Parashat Mishpatim- Rightly Dividing the Torah

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Rightly Dividing the Torah

Shemoth [exodus] 21:1-24:18

Shemoth [Exodus] 23:20-24:18

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The Messenger Of Elohim Coes Before Visuael

Shemoth [Exodus] 23: 20 "See, I am sending a Messenger [angel] before you to guard you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. 21 "Be on guard before Him and obey His voice. Do not rebel against Him, for He is not going to pardon your transgression, for My Name is in Him. 22 "But if you diligently obey His voice and shall do all that I speak, then I shall be an enemy to your enemies and a adversary to those who distress you. 23 "For My Messenger shall go before you and shall bring you into the land of the Emorites and the Chittites and the Perizzites and the Kena'anites and the Chivites and the Yebusites and I shall cut them off. 24 "Do not bow down to their mighty ones, nor serve them, nor do according to their deeds, but without fail overthrow them and without fail break down their sacred pillars. 25 "And you shall serve in" your Elohim and He shall bless your bread and your water. And I shall remove sickness from your midst. 26 "None shall miscarry or be barren in your land. I shall fulfill the number of your days. 27 "I shall send My terror before you and cause confusion among all the people to whom you come and make all your enemies turn their backs to you. 28 "And I shall send hornets before you, which shall drive out the Chivite, the Kena'anite and the Chittite from before you. 29 "I shall not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become a waste and the beast of the field become too numerous for you.

Netzarenes of Australia Nazarenes of Australia The Elders Of Viscal Come Up to VIII

30 "Little by little I shall drive them out from before you, until you have increased, and you inherit the land. 31 "And I shall set your border from the Sea of Reeds [Gulf of Aqabah] to the Sea of the Philistines [Mediterranean] and from the wilderness [Negev] to the River [Euphrates], for I shall give the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you shall drive them out before you. 32 "Do not make a covenant with them nor with their mighty ones. 33 "Let them not dwell in your land, lest they make you sin against Me when you serve their mighty ones, when it becomes a snare to you."

Shemoth [Exodus] 24: 1 And to Mosheh He said, "Come up to יהוה, you and Aharon, Nadab and Abihu and seventy of the elders of Yisra'ël and you shall bow yourselves from a distance. 2 "But Mosheh shall draw near to his by himself and let them not draw near, nor let the people go up with him." 3 And Mosheh came and related to the people all the Words of יהוה and all the right-rulings. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the Words which יהוה has spoken we shall do." 4 And Mosheh wrote down all the Words of and rose up early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and twelve standing columns for the twelve tribes of Yisra'ël. 5 And he sent young men of the children of Yisra'ël and they offered burnt offerings and slaughtered peace slaughterings of bulls to altar. Mosheh took half the blood and put it in basins and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar.

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Mosheh, Aharon, Nadab, Abfhu & the 70 Elders See Elohim

7 And he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that has spoken we shall do and obey." 8 And Mosheh took the blood and sprinkled it on the people and said, "See, the blood of the covenant which has made with you concerning all these Words." 9 And Mosheh went up, also Aharon, Nadab and Abihu and seventy of the elders of Yisra'ël, 10 and they saw the Elohim of Yisra'ël and under His feet like a paved work of sapphire stone and like the heavens for brightness. 11 Yet He did not stretch out His hand against the chiefs of the children of Yisra'ël! And they saw Elohim and they ate and drank. 12 And has 'aid to Mosheh, "Come up to Me on the mountain and be there, while I give you tablets of stone and the Torah and the command which I have written, to teach them." 13 And Mosheh arose with his assistant Yahusha [Joshua] and Mosheh went up to the mountain of Elohim. 14 And said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we come back to you and see, Aharon and Hur are with you. Whoever has matters, let him go to them." 15 And Mosheh went up into the mountain and a cloud covered the mountain. 16 And the esteem of heart '15 And Mosheh went up into the mountain and a cloud covered the mountain. 16 And the esteem of the midst of the cloud.



Shemoth [Exodus] 21:1- 24:18, YirmeYahu [Jeremiah] 34:8-22, MattitYahu [Matthew] 5:33-42, Colossians 3:18-25



<u>Introduction</u>: Our Portion for this week called **Mishpatim** means Judgements & follows on from Yisrael receiving verbally the Ten Covenant Wordings [the 10 Commandments] at Mt. Sinai. YHWH now presents to Yisrael a guide to daily living as his treasured people who will be a Holy Nation & who will establish Justice and Righteousness as a display of the character of YHWH to the Nations.

