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Anderson, B. W., Understanding the OT (1966), p. 60

Covenant and Law

The covenant was made on the basis of "the words of Yahweh" In the present context, this phrase seems to refer to the whole body of law found in chapters 20-23, that is, it embraces the Ten Commandments (Ex. 20.1-17) and the Covenant Code (20.23-23.19). This section, however, includes laws of later ages that were added to the original covenant ceremony. The Pentateuch in its present form, with its great diversity, shows how successive generations continued to respond to Yahweh's covenant demand in the changing circumstances of their history. The priestly legislation found in Exodus 25-31, as we have said, bears the stamp of later times. The Covenant Code, for the most part, betrays the interests of an agricultural rather than a wilderness environment, as we shall see in the next chapter. And the group of ritual laws in Exodus 34.10-28 reflects a Canaanite background. So, by a process of reduction, not much is left that may have come from the time of Moses.