The Mosaic Law - an introduction
Why study the Mosaic Law?

1. All Scripture ... is **profitable** (2 Timothy 3:16)

2. It will help us **to better understand God’s grace**, and God’s dealings with us today.
   We are “not under Law, but under grace”. Romans 6:14

3. The Law is so prevalent in the pages of Scripture.
   There’s barely a page in the Bible after Exodus 19 that doesn’t have at least one reference to some aspect of the Law (even the post-Acts epistles), and it would serve us well to become more familiar with it.
What is the Mosaic Law?
What is the purpose of it?
What is involved?
What role does it play today?
What is meant by “The Law”? 

• The Pentateuch, as a whole  
  o Sometimes “The Law” refers to the first five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.  

  OR  

• The instructions God gave to Moses  
  o Mostly, “The Law” refers to the set of instructions and commands given to the children of Israel through Moses; i.e. the “Mosaic” Law.  
  o Set out in Exodus 19 to Deuteronomy 34.  
  o There are almost 100 chapters of laws and instructions in that section.
The Purpose and Place of the Mosaic Law

Summarised in Exodus 19:1-6

v.4 “You have seen what I did ...”
v.5,6 “If you will obey My voice and keep my covenant:

• You shall be a special treasure to Me above all people.

• You shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”

Summarised in Exodus 19:1-6

Genesis 12:2,3

“I will make you into a great nation (Israel)...
... all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”
Various Aspects of the Mosaic Law

• 10 Commandments / the Covenant
• The Tabernacle / Temple
• Priesthood
• Offerings and Sacrifices
• Festivals and Holy Days (or “Feasts”)
• General Laws
He declared to you His *covenant* which He commanded you to perform, *the ten commandments*; and he wrote them on two tablets of stone. (Deuteronomy 4:13)
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- The Tabernacle / Temple
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- Priesthood

Priest

High Priest
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- Offerings & Sacrifices
  - National (on behalf of the whole nation)
  - Personal (on behalf of oneself or family)
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**Weekly Festival:**
- Sabbath

**Annual Festivals:**
- Passover
- Unleavened Bread
- Weeks (Pentecost)
- Trumpets
- Day of Atonement
- Tabernacles

**Festivals & Holy Days or “Feasts”**

- Sabbath once a week throughout the year
- Passover Nisan 14th
- Unleavened Bread Nisan 15th-21st
- Weeks (Pentecost) On or about Sivan 6th
- Trumpets Tishri 1st
- Atonement Tishri 10th
- Tabernacles Tishri 15th-22nd
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- General Laws for Everyday Life
  - living before God
  - living amongst fellow Israelites
Various Aspects of the Mosaic Law

- 10 Commandments / the Covenant
- The Tabernacle / Temple
- Priesthood
- Offerings and Sacrifices
- Festivals and Holy Days (or “Feasts”)
- General Laws
“Which is the greatest commandment in the law?”

Twofold answer:

(1) “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind” [Deuteronomy 6:5]. This is the first and greatest commandment.

And the second is like it:

(2) “Love your neighbour as yourself” [Leviticus 19:18].

All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.

(Matthew 22:35-40)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Genesis to Exodus 18</th>
<th>Exodus 19 to Acts 28</th>
<th>After Acts 28</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Mosaic Law yet.</td>
<td>The Mosaic Law in Operation</td>
<td>Mosaic Law is referred to, but is not in operation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Gen. & Ex. 1-18**
  - O.T. History books
  - O.T. Poetry books
  - O.T. Prophecy Books

- **Exodus 19 to Acts 28**
  - N.T. History books
  - N.T. Letters written during Acts

- **After Acts 28**
  - N.T. Letters written after Acts
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adam to Abraham</th>
<th>Abraham to Moses</th>
<th>Moses to Malachi to the end of OT</th>
<th>The Gospel Period</th>
<th>The Acts Period</th>
<th>The Post Acts Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Genesis 1 to 11</td>
<td>Genesis 12 to Exodus 19</td>
<td>- Israel / Jews first.</td>
<td>- Almost exclusively to the Jews.</td>
<td>- The Jews first, and also to the Gentile, but note the two groups of Gentiles: the God-fearers and also the pagans.</td>
<td>- All believers equal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- All peoples equal.</td>
<td>- Abraham’s seed to be first.</td>
<td>- Genesis 12:1-3 is the Abrahamic Covenant.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- No such thing as Jew &amp; Gentile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- No such thing as Jew &amp; Gentile.</td>
<td>- Abraham, Isaac, Jacob / Israel.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

No Mosaic Law

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Code of Hammurabi; Then the laws of Egypt.</th>
<th>No Mosaic Law</th>
<th>The Mosaic Law</th>
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</thead>
</table>

(Adapted from a chart by Michael Penny)
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The Law: a “shadow” …

… not the realities themselves.

The reality is found in Christ.
(Hebrews 10:1; Colossians 2:17. See also Hebrews 8:5,6.)
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**The Law: a “shadow” …**

- The Mosaic Law is closely associated with Israel’s special relationship with God.
- Before Christ’s death and resurrection, a person was required, not only to be faithful and loving of God, but to carry out His instructions, many of which involved ceremonial rituals.
- These “pictures” and “shadows” of the Law were all fulfilled in Christ’s life, death and resurrection.
- We are not required to observe the ordinances of the Law, because our faith is in Christ, who fulfilled the requirements of the Law “once for all”.

*Galatians 2:20,21; Romans 5:1,2.*