

THE BIBLE

LEGALISTIC COMMANDS IN THE O.T.



SUMMARY: The commands of the Old Testament tend to be more legalistic than the commands of the New Testament, although there are rules in both. There are numerous laws in the Old Testament which are not and/or cannot be followed by people who follow the Jewish religion today.

There are a total of 248 commands and 365 prohibitions listed in the Old Testament. The following listing are by subject only to give a general idea of the types and number.

248 COMMANDS, SUCH AS:

- 9 God
- 10 Prayer and the Torah
- 19 Temple and Priests
- 53 Sacrifices and Festivals
- 4 Vows
- 18 Laws of Purification
- 6 Sacred Property
- 14 Portions for the Priest and Poor
- 9 Year of Release and Jubilee Year
- 3 Emolument of the Priest
- 7 Dietary Laws
- 19 Holidays
- 9 Authorities and the Court
- 10 Idolatry and War
- 17 Social and Ethical Laws
- 12 Marriage Laws
- 8 Punishments
- 13 Bondage and Slavery
- 4 Purchase, Claims, Inheritance
- 23 Landed Property, Social and Slave Laws

365 PROHIBITIONS

59 Idol Worship and Magic, Attitudes toward Foreign Nations, and War

7 God

105 Sanctuary and Priests, Sacrifices and Holy Taxes

48 Dietary Laws, Nazariteship, Prohibited Mixtures, Animals

24 Courts

8 Sins against Public Authorities

10 Holy Days, Holidays

32 Marriage and Sexual Regulations

4 Kingdom

5 Miscellaneous

Due to the bulk of these commands, they are not all individually listed at this time. If you desire a complete listing, it is available by contacting us.

INTERESTING STATISTIC: In the surveyed Bible, there were 613 rules in 907 pages of the Old Testament, or 1.48 pages per rule. In the New Testament there were 269 rules in 269 pages, or exactly one page per rule.

The Old Testament is thought of as a book of rules and the New Testament is not. It is not exactly true, however the nature of the “commands” counted is not exactly the same. The commands in the Old Testament tend to be more legalistic and specific duties to carry out. Fewer of the “commands” in the New Testament or of the same nature as many are more on Christian conduct than specific rule following.

There are a number of laws in the Old Testament which are not and/or cannot be carried out today. A prime example of this is the frequent blood sacrifices. Also the required genealogy of the Levitical priesthood was lost when the Temple was destroyed in A.D. 70.