

Capital Punishment

Under the Law of Moses, there were 18 capital offenses. Less serious crimes such as theft, fraud, and assault had financial penalties. Imprisonment is not mentioned.

Religious offenses:

Profaning the Sabbath	Exodus 31:14 & 35:2, Numbers 15:35
Blasphemy	Leviticus 24:16
Idolatry	Exodus 22:20, Leviticus 20:2, Deuteronomy 13:9 & 17:5
Wrong person in ritual	Numbers 1:51 & 3:10 & 4:15 & 18:3 & 18:17
False prophets	Deuteronomy 13:1-5 & 18:20
Profaning sacred gifts	Numbers 18:32
Ignoring priest	Deuteronomy 17:12
Sorcery	Exodus 22:18, Leviticus 20:27

Victim offenses:

Murder	Exodus 21:12-14, Leviticus 24:17, Numbers 35:16-21
Striking father or mother	Exodus 21:15
Kidnapping	Exodus 21:16, Deuteronomy, 24:7
Cursing father or mother	Exodus 21:17, Leviticus 20:9
Rebellious son	Deuteronomy 21:21

Sexual offenses:

Adultery	Leviticus 20:10, Deuteronomy 22:21-27
Homosexuality	Leviticus 20:13
Bestiality	Exodus 22:19, Leviticus 20:15-16
Incest	Leviticus 20:11-12 & 17
Marrying mother & daughter	Leviticus 20:14

Trials were before the elders of the town (Deuteronomy 19:12).

The blood avenger or witnesses were the executioners (Deuteronomy 17:6-7, Numbers 35:19).

Bodies were not hung overnight (Deuteronomy 21:22-23)

The New Testament has no penalties (in this life) for any crime.

The New Testament is a guide for the church, not for the civil government as was the Law of Moses. The Law of Moses governed the religious and the unreligious of Israel, so civil laws and penalties were needed. The New Testament governs only believers, so has no civil punishments. Instead, the law of the land has been endorsed by God (Romans 13:1-7, 1 Peter 2:13-14, Titus 3:1).