

# Eight Old Testament Words for “Law” - Part 1

WORD	MEANING	EXAMPLES	SIGNIFICANCE
<b>TORAH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direction</li> <li>• Guidance</li> <li>• Instruction</li> </ul>	Exodus 24:12	Need for law in general; a command from a higher person to a lower
<b>MITSWAH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commandment</li> <li>• Command</li> </ul>	Genesis 26:5 Exodus 15:26 Exodus 20:2-17	God’s specific instruction to be obeyed rather than a general law; used of the Ten Commandments
<b>MISHPAT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulations</li> <li>• Judgment</li> <li>• Ordinance</li> </ul>	Genesis 18:19 Deuteronomy 15:18 Deuteronomy 17:9	Refers to the civil, social, and sanitation laws
<b>EDUTH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Testimony</li> <li>• Truth</li> </ul>	Exodus 25:22	Refers to God’s laws as He deals with His people

Hebrew law served as the personal and national guide for living under God’s authority. It directed the moral, spiritual, and social life. Its purpose was to produce better understanding of God and greater commitment to him.