

Mishpatim

מִשְׁפָּטִים

Pray First

Father God,

Thank You for giving us everything we need to walk with You. Thank You for Your Appointed Days and Holy Sabbaths that order our lives and help us worship You. Please increase our desire to honor You by aligning our lives with Your judgments. Please help us desire Your Kingdom over this world. In Yeshua's Name we pray.

Amen

Next Read

Exodus 21:1-24:13

“Judgments”

Now these are the judgments which you shall set before them:
Exodus 21:1



In this week's Parasha the people who God physically redeemed by the blood of the lamb out of Egypt had returned to Mount Sinai. God first spoke to Moshe (Moses) on Mount Sinai through the burning bush, revealing His presence in a unique way by making it holy or set apart for His purposes. From the burning bush God explained to Moshe that He would be with him as he spoke to Pharaoh and that when he returned with the people to this holy mountain it would be a sign to him that the purpose of their redemption was to worship and serve Him (Exodus 3:12). When God gathered His redeemed people at Mount Sinai, He revealed His Name, or character, to them, teaching them the way to know, worship and serve Him.

The redeemed people, or the children of Yisra'el (Israel), experienced God in their presence at Mount Sinai as He descended from heaven to earth to speak directly to them. They heard the thunderings and the sound of the trumpet grow louder and louder

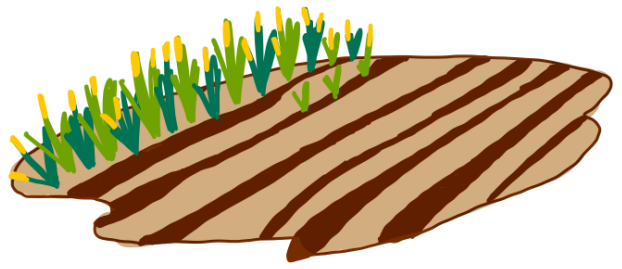
from heaven. They saw the lightning flashes and the mountain smoking before them as they paced back and forth, choosing to stand at a distance. The children of Yisra'el requested that Moshe speak to them instead of God. They understood from this experience that no gods of silver or gold would be needed to hear God's voice or to worship Him. They also understood that no forms of worship would be accepted by Him that He had not established.

After God clearly demonstrated Who He was and what He expected from His people, He spoke to Moshe, giving him all His judgments. If the people agreed to do all the judgments, or the will of God, then they would hear from Him what to do next. It is only when we obey God, that we hear from Him as He provides direction for our lives. Since the people had obeyed God's instruction for the only way to be redeemed from Egypt, they were able to hear all the words of the LORD. They were united and responded with one voice saying that they would do all the words the LORD had said. If the people continued to obey God, then He would continue speak to them and lead them.

Moshe wrote all the words God spoke down and the next morning he rose early and built an altar at the foot of Mount Sinai to worship God. He built the altar with twelve pillars to represent the twelve tribes of Yisra'el. He sent young men to offer burnt offerings and sacrifice peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. He took half the blood and put it in basins and half he sprinkled on the altar. He read the words from God that he had written in the Book of the Covenant for all the people to hear. Once again, all the people responded, saying: "All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient." Moshe then took the blood he had collected in the basins and sprinkled it on the people as he said: "Behold, the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you according to all these words."

~ Focus Passage of Scripture ~

Exodus 23:10-25



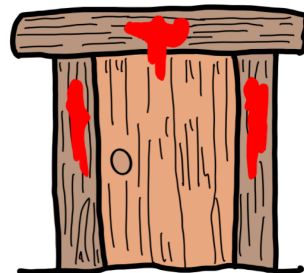
This week's focus passage of Scripture took place at Mt. Sinai after God had given Moshe His judgments concerning the people's rights, property rights, the people's conduct and proper justice. After God gave Moshe all His judgments, He instructed him to teach them to His people. If the redeemed people of God lived their lives according to His judgments, they would fulfill His purpose for them. God's purpose for restoring His people to Him through redemption is to give them freedom to worship, serve and obey Him!

