

Handout 1: Deuteronomy Lesson 4

The Old Law is a preparation for the Gospel. “The Law is a pedagogy and a prophecy of things to come.” It prophesies and presages the work of liberation from sin which will be fulfilled in Christ: it provides the New Testament with images, “types,” and symbols for expressing the life according to the Spirit. Finally, the Law is completed by the teaching of the sapiential books and the prophets which set its course toward the New Covenant and the Kingdom of heaven.
Catechism of the Catholic Church, CCC 1964 (quoting St. Irenaeus)

The Lord [Jesus] prescribed love towards God and taught justice towards neighbor, so that man would be neither unjust, nor unworthy of God. Thus, through the Decalogue, God prepared man to become his friend and to live in harmony with his neighbor ... The words of the Decalogue remain likewise for us Christians. Far from being abolished, they have received amplification and development from the fact of the coming of the Lord in the flesh.

St. Irenaeus, Against Heresies, 4.16

Moses’ second and longest homily extends from 5:1 to 28:68. It can be divided into four parts that address the Ethical Stipulations and the Sanctions of the renewed covenant treaty of Mt. Sinai. The second homily begins with an introduction that sets the time and place of the teaching (4:44-49), and ends in a short conclusion (28:69/29:1). The main topic of this discourse is the Law God commanded Moses to teach the people for the renewal of the covenant treaty in preparation for Israel’s conquest of the Promised Land. The second homily is presented in this format:

- I. Introduction of the Ethical Stipulations of the Covenant with a description of the historical circumstances under which God gave Moses the law and commanded him to teach the people (5:1-11:30).
 - a. Teaching the covenant document of the Decalogue (5:1-22/19)
 - b. Review of the aftermath of the Theophany at Sinai and Israel’s request that Moses serve as covenant mediator (5:23/20-31/28).

- II. The ideological basis for the Law and exhortation to live in obedience to the Law (5:32/29-11:30).
 - a. Yahweh’s command to put the Law into practice (5:32/29-33).
 - b. Catechetical summary of the covenant—its history and Israel’s obligation to live in the spirit of the Law (6:1-11:30).

- III. The Deuteronomic Code (12:1-26:19).

- IV. Covenant Sanctions (27:1-28:68).
 - a. Covenant blessings for obedience (28:1-14).
 - b. Covenant judgments for disobedience and their historical consequences (28:15-68).

Handout 2: Deuteronomy Lesson 4

The Decalogue in Exodus and Moses' Teaching on the Decalogue in Deuteronomy

Exodus 20:1-21	Deuteronomy 5:1-22/19
<p><i>1 Then God spoke all these words. He said,</i></p>	<p><i>1 Moses called all Israel together and said to them, 'Listen, Israel [Shema Israel], to the laws [mishpatim] and customs [hukkim] that I proclaim to you today. Learn them and take care to observe them. 2 Yahweh our God made [cut] a covenant with us at Horeb. 3 Yahweh made [cut] this covenant not with our ancestors, but with us, with all of us alive here today. 4 On the mountain, from the heart of the fire, Yahweh spoke to you face to face, 5 while I stood between you and Yahweh to let you know what Yahweh was saying, since you were afraid of the fire and had not gone up the mountain. He said:</i></p>
<p><i>2 'I am Yahweh your God who brought you out of Egypt, where you lived as slaves.</i></p>	<p><i>6 "I am Yahweh your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the place of slave-labor.</i></p>
<p><i>3 'You shall have no other gods to rival [over/before] me.</i></p>	<p><i>7 "You will have no gods other than [before/over] me.</i></p>
<p><i>4 'You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven above or on earth beneath or in the waters under the earth. 5 'You shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, Yahweh your God, am a jealous [kanna'] God and I punish a parent's fault in the children, the grandchildren, and the great-grandchildren among those who hate me; 6 but I act with faithful love [hesed] towards thousands of those who love me and keep [samar] my commandments [mitsvot].</i></p>	<p><i>8 "You must not make yourselves any image or any likeness of anything in heaven above or on earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; 9 you must not bow down to these gods or serve them. For I, Yahweh your God, am a jealous [kanna'] God and I punish the parents' fault in the children, the grandchildren and the great-grandchildren, among those who hate me; 10 but I show faithful love [hesed] to thousands, to those who love me and keep [samar] my commandments [mitsvot].</i></p>
<p><i>7 'You shall not misuse the name of Yahweh your God, for Yahweh will not leave unpunished anyone who misuses his name.</i></p>	<p><i>11 "You must not misuse the name of Yahweh your God, for Yahweh will not leave unpunished anyone who uses his name for what is false.</i></p>
<p><i>8 'Remember [zakar] the Sabbath day and keep it holy. 9 For six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath for Yahweh your God. You</i></p>	<p><i>12 "Observe [samar] the Sabbath day and keep it holy, as Yahweh your God has commanded you. 13 Labor for six days, doing all your work, 14 but the seventh day</i></p>

