



Narrative and Laws


in Exodus (19-40), Leviticus and Numbers.

The record of God's giving of the Law to Moses is interspersed with narrative sections detailing the 40-year long exodus journey. This table presents each section in outline divided into either **narrative** or **laws**. Note that there is some crossover between these two classifications, and it is not always simple to categorise one section as simply narrative or law only. What is presented below is a general guide only.

Setting	Narrative	Laws
Agreement to the covenant in principle. (Exodus 19:1-8)		
<i>Location:</i> <i>Mt. Sinai</i> <i>(Year 1)</i> <i>Refs. are in Exodus</i>	19:1,2 Arrival at Mt. Sinai 19:3-6 Covenant presented in principle 19:7,8 The covenant agreed to by the people	
The delivery of the covenant, and its general terms. (Exodus 19:9 to 23:33)		
<i>Location:</i> <i>Mt. Sinai</i> <i>(Year 1)</i> <i>Refs. are in Exodus</i>	19:9-25 Preparation and descent of Jehovah 20:18-21 The people's fear of God	20:1-17 The "Words" (The Ten Commandments) 20:1-11 In relation to Jehovah 20:12-17 In relation to persons 20:22-26 The altar

Setting	Narrative	Laws
The delivery of the covenant, and its general terms. (Exodus 19:9 to 23:33) - continued		
<p>Location: Mt. Sinai</p> <p>(Year 1)</p> <p>Refs. are in Exodus</p>	<div> </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Servants / slaves were a regular part of Israel's society. By law, they were to be treated humanely.</i></p>	<p>21:1 - 23:33 The "Judgements"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>21:1-23:9 Social Justice <li>21:1-11 Servants / slaves <li>21:12-36 Injury or loss <li>22:1-15 Property damaged or stolen <li>22:16-23:9 Various social laws <li>23:10-19 Sacred commemorations <li>23:10-13 Sabbaths <li>23:14-19 Festivals <li>23:20-33 The journey ahead, entry into the promised land
The covenant instituted. (Exodus 24:1-8)		
<p>Location: Mt. Sinai</p> <p>(Year 1)</p> <p>Refs. are in Exodus</p>	<p>24:1,2 Approaching Jehovah</p> <p>24:3 The covenant (the "Words" and the "Judgements") agreed to by the people</p> <p>24:4-8 The covenant ratified</p>	


Setting	Narrative	Laws
<p>The details of the covenant. (Exodus 24:9 to 40:38; Leviticus; Numbers 1:1 to 9:14)</p>		
<p><i>Location:</i> <i>Mt. Sinai</i></p> <p><i>(Year 1)</i></p> <p><i>Refs. are in</i> <i>Exodus</i></p>	<p>24:9-18 Moses departs to receive instructions</p> <div> </div> <p><i>Lifesize model of the Tabernacle in Israel (Timna Park)</i></p>	<p>25:1 - 31:17 The Sanctuary - commands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25:1-7 Offerings of goods for the sanctuary 25:8,9 Command to construct the sanctuary 25:10-22 The ark 25:23-30 The table of shewbread 25:31-40 The lampstand 26:1-37 The tabernacle 27:1-8 The altar of sacrifice 27:9-19 The courtyard 27:20,21 Continual burning of the lamp 28:1-43 Garments for the priests and High Priest 29:1-36a Consecration of the priests & High Priest 29:36b,37 Cleansing of the altar of sacrifice 29:38-46 Daily sacrificial offerings 30:1-10 The golden altar of incense 30:11-16 Atonement money for the sanctuary 30:17-21 The laver 30:22-33 The oil for anointing 30:34-38 The incense 31:1-11 The artisans of the sanctuary 31:12-17 The Sabbath


Setting	Narrative	Laws
The details of the covenant. (Exodus 24:9 to 40:38; Leviticus; Numbers 1:1 to 9:14) - <i>continued</i>		
<p><i>Location: Mt. Sinai</i></p> <p><i>(Year 1)</i></p> <p><i>Refs. are in Exodus</i></p> <p><i>(Year 2 commences)</i></p>	<p>31:18 - 34:35 Israel's sin and Moses' pleading</p> <p>31:18 Moses commences descent of Mt. Sinai</p> <p>32:1-33:6 The golden calf incident, and consequences</p> <p>33:7-11 How people sought God through Moses at this time</p> <p>33:12-34:28 God's conversations with Moses</p> <p>33:12-23 God's presence and Moses' plea about His glory</p> <p>34:1-9 The Lord's glory, and the name of the Lord proclaimed</p> <p>34:29-35 Moses' descent, face shining, to deliver the commandments</p> <p>35:1 - 40:33 The Sanctuary - construction</p> <p>→</p> <p>→</p> <p>→</p> <p>35:20-29 Offerings of goods presented</p> <p>35:30-36:2 The artisans called</p> <p>36:3-7 Offerings of goods received</p> <p>36:8-39:31 Making of the items</p> <p>39:32-43 The sanctuary completed</p> <p>→</p> <p>40:16-33 The sanctuary set up for the first time</p> <p>40:34-38 The cloud and Jehovah's glory</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>34:10-28 The covenant restated in summary</p> <p>35:1 - 40:33 The Sanctuary - construction</p> <p>35:1-3 Sabbath laws</p> <p>35:4-9 Offerings of goods sought</p> <p>35:10-19 Sanctuary structure, furniture, etc. outlined</p> <p>←</p> <p>←</p> <p>←</p> <p>←</p> <p>←</p> <p>40:1-15 Instructions for setting up the sanctuary</p> <p>←</p>