In Exodus 23:10-11 we learn that God commanded His people to plant crops of the fields, vineyards and olive groves in the land of promise every year for six consecutive years. However, in the seventh year, or Sabbath year, they were not to work the ground by planting crops so that the land could rest. In the Sabbath year God would cause an abundance of food to grow naturally in order to feed the poor people among them. After the poor had gathered all they needed from the land, there would be enough left over to feed the beasts of the field. This method of farming the land would provide food for all God's people and animals. It would also give the land God created freedom to obey and serve Him while serving His purposes.

In Exodus 23:12-13 we learn that the seventh day each week was set apart by God for a day of rest. From the time of creation God created and set the seventh day apart for the purpose of fellowship with Him! It is a time when we are commanded to turn our focus away from the daily burdens of the world and concentrate on spending time with God. When we obey this judgment of God we can clearly hear from Him as He speaks to us. The seventh day, or the Sabbath day, was not only a day of rest for the redeemed people of God but also for work animals, servants and any strangers among them. The weekly Sabbath is set apart by God to restore and refresh His creation. When the redeemed people of God set this day apart each week, it is a testimony to the world acknowledging that God alone is our source of protection and provision for the previous six days or our time spent in this world. It also testifies to the world our complete dependence upon God alone for the upcoming week or for our future existence. Remember, in the Bible the number seven means set apart for the purposes of God!

In Exodus 23:14-17 we learn that God commanded all those He redeemed out of Egypt by the blood of the lamb to keep a feast to Him three times each year. He commanded that these feasts be held as a means to worship Him for saving them and preparing a future home for them, for protecting them and being with them at all times and for sustaining and providing for them continually along their journey.

God commanded that every male among His redeemed people appear before Him at the place He caused His Name to dwell during these appointed times. For this reason these three feasts of God are often called pilgrimage feasts. No matter where one lived in the land of promise they were to travel to the place of God's choice to worship Him during the three pilgrimage feasts. No one could appear before the LORD God empty handed or without bringing the appropriate gift or sacrifice because the LORD God had provided great riches for His people when they left Egypt.





The first pilgrimage feast would occur in the springtime each year. This feast would be celebrated to honor God for redeeming the people from bondage and preparing a future home for them. God called this feast the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

The second pilgrimage feast would occur in the summer each year at the end of the harvest of first fruits. This feast would be called the Feast of Harvest and it would honor God for making His people one with Him, allowing them to hear His voice that would guide them and teach them all truth about His Character and His Kingdom.



The third feast would occur in the fall of each year at the end of the second harvest, and it would be called the Feast of Ingathering. This feast would honor God for supplying all their needs and being the One they could completely depend upon for all things.

In Exodus 23:18 we learn that God commanded His physically redeemed people never offer the blood of His sacrifice with leavened bread nor are they ever to allow the fat of God's sacrifice to remain until the morning. Bread that has leaven in it is not flat due to the leaven, or yeast, in it which causes it to rise and become plump. In the Bible leaven represents the sin of pride. An animal that was sacrificed from the herd of a redeemed person served as a reminder of the substitution for death that God accepted in order for them to live. The people were to give this offering to God for the purpose of worshipping Him. If the people offered the blood of the sacrifice to exalt themselves, they were offering it with leaven, or from a place of pride. God does not accept this form of worship! Also, God places great value on and cares for the animals that He created, and it devalues this sacrifice of life and dishonors Him to leave the fat of a blood sacrifice until the morning.



In Exodus 23:19 we learn that God commanded His redeemed people to bring the first fruits of their land into the house of the LORD God. Bringing the first fruit offering to the LORD allowed the people to demonstrate their faith and anticipation that they were guaranteed an abundant final harvest.

We also learn in this verse of Scripture that God forbids boiling a young goat in its mother's milk. This custom was practiced by those who could not worship, or serve, the LORD God because they had not been redeemed by Him. It was practiced to worship false gods. Anything that has been used to worship false gods, or idols, should never be used to serve or worship the LORD God. Also, that which was given by God to sustain life, like milk, should never be used for the purpose of taking a life or causing life not to occur. Any practices related to this type of lifestyle are in opposition to God's purposes and plans for His creation and will be harshly judged by Him!

"But if you indeed obey His voice and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an opponent to your opponents.

For My Messenger will go before you and bring you in to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites and the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will destroy each one of them.

