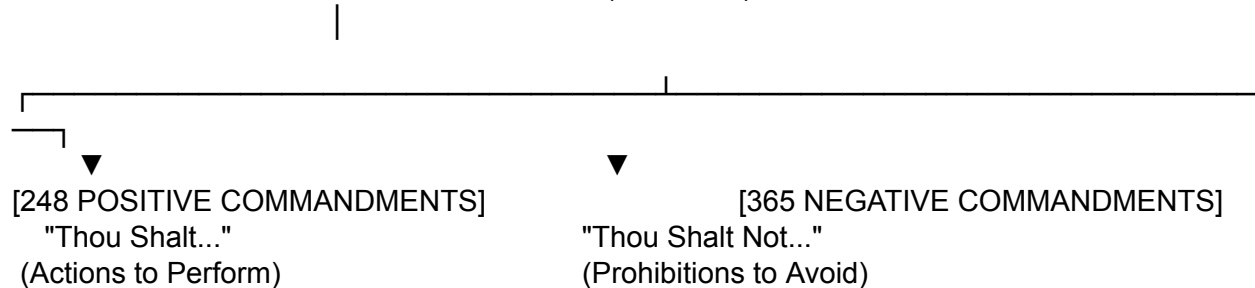


The **613 Commandments (*Mitzvot*)** delivered to Moses at Mount Sinai are traditionally codified by scholars like Maimonides (*Rambam*) into **14 major thematic categories**.

These laws regulated every dimension of human life—spiritually, physically, socially, and criminally—establishing a complete blueprint for an aligned, holy society under the Creator.

THE 613 COMMANDMENTS (MITZVOT)



The 14 Major Categories of the Law

1. Knowledge of God & Fundamental Beliefs (12 Laws)

- **Core Focus:** Establishing pure monotheism and loyalty to the Creator.
- **Key Positive Commands:** Acknowledging the existence of God (**Exodus 20:2**), loving God (**Deuteronomy 6:5**), fearing God (**Deuteronomy 10:20**), and sanctifying His name.
- **Key Negative Commands:** Prohibition of worshipping or making false gods, taking His name in vain, or testing the Lord (**Deuteronomy 6:16**).

2. Idolatry, Paganism, and Superstition (50 Laws)

- **Core Focus:** Protecting the mind and soul from spiritual prostitution and demonic practices.
- **Key Prohibitions:** Forbids astrology, divination, sorcery, mediumship, consulting the dead, wearing garments of mixed wool and linen (*Shatnez*), making tattoos, or erecting pagan monuments.

3. The Sanctuary, Tabernacle, and Temple (95 Laws)

- **Core Focus:** Governing the physical space where God's divine presence (*Shechinah*) dwelt among His people.
- **Key Commands:** Building the Sanctuary (**Exodus 25:8**), revering the Temple, keeping the sacred lamp (*Menorah*) lit continuously, and guarding the Ark of the Covenant.

4. Sacrifices and Offerings (103 Laws)

- **Core Focus:** Regulating the formal system of blood atonement and thanksgiving.
- **Key Commands:** Rules governing burnt offerings (*Olah*), sin offerings (*Chatat*), guilt offerings, meal offerings, and peace offerings. Ensures that innocent blood covers human transgression until the ultimate fulfillment.

5. Priesthood (*Kohanim*) and Levites (62 Laws)

- **Core Focus:** The consecration, duties, physical purity, and garments of the Levitical priesthood.
- **Key Commands:** Washing hands and feet before service, high priest qualifications, tithing duties, and maintaining ritual cleanliness (*Taharah*).

6. Dietary Laws (*Kashrut*) (28 Laws)

- **Core Focus:** Consecrating the physical body through what enters the mouth.
- **Key Commands:**
 - Eating only land animals that split the hoof and chew the cud (**Leviticus 11:3**).
 - Eating only aquatic life with both fins and scales.
 - Abstaining from birds of prey, insects, animal blood, fat (*Chelev*), and meat torn by beasts.

