

The background of the slide is a photograph of the Great Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx in Egypt. The scene is captured at sunset, with a warm, golden glow in the sky. The Sphinx is in the foreground, and the Great Pyramid is the central focus. The text is overlaid on this image.

# THE GOSPEL OF EXODUS

9. Book of the Covenant (20.22–23.33)

Smoky Hill Church of Christ

Spring 2024



Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. He rose early the next morning and set up an altar and twelve pillars for the twelve tribes of Israel at the base of the mountain. Then he sent out young Israelite men, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed bulls as fellowship offerings to the LORD. Moses took half the blood and set it in basins; the other half of the blood he splattered on the altar. He then took the book of the covenant and read it aloud to the people. They responded, “We will do and obey all that the LORD has commanded” (Exd 24.3–7).

## THE BOOK OF THE COVENANT





## **CONTENTS: EXD 22.23–23.33**

A distinct subsection of text, called and titled a book (“a scroll”)! A collection of laws given to a particular context.



## **CONTEXT: IN THE WILDERNESS**

Connections to the time, the location, and the situation that we read about in the Wilderness!



# ALTARS AND IDOLS

EXODUS 20.22–20.26



## SLAVES (EXD 21.2–11)

### ▶ INTRODUCTION

Two types from two sources with two different ends.

### ▶ MALES (21.2–6)

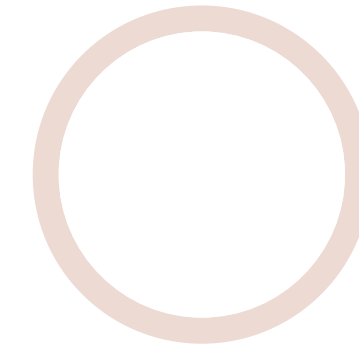
A sabbath of service, with an important exception.

### ▶ FEMALES (21.7–11)

Not treated the same way, but with different exceptions.

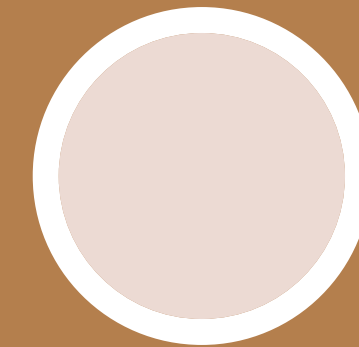
### ▶ ADDITIONS (21.16)

Kidnapping and the creation of slaves.

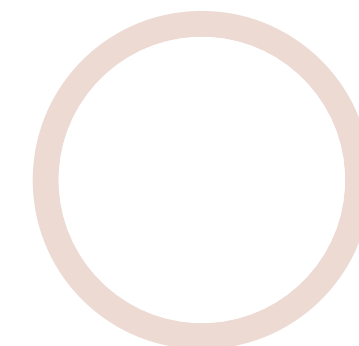


**Basic Rules  
(21.12–14)**

**LAWS ABOUT  
BODILY HARM  
(EXD 21.12–27)**



**Special  
Categories  
(21.15–17)**



**Sub-Rulings  
(21.18–27)**

## **MOVEABLE PROPERTY (EXODUS 21.28–22.17)**

**1** Livestock Injuries (21.28–36)

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**2** Livestock Theft (22.1–4)

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**3** Crop Destruction (22.5–6)

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**4** Loaned Goods (22.7–15)

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**5** Daughters (22.16–17)



- ▶ **WITCHCRAFT**  
Seeking power, not from God
- ▶ **BESTIALITY**  
Connected to idolatrous practice
- ▶ **SACRIFICE**  
A capital punishment

**FORBIDDEN CULTIC PRACTICES (22.18–20)**





# PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE (22.21–27)

## ▶ SOJOURNERS

A protected class because of culture (cf. Gen 19; Jgs 19)

## ▶ WIDOWS/ORPHANS

A protected class because of culture (e.g., 1 Kgs 17; 1 Tim 5; Mark 7)

