

Law of Moses Terminology

#1 – "Law" – Torah

"Torah" is typically translated simply as "Law", but there's nothing simple about this word since it's a very broad term that actually encapsulates all of the definitions.

#2 – "Commandment" or "Precept" – Mitzvah

This word is the type of Torah that is a direct order or charge. This word is typically used as a straight-forward rule we are to actively "keep" or "observe".

#3 – "Statute" or "Ordinance" – Choq or Shuqqah

This word speaks of a fine-tuning of a command.

Example: "Observe the Sabbath" is a "command", but "let your animals rest on Shabbat" would be an "ordinance".

#4 – "Testimony" – Choq or Shuqqah

This word speaks of declaring God's truths or deeds. It can be a notation of God's work that reveals something about Him.

#5 – "Judgement" – Mishpat

This is a decision or a ruling, consistent with the other "commandments" and "statutes" that sets a precedent for future expectations for Israel.