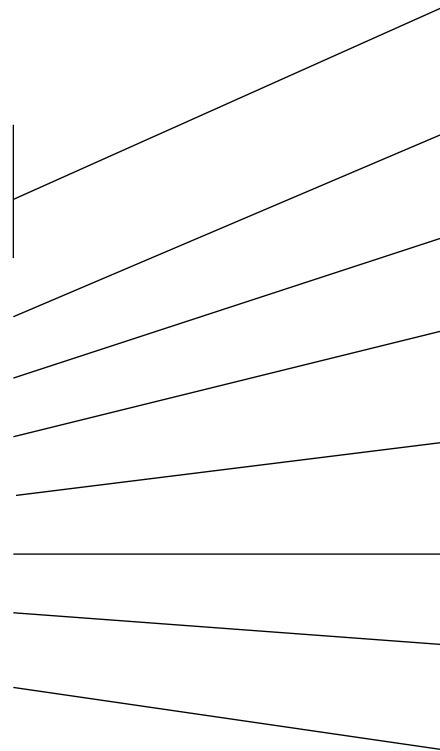


The Decalogue and the Deuteronomistic Laws†

1. No other gods before me
2. Do not make an idol
3. Do not misuse the name of Yhwh
4. Observe the Sabbath
5. Honour father and mother
6. Do not murder
7. Do not commit adultery
8. Do not steal
9. Do not give false testimony
10. Do not covet



1.-3. Right worship. 12:1–13:18. One temple and the one God of Israel.
4. Sabbath. 14:1–16:18. Sabbath moratoria, pilgrimage festivals, and the LORD’s holy people in its ritual difference from the peoples of other gods.
5. Authority. 16:18–18:22. Offices in Israel (judges, kings, priests, and prophets).
6. Preserving life. 19:1–21:23. Accidental and deliberate killing (with digressions).
7. Adultery and illicit mixtures. 22:13–23:14. Rape and improper sexual relations (Concentrates completely on the area of sexuality)
8. Theft and Property violations. 23:15–24:7.
9. Justice. Truth in the face of judgement, 24:8–25:4.
10. Coveting. 25:5-16.

The Decalogue in Canonical Perspective

The Ten Commandments are set apart from the other laws in the Pentateuch by a variety of factors:

- *By Placement:* In Deuteronomy (and Exodus) the decalogue is placed at the head of all the other laws; and the other laws in Deut 12–26 are organized according to it. In this way the decalogue is the key to the rest of the

law, while at the same time the rest of the law is an interpretive expansion of it.

- *By Promulgation:* Only the Ten Commandments are spoken directly from God to the people. All other laws are mediated through Moses.

- *By Perspective:* The Ten Commandments are absolute (apodictic); most other laws are case law that is focused on life in the land (and consequently casuistic).

† Prepared by Tyler F. Williams (2002). Sources: Georg Braulik, “The Sequence of the Laws in Deuteronomy 12–26 and in the Decalogue,” in *A Song of Power and the Power of Song: Essays on the Book of Deuteronomy* (Duane L. Christensen, ed.; Winona Lane, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1993) 313-35; Alexander Rofé, “The Arrangement of the Laws in Deuteronomy,” in *Studies in the Bible: M. D. Cassuto Centennial Volume* (Hebrew) (Jerusalem: Magnes Press, 1987) 217-35.