## ▶ WITH LOANS

Not allowed to charge interest (cf. ANE rates)

## ▶ IN PAYMENT

Pledges are part of their needs, so we must protect them



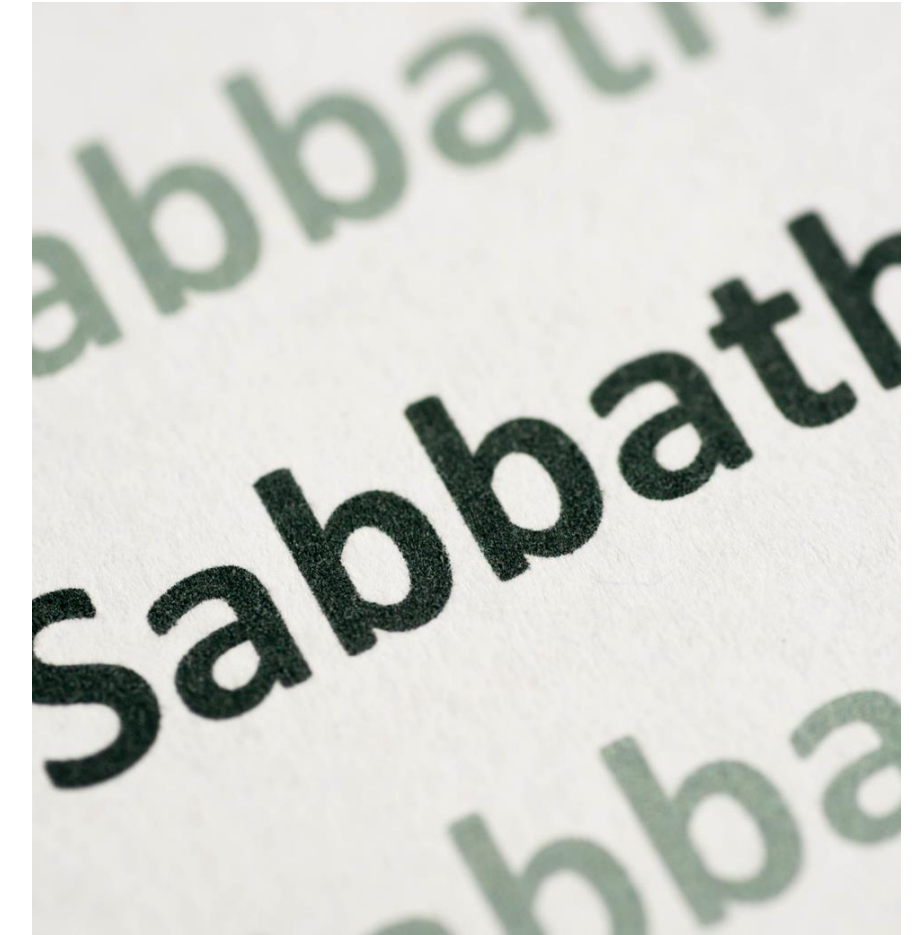
## 22.28–31

Respecting God and his Chosen-- God is the one who chose Moses and Aaron.



## 23.1–9

False witnesses / returning lost property respect God's sovereignty.



## 23.10–19

God's requirements for Sabbath, worship, and offering.



**TOWARDS THE  
PROMISED LAND  
(23.20–32)**





# FITTING THE CONTEXT

▶ **APODICTIC**

“Do... do not...”

