

THE 613 COMMANDMENTS: Torah/Law, Teachings (Genesis- Deuteronomy)

The total number of the biblical commandments (precepts and prohibitions) is given in rabbinic tradition as 613. It is held that all 613 were revealed to Moses at Mt. Sinai, and that they fall into two classifications.

1. Mandatory laws - 248 in number, corresponding to limbs of the human body (divided into eighteen sections).
2. Prohibition laws - 365 in number, equal to the solar days in a year (divided into thirteen sections).

THE MANDATORY COMMANDMENTS

God

1. One must believe that God exists (Ex. 20:2).
2. Acknowledge his unity (Deut. 6:4).
3. Love God (Deut.6:5).
4. Fear God (Deut. 6:13).
5. Serve God (Ex. 23:25; Deut. 11:13).
6. Cleave to God (Deut. 10:20).
7. Swear only by his name (Deut. 10:20).
8. Imitate God (Deut. 28:9).
9. Sanctify God's name (Lev. 22:32).

Torah

10. The shema must be recited each morning and evening (Deut. 6:7).
11. Study the Torah and teach it to others (Deut. 6:7).
12. The Tefillin must be bound on one's head (Deut. 6:8).
13. It should be also bound on one's arm (Deut. 6:8).
14. A zizit is to be made for the garments(Num. 15:38).
15. A mezuzah is to be fixed on the door (Deut. 6:9).
16. The people are to assemble every seventh month to hear the Torah read (Deut. 31:12).
17. The king must write a special copy of the Torah for himself (Deut. 17:18).
18. Each Jew should have a Torah scroll for himself (Deut. 31:19).
19. God is to be praised after meals (Deut. 8:10)

Temple and the Priest

20. The Jews should build a Temple (Ex. 25:8).
21. They should respect it (Lev. 19:30).
22. It must be guarded at all times (Num. 18:4).
23. The Levites should perform their special duties in it (Num. 18:23).
24. Before entering the Temple or participating in its service, the priests must wash their hands and feet (Ex. 30:19).
25. The priests must light the candelabrum daily (Ex. 27:20, 21).

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26. The priests must bless Israel (Num. 6:23).
27. They must set the shewbread and frankincense before the altar (Ex. 25:30).
28. The incense must be burned twice daily on the golden altar (Ex. 30:7).
29. Fire shall be kept burning on the altar continually (Lev. 6:13).
30. The ashes are to be removed daily (Lev. 6:10, 11).
31. Ritually unclean persons must be kept out of the Temple (Num. 5:2).
32. Israel is to honor its priest (Lev. 21:8).
33. The priests must be dressed in special priestly raiment (Ex. 28:2).
34. The ark is to be carried on the shoulders of the priests (Num. 7:9).
35. The oil used in anointing must be prepared according to a special formula (Ex. 30:31).
36. The priestly families should officiate in rotation (Deut. 18:6-8).
37. In honor of certain dead close relatives, the priests should make themselves ritually unclean (Lev. 21:2, 3).
38. The high priest may marry only a virgin (Lev. 21:13).

Sacrifices

39. The tamid sacrifice must offered twice daily (Num. 28:3)
40. The high priest must also offer a meal offering twice daily (Lev. 6:13).
41. An additional sacrifice (musaf) should be offered every Sabbath (Num. 28:9).
42. One shall also be offered on the first of every month (Num. 28:11).
43. A musaf is to be offered on each of the seven days of Passover (Lev. 23:26).
44. On the second day of Passover a meal offering of the first barley must also be brought (Lev. 23:10).
45. One Shavuot a musaf must be offered (Num. 28:26, 27).
46. Two loaves of bread must be offered as a wave offering (Lev. 23:17).
47. An additional sacrifice must be made on Rosh HaShanah (Num. 29:1,2).
48. Another offering must be made on the day of atonement (Num. 29:7, 8).
49. On this day the avodah must also be performed (Lev. 16).
50. On every day of the festival of Sukkot a musaf must be brought (Num. 29:13).
51. It is to be brought also on the eighth day thereof (Num. 29:36).
52. Every male Jew should make pilgrimage to the Temple three times a year (Ex. 23:14).
53. He must appear there during the three pilgrim festivals (Ex. 34:23; Deut. 16:16).
54. One should rejoice on the festivals (Deut. 16:14).
55. On the fourteenth of Nisan one should slaughter the paschal lamb (Ex. 12:6).
56. The lamb is then to be roasted and eaten on the night of the fifteenth (Ex. 12:8).
57. Those who were ritually impure in Nisan should slaughter the paschal lamb on the fourteenth of Lyyar (Num. 9:11).
58. It should then be eaten with mazzah and bitter herbs (Ex. 12:8; Num. 9:11).

