

Parashah 18 Mishpatim - משפטים
“Judgings”



Torah: Sh'mot (Exodus) 21:1-24:18

Aliyah 1 - 21:1 - 19 Laws: regarding servants, maidservants, marriage, murder, kidnapping, injury

Aliyah 2 - 21:20 -22:3 Personal injury, liability for damages, stealing, self-defense, punishments

Aliyah 3 - 22:4 - 26 Arson, borrowing, renting, sexual immorality, widows/orphans, lending money

Aliyah 4 - 22:27 -23:5 Cursing God/leaders; slaughter, tithing, first-born, wrongdoing, right-doing

Aliyah 5 - 23:6 - 19 Fraud, bribery, foreigners, sabbath, pilgrimage festivals, first fruits, kid/mother

Aliyah 6 - 23:20 - 25 Obey guardian angel, God will protect, do not worship gods in the land

Aliyah 7 - 23:26-24:18 People request Moshe mediate; idolatry forbidden; proper altar described

Haftarah: Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) 34:8-22; 33:25-26

B'rit Hadashah: Mattityahu (Matthew) 5:38-42

1. This portion contains legal code and commandments on various topics that form the basis for the laws of Torah. With what attitude do most people view this code of law? Why? How does this legal code compare with the concept of “grace?”
2. What was King David’s view of God’s laws? (Tehillim [Psalms] 119)
3. (21:12-17) What five laws listed hold the death penalty? Do they apply today? Why or why not?
4. (21:24-25) Were they really expected to take personal revenge and poke out eyes and punch out teeth? What is the intent of “measure for measure” commanded here?
5. (21:30) How does the “ransom” concept portray the price that Yeshua paid on the cross for us?
6. If these judgments and rulings are God’s word, how do they express the character of God? Who do they protect?
7. Do you own an Ox? How do the laws regarding oxen apply to us? What principle did Rav Sha’ul derive from these laws? (1 Cor 9:9-10)

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8. (24:3,7,8) Do you see any correlation between the actions taken in the covenant made between God and Israel and those of a marriage covenant?
9. (24:11) Who was “eating and drinking?” What is the significance of this event?

Questions for reflection and application:

1. (21:1) Are you *acquiring* knowledge and rules, or are you *using* them to develop personal relationship with God? (Isa 12:2-4, Jer 31:32-33, 2Co 3:3-6, Joh 4:13-23)
2. (21:20) How do you view your position to those you serve, and those that serve you? (Eph 5:22, 25, 6:1, 6:5-9, Gal 3:28, Phil 2:5-8, Joh 15:15, Col 3:23, Luk 17:7-10, 1Ti 6:1-2, Tit 2:9-10)
3. (22:4) Have you been consumed/ravaged by the world? Have you been rescued and experienced God’s restoration? (Isa 5:5, 2Sa 12:5-6, Psa 51, Mat 9:36, Joh 10:11, Eze 34:13-16, Joe 2:21-27)
4. (22:27) Out of the mouth, the heart speaks. The tongue is powerful. How are you at controlling yours? (Lev 24:16, Job 2:9-10, Luk 6:45, Mat 5:22, Lam 3:37-40, Jam 3:6-10)
5. (23:6) Are you poor? How do you view the “poor?” Do you share the gospel with the poor, regardless of the reason for their poverty? (Exo 22:24, Ecc 4:13, 1Sa 18:23, Exo 23:3, Psa 9:10, Lev 27:8, 2Sa 12:4, Mat 26:11, Mat 5:3, Mat 11:5, Isa 61:1, Deu 16:19-20, Isa 10:1-2, 1Jo 3:17)
6. (23:20) Yeshua is the only way. Do you trust Him completely to lead you? (Exo 23:23, Jos 5:13-14, Num 20:16, Gen 24:7, Isa 30:21, 1Co 10:4, Col 1:15-17, 1Ti 2:5, Joh 14:6, Act 4:12)
7. (23:26) Fullness is not just quantity, but quality. Are you living life to its fullest? (Psa 90:10, Job 5:26, Pro 10:27, Pro 20:27, Deu 4:9, Luk 12:20, Job 27:8, Mar 6:27, 1Co 3:9, 1Th 3:2, Mat 11:28-30, 2Ti 2:15, 1Co 9:26-27, Mat 25:21, Ecc 7:15-18, Mar 8:34-38)