

generations at the doorway of the tent of meeting before the Lord, where I will meet with you, to speak to you there. 43 And I will meet there with the sons of Israel, and it shall be consecrated by My glory. 44 And I will consecrate the tent of meeting and the altar; I will also consecrate Aaron and his sons to minister as priests to Me. 45 **And I will dwell among the sons of Israel and will be their God.** 46 And they shall know that I am the Lord their God who brought them out of the land of Egypt, that I might dwell among them; I am the Lord their God. NASB

These were to be overseen and directed by the Levites, the sons of Levi (one of Jacob's sons), whom God had set apart as priests. This **Levitical Priesthood** has special rights and privileges among Israel and also worked as a law enforcement and medical authority in many cases.

Exodus 23:14-17 - 14 **"Three times a year you shall celebrate a feast to Me.** 15 You shall observe the **Feast of Unleavened Bread;** for seven days you are to eat unleavened bread, as I commanded you, at the appointed time in the month Abib, for in it you came out of Egypt. And none shall appear before Me empty-handed. 16 Also you shall observe the **Feast of the Harvest of the first fruits** of your labors from what you sow in the field; also the **Feast of the Ingathering** at the end of the year when you gather in the fruit of your labors from the field. 17 **Three times a year all your males shall appear before the Lord God.** NASB

These Ceremonial Laws were given by very specific and direct instructions from God, who appointed the ways and means of how He was to be worshipped. They even included dietary restrictions for God's holy people. Thus these Ceremonial Laws touched every aspect of Israelite society. In them was a very beautiful and elaborate array of rites and practices which were to be seen as holy, solemn and carefully guarded and carried out by well trained and consecrated priests who were also appointed by God.

Civil Law – A wise rule from the wise God to govern His own people

The Civil Law includes those specific laws that regulate civil and social behavior. All such laws are fundamentally religious since God is the lawgiver and ruler over everything. These civil laws are scattered throughout the entire Law and provide for the well-being of the Israelite people by giving a very orderly and humane set of laws and guidelines for the public governance of their nation. There are eight distinct categories of civil law in the Old Testament: (1) laws regulating leaders, (2) laws regulating the army, (3) criminal laws, (4) laws dealing with crimes against property, (5) laws relating to humane treatment, (6) laws about personal and family rights, (7) laws about property rights, and (8) laws regulating other social behavior.

Exodus 22:1-5 - 22 **"If a man steals an ox or a sheep, and slaughters it or sells it, he shall pay five oxen for the ox and four sheep for the sheep.** 2 If the thief is caught while breaking in, and is struck so that he dies, there will be no bloodguiltiness on his account. 3 But if the sun has risen on him, there will be bloodguiltiness on his account. **He shall surely make restitution; if he owns nothing, then he shall be sold for his theft.** 4 If what he stole is actually found alive in his possession, whether an ox or a donkey or a sheep, he shall pay double. NASB

The Civil Law was very broad and touched every aspect of Israelite life. It was a just and righteous means to govern their public life and reflect the character of the holy God they worshipped.

Thus see in the whole of God's Law a well ordered and upright society of people who were to be set apart and governed by God. God's people were to preserve and study God's Law, revere His name, be grateful and thankful, and obey, love, and serve their redeemer God.

Deuteronomy 10:12-14 - 12 "And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require from you, **but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul,** 13 **and to keep the Lord's commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good?** 14 "Behold, to the Lord your God belong heaven and the highest heavens, the earth and all that is in it. NASB

Deuteronomy 11:13-15 - 13 "And it shall come about, **if you listen obediently to my commandments** which I am commanding you today, to love the Lord your God and to serve Him with all your heart and all your soul, 14 **that He will give the rain for your land in its season, the early and late rain, that you may gather in your grain and your new wine and your oil.** 15 **And He will give grass in your fields for your cattle, and you shall eat and be satisfied.** NASB

The Promise of a New Covenant

It is also worth noting that in the course of redemptive history and throughout the storyline of Scripture, that God had promised a future Messianic Age of salvation that would come upon the whole world, through His anointed One, the Messiah. These promises came through the Messianic prophecies contained in the Torah and also later, in the Poetry literature and in the Prophets.

Genesis 3:15 - And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; **He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.**" NASB

Genesis 12:3 - 3 And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And **in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**" NASB

Psalms 22:16-18 - 16 For dogs have surrounded me; A band of evildoers has encompassed me; **They pierced my hands and my feet.** 17 I can count all my bones. They look, they stare at me;

18 **They divide my garments among them, And for my clothing they cast lots.** NASB

Isaiah 11:9 - 9 They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, **For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord As the waters cover the sea.** NASB

Isaiah 53:5-6 - 5 But **He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.** 6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; **But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.** NASB

Even though there are many Messianic prophecies will make direct reference to the coming Messiah, like the ones above, there are also many types and shadows which reflect His coming and His work. The Old Testament is filled with these typical prophecies. A few for example are;

- **Abraham** and God's command to **sacrifice his son** on Mount Meriah (also called Mount Zion or Mt Calvary) is a type of God sacrificing His Son at that same place some 2000 yrs later and that place was called "on the Mount of the Lord it shall be provided"
- the life of **Joseph** is a type of Israel (Christ's brothers) rejecting His God appointed authority over them only to find in the end that **God has highly exalted Him** above them and uses Him to save them in a time of desperate need
- **Moses the deliverer** of the people of God from slavery to the ruler of the world Pharaoh, is a type of Christ delivering God's people from slavery to sin under Satan the god of this world
- The **blood of the Passover Lamb** on the doorpost of the household saving its inhabitants from the death angel is a type of Jesus our Passover Lamb saving us from spiritual and eternal death

The Old Testament is filled with this kind of imagery and shadows of all kinds of New Covenant realities. But what it all points to in "**shadow**" Christ and the New Covenant age are in "**substance.**" He has brought the promised age of Messianic Salvation. It is in the context of this coming Messianic salvation that God also promised a New Covenant with His people. Therefore, the reality of a New Covenant to come was only a matter of time, which has in fact come to fruition under Jesus the promised Messiah.

Jeremiah 31:31-34 - 31 "Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord, **"when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,** 32 not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the Lord. 33 **"But this is the covenant**