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59. Trumpets should be sounded when the festive sacrifices are brought, and also in times of tribulation (Num. 10:10).
60. Cattle to be sacrificed must be at least eight days old (Lev. 22:27).
61. They must also be without blemish (Lev. 22:21).
62. All offerings must be salted (Lev. 2:13).
63. It is a mitzvah to perform the ritual of the burnt offering (Lev. 1:2).
64. This is also true with the sin offering (Lev. 6:18).
65. This is also true with the guilt offering (Lev. 7:1).
66. This is also true with the peace offering (Lev. 3:1).
67. This is also true with the meal offering (Lev. 2:1, 6:7).
68. Should the Sanhedrin err in a decision, its members must bring a sin offering (Lev. 4:13).
69. This offering must also be brought by a person who has unwittingly transgressed a karet (Lev. 4:27).
70. When in doubt as to whether one has transgressed such a prohibition, a “suspensive” guilt offering must be brought (Lev. 5:17, 18).
71. For stealing or swearing falsely and for other sins of like nature, a guilt offering must be brought (Lev. 5:15; 19:20, 21; 21-25).
72. In special circumstances the sin offering can be according to one’s means (Lev. 5:1-11).
73. One must confess one’s sins before God and repent for them (Num. 5:6, 7).
74. A man who has a seminal issue must bring a sacrifice (Lev. 15:13-15).
75. A woman who has an issue must bring a sacrifice (Lev. 15:28, 29).
76. A woman must also bring a sacrifice after childbirth (Lev. 12:6).
77. A leper must bring a sacrifice after he has been cleansed (Lev. 14:10).
78. One must tithe one’s cattle (Lev. 27:32).
79. The firstborn of clean (permitted) cattle are holy and must be sacrificed (Ex. 13:2).
80. The firstborn of man must be redeemed (Ex. 22:28; Num. 18:15).
81. The firstling of the ass must be redeemed (Ex. 34:20).
82. If not, its neck is to be broken (Ex. 13:13).
83. Animals set aside as offerings must be brought to Jerusalem without delay (Deut. 12:5,6).
84. They may be sacrificed only in the Temple (Deut. 12:14).
85. Offerings from outside the land of Israel may also be brought to the Temple (Deut. 12:26).
86. Sanctified animals which have become blemished must be redeemed (Deut. 12:15).
87. A beast exchanged for an offering is also holy (Lev. 27:33).
88. The priests should eat the remainder of the meal offering (Lev. 6:9).
89. they also are to eat of the flesh of sin and guilt offerings (Ex. 29:33).

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90. But consecrated flesh which has become ritually unclean must be burned (Lev. 7:19).
91. Also that flesh not eaten within its appointed time must be burned (Lev. 7:17).

Vows

92. A Nazarite must let his hair grow during the period of his separation (Num. 6:5).
93. When that period is over he must shave his head and bring his sacrifice (Num. 6:18).
94. A man must honor his vows and his oaths (Deut. 23:24).
95. These can only be annulled in accordance with the law (Num. 30:3).

