

*The Laws of Exodus*

*Genesis got the Hebrews into Egypt; Exodus got them out again. But the exit narrative is not all that happens in Exodus. After the exit from Egypt, which we noticed in the previous section, Exodus moves into the realm of law. This section takes up that part of Exodus.*

*The five chapters in this section cover these points:*

(21) The Sinai Covenant is simpler than later interpretation would make it. Later Covenants continually enlarge on that beginning.

(22) The Covenant Code, Exod 21-23 (not yet including Exod 20), has an interesting relationship with the classic code of Hammurabi.

(23) The Decalogue (Exod 20) is perhaps the most important legislation in the Bible. It is also an interpolation in Exodus, a fact of much importance.

(24) The two Festival Codes in Exodus are compared side by side, to show how much of legal interest has occurred between the first and the second.

(25) The Tabernacle, prescribed in a third Code, is separately considered. It anticipates the later Temple, and this third Code must thus postdate Solomon. It follows that the previous Exodus Codes most likely *predate* Solomon.

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*Exodus might have been the whole story, but it was not. Next in canonical order are Leviticus, which is occupied with many details of priestly practice, and Numbers, which takes over part of Exodus and drastically rewrites it.*