Setting	Narrative	Laws
<p>The details of the covenant. (Exodus 24:9 to 40:38; Leviticus; Numbers 1:1 to 9:14) - <i>continued</i> (Leviticus)</p>		
<p><i>Location:</i> <i>Mt. Sinai</i></p> <p><i>(Year 2)</i></p> <p><i>Refs. are in</i> <i>Leviticus</i></p>	<div> </div> <p><i>Priest preparing a bull for sacrifice</i></p> <p>8:1 - 10:20 Levitical Priesthood instigated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:1 - 9:24 Aaron & sons ceremonially dedicated for service <li>8:1-3 The command for the nation to gather <li>8:4-9:24 Ceremonial procedures over 8 days <li>10:1-7 The deaths of Nadab and Abihu <li>→ <li>→ <li>10:16-20 Ceremonial food in the case of Nadab and Abihu 	<p>1:1 - 7:38 Offerings formalised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1:1-6:7 Emphasis on the offerer's role <li>1:1-17 "Burnt" (Approach) Offering <li>2:1-16 "Grain" (Tribute) Offering <li>3:1-17 "Peace"/"Fellowship" (Completion) Offerings <li>4:1-5:13 "Sin" (Purification) Offering <li>5:14-6:7 "Trespass"/"Guilt" (Reparation) Offering <li>6:8-7:36 Emphasis on the priest's role <li>6:8-13 "Burnt" (Approach) Offering <li>6:14-23 "Grain" (Tribute) Offering <li>6:24-30 "Sin" (Purification) Offering <li>7:1-10 "Trespass"/"Guilt" (Reparation) Offering <li>7:11-36 "Peace"/"Fellowship" (Completion) Offerings <li>7:11-27 Laws for eating: offerer and priest <li>7:28-36 The priest's portion <li>7:37,38 Concluding statement regarding offerings <p>8:1 - 10:20 Levitical Priesthood instigated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>← <li>← <li>← <li>← <li>10:8-11 Conduct for priests <li>10:12-15 Ceremonial food for priests <li>←

Setting	Narrative	Laws
The details of the covenant. (Exodus 24:9 to 40:38; Leviticus; Numbers 1:1 to 9:14) - <i>continued</i>		
<p><i>Location:</i> <i>Mt. Sinai</i></p> <p><i>(Year 2)</i></p> <p><i>Refs. are in</i> <i>Leviticus</i></p>	<div> </div> <p><i>A plate of "kosher" food, acceptable under Mosaic law.</i></p> <div> </div> <p><i>The "scapegoat" ceremony during the Day of Atonement festival.</i></p>	<p>11:1 - 15:33 Status of cleanness or uncleanness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11:1-47 Food <li>12:1-8 Purification after childbirth <li>13:1-14:57 Skin diseases and mould <li>15:1-33 Bodily discharges <p>16:1-34 The Day of Atonement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>16:1,2 Respect of the holiest section of the sanctuary <li>16:3-5 Preparations of the High Priest for this day <li>16:6-28 Atonement for himself, Israel and sanctuary <li>16:29-34 The Day of Atonement in summary

Setting	Narrative	Laws
The details of the covenant. (Exodus 24:9 to 40:38; Leviticus; Numbers 1:1 to 9:14) - <i>continued</i>		
<p><i>Location: Mt. Sinai</i></p> <p><i>(Year 2)</i></p> <p><i>Refs. are in Leviticus</i></p>	<div> </div> <p><i>Modern Jews celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles.</i></p> <p>27:34 Concluding statement</p>	<p>17:1 - 27:34 Miscellaneous Laws: Ceremony & Holiness</p> <p>17:1-16 Blood - food and sacrificial offerings</p> <p>18:1-30 Sexual relations</p> <p>19:1-37 Various laws: general command to “be holy”</p> <p>20:1-27 Penalties and punishments</p> <p>21:1-22:16 Conduct of priests</p> <p>22:17-33 Sacrificial offerings - general laws</p> <p>23:1-44 <u>Festivals - weekly and annual</u></p> <p>23:1,2 Introduction</p> <p>23:3 Weekly festival - The Sabbath</p> <p>23:4-44 Annual festivals</p> <p>23:4,5 Passover</p> <p>23:6-14 Unleavened Bread</p> <p>23:6-8 The festival of Unleavened Bread</p> <p>23:9-14 The firstfruits of spring harvest</p> <p>23:15-22 Weeks (Pentecost)</p> <p>23:23-25 Trumpets</p> <p>23:26-32 Day of Atonement</p> <p>23:33-43 Tabernacles</p> <p>23:44 Summary of weekly and annual festivals</p> <p>24:1-9 Sanctuary consumable items</p> <p>24:10-23 Blasphemy, murder and injury</p> <p>25:1-55 Sabbath years and the Jubilee Year</p> <p>26:1-46 Consequences of obedience and disobedience</p> <p>27:1-33 Redeeming persons and property after a vow</p>