Ritual Purity

96. Anyone who touches a carcass becomes ritually unclean (Lev. 11:8, 24).
97. Anyone who touches one of the eight species of reptiles becomes ritually unclean (Lev. 11:29-31).
98. Food becomes unclean by coming into contact with a ritually unclean object (Lev. 11:34).
99. Menstruous women are ritually impure (Lev. 15: 19).
100. After childbirth women are ritually impure for seven days (Lev. 12:2).
101. A leper is ritually unclean (Lev 13:3).
102. A leprous garment is ritually unclean (Lev. 13:51).
103. A leprous house is unclean (Lev. 14:44).
104. A man having a running issue is unclean (Lev. 15:2).
105. Semen is unclean (Lev. 15:16).
106. A woman suffering from a running issue is unclean (Lev. 15:19).
107. A human corpse is unclean (Num. 19:14).
108. The purification water purifies the unclean, but it makes the clean ritually impure (Num. 19:13, 21).
109. It is a mitzvah to become ritually clean by ritual immersion (Lev. 15:16).
110. To become cleansed of leprosy one must follow the specified procedures (Lev. 14:2).
111. He must shave off all of his hair (Lev. 14:9).
112. Until cleansed, the leper must be bareheaded with clothing in disarray so as to be easily distinguish-able (Lev. 13:45).
113. The ashes of the red heifer are to be used in the process of ritual purification (Num. 19:2-9).

Donations to the Temple

114. If a person undertakes to give his own value to the Temple he must do so (Lev. 27:2-8).

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115. If a man declares an unclean beast as a donation to the Temple he must give the animal's value in money as fixed by the priest (Lev. 27:11,12).
116. This is true concerning a house (Lev. 27:14).
117. This is true concerning a field (Lev. 27:16, 22, 23).
118. If one unwittingly derives benefits from Temple property, full resitution plus a fifth must be made (Lev. 5:16).
119. The fruit of the fourth year's growth of trees is holy and may be eaten only Jerusalem (Lev. 19:24).
120. In reaping a field one must leave the corners for the poor (Lev. 19:9).
121. The gleanings also must be left (Lev. 19:9).
122. The forgotten sheaves must also be left (Deut. 24:19).
123. The misformed bunches of grapes must also be left (Lev. 19:10).
124. The gleanings of the grapes must also be left (Lev. 19:10).
125. The firstfruits must be separated and brought to the Temple (Ex. 23:19).
126. The great heave offering (terumah) must be separated and given to the priest (Deut. 18:4).
127. One must give one tenth of his produce to the Levites (Lev. 27:30; Num. 18:24).
128. A second tithe is to be separated and eaten only in Jerusalem (Deut. 14:22).
129. The Levites must give a tenth of their tithe to the priests (Num. 18:26).
130. In the third and sixth years of the seven-year cycle one was to separate a tithe for the poor instead of the second tithe (Deut. 14:28).
131. A declaration was to be recited when separating the various tithes (Deut. 26:13).
132. This was also required when bringing the firstfruits to the Temple (Deut. 26:5).
133. The first portion of the dough must be given to the priest (Num. 15:20).

The Sabbatical Year

134. In the seventh year everything that grows is ownerless and available to all (Ex. 23:11).
135. The fields were to be fallow and the ground was not to be tilled (Ex. 34:21).
136. The jubilee year (fiftieth) was to be sanctified (Lev. 25:10).
137. On the day of atonement the shafar was to be sounded and all Hebrew slaves set free (Lev. 25:9).
138. In the jubilee year all land was to be returned to its ancestral owners (Lev. 25:24).
139. In a walled city the seller had the right to buy back a house within a year of the sale (Lev. 25:29, 30).
140. Starting from entry into the land of Israel, the years of the jubilee must be counted and announced yearly and septennially (Lev. 25:8).
141. In the seventh year all debts are annulled (Deut. 15:3).
142. However, one could collect upon a debt owed by a stranger (Deut. 15:3).

