

# God's Statutes: A Call to Holy Living

## Introduction

Throughout Scripture, God's statutes are presented as more than religious rules; they are divine boundaries given by the Lord to teach His people how to live before Him. In the King James Version, Leviticus and Deuteronomy repeatedly connect statutes with judgments, commandments, holiness, life, blessing, and covenant faithfulness. These statutes reveal that God's people were not called to imitate the surrounding nations, but to walk in the ways of the Lord, bearing witness to His character through obedience.

## Body

In Leviticus, the Lord first establishes the foundation of obedience by identifying Himself as the source of the law. He commands Israel not to follow the practices of Egypt or Canaan, but to walk according to His revealed order. Leviticus 18:4-5 declares, "Ye shall do my judgments, and keep mine ordinances, to walk therein: I am the LORD your God. Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the LORD." This passage shows that statutes are not optional customs; they are God-given instructions tied to life itself.

Leviticus also connects God's statutes with holiness. The people were to be set apart because the Lord Himself is holy. In Leviticus 20:7-8, the command is direct: "Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God. And ye shall keep my statutes, and do them: I am the LORD which sanctify you." Here, obedience is not merely external behavior; it is part of sanctification. God's statutes teach His people how to reflect His holiness in everyday life.

The same theme appears in Leviticus 26, where obedience to statutes is connected with blessing. The Lord says in Leviticus 26:3-4, "If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit." The statutes therefore function as covenant markers: to walk in them is to live under God's order, provision, and favor.

Deuteronomy continues this same message as Moses prepares Israel to enter the land. Deuteronomy 4:1 says, "Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I teach you, for to do them, that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers giveth you." The statutes are presented as

instruction for covenant life. Israel was to hear them, do them, and live by them in the land God had promised.

Moses further emphasizes that God’s word must not be altered. Deuteronomy 4:2 warns, “Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.” This reveals the seriousness of God’s statutes: they are not human suggestions to be edited by preference, but divine commands to be preserved and obeyed.

In Deuteronomy 6:1-2, Moses gathers the commandments, statutes, and judgments together as the teaching Israel must carry into the promised land: “Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments.” The purpose is reverence. God’s statutes train the heart to fear the Lord, not in mere terror, but in covenant honor, humility, and faithful obedience.

Deuteronomy 12:1 summarizes the ongoing duty of God’s people: “These are the statutes and judgments, which ye shall observe to do in the land, which the LORD God of thy fathers giveth thee to possess it, all the days that ye live upon the earth.” The phrase “all the days that ye live” presents obedience as a lifelong calling. God’s statutes were not temporary interests or occasional practices; they shaped the entire life of the covenant community.

Finally, Deuteronomy 30:16 gathers the heart of the matter into one call: “In that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply.” God’s statutes are inseparable from love for Him. They are not merely legal requirements; they are the pathway by which love is expressed, life is guarded, and covenant blessing is experienced.

## Table of God’s Statutes

| Statute / Command                                     | KJV Scripture Reference                                                                                              | What the Statute Required                                                                      | Modern Application                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Honor father and mother, and keep the Sabbaths</b> | Leviticus 19:3 — “Ye shall fear every man his mother, and his father, and keep my sabbaths: I am the LORD your God.” | God required reverence for parents and sacred regard for the Sabbath as part of covenant life. | Show respect, care, and gratitude toward parents and elders; set aside regular time for worship, rest, reflection, and renewal before God. |

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| <b>Do not turn to idols or make molten gods</b>      | Leviticus 19:4 —<br>“Turn ye not unto idols, nor make to yourselves molten gods: I am the LORD your God.”                                           | Israel was forbidden to worship images, false gods, or any created thing in place of the Lord.           | Refuse anything that takes God’s place in the heart, including money, status, possessions, entertainment, power, or self-worship.               |  |
| <b>Leave gleanings for the poor and the stranger</b> | Leviticus 19:9-10 —<br>“Thou shalt not wholly reap the corners of thy field... thou shalt leave them for the poor and stranger.”                    | Landowners were commanded not to harvest everything, but to leave provision for the poor and foreigners. | Practice intentional generosity by giving resources, time, food, money, opportunity, or support to those in need.                               |  |
| <b>Do not steal, deal falsely, or lie</b>            | Leviticus 19:11 —<br>“Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another.”                                                        | God required honesty in property, business, testimony, and personal dealings.                            | Be truthful in contracts, taxes, work reports, conversations, online communication, and financial matters; do not misrepresent facts for gain.  |  |
| <b>Do not swear falsely by God’s name</b>            | Leviticus 19:12 —<br>“Ye shall not swear by my name falsely, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God.”                                       | God’s name was not to be used to support lies, false promises, or dishonest oaths.                       | Speak with integrity; do not use religious language, promises, or spiritual claims to manipulate, deceive, or cover dishonesty.                 |  |
| <b>Do not defraud, rob, or withhold wages</b>        | Leviticus 19:13 —<br>“Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbour, neither rob him: the wages of him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night...” | Workers were to be paid fairly and promptly, and neighbors were not to be cheated or exploited.          | Pay employees, contractors, and service providers fairly and on time; avoid exploitative business practices, hidden fees, and unfair advantage. |  |
| <b>Do not curse the deaf or put a</b>                | Leviticus 19:14 —<br>“Thou shalt not curse the deaf, nor                                                                                            | God forbade taking advantage of people who could                                                         | Protect people with disabilities, the elderly, the                                                                                              |  |

