

Torah: D’varim (Deuteronomy) 21:10 - 25:19
Haftarah: Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 54:1- 10
B’rit Hadashah: Matityahu (Matthew) 19:1-30

	yr. 1 21:10-23:7	yr. 2 23:8-24:13	yr. 3 24:14-25:19
1	21:10 – 14	23:8 – 12	24:14 – 16
2	21:15 – 17	23:13 – 15	24:17 – 19
3	21:18 – 21	23:16 – 19	24:20 – 22
4	21:22 – 22:7	23:20 – 24	25:1 – 4
5	22:8 – 12	23:25 – 24:4	25:5 – 10
6	22:13 – 29	24:5 – 9	25:11 – 16
7	23:1 – 7	24:10 – 13	25:17 – 19

when you go out for the battle against your enemies / ADONAI your God into your hand has surely delivered them captive	<i>ki tetzé la'milkhamah al oyvé'kha untano ADONAI Elohékha be'yadé'kha ve'shavíta shiv'yo</i>	כִּי־תֵצֵא לַמִּלְחָמָה עַל־אֹיְבֶיךָ וַיְנַתְּנוּ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְיָדְךָ וְשָׁבִיתָ שְׂבִיּוֹ:
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This portion contains both amazing messianic implications and many practical laws for daily living within community, providing direction for the mandate of all mankind to subdue and rule over creation, while exercising the responsibility to serve and guard, protect the weak from the strong, balancing both rights and duty.

The haftarah, the fifth Consolation of Isaiah, compares the children of Israel to a barren and forsaken wife, assuring them that they will be restored and made fruitful.

Year 1 Aliyah Highlights

1. **De. 21:10-14** Rules for protecting the humanity of female captives of war, including provision of the status of a wife. She will discard/shed her former life/self in this process, and must be respected.
2. **De. 21:15-17** Firstborn son of the father in a polygamous family receives a double portion inheritance regardless of which wife is the mother. Sages understand this as a warning regarding polygamy.
3. **De. 21:18-21** The procedure for punishing an insubordinate son not only deters rebelliousness, but also limits parental authority, both father and mother, to execute him, while respecting their rights to discipline him (Ex. 21:15, Pr. 29:15, 23:13-14, 13:24), upholding the commandment to honor mother and father (De. 5:16), and protecting unfavored wives in polygamous families. Re. gluttony, see Pr. 28:7, 23:20-21. Execution is a community responsibility as the stability of the community is threatened by the rebellious son.
4. **De. 21:22-22:7** After execution, the body of a criminal *may* be displayed/exposed but must be buried on the same day. Miscellaneous domestic laws – there’s more to being good than just not being bad: returning lost items including animals (even for enemies - Ex. 23:4-5); assistance must be given to fallen animals; do not publicly blur HaShem’s distinction between man and woman; not taking a mother bird along with her young (same promise as honoring father and mother).
5. **De. 22:8-12** More domestic laws: Build a parapet for safety – take responsibility. Forbidden combinations (Le. 19:19) – . Commentaries suggest protection of weaker from stronger, wool and linen are priestly, Tassel (*gedilim* – גְּדִלִים) on four corners – Nu. 15:37-41, not limited to men.
6. **De. 22:13-29** False and correct accusation of female virginity in marriage, at the hand of the husband. Adultery with a married woman (both must die, Le. 20:10), and engaged virgin. Rape differs to the father’s rights. Adultery defiles the land (Le. 18:24)
7. **De. 23:1-7** Forbidden relationships – Torah desexualizes the family, prevents father/son rivalry, treats women not as inheritable possessions or property.

Thought Focus

Beauty (*yafeh* – יָפֵה): “Beauty” is usually valued as a female trait (Ge. 12:14, 29:17). But the Hebrew word goes much deeper. It is used of men like Yosef (Ge. 39:6) and David (1Sa 17:42), and places like Mount Zion (Ps. 48:2). It is used of olive trees (Jer. 11:16), and all that HaShem creates (Ecc. 3:11). It is also used of Messiah (Ps. 45:3, Is. 33:17) and the Messianic era (Zec. 9:16f). Perhaps Rakhav (Rahab) is the “beauty” that is in view here. She heard of the exploits of the children of Israel, concluding that “Adonai your God - he is God in heaven above and on the earth below” (Jos. 2:11). Her faith was exemplified by her actions (James 2:25-26). She would marry Salmon, (a cousin of Kalev) and become the mother of Boaz, who would marry Ruth, and the great grandmother of King David (Mat. 1:5-6).

The Evil of Rape: It has been estimated that Russian soldiers raped two million German women at the end of World War II. Japanese soldiers took 200,000 women into sexual slavery. Pakistani soldiers raped as many as 400,000 Bengali women during the Bangladesh War of Independence in 1971. The mistreatment of women, even during the adrenaline of war when violence is normalized, was outlawed over 3000 years ago in the Torah. Since the modern State of Israel was established, rape of enemy women by Israeli soldiers has been almost nonexistent.

Daily Devotional questions for reflection and application

1. (21:10) Battling the enemy is inevitable. How has God given your enemy into your hands? (Jos 7:2-12, Mat 18:7, Luk 17:1-2, 1Pe 5:8-9, Jam 4:7, Eph 6:12-13, Mat 16:18)
2. (21:22) Have you experienced the consequences of sin? Have you made peace with God and experienced His forgiveness? (Pro 13:24, Heb 12:6-7, 2Co 5:21, Isa 53:4-6, Rom 3:21-26)
3. (22:8) How can you help prevent someone from falling off the roof? (Lev 19:16,18; Jam 1:27, 1Ti 5:8, Luk 10:25-37, Deu 16:20, Amo 5:14-15)
4. (23:8) Are you involved in any strong relationships with those outside your faith? (Lev 19:19, Deu 7:3-4, 2Co 6:14, 1Co 7:12-18,39)
5. (23:25) Do you ever take something “just because you can?” Do you consider how these actions affect yourself and others? (1Co 10:23-24, Rom 14:15, 1Co 6:12-14, 1Th 5:16-22)
6. (24:5) How can you help to establish strong families as a priority in God’s family? (Pro 24:27, Mat 19:4-6, 1Ti 3:4,6)
7. (24:14) There is always someone less advantaged than you. How can you help? (Isa 10:1-2, Mal 3:5, Jam 1:27, Gal 6:10, Mar 14:7, Mat 25:40-42, Act 11:29)