The Events in the Portion:

- 1. Laws are now given regarding a Yisraelite Slave, a Husbands obligation plus numerous other laws like murder, manslaughter, kidnapping etc.
- 2. Many more Laws are introduced like damages caused by one's Ox plus stealing & self-defence.
- 3. Laws about liability for arson, borrowing, renting, sexual sins, idolatry & treatment of widows, the poor & foreigners are given.
- 4. Laws continue to be included relating to leadership, sacrificial animals, corruption, tithes, firstborns & animals.
- 5. The keeping of the festivals is also commanded.
- 6. Finally, YHWH declares a Malakim [Messenger] would lead them & they would be blessed if they kept the Covenant with the people enthusiastically embracing the Covenant with Mosheh ascending the Mountain for 40 days & Nights.

The Covenant Code:



Within this week's reading we have 53 Judgements 23 positive & 30 prohibitions. YHWH also promises to bring Yisrael to the promised land & warns against adopting Canaanite ways. Mosheh as we conclude our reading ascends Mt. Sinai to receive the Tablets of the ten Covenant words written by the hand of YHWH while Yisrael remains below awaiting Mosheh's return and as we have seen previously when the people are idle trouble brews which we will see in a future portion. We know that the Covenant reveals Holy living, but the true promise of Salvation could only rest upon Yeshua. Therefore, we will come to see a division in the Torah which will follow with an introduction of the Book of the Law distinct from the Book of the Covenant in its introduction since it will be imposed upon the people because of their failure to remain Holy since we are aware that they quickly fell and built a Golden Calf which we do not read about until chapter 32 though Mosheh has now in **Shemoth [Exodus] 24** ascended the Mount to receive the Tablets of the Covenant.

Regarding the Book of the Law this is what Shaul [Paul] spoke about in this verse:

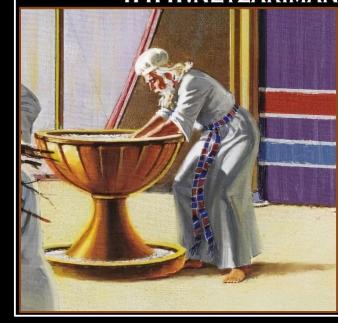


Galatians 4:4 when the fullness of the time had come, Elohim sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

This law however that Yeshua has set us free from, hopefully we can conclude it to be the Book of the Law which is what we wish to determine that we can establish our call to once more live under the Torah Covenant which includes everything we have read so far. This Covenant therefore includes the Shabbat, the dietary requirements, the Feasts of YHWH & how to operate as a set-apart free people who happily live under the Covenant Torah. Most have not understood that there is a division between the Book of the Covenant & the Book of the Law therefore the difficulty remains.

The Levitical restrictions however were imposed through the Book of the Law which did not constitute a Covenant which must have a proposal, an acceptance, a ratification & a covenant meal so we read concerning the Levitical ordinances that they were:

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Levitical Ordinances

Ivri'im [Hebrews] 9:10 concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation.

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The Book of the Covenant is only mentioned three times in Scripture concluding in this particular portion.

We must therefore begin to see that a Covenant can only be established firstly by a proposal and then an acceptance as we find in **Shemoth [Exodus] 19:8** & again in **24:3** where the whole Nation says:

"All the words which YHWH has said we will do."

What must now follow is the blood ratification [endorsement] followed by the Covenant confirming meal which is exactly what we read in Shemoth [Exodus] 24. Is it possible that now the Covenant is fully established and what will follow does constitute the imposed Book of the Law which is the result of the Golden Calf incident and so surely something has occurred to require this, but it is not dealt with here since the retelling is in Shemoth [Exodus] 32. We can understand Covenant by the words of Shaul [Paul] when he speaks about it in:

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Galatians 3:15 Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it.

Gal 3:19 What purpose then does the Law [Book of the Law] serve? It was added because of transgressions [the Golden Calf], until the seed [Yeshua] should come to whom the promise was made; and heavenly messengers [malachim] through the hands of a Mediator [Mosheh] ordained it.

Galatians 3:15 Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it.

Surely Shaul is further detailing the imposing of the Book of the Law by giving us a better understanding with these words in:

Gal 3:19 What purpose then does the Law [Book of the Law] serve? It was added because of transgressions [the Golden Calf], until the seed [Yeshua] should come to whom the promise was made; and heavenly messengers [malachim] through the hands of a Mediator [Mosheh] ordained it.

What we further see here is that it was not the Covenant that YHWH proposed since this Law was ordained by **Malakim [Messengers/Angels]** as Shaul [Paul] clearly states. If we can see the difference, then we can understand that it is of lesser significance. Therefore, the term Law is not the same as Covenant. Therefore, Shaul says this regarding the Law in:



Galatians 3:24

Therefore the law [the Book of the Law] was our tutor to bring us to Messiah, that we might be justified by faith.