<p><i>shall do not work that day, neither you nor your son nor your daughter nor your servants, men or women, nor your animals nor the alien living with you. 11 For in six days Yahweh made the heavens, earth and sea and all that these contain, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why Yahweh has blessed the Sabbath day and made it sacred.</i></p>	<p><i>is a Sabbath for Yahweh your God. You must not do any work that day, neither you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your servants—male or female—nor your ox nor your donkey, nor any of your animals, nor the foreigner who has made his home with you; 15 so that your servants, male and female, may rest, as you do. Remember [zakar] that you were once a slave in Egypt, and that Yahweh your God brought you out of there with mighty hand and outstretched arm; this is why Yahweh your God has commanded you to keep [samar] the Sabbath day.</i></p>
<p><i>12 ‘Honor your father and your mother so that you may live long in the land that Yahweh your God is giving you.</i></p>	<p><i>16 “‘Honor your father and your mother, as Yahweh your God has commanded you, so that you may have long life and may prosper in the country [land] which Yahweh your God is giving you.</i></p>
<p><i>13 ‘You shall not kill [commit homicide = ratsach/rasah].</i></p>	<p><i>17 “‘You must not kill [commit homicide = ratsach/rasah].</i></p>
<p><i>14 ‘You shall not commit adultery.</i></p>	<p><i>18 “‘You must not commit adultery.</i></p>
<p><i>15 ‘You shall not steal.</i></p>	<p><i>19 “‘You must not steal.</i></p>
<p><i>16 ‘You shall not give false evidence against your neighbor</i></p>	<p><i>20 “‘You must not give false evidence against you fellow.</i></p>
<p><i>17 ‘You shall not <u>set your heart on</u> [hamad = covet] your neighbor’s house. You shall not <u>set your heart on</u> [hamad = covet] your neighbor’s spouse, or servant, man or woman, or ox, or donkey, or any of your neighbor’s possessions.’</i></p>	<p><i>21/18 “‘You must not <u>set your heart</u> [hamad = covet] on your neighbor’s spouse, you must not <u>set your heart on</u> [hit’avveh = constantly crave] your neighbor’s house, for field, or servant—man or woman—or ox, or donkey or any of your neighbor’s possessions.”</i></p>
	<p><i>22/19 ‘These were the words Yahweh spoke to you when you were all assembled on the mountain. Thunderously, he spoke to you from the heart of the fire, in cloud and thick darkness. He added nothing, but wrote them on two tablets of stone which he gave to me.</i></p>
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Handout 3: Deuteronomy Lesson 4

Deuteronomy 4:44-45 *This is the Law [torah =teaching] which Moses presented to the Israelites. 45 These are the stipulations [‘edot], the laws [mishpatim] and the customs [statutes = hukkim] which Moses gave the Israelites after they had left Egypt ...*

The summation of the teaching [torah, verse 44] Moses presented to the Israelites included:

- *‘Edot*: the stipulations of the Sinai Covenant Treaty; treaty = *‘edut* (4:45).
- *Mishpatim*: the rules issued by God, Israel’s Great King (4:45).
- *Hukkim*: the laws that include the Ten Words (Ten Commandments), which must be obeyed as expressions of belief in God’s divine sovereignty (4:45).

The divisions in the numbering of the Ten Commandments have varied in the course of history. The present numbering in the Catholic Church follows the division and summary of the Ten Commandments established by St. Augustine in the 4th century AD. The first three commandments concern love of God and the remaining seven love of neighbor (see the Catechism pages 496-97).

1. I am the LORD* your God; you shall not have strange Gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the LORD’s Day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor’s goods.

* the word “LORD”, written in all capital letters, represents the divine name YHWH

Jewish and most Protestant divisions:

1. Worship of only one God
2. Prohibition against idols
3. Prohibitions against false oaths
4. Observing the Sabbath
5. Honoring parents
6. Prohibition of murder
7. Prohibition of adultery
8. Prohibition of theft
9. Prohibition of false testimony
10. Prohibition of coveting