



Exodus 25-31 & 35-40

The Priestly Code [**P**]

I. Rite of Atonement (Exodus 30:10)

Once a year Aaron shall perform the rite of atonement on its horns. Throughout your generations he shall perform the atonement for it once a year with the blood of the atoning sin offering. It is most holy to YHWH.

2. Regulation concerning the Sabbath (Exodus 31:12-14)

‘YHWH said to Moses: You yourself are to speak to the Israelites: “You shall keep my sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, given in order that you may know that I, YHWH, sanctify you. You shall keep the sabbath, because it is holy for you; everyone who profanes it shall be put to death; whoever does any work on it shall be cut off from among the people.

Regulation concerning the Sabbath (Exodus 31:15-17)

Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a sabbath of solemn rest, holy to YHWH; whoever does any work on the sabbath day shall be put to death. Therefore the Israelites shall keep the sabbath, observing the sabbath throughout their generations, as a perpetual covenant. It is a sign forever between me and the people of Israel that in six days YHWH made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.

Exodus 32

The Covenant is Broken

3. Exodus 32:1-2

‘When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, “Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.” Aaron said to them, “Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” ...

4. The Covenant is Broken (Exodus 32:3-6)

Aaron took the gold from them, formed it in a mould, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a festival to YHWH.” They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.’ [quoted 1Cor 10:7]

‘They exchanged their glory for the image of a grass-eating bullock.’ (Psalm 106:20)

‘You did not forsake them, though they made for themselves a molten calf, and proclaimed: Here is your God who brought you up out of Egypt!’ (Nehemiah 9:18).

Compare calves set up in Bethel and Dan by Jeroboam (1Kings 12:28)

‘They exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling ... four-footed animals’ (Romans 1:23).

5. Exodus 32:7-8

YHWH said to Moses, “Go down at once! **Your** people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’”

6. Exodus 32:9-10

YHWH said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.”

7. Exodus 32:11-14

Moses implored YHWH his God, and said, “YHWH, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people.

7. Exodus 32:11-14

Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants who will inherit it forever.’” YHWH changed his mind about the disaster he planned to bring on his people.’

8. Exodus 33:7-8

The Covenant is Renewed

‘Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp; he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought YHWH would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise and stand, each of them, at the entrance of their tents and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent.’

9. Exodus 33:9-11

When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and YHWH would speak with Moses. When all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise and bow down, all of them, at the entrance of their tent.

Thus YHWH used to speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Then he would return to the camp; but his young assistant, Joshua son of Nun, would not leave the tent.'

10. Exodus 33:12-16

Moses said to YHWH, “See, you have said to me, ‘Bring up this people’; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found favour in my sight.’ Now if I have found favour in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favour in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.”

10. Exodus 33:12-16

YHWH said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” And Moses said to him, “If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favour in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth.”

11. Exodus 33:17-23

YHWH said to Moses, 'I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.' Moses said, 'Show me your glory, I pray.' And YHWH said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'YHWH'; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live."

11. Exodus 33:17-23

And YHWH continued, “See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.”

14. The Israelite 'Creed' (Exodus 34:5-8)

'YHWH descended in the cloud and stood with Moses there, and proclaimed the name, "YHWH." YHWH passed before him, and proclaimed, "YHWH, YHWH, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for the thousandth generation, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, yet by no means clearing the guilty, but visiting the iniquity of the parents upon the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation." And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped.

15. Exodus 34:29-32

‘Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that his face was radiant because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that YHWH had spoken with him on Mount Sinai.

16. Exodus 34:33-35

When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before YHWH to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the radiance of his face; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with YHWH.'

17. Exodus 40:34-38

‘The cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of YHWH filled the tabernacle. Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled upon it, and the glory of YHWH filled the tabernacle. Whenever the cloud was taken up from the tabernacle, the Israelites would set out on each stage of their journey; but if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out until the day that it was taken up. For the cloud of YHWH was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night, before the eyes of all the house of Israel at each stage of their journey.’