

## Appendix 8

Taken from Wikipedia

### The Laws of Moses

Said to be older than the earliest references to it in 1500 B.C.E. the Law of Moses or [Torah of Moses](#) is a biblical term first found in the [Book of Joshua](#) 8:31-32 where Joshua writes the Hebrew words of "Torat Moshe" on the altar at [Mount Ebal](#). The text says: "And afterward he read all the words of the teachings, the blessings and cursings, according to all that is written in the book of the [Torah](#)." (Joshua 8:34).

The Hebrew word for the first five books of the Hebrew Bible, Torah (which means "law") to the same five books termed in English "[Pentateuch](#)". According to some scholars, use of the name "Torah" to designate the "[Five Books of Moses](#)" of the [Hebrew Bible](#), is clearly documented only from the 2nd Century BCE.

The "Law of Moses" in ancient Israel is different from other legal codes in the [ancient Near East](#) because transgressions are seen as offenses against God rather than solely as offenses against society (civil law). This contrasts with the [Sumerian Code of Ur-Nammu](#) (c. 2100-2050 BCE), and the [Babylonian Code of Hammurabi](#) (c. 1760 BCE, of which almost half concerns [contract law](#)). However the influence of the ancient Near Eastern legal tradition on the Law of ancient Israel is recognized and well documented. Ancient Israel was set up as a [theocracy](#), rather than a [monarchy](#).

According to the Hebrew Bible, Moses was the [leader of early Israel out of Egypt](#); and traditionally the first five books of the [Hebrew Bible](#) are attributed to him, though [Mosaic authorship](#) is disputed. The law attributed to Moses, specifically the laws set out in the books of [Leviticus](#) and [Deuteronomy](#), as a consequence came to be considered supreme over all other sources of authority (any king and/or his officials), and the [Levites](#) were the guardians and interpreters of the law..

#### Content

The content of the Law is spread among the books of [Exodus](#), [Leviticus](#), and [Numbers](#), and then reiterated and added to in [Deuteronomy](#) includes:

- The [Ten Commandments](#)
- Moral laws - on murder, theft, honesty, adultery, etc.
- Social laws - on property, inheritance, marriage and divorce,
- Food laws - on what is [clean and unclean](#), on cooking and storing food.
- Purity laws - on [menstruation](#), [seminal emissions](#), [skin disease and mildew](#), etc.
- Feasts - the [Day of Atonement](#), [Passover](#), [Feast of Tabernacles](#), [Feast of Unleavened Bread](#), [Feast of Weeks](#) etc.

- Sacrifices and offerings - the sin offering, burnt offering, whole offering, heave offering, Passover sacrifice, meal offering, wave offering, peace offering, drink offering, thank offering, dough offering, incense offering, red heifer, scapegoat, first fruits, etc.
- Instructions for the priesthood and the high priest including tithes.
- Instructions regarding the Tabernacle, and which were later applied to the Temple in Jerusalem, including those concerning the Holy of Holies containing the Ark of the Covenant (in which were the tablets of the law, Aaron's rod, the manna). Instructions and for the construction of various altars.
- Future instructions for a time when Israel would demand a king.