

Mishpatim

מִשְׁפָּטִים

“...and they saw the God of Yisra’el. Under His feet was something like a sapphire stone pavement as clear as the sky itself. He did not reach out His hand against these nobles of Yisra’el; on the contrary, they saw God even as they were eating and drinking.” - Exodus 24:10-11

In this week’s Parasha teaching we learn that God gave the Yisra’elites (Israelites) a series of judgements (laws). These laws are called the Mishpatim. This was to bring about righteousness in the people so that they could truly worship God. God desires that His followers are drawn to greater fellowship with Him. In Exodus 24 we see how God revealed Himself to His people and we see His people gazing at God as they fellowshiped with Him.

Focus Passage: Exodus 21:1-24:18

In Exodus 21-23 God gave Moshe a series of judgments called the Mishpatim. God called His people to be righteous and these judgments help us to live righteously. The judgments in Exodus 21 list laws concerning slavery, penalties for injuries, murder, and kidnapping. In Exodus 22 we will read about theft, negligence, borrowing from a neighbor, and financial transactions. They were told not to wrong a stranger for they had been strangers in the land of Egypt.

Pray First

Father God,

We thank You that You are Just. It is only through You that we can live righteously. As we study today’s Scriptures show us how we can live righteously so that we can truly worship You.

In Yeshua’s name we pray,

Amen

Read next

Exodus 21:1 - 24:18

.....

In Exodus 23 we see commands about the festivals and how they were to sacrifice. All of the Mishpatim which we have read are given so that the people of Yisra'el would seek the righteousness of God. By following God's commands we are drawn into a deeper fellowship with Him.

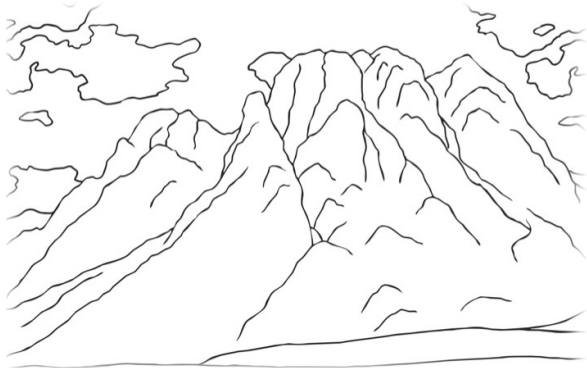


In Exodus 24:2-3 we read that Moshe approached God, but the others were not to approach, and the people were not to go up with Moshe. Moshe told the people everything that God had told him, including all of the rulings. The people answered with one voice, "We will obey every word that God has spoken."

In Exodus 24:4-5 -Moshe wrote down all the words of the Lord. Then he rose early in the morning and built an altar at the base of the mountain and set up 12 large stones to represent the 12 tribes of Yisra'el. In Exodus 24:5-8 Moshe sent the young men of Yisra'el to offer burnt offerings and sacrifice peace offerings of oxen to God.

In Exodus 24:6 Moshe took the blood and put half in basins and sprinkled half on the altar. This is because the blood purifies and sanctifies. It prepares us for service and it represents redemption. In Exodus 24:7 Moshe took the book of the covenant and read it to the people of Yisra'el. Exodus 24:8 tells us that the people responded with, "All which the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will hear." It is as we obey the word of God that we will hear from God. Doing the word of God causes us to hear God's personal instruction for our life.

In Exodus 24:8 Moshe threw the blood on the people and told them that this is the blood of the covenant that God has made with them. This covenant is focused on the word of God. We are learning through these passages that this brings greater intimacy with God. It is through Scripture that the identity and character of God is shown to man. When we are obedient to the Scripture, we will be drawn into a greater intimacy with God.



In Exodus 24:9, Moshe, Aharon, Nedav, Avihu, and the seventy elders went up the mountain of Sinai. In Exodus 24:10 we read, "...and they saw the God of Yisra'el. Under His feet was something like a sapphire stone

pavement as clear as the sky itself. He did not reach out His hand against these nobles of Yisra'el; on the contrary, they saw God, even as they were eating and drinking.” This is one of the few times in Scripture where we see man being able to see God. Yisra'el was obedient to God and the result was an intimacy with God.

God still wants to teach and reveal spiritual insight today just as He did with the leaders of Yisra'el. Obeying the truth of Scripture, just as we have seen Yisra'el do in this Torah portion, will allow us to be drawn closer to God. As the children of Yisra'el entered into a covenantal agreement with God, we have also entered into a covenantal relationship with Yeshua when we seek to follow Him and obey His word.

Torah Quiz

Read the Torah portion (Exodus 21:1 - 24:18) and answer the questions below.

1. How long was the Glory of God on Mount Sinai?
2. How many years were Hebrew slaves to work for their masters before being set free?
3. In Exodus 24, what did Moshe do with the blood from the sacrifices?
4. What three festivals are to be observed by all males appearing before the Lord God?
5. God instructed Moshe to build twelve pillars near the altar. What do those pillars represent?
6. What happens every seventh year to the land?

