My people, even to the poor with thee, thou shalt not be to him as a creditor; neither shall ye lay upon him interest.

**23:9** And a stranger shalt thou not oppress; for ye know the heart of a stranger, seeing ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.

**Leviticus 19:9** And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not wholly reap the corner of thy field, neither shalt thou gather the gleanings of thy harvest. **10** And thou shalt not glean thy vineyard, neither shalt thou gather the fallen fruit of thy vineyard; thou shalt leave them for the poor and for the stranger: I am the LORD your God.

**Deuteronomy 10:10** Now I stayed in the mount, as at the first time, forty days and forty nights; and the LORD hearkened unto me that time also; the LORD would not destroy thee. **11** And the LORD said unto me: 'Arise, go before the people, causing them to set forward, that they may go in and possess the land, which I swore unto their fathers to give unto them.' **12** And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all His ways, and to love Him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul; **13** to keep for thy good the commandments of the LORD, and His statutes, which I command thee this day? **14** Behold, unto the LORD thy God belongeth the heaven, and the heaven of heavens, the earth, with all that therein is. **15** Only the LORD had a delight in thy fathers to love them, and He chose their seed after them, even you, above all peoples, as it is this day. **16** Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked. **17** For the LORD your God, He is God of gods, and Lord of lords, the great God, the mighty, and the awful, who regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward. **18** He doth execute justice for the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment. **19** Love ye therefore the stranger; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.

**Leviticus 19:14** Thou shalt not curse the deaf, nor put a stumbling-block before the blind, but thou shalt fear thy God: I am the LORD.

**Deuteronomy 15:7** If there be among you a needy man, one of thy brethren, within any of thy gates, in thy land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thy heart, nor shut thy hand from thy needy brother; **8** but thou shalt surely open thy hand unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need in that which he wanteth.

**24:19** When thou reapest thy harvest in thy field, and hast forgot a sheaf in the field, thou shalt not go back to fetch it; it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow; that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thy hands. {S} **20** When thou beatest thine olive-tree, thou shalt not go over the boughs again; it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow. **21** When thou gatherest the grapes of thy vineyard, thou shalt not glean it after thee; it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow.

**Exodus 23:10** And six years thou shalt sow thy land, and gather in the increase thereof; **11** but the seventh year thou shalt let it rest and lie fallow, that the poor of thy people may eat; and what they leave the beast of the field shall eat. In like manner thou shalt deal with thy vineyard, and with thy oliveyard.

### **b. The Sacredness of Lifeblood**

**Leviticus 17:13** And whatsoever man there be of the children of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among them, that taketh in hunting any beast or fowl that may be eaten, he shall pour out the blood thereof, and cover it with dust. **14** For as to the life of all flesh, the blood thereof is all one with the life thereof; therefore I said unto the children of Israel: Ye shall eat the blood of no manner of flesh; for the life of all flesh is the blood thereof; whosoever eateth it shall be cut off.

**19:16** Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people; neither shalt thou stand idly by the blood of thy neighbour: I am the LORD.

**24:21** And he that killeth a beast shall make it good; and he that killeth a man shall be put to death.

### **c. Stewardship of the Earth**

**Leviticus 25:1** And the LORD spoke unto Moses in mount Sinai, saying: **2** Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them: When ye come into the land which I give you, then shall the land keep a sabbath unto the LORD. **3** Six years thou shalt sow thy field, and six years thou shalt prune thy vineyard, and gather in the produce thereof. **4** But in the seventh year shall be a sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a sabbath unto the LORD; thou shalt neither sow thy field, nor prune thy vineyard. **5** That which groweth of itself of thy harvest thou shalt not reap, and the grapes of thy undressed vine thou shalt not gather; it shall be a year of solemn rest for the land. **6** And the sabbath-produce of the land shall be for food for you: for thee, and for thy servant and for thy maid, and for thy hired servant and for the settler by thy side that sojourn with thee; **7** and for thy cattle, and for the beasts that are in thy land, shall all the increase thereof be for food.

**19:23** And when ye shall come into the land, and shall have planted all manner of trees for food, then ye shall count the fruit thereof as forbidden; three years shall it be as forbidden unto you; it shall not be eaten. **24** And in the fourth year all the fruit thereof shall be holy, for giving praise unto the LORD. **25** But in the fifth year may ye eat of the fruit thereof, that it may yield unto you more richly the increase thereof: I am the LORD your God.

#### **d. Social Relations**

**Exodus 23:4** If thou meet thine enemy's ox or his ass going astray, thou shalt surely bring it back to him again. {S} **5** If thou see the ass of him that hateth thee lying under its burden, thou shalt forbear to pass by him; thou shalt surely release it with him.

**Leviticus 19:13** Thou shalt not oppress thy neighbour, nor rob him; the wages of a hired servant shall not abide with thee all night until the morning. **14** Thou shalt not curse the deaf, nor put a stumbling-block before the blind, but thou shalt fear thy God: I am the LORD. **15** Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment; thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor favour the person of the mighty; but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour. **16** Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people; neither shalt thou stand idly by the blood of thy neighbour: I am the LORD. **17** Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thy heart; thou shalt surely rebuke thy neighbour, and not bear sin because of him. **18** Thou shalt not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.