

## Gleanings from the Pentateuch

### The Law of Moses (Exodus 20ff.)

## Law of Moses

### Purpose of the Law

- *to define God's people as a nation*
  - "holy nation" – uniquely set apart to God as His representatives
  - a nation in which God uniquely dwells

*The Law of Moses foreshadows Christ*

## Law of Moses

### Book of the Covenant

- *Exodus 21-23*
  - Sets forth a variety of ordinances that are mostly civil in function
  - A significant portion deals with just penalties for various crimes

## Penalties of the Law

### 1. Foundation

- *the righteous character of God*
  - punishment of crime is an issue of justice, which reflects the justice of God
  - punishments of the Law foreshadow and forewarn of God's final judgment

## Penalties of the Law

### 2. Principle

- *similar measure* – "...eye for eye, tooth for tooth..." (Ex. 21:23-25)
  - this was not personal vengeance, but a judicial principle
  - not necessarily literal, but expresses the concept of equivalent recompense

## Penalties of the Law

### 2. Principle

- *two examples*
  - murder – the death penalty ("life for life")
  - theft – normally double payment (22:7)
    - *restitution* – restoring what was stolen
    - *punishment* – replication of the effects of the crime

## Penalties of the Law

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### 3. Fulfillment

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The principles of restoration and corresponding punishment reflect our obligations to God for our sin

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## Penalties of the Law

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### 3. Fulfillment

➤ *these obligations are fulfilled by Jesus*

#### A. His Life, Death, and Exaltation

- He restored the honor of God
  - He endured the sufficient punishment
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*Jesus satisfies the justice of God on behalf of all who believe on Him*

## Penalties of the Law

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### 3. Fulfillment

➤ *these obligations are fulfilled by Jesus*

#### B. His Return in Glory

- He will execute perfect justice as God's appointed judge
- Every human injustice will be righted

## Penalties of the Law

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### Conclusion

God's justice is absolute and will be satisfied either...

- by Christ's all-sufficient life and substitute, penalty-bearing death
- by eternal "destruction" in hell