You shall not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do according to their works; but you shall utterly destroy them and completely break down their sacred pillars. So you shall serve the LORD your God, and He will bless your bread and your waters. And He will take disease away from the midst of you." Exodus 23:22-24

In Exodus 23:20-21 God proclaimed that He would send His Messenger to go before His physically redeemed people to keep them in the Way and bring them into the place which He prepared for them. God made it very clear to Moshe that the people needed to guard themselves in order to obey His Messenger and not provoke Him because He would not pardon their sins. God's Messenger is Holy because God's Name or Character is in Him!

In Exodus 23:22-23 we learn that God promised He will be an enemy to their enemies and an opponent to their opponents if they are careful to obey the voice of His Messenger and do all that He speaks through Him. God promised that His Messenger will go before His redeemed people and destroy each one of their enemies!

Finally we learn in Exodus 23:24-25 that God commands His redeemed people to never bow down to the unredeemed people's gods, never serve them and never live their lives in the same way that the unredeemed people live. Rather, they are to completely destroy them and tear down their places of worship to false gods. God commands His redeemed people to worship Him only, so that He will bless them everyday and take all diseases away from them.

Directions: Reveal Who the Messenger is by unscrambling the letters below each blank to complete each statement.

1. _____ promised to send His Messenger to His redeemed people to keep them in the Way and deliver them to
oGd the place He has prepared for them.

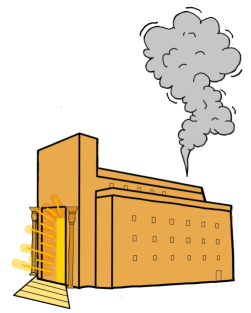
2. God's redeemed people must be careful to hear and obey all _____ words God speaks through His Messenger.
het

3. God's Messenger is set apart or _____ because God's Name or character is in Him.
oHly

4. An angel is often referred to as a _____.
tiiprS

Haftarah

Jeremiah 34:8-22, 33:23-26



Yirmeyahu (Jeremiah) was a prophet of God or someone who spoke the words of truth he received from Him. God sent Yirmeyahu to speak His words of truth to King Zedekiah of Judah when King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon and all his army, along with all the kingdoms of the earth under his dominion, fought against Zedekiah in Jerusalem.

God had given Nebuchadnezzar victory in the land of Judah and only three fortified cities remained intact. God did this because His people living in the land of promise refused to obey His judgments. This harsh discipline from God caused King Zedekiah, the princes of Judah, the princes of Jerusalem, the eunuchs, the priests and all the people of the land to repent, or change their behavior, by doing what was right in His sight. They assembled together and cut a covenant with God, walking between the pieces of a sacrificed calf, vowing to give freedom to their fellow Hebrew slaves (Exodus 21:1-11).

However, after this covenant was cut and God turned Nebuchadnezzar away, the people changed their minds! As soon as they got what they wanted from God they enslaved their fellow Hebrew servants again! They had offered the blood of the sacrifice with leaven or only for the purpose of getting what they wanted! This meant they lied to God the Holy Spirit, Who dwelt in the House of God in a unique way. This prideful sin and refusal to proclaim freedom for the enslaved provoked God not to pardon them! For this reason God caused Nebuchadnezzar and his armies to return to Jerusalem, fight against it, conquer it and burn it with fire making it a desolation that would no longer sustain life.

The LORD God vowed to justly punish all those who had lied to Him by allowing them to be killed by the sword, pestilence and famine with no place to run or hide! He proclaimed that their dead bodies would be food for the birds of heaven and the beasts of the earth. He commanded Yirmeyahu to inform Zedekiah that he would be taken into captivity in Babylon where he too would die.

When the redeemed people of God are convicted of their sin and humbly correct their behavior, being careful to guard themselves to hear and obey His voice, God is faithful to forgive them. However, when the redeemed people of God are insincere and only agree with God to get what they want, they provoke God the Holy Spirit and will be held accountable for their sins! This insincere form of worship is not acceptable or pleasing to God.

Because of God's punishment of sin among His physically redeemed people, the nation of Yisra'el, many have despised them and said that He has cast both Yisra'el and Judah out. However, this is what the LORD God has said:

"If My covenant is not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth, then I will cast away the descendants of Ya'kov (Jacob) and David My servant, so that I will not take any of his descendants to be rulers over the the descendants of Avraham (Abraham), Yitzchak (Isaac), and Ya'kov.

