

THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW OF MOSES

What is the purpose of the Law of Moses?

We will answer this question in five points:

1. TO REVEAL THE HOLINESS OF GOD

Salvation is always by grace, through faith. The Mosaic Law was never for the purpose of giving the Jew a way of salvation but to reveal the holiness of God and a standard of righteousness for a proper relationship with Him.

Psalm 99:9 (KJV)

⁹ *Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy.*

Hebrews 12:14 (KJV 1900)

¹⁴ *Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:*

Exodus 15:11 (KJV 1900)

¹¹ *Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods?*

Who is like thee, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders?

2. TO PROVIDE THE RULE OF CONDUCT FOR OLD TESTAMENT SAINTS

The second purpose of the Law of Moses is to provide the rule of conduct of life for the Old Testament saints.

Romans 3:20 (KJV 1900)

²⁰ *Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

Romans 3:28 (KJV 1900)

²⁸ *Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.*

3. TO REVEAL SIN

The third purpose for the Mosaic Law was to reveal sin. Three scriptures in Romans point this out.

Romans 3:19–20 (KJV 1900)

¹⁹ *Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.* ²⁰ *Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

Romans 5:20 (KJV 1900)

²⁰ *Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:*

The Law was given so that sin might be made very clear.

How does one know he has sinned?

He knows because the Law said, “You do not do this,” but you did it. Or the Law says, “You will do this,” but you did not do it. That is how you know you have sinned: the Law with 613 commandments revealed sin.

Romans 7:7 (KJV 1900)

⁷ *What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.*

Paul became aware of the fact that he fell short of the righteous standards of the Law and became very aware of the fact that he was indeed a sinner.

4. TO MAKE ONE SIN MORE

The fourth purpose of the Law is given to make one sin more.

Romans 4:15 (KJV 1900)

¹⁵ *Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression.*

Romans 5:20 (KJV 1900)

²⁰ *Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. **But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:***

Romans 7:7–13 (KJV 1900)

⁷ *What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.* ⁸ *But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. **For without the law sin was dead.*** ⁹ ***For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.*** ¹⁰ *And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death.* ¹¹ *For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.* ¹² *Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.* ¹³ *Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.*

Let's read one more scripture:

1 Corinthians 15:56 (KJV 1900)

⁵⁶ *The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.*

-What Paul is saying in Romans 7 and 1 Corinthians 15 is that a sin-nature needs a **base of operation**; furthermore, **the sin-nature uses the Law as a base of operation.**

-Paul said, "where there is no Law, there is no transgression." He did not mean that there was no sin before the Law was given.

-The term "*transgression*" is a specific type of sin in violation of a specific commandment.

Men were sinners before the Law was given, but they were not transgressors of the Law until the Law was given. Once the Law was given, then the sin-nature had a base of operation.

Because as soon as the Law said "you shall not," the sin-nature said, "oh yes I will." Or as soon as the Law said "you will do this," the sin-nature said, "oh no I won't."

The **sin-nature suddenly found a base of operation.** As soon as the Law was given then the sin-nature went ahead and caused more people to transgress the commandments.

5. TO LEAD US TO FAITH

The fifth purpose, which is found in Galatians 3:24, is to lead us to faith.

Galatians 3:24–25 (KJV 1900)

²⁴ *Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.* ²⁵ *But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.*

As much as we may try to keep the Law perfectly, because of our sin-nature we will never do it.

As Paul said in Romans 7: "as much as I tried not to covet, suddenly I found myself coveting everyone and everything. And I found myself full of the sin of coveting."

The Law caused him to sin more until it drove him to utter faith.