This is what the **Brit Chadashah** [the New Covenant] calls righty dividing the Word of truth. We have so often

been taught the Torah holds no weight over us now & it is all about Grace, but we need to see that the Covenant is our way of freedom from Slavery. Christendom has taught us

lawlessness from Covenant, but on the other hand Messianics have taught us to take all the Levitical imposed laws too with all the Rabbinic Halakha. So, what truly is correct?

We then also find **Kepha** [Peter] giving us this word that we are a **Melchitzedek** Priesthood with our Master Yeshua being the High Priest since we read in:



Kepha Aleph [1 Peter] 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light;

From this we understand that we are a Priesthood that is Royal therefore Kingly which comes from the Royal line of David from which Yeshua was born.

True Ordained Slavery:

Since Slavery is included in the Book of the Covenant how do we deal with an Elohim who endorses slavery. Surely our view of slavery is clouded by History so let's deal with the text on hand. Remember there were no welfare programs. These were a nomadic tribal people so people would often be in destitute situations, and they would come into a master's home having no rights. However, accordingly they would eat at the master's table, eat his food, they could keep Shabbat & Festivals with the Master, they were not allowed to be struck & if they were in the town & were struck their Master would come to defend them. In fact, Slavery in this form was the way YHWH would evangelise to the Nations. By the witness of the Master a slave would wish to stay in the house but if they wished to go their family would stay in the master's house to be brought up in the ways of YHWH & not subject to the harshness of the World. Slavery in a Yisraelite context was merciful and taking in the destitute to live like a son. This is what Shaul [Paul] reveals in:

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Galatians 4:1 Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all,

Galatians 4:1 Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all,

Slavery was a way of taking care of people and giving them respect. Men & women were rescued from hardship & were made like one of the master's own family though they had no inheritance. The Master was to live out YHWH's word to those he had rescued. It was indeed the way YHWH evangelised those in a world that was hostile to the poor & destitute.

Surely the slavery of the world is Sin for we read the words of our master in:



Yahuchanan [John] 8:34 Yeshua answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.

The Key to Living as Bond Servants of the Master:

The true key to being a Bond servant of our master Yeshua is best found in the words of Shaul [Paul]:



Galatians 1:10 For do I now persuade men, or Elohim? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I should not be a servant of Messiah.

Therefore, we are where we are today because our desire is to have fellowship with YHWH without compromising the truth. If we truly want that, we cannot submit to the pressure of the world. If we truly want to be a bond servant, it means living in the master's house & living according to His house rules which is the truth of Scripture not what someone has deemed we should do or not do, therefore we must never cease in our search for truth through Scripture & live by it as one totally surrendered to the master.

The Covenant Meal:

When we come to the conclusion of the covenant, we find in **Shemoth [Exodus] 24** that all the 70 elders of Yisrael saw Elohim and they ate & drank symbolizing the conclusion of the Covenant, like all other Covenants where there was a Proposal, an acceptance, a blood ratification & a Covenant meal. Was this not the same for Yeshua at the last supper symbolic of a New Covenant as we read:



MatithYahu [Matthew] 26:26-28 And as they were eating, Yeshua [Yahusha] took bread and having blessed, broke and gave it to the taught ones and said, "Take, eat, this is My body." 27 And taking the cup, and giving thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 "For this is My blood, that of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the forgiveness of sins.

These words also tell us that the New Covenant is ratified & complete that nothing can be added to it and that faith in Yeshua satisfies all requirements and that living in obedience to His Covenant is the act of thankfulness to our master Yeshua & to YHWH our Elohim. Amen.



Haftarah: YermeYahu [Jeremiah] 34:8-22

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Yirmeyahu [Jeremiah] 34:8 The word which came to Yirmeyahu [Jeremiah] from hin, after Sovereign Tsidqiyahu [Zedekiah] had made a covenant with all the people who were at Yerushalayim to proclaim release to them: 9 that everyone was to set free his male and female slave, the Hebrew man and the Hebrew woman, no one was to keep a Yehugite [Jew], his brother, enslaved. 10 And when all the heads and all the people who had come into the covenant heard that each one was to set free his male and female slaves and not keep them enslaved any longer, they obeyed and released them. 11 But afterward they changed their minds and made the male and female slaves return, whom they had set free and brought them into subjection as male and female slaves. 12 Therefore the Word of he house to Yirmeyahu from had to gay in the Blohim of Yisra'ěl, 'I Myself made a covenant with your fathers in the day that I brought them out of the land of Mitsrayim [Egypt], out of the house of bondage, saying, 14 "At the end of seven years each one should set free his Hebrew brother, who has been sold to him. And when he has served you six years, you shall let him go free from you." But your fathers did not obey Me nor incline their ear. 15 'And you recently turned and did what was right in My eyes, each man proclaiming release to his neighbour. And you made a covenant before Me in the house which is called by My Name.

