

## Laws That Require Special Confession and Obedience Deuteronomy 26:01–19

**I. *The confession to be made during the offering of the first-fruit: Thanking God for His salvation and blessings***

- a. The law: Must celebrate after entering the promised land
- 1) To set aside the very first of one's harvest for God
  - 2) To take the offering to the worship centre, the place; where God's name is honoured
- b. The confession
- 1) To declare that one has entered the promised land:  
A symbol of trusting God and resting in God
  - 2) To have the priest take and present the offering of first-fruits to the LORD
  - 3) To declare the salvation of God
    - That Israel had been born of one man, Jacob
    - That Israel had grown into a great nation, mighty and numerous
    - That Israel had been enslaved by the Egyptians
    - That Israel had cried out to God for deliverance

- 1 When you have entered the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance and have taken possession of it and settled in it,
- 2 take some of the first-fruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land the LORD your God is giving you and put them in a basket. Then go to the place the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name
- 3 and say to the priest in office at the time, "I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come to the land the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us."
- 4 The priest shall take the basket from your hands and set it down in front of the altar of the LORD your God.
- 5 Then you shall declare before the LORD your God: "My father was a wandering Aramean, and he went down into Egypt with a few people and lived there and became a great nation, powerful and numerous.
- 6 But the Egyptians mistreated us and made us suffer, subjecting us to harsh labour.
- 7 Then we cried out to the LORD, the God of our ancestors, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our misery, toil and oppression.

- That God had heard their cry and delivered them

- That God had led and given them the promised land, the most fruitful land imaginable

4) To declare one's thanks-giving to God and to bow down and present the first-fruit offering to God

c. The purpose:  
To worship rejoicing together and give thanks to God – thanks for their new life

**2. *The confession to be made when offering the three-year tithe: Being faithful in giving***

a. The law

1) To set aside a special tithe every third year

2) To give the tithe to the Levites and the poor and needy

b. The confession before the LORD

1) To declare that one is faithful in giving the tithe, in supporting the ministers and needy

2) To declare that one has not misused any of the tithe

- Not while he was in mourning and not working

- Not while he was ceremonially unclean and not working

- Not for the dead (funeral expenses)

8 So the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders.

9 He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey;

10 and now I bring the first-fruits of the soil that you, LORD, have given me.”  
Place the basket before the LORD your God and bow down before him.

11 Then you and the Levites and the foreigners residing among you shall rejoice in all the good things the LORD your God has given to you and your household.

12 When you have finished setting aside a tenth of all your produce in the third year, the year of the tithe, you shall give it to the Levite, the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow, so that they may eat in your towns and be satisfied.

13 Then say to the LORD your God: “I have removed from my house the sacred portion and have given it to the Levite, the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow, according to all you commanded. I have not turned aside from your commands nor have I forgotten any of them.

14 I have not eaten any of the sacred portion while I was in mourning, nor have I removed any of it while I was unclean, nor have I offered any of it to the dead. I have obeyed the LORD my God; I have done everything you commanded me.

3) To seek the LORD in prayer:  
Asking the LORD to bless  
His people and the fruitfulness  
of the land

**3. *The strong charge to obey God***

a. The charge:

To obey all these laws —  
without reservation —  
with all your heart and soul

b. The reasons

1) Your confession,  
declaration of faith

- That the LORD is your God
- That you will obey Him

2) God's confession and demand

- You are His people,  
His special treasure
- You are to obey Him

3) God's promise and guarantee

- To make His people great:  
Exalt them in praise, name,  
and honour
- To make His people holy —  
totally set apart to God

15 Look down from heaven,  
your holy dwelling place,  
and bless your people Israel  
and the land you have given us  
as you promised on oath to our ancestors,  
a land flowing with milk and honey.”

16 The LORD your God commands you this day  
to follow these decrees and laws;  
carefully observe them with all your heart  
and with all your soul.

17 You have declared this day  
that the LORD is your God  
and that you will walk in obedience to him,  
that you will keep his decrees,  
commands and laws —  
that you will listen to him.

18 And the LORD has declared this day  
that you are his people,  
his treasured possession as he promised,  
and that you are to keep all his commands.

19 He has declared  
that he will set you in praise,  
fame and honour  
high above all the nations he has made  
and that you will be a people  
holy to the LORD your God,  
as he promised.