Concerning Animals for Consumption

143. A priest must receive his share of a slaughtered animal (Deut. 18:3).
144. He also is to receive the first of the fleece (Deut. 18:4).
145. A herem (special vow) must distinguish between that which belongs to the Temple and that which goes to the priests (Lev. 27:21, 28).
146. To be fit for consumption, beast and fowl must be slaughtered according to the law (Deut. 12:21).
147. If they are not of a domesticated species, their blood must be covered with earth after slaughter (Lev. 17:13).
148. The parent bird was to be set free when taking the nest (Deut. 22:7).
149. Beasts to be examined to see if they were permitted for consumption (Lev. 11:2).
150. The same was true for fowls (Deut. 14:11).
151. The same was true for locusts (Lev. 11:21).
152. The same was true for fish (Lev. 11:9).
153. The Sanhedrin was to sanctify the first day of every month and reckon the years and the seasons (Ex. 12:2); Deut. 16:1).

Festivals

154. One was to rest on the Sabbath (Ex. 23:12).
155. This day was to be declared holy at its onset and termination (Ex. 20:8).
156. On the fourteenth of Nisan all leaven was to be removed from each household (Ex. 12:15).
157. On the fifteenth of Nisan the Exodus account must be related (Ex. 13:8).
158. During the fifteenth the mazzah is to be eaten (Ex. 12:18).
159. On the first day of Passover one must rest (Ex. 12:16).
160. On the seventh day of Passover one must also rest (Ex. 12:16).
161. Starting from the day of the first sheaf (sixteenth of Nisan) one shall count forty-nine days (Lev. 23:35).
162. One was to rest on the Shavvot (Lev. 23).
163. One was to rest on Rosh Ha-Shanah (Lev. 23:24).
164. On the day of atonement one must fast (Lev. 16:29).
165. On the day of atonement one must rest (Lev. 16:29, 31).
166. One must rest on the first day of Sukkot (Lev. 23:35).
167. One must rest on the eighth day of Sukkot (Lev. 23:36).
168. During the festival of Sukkot, Israel was to dwell in booths (Lev. 23:42).
169. Four kinds of trees were to be included in the booth construction (Lev. 23:40).
170. On Rosh Ha-Shanah the shofar was to be sounded (Num. 29:1).

Community

171. Every male was to give half a shekel to the Temple annually (Ex. 30:12, 13).
172. A prophet was to be obeyed (Deut. 18:15).
173. A king was to be appointed (Deut. 17:15).
174. The Sanhedrin was to be obeyed (Deut. 17:11).
175. In case of division, the majority opinion would prevail (Ex. 23:2).
176. Judges and officials shall be appointed in every town (Deut. 16:18).
177. They shall judge the people impartially (Lev. 19:15).
178. Whoever is aware of evidence must come to the court to testify (Lev. 5:1).
179. Witnesses shall be examined thoroughly (Deut. 13:15).
180. False witnesses shall have done to them what they intended to do to the accused (Deut. 19:19).
181. Each unsolved murder requires the sacrifice of a red heifer (Deut. 21:4).
182. Six cities of refuge should be established (Deut. 19:3).
183. The Levites shall be given cities to live in (Num. 35:2).
184. A fence should be built around one's roof to protect others from potential hazards (Deut. 22:8).

Idolatry

185. Idolatry and its appurtenances must be destroyed (Deut. 7:5; 12:2).
186. A city which has been perverted must be treated according to the law (Deut. 13:17).
187. The seven Canaanite nations were to be destroyed (Deut. 20:17).
188. The memory of Amalek was to be blotted out (Deut. 25:19).
189. The deeds of Amalek were to be blotted out (Deut. 25:17).

War

190. All regulations concerning war were to be observed (Deut. 20:11, 12).
191. A priest was to be appointed for special duties in times of war (Deut. 20:2).
192. the military camp was to be kept in a sanitary condition (Deut. 23:14, 15).
193. Each soldier was to be equipped with the necessary implements to assure this (Deut. 23:14).