7. Vows, Oaths, and Consecrations (17 Laws)

- **Core Focus:** The sanctity of speech and truthfulness in commitments.
- **Key Commands:** Fulfilling spoken vows (**Deuteronomy 23:23**), regulations for Nazirite vows (abstaining from wine and hair-cutting), and the annulment of vows by fathers/husbands.

8. Sacred Days, Feasts, and Sabbaths (37 Laws)

- **Core Focus:** Aligning human time with the Creator's divine calendar.
- **Key Commands:**
 - Observing the Weekly Sabbath (**Exodus 20:8**).
 - Observing the 7 Annual Feasts: Passover (*Pesach*), Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits, Pentecost (*Shavuot*), Trumpets (*Yom Teruah*), Day of Atonement (*Yom Kippur*), and Tabernacles (*Sukkot*).
 - Observing the Sabbatical Year (*Shemittah*) every 7th year and the Jubilee (*Yovel*) every 50th year.

9. Social Justice, Charity, and Property Rights (40 Laws)

- **Core Focus:** Protecting the vulnerable—orphans, widows, strangers, and the poor.
- **Key Commands:**
 - Leaving the corners of fields for the poor to glean (*Peah*).
 - Giving tithes to the needy.
 - Absolute prohibition against charging interest/usury on loans to brothers (**Exodus 22:25**).
 - Returning lost property and using honest weights and measures.

10. Marriage, Family, and Sexual Ethics (46 Laws)

- **Core Focus:** Safeguarding the family unit and biological purity.

- **Key Commands:**
 - Honoring father and mother (**Exodus 20:12**).
 - Strict prohibitions against incest, adultery, homosexuality, , and sexual immorality (**Leviticus 18**).
 - Marriage procedures, marital rights, and formal divorce certificates (*Get*).

11. Civil, Criminal, and Judicial Laws (51 Laws)

- **Core Focus:** Establishing a fair, uncorrupt court system.
- **Key Commands:**
 - Appointing righteous judges (**Deuteronomy 16:18**).
 - Requiring a minimum of two or three witnesses for capital crimes (**Deuteronomy 19:15**).
 - Prohibiting bribes, showing partiality in court, or bearing false witness.

12. Torts, Injuries, and Property Damage (36 Laws)

- **Core Focus:** Personal accountability and financial restitution.
- **Key Commands:** Compensation for personal injury, damage caused by livestock, fire damage, theft, and holding custodians responsible for bailed property.

13. Military, Warfare, and National Defense (18 Laws)

- **Core Focus:** Ethical conduct during war.
- **Key Commands:** Exemptions from military service (e.g., newly married men or those who built a new home), rules for siege warfare, offering peace terms before attacking, and maintaining sanitation in military camps.

14. Kings, Government, and Prophecy (16 Laws)

- **Core Focus:** Governance under the sovereignty of the Creator.
- **Key Commands:** Appointing an Israelite king, restrictions on a king's wealth/wives, requirement for the king to write his own personal copy of the Torah, listening to true prophets, and executing false prophets (**Deuteronomy 18:20**).

Summary Distribution

DISTRIBUTION OF THE 613 COMMANDMENTS		
Temple, Sacrifices & Priesthood	~260 Laws (42%)	
Social, Civil & Judicial	~180 Laws (29%)	

Personal Holiness, Diet & Ethics	~100 Laws (16%)	
Feasts, Sabbaths & Worship	~73 Laws (13%)	

Note: Because over 250 of these laws specifically require the physical Temple, Levitical priesthood, or the land of Israel to perform, they cannot be physically kept today. This reinforces the scriptural truth that the Mosaic Law pointed to humanity's need for the **New Covenant**, where the spirit of the law is written directly upon the human heart through the Holy Spirit (**Jeremiah 31:31–34**).