Setting	Narrative	Laws
The details of the covenant. (Exodus 24:9 to 40:38; Leviticus; Numbers 1:1 to 9:14) - continued (Numbers)		
<p><i>Location:</i> <i>Mt. Sinai</i></p> <p><i>(Year 2)</i></p> <p><i>Refs. are in Numbers</i></p>	<p>1:1 - 4:49 Israelites numbered and classified 1:1 - 2:34 First census of the people 3:1-4 The priestly family 3:5 - 4:49 Role and census of the Levities</p> <p>5:1 - 9:14 Laws and ceremonies of purity, dedication and commemoration</p> <p>→ → → 7:1-88 Offerings from tribal leaders → 9:1-14 The second Passover</p>	 <p>5:1 - 9:14 Laws and ceremonies of purity, dedication and commemoration</p> <p>5:1-31 Laws re impurity, confession and unfaithfulness 6:1-21 Nazirites (non-Levites separated unto God) 6:22-27 Priestly blessing of the people ← 7:89-8:26 The sanctuary - lamps and Levites ←</p>
The journey recommences, but stalls. (Numbers 9:15 to 14:45)		
<p><i>Location:</i> <i>The Wilderness</i> <i>(Year 2)</i></p> <p><i>Refs. are in Numbers</i></p>	<p>9:15 - 10:36 Moving on from Mt. Sinai 9:15-23 The cloud and the fire → 10:11-36 The nation departs from Mt. Sinai in the sequence prescribed</p>	<p>9:15 - 10:36 Moving on from Mt. Sinai ← 10:1-10 Silver trumpets ←</p>

Setting	Narrative	Laws
The journey recommences, but stalls. (Numbers 9:15 to 14:45) - continued		
<p><i>Location:</i> <i>The Wilderness</i></p> <p><i>(Year 2)</i></p> <p><i>Refs. are in Numbers</i></p>	<p>11:1 - 12:15 Dissension 11:1-15 Complaints of the people 11:16-30 70 elders to help Moses bear the burden 11:31-35 Quails and plague 12:1-15 Aaron and Miriam challenge Moses' authority</p> <p>12:15 - 14:45 First Canaan invasion aborted 12:15-13:33 Spies sent into Canaan 14:1-10 Refusal of Israel to enter Canaan 14:11-25 Moses intercedes for the people 14:26-38 Death sentence on the rebels 14:39-45 Failed invasion attempt</p>	
Events and laws given whilst wandering for 38 years. First generation dies out. (Numbers 15:1 to 19:22)		
<p><i>Location:</i> <i>The Wilderness</i></p> <p><i>(38 years)</i></p> <p><i>Refs. are in Numbers</i></p>	<p>15:1 - 19:22 Issues of holiness → → → → 16:1-17:13 Moses' and Aaron's authority challenged →</p>	<p>15:1 - 19:22 Issues of holiness 15:1-16 Accompaniments to offerings 15:17-21 Heave offerings 15:22-36 Intentional and Unintentional Sin 15:37-41 Tassels ← 18:1-32 Priests and Levites 19:1-22 Purification Water</p>

Setting	Narrative	Laws
<p>The journey draws near to an end, the 40th year. Second generation travels towards Canaan. (Numbers 20:1 to 36:13)</p>		
<p><i>Location: Between the Wilderness and the Canaanite border</i></p> <p><i>(Year 40)</i></p> <p><i>Refs. are in Numbers</i></p>	<p>20:1 - 25:18 From the wilderness to Shittim</p> <p>20:1-13 At Kadesh 20:1 Death of Miriam 20:2-13 Moses' & Aaron's unbelief, and consequence</p> <p>20:14-21 Edom refuses passage to the Israelites 20:22-29 Death of Aaron 21:1-3 King Arad's Canaanites defeated 21:4-9 Complaints, snake bites and the bronze serpent 21:10-35 Further journeying, defeats of Sihon and Og 22:1-24:25 Balak and Balaam 25:1-18 Idolatry: Moabites, Baal of Peor, Midianites</p> <p>26:1-36:13 Camped at Shittim near the Canaanite border</p> <p>26:1-65 Second census of Israel 27:1-11 A question about inheritance 27:12-23 Joshua appointed as the next leader → →</p> <p>31:1-54 Attacking and plundering the Midianites 32:1-42 Some tribes to settle east of the Jordan 33:1-49 The journey up to this point 33:50-36:13 Instructions about the conquest of Canaan</p>	<div> </div> <p><i>It may be that the bronze serpent symbol, common in some medical logos, traces back to the events of Numbers 21.</i></p> <p>28:1-29:40 Regular national offerings 30:1-16 Vows</p>