A Deeper Dive

Pray First

Father God,

We thank You because You give us instructions so that we may have better fellowship with You. Teach us to obey Your word so that others may see Your glory.

In Yeshua's name we pray,
Amen

Read next:

Matthew 5:38 - 42,


Jeremiah 34:8-22; 33:25-26

In Matthew 5:38-42 we read Yeshua's instructions that apply to our lives. Yeshua reminds us that we are to have an eternal perspective and not to look at things the way the world does. In Matthew 5:38-39 we read, "You have heard that our Fathers were told an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I tell you not to stand up against someone who does you wrong. On the contrary, if someone hits you on the right cheek, let him hit you on the left cheek too!" Yeshua is showing us that we are not to expect fairness in this world. We should be concerned about the things that please God and look at things from an eternal perspective.

In Matthew 5:40-42 we read that if someone asks you for something, give it to him, and if someone wants to borrow something, let him. These

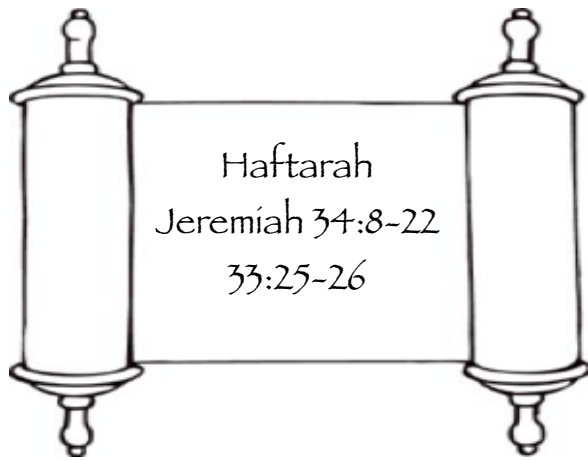
instructions are to remind us to stay Kingdom minded. While we want justice, we are not to seek it for ourselves. It is out of our love for others that we should seek justice. When we apply these instructions to our lives we show the world what is important to us.

The question we should ask ourselves as we reflect on this week's Torah teaching is: "Am I seeking what is right for me, or am I seeking to obey God and His instructions?"



And if a soldier forces you to carry his pack for one mile,
carry it for two!

Matthew 5:41



In this week's Haftarah, Jeremiah describes the punishment for disobeying God's instructions regarding their Hebrew slaves after six years of service. This was directly breaking the commandment that was discussed in Exodus 21:2, "If you purchase a Hebrew slave, he is to work six years; but in the seventh he is to be given his freedom without having to pay anything." The number six represents grace and the number seven represents rest. There was to be a time of rest for the

slaves. The people of Yisra'el in these passages were disobeying God's commands and there are consequences for breaking God's instructions. All of God's commandments are to demonstrate God's character to the world. It is by His grace that He forgives us and frees us from our slavery to sin. After God forgives us we can rest in Him, just as the Hebrew slaves could rest on the seventh year. The believer's rest is an eternal rest, when we have been saved from the slavery of sin. By disobeying God's instructions and not freeing their slaves the Yisra'ites were not demonstrating God's character to the world.

Jeremiah 33:25-26 shows us God's commitment to His covenant. In this passage the Lord says, "If I have not established My covenant with day and night and fixed the laws for

Numbers have meaning!

6 represents Grace

7 represents Rest

sky and earth, then I would also reject the descendants of Ya'akov and My servant David, not choosing from his descendants rulers over the descendants of Avraham, Yitz'chak, and Ya'akov. For I will cause their captives to come back, and I will show them compassion." What God says He will do. He is a covenant keeping God and it is not based on what His people did or did not do. Today let us worship Him for keeping His covenants, and praise Him because His covenant with us is not based on what we do or do not do, but on what Yeshua did for us by paying the penalty for our sins.

Word Search

J	X	G	Y	S	W	T	J	J	M
O	Y	W	L	E	N	M	M	O	D
R	L	A	R	E	M	R	U	R	B
B	V	B	P	W	D	N	P	Z	L
E	E	E	M	A	T	Z	A	H	Y
H	R	X	D	S	N	D	W	E	B
Y	I	Y	I	E	U	T	K	J	T
S	T	N	V	O	Y	N	Z	N	G
J	A	E	L	B	O	J	T	P	D
I	S	C	P	D	G	Z	K	R	D

Slave

Seven

Ox

Hebrew

Matzah

Donkey

Repent

Cloud

Six

Mount Sinai

Exercise Answers

Torah Quiz

1. How long was the Glory of God on Mount Sinai? six days
2. How many years were Hebrew slaves to work for their masters before being set free? six years
3. In Exodus 24, what did Moshe do with the blood from the sacrifices?
half was put in basins and half was splashed against the altar
4. What three festivals are to be observed by all males appearing before the Lord God?
The Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Harvest and the Feast of Ingathering
(Exodus 23:14-17)
5. God instructed Moshe to build twelve pillars near the altar. What do those pillars represent? The Twelve Tribes of Israel
6. What happens every seventh year to the land? the land is to rest and whatever grows is to be left for the poor

Word Search