For I will cause their captives to return, and will have mercy on them." Jeremiah 33:25-26

No matter how great their sin God will always preserve a remnant from the descendants of Ya'kov or Yisra'el, who He physically redeemed out of Egypt by the blood of the lamb, in order to fulfill His will and purposes for His creation!

New Testament

Acts 5:1-11



Following the Miraculous birth, life, death and resurrection of Messiah Yeshua, God's One and Only Begotten Son, anyone who trusts in His work of redemption on the tree receives the free gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit! When a person receives this gift from God, they are sealed to receive eternal life in the Kingdom of God.

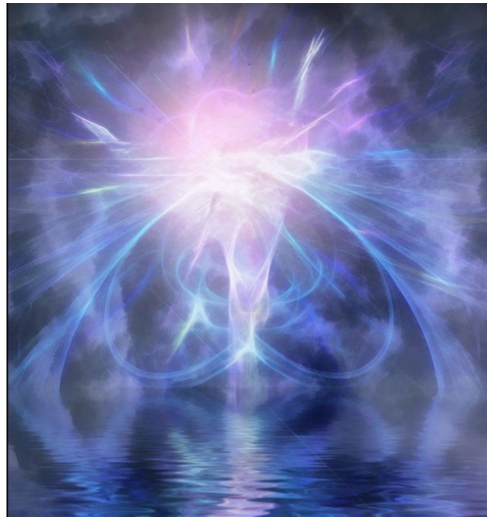
God the Holy Spirit Who lives inside all those who have been spiritually redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb of God, Messiah Yeshua, goes with each redeemed person wherever they go. He never leaves them, and He leads them into all truth or the Way of righteousness during their life on earth. When they die, He brings them into the place Messiah Yeshua has prepared for them in heaven because Messiah Yeshua's Name or character is in Him.

All spiritually redeemed people of God must guard themselves to obey God's voice spoken to them by the Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit within the believer is very powerful and can destroy each enemy of God. He convicts the spiritually redeemed people of God when they sin, and He will hold them accountable if they lie to Him! It is very important to understand and submit to the order and power of God the Holy Spirit and be careful not to provoke Him.

This week's New Testament passage of Scripture took place after Messiah Yeshua completed His work of redemption on the tree, and a certain man named Ananias, who had been spiritually redeemed by God along with his wife Sapphira, sold a parcel of land. Ananias kept part of the money he received from the sale of his land for himself and brought the remainder to the apostles as a donation to support their service to God furthering the work of Messiah Yeshua. Although Ananias had kept a portion of the proceeds for himself, he presented his gift as being the full amount he received from the sale of his property. Perhaps, he wanted to appear to the apostles that he trusted in God to provide for all of his needs but felt uncertain this was really true, holding a sum back for himself. This behavior demonstrated insincere worship of God! Ananias did not have to give any or all of the proceeds from the land to the apostles. However, his priority was focused on himself rather than on God. Peter, who was the leader of the apostles, questioned Ananias asking him why he had allowed Satan to fill his heart causing him to pridefully lie to the Holy Spirit within him. Peter told him that he had not lied to man but he had lied to God! Although no sin could separate Ananias from eternal life with God because he had been redeemed by the perfect Blood of Messiah Yeshua, God held him accountable for the sin he had committed against the Holy Spirit. Ananias immediately fell down and died! Great fear came upon all those who heard what had happened! This type of fear taught believers the importance of giving God the top priority in their lives.

About three hours later, Sapphira came in not knowing what had happened to her husband. Peter asked her if the parcel of land had been sold for the amount her husband had donated. Sapphira, who had full knowledge of what her husband had done, also lied by saying that the amount her husband donated was the total amount he received for the parcel of land. Peter then spoke to Sapphira asking her how it was that the two of them had agreed together to test the Spirit of the LORD. He informed her to look because the feet of the men who had buried her husband for lying to God were at the door and would carry her out also. She immediately fell down and died just as her husband had.

God the Holy Spirit



When the news about the order and power of God the Holy Spirit traveled to all the spiritually redeemed people of God, everyone was fearful