Netzarenes of Australia WINE Declares the Release Of Vertor Upon Life People

16 'But you turned back and profaned My Name and each one of you took back his male and female slaves, whom he had set free, to their life and brought them into subjection, to be your male and female slaves.' 17 "Therefore thus said , rou have not obeyed Me in proclaiming release, each one to his brother and each one to his neighbour. See, behold I am proclaiming release to you,' declares , 'to the sword, to the pestilence and to the scarcity of food! I shall make you a horror to all reigns of the earth. 18 'And I shall give the men who are transgressing My covenant, who have not established the words of the covenant which they made before Me, when they cut the calf in two and passed between the parts of it: 19 the heads of Yahugah and the heads of Yerushalayim, the eunuchs and the priests and all the people of the land who passed between the parts of the calf. 20 'And I shall give them into the hand of their enemies and into the hand of those who seek their life. And their corpses shall be for food to the birds of the heavens and the beasts of the earth. 21 'And I shall give Tsigqiyahu [Zedekiah] sovereign of Yahugah and his officials into the hand of their enemies and into the hand of those who seek their life and into the hand of the sovereign of Babel's [Babylon's] army that has withdrawn from you. 22 'See, I am commanding,' declares, 'and shall bring them back to this city and they shall fight against it and take it and burn it with fire. And I shall make the cities of Yahudah a ruin without inhabitant.' "



Our reading speaks of the siege of Yerushalayim [Jerusalem] in 588 B.C. with the message of the Navi [Prophet] resulting in his incarceration. **TzidkiYahu** [Zedekiah] the King of Yahudah made a proclamation to free the slaves according to Torah to gain the favour of YHWH while Yerushalayim was under siege from Babylon. It is thought that when the **Mitsrite** [Egyptian] army approached the Nobles thought they were then rescued from the Babylonians and so the master's treacherously recalled their former slaves thinking that now the danger had passed since the Babylonians withdrew temporarily. Though the Torah had instructed them to release slaves in the 7th year & they had made such a Covenant in the house of YHWH they had gone back on it. Therefore, the **Navi** [the Prophet] **YirmeYahu** declared that their treachery against the Covenant of YHWH which freed slaves in the 7th year would come with Judgements by the **sword, pestilence, and famine** because they had not obeyed the Covenant. Let us all remember that the Almighty is not mocked and whatever we sow we will reap.

Netzarim Ketuvim: Colossians 3:12-4:1



Netzarenes of Australia The Character Of The New Men

Qolassim [Colassians] 3: 12 Therefore, as chosen ones of Elohim, set-apart [holy] and beloved, put on compassion, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, and longsuffering, 13 bearing with one another and forgiving each other if anyone has a complaint against another, indeed, as Messiah forgave you so also should you. 14 But above all these put-on love, which is a bond of perfection. 15 And let the peace of messiah rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one Body and be filled with thanks. 16 Let the Word of Messiah dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing with pleasure in your hearts to the Master in psalms and songs of praise and spiritual songs. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the Name of the Master Yeshua [Yahusha], giving thanks to Elohim the Father through Him. 18 Wives, subject yourselves to your own husbands, as is proper in the Master. 19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them. 20 Children, obey your parents in all, for this is well-pleasing to the Master. 21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. 22 Servants, obey your masters according to the flesh in all respects, not with eye service, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing Elohim 23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Master and not to men,



Shaul [Paul] in this passage speaks of the relationship of the New Man in Covenant fellowship with the Almighty and how he should relate to others. A relationship that willingly seeks the benefit of the other using the words like submission which then extents to the Husband whose desire must be to love in its highest form being selfless. Shaul even speaks about bondservants & masters in a way of treating each other that would benefit both as our Torah advocates. This may be very controversial according to the world, but Shaul even likens the believer to a slave of Messiah seeing service to an earthly master as a way to serve the Master of all. May our highest ideal in serving our master also reflect in this type of character that ultimately seeks the benefit of others.

Tehillim: Mizmor [Psalm] 1:1-6



This wondrous Mizmor [Psalm] speaks of the delight of a spiritually happy man who is characterized by his consistent contemplation and internalization of the word of Elohim. When he is spoken of as a tree planted by streams of living waters it suggests the work of another aka Elohim yet there is a genuine responsibility in appropriating the abundant resources that will lead to abundant productivity. Surely this teaches us that one who seeks the ways of Elohim can be rest assured that he will find himself truly blessed knowing that the wicked person's way will surely end in ruin.

Amein! Shavua Tov Aleychem! [a good week unto you all]