Social

194. Stolen property must be restored to its owners (Lev. 5:23).
195. Give charity to the poor (Lev. 25:35, 36; Deut. 15:8).
196. When a Hebrew slave goes free, the owner must give him gifts (Deut. 15:14).
197. The poor were to receive loans without interest (Ex. 22:24).
198. A loan with interest was permitted to foreigners (Deut. 23:21).
199. Restore a pledge to its owner if he needs it (ex. 22:25; Deut. 24:13).

- 200. Pay the worker his wages on time (Deut. 24:15).
- 201. He is also to be permitted to eat of the produce with which he is working (Deut. 23:25, 26).
- 202. Help must be given to unload an animal when necessary (Ex. 23:5).
- 203. Help must be given to lad man or beast when necessary (Deut. 22:4).
- 204. Lost property must be restored to its owner (ex. 23:4; Deut. 22:1).
- 205. It is required to reprove the sinner (Lev. 19:17).
- 206. it is required to love one's neighbor as oneself (Lev. 19:18).
- 207. One must also love the proselyte (Deut. 10:19).
- 208. Weights and measures must be accurate (Lev. 19:36).

Family

- 209. Respect the wise (Lev. 19:32).
- 210. Honor one's parents (Ex. 20:12).
- 211. Fear one's parents (Lev. 19:3).
- 212. One should marry to perpetuate the human race (Gen. 1:28).
- 213. Marriage is to be governed by the law (Deut. 24:1).
- 214. A bridegroom is to rejoice with his bride for one year (Deut. 24:5).
- 215. Male children must be circumcised (Gen. 17:10; Lev. 12:3).
- 216. If a man dies childless his brother should marry his widow (Deut. 25:5).
- 217. If not, he must then release her (halizah) (Deut. 25:9).
- 218. He who violates a virgin must marry her and may never divorce her (Deut. 22:29).
- 219. If a man unjustly accuses his wife of premarital promiscuity he shall be flogged, and may never divorce her (Deut. 22:18, 19).
- 220. The seducer must be punished according to the law (Ex. 22:15-23).
- 221. The female captive must be treated in accordance with her special regulations (Deut. 21:11).
- 222. Divorce could be executed only by means of a written document (Deut. 24:1).
- 223. A woman suspected of adultery had to submit to the required test (Num. 5:15-27).

Judicial

- 224. As required by the law, the punishment of flogging must be administered (Deut. 25:2).
- 225. The one guilty of unwitting homicide must be exiled (Num. 35:25).
- 226. Capital punishment may be by the sword (Ex. 21:20).
- 227. It may also be by strangulation (Ex. 21:16).
- 228. It may also be by fire (Lev. 20:14).
- 229. It may also be by stoning (Deut. 22:24).
- 230. In some cases the body of the executed shall be hanged (Deut. 21:22).
- 231. In this case the body must be buried on the same day (Deut. 21:23).

Slaves

- 232. Hebrew slaves must be treated according to the special laws for them (Ex. 21:2).
- 233. The master should marry his Hebrew maidservant (Ex. 21:8).
- 234. If not, he must redeem her (Ex. 21:8).
- 235. The alien slave must be treated according to the relations applying to him (Lev. 25:46).

Torts

- 236. The applicable law must be administered in the case of injury caused by a person (Ex. 21:18).
- 237. This is true if injury is caused by an animal (Ex. 21:28).
- 238. This true if injury is caused by a pit (Ex. 21:33, 34).
- 239. Thieves must be punished (Ex. 21:37-22:3).
- 240. Judgment must be rendered in cases of trespass by cattle (Ex. 22:4).
- 241. This is true also in cases of arson (Ex. 22:5).
- 242. This is true also in cases of embezzlement by an unpaid guardian (Ex. 22:6-8).
- 243. This is also true in claims against a paid guardian (Ex. 22:9-12).
- 244. This is also true in claims against a hirer or a borrower (Ex. 22:13).
- 245. This is also true in disputes arising out of sales (Lev. 25:14).
- 246. This is also true concerning inheritance disputes (Ex. 22:8).
- 247. This is true in all other matters (Deut. 25:12).
- 248. The persecuted are to be rescued even if it means killing the oppressor (Num. 27:8).