▶ **GOD ENFORCES**

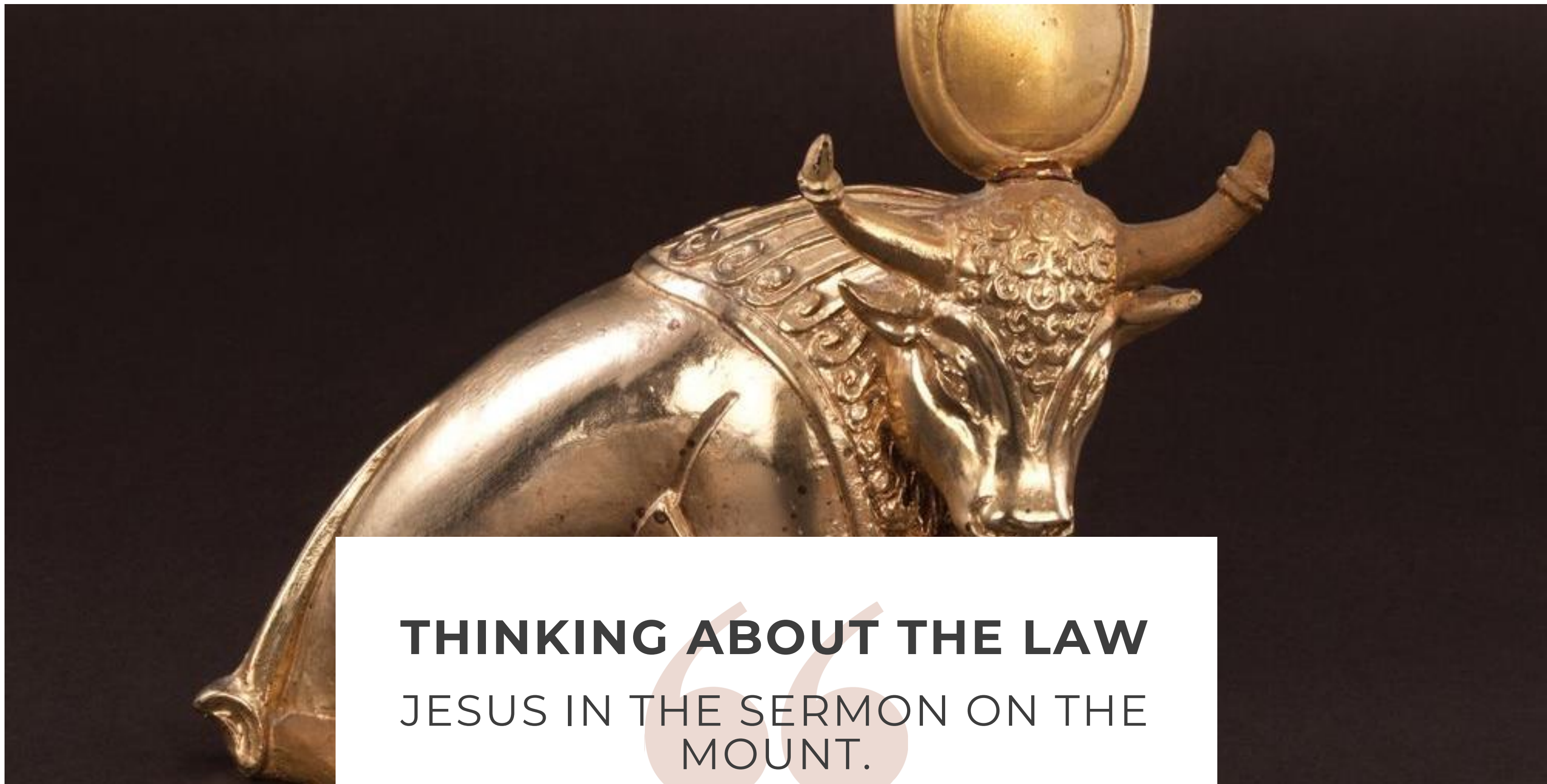
Few specified punishments!

▶ **ACCESS TO GOD**

Many laws expect easy access to God and the tabernacle.

▶ **RURAL**

Distinct from later focus of “in your city gates...”



## **THINKING ABOUT THE LAW**

JESUS IN THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT.



# GOSPEL OF EXODUS

- ▶ 10. PRIESTLY LAWS  
Exodus 24–31
- ▶ QUESTIONS:
  - What do these laws as a whole teach about holiness?
  - What do the laws focus on?
  - What is the tabernacle meant to reflect?