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| <b>stumblingblock before the blind</b>                           | put a stumblingblock before the blind, but shalt fear thy God.”                                                                                      | not easily defend themselves.                                                                                     | vulnerable, and those with limited access to information; make decisions with compassion and fairness.                                                |  |
| <b>Judge righteously without partiality</b>                      | Leviticus 19:15 — “Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment... but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour.”                               | Judgment was to be fair, not biased toward the poor, the rich, the powerful, or the popular.                      | Make decisions based on truth and justice, not favoritism, influence, appearance, wealth, personal loyalty, or social pressure.                       |  |
| <b>Do not tale-bear or stand against a neighbor’s blood</b>      | Leviticus 19:16 — “Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour.”     | God prohibited gossip, slander, and actions that endangered another person’s life or reputation.                  | Refuse gossip, rumors, character attacks, malicious posts, careless sharing, and silence when someone is being harmed or falsely accused.             |  |
| <b>Do not hate, avenge, or bear a grudge; love thy neighbour</b> | Leviticus 19:17-18 — “Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart... thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”                                   | God commanded honest correction, rejection of revenge, release of grudges, and love for one’s neighbor.           | Address conflict directly and humbly; forgive rather than retaliate; seek reconciliation; treat others with the same concern desired for oneself.     |  |
| <b>Do not mix kinds in cattle, seed, or garments</b>             | Leviticus 19:19 — “Thou shalt not let thy cattle gender with a diverse kind... neither shall a garment mingled of linen and woollen come upon thee.” | Israel was commanded to honor God’s distinctions in livestock, agriculture, and clothing as a mark of separation. | Recognize that God calls His people to discernment, order, and distinction; avoid blending holy commitments with practices that compromise obedience. |  |

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| <b>Use just weights and measures</b>                                      | Leviticus 19:35-36 — “Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment, in meteyard, in weight, or in measure. Just balances, just weights... shall ye have.” | Merchants and judges were to use honest standards in measuring, weighing, and valuing goods.         | Be accurate and fair in pricing, billing, accounting, sales, contracts, estimates, reporting, and professional services.                               |  |
| <b>Love the stranger as thyself</b>                                       | Leviticus 19:33-34 — “The stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself.”                 | Foreigners living among Israel were to be treated with love and justice, not oppression.             | Welcome outsiders, immigrants, visitors, and newcomers with dignity, fairness, practical help, and neighborly care.                                    |  |
| <b>Teach God’s words diligently to children</b>                           | Deuteronomy 6:6-7 — “And these words... shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children...”                             | God’s commandments were to be kept in the heart and taught continually within the family.            | Make Scripture part of ordinary life through family prayer, conversation, example, study, worship, and consistent moral instruction.                   |  |
| <b>Bind God’s words as signs and write them upon the house</b>            | Deuteronomy 6:8-9 — “Thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand... And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.”       | God’s words were to remain visible, remembered, and central in personal, family, and community life. | Keep God’s word before the mind through Scripture reading, visible reminders, household values, prayer routines, and choices that show faith publicly. |  |
| <b>Destroy idolatrous places and worship only where the Lord appoints</b> | Deuteronomy 12:2-5 — “Ye shall utterly destroy all the places... But unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose... thither thou shalt come.”   | Israel was to reject pagan worship sites and seek the Lord according to His appointed way.           | Remove spiritual compromises, reject false worship, and center worship on God’s revealed truth rather than personal preference or cultural pressure.   |  |

## Conclusion

God's statutes, as seen in Leviticus and Deuteronomy, reveal His desire for a holy, obedient, and distinct people. They define boundaries, teach reverence, preserve covenant faithfulness, and point the faithful toward life. The repeated declaration "I am the LORD" reminds the reader that the authority behind every statute is not tradition, culture, or human wisdom, but God Himself. To keep His statutes is to acknowledge His lordship, walk in His ways, and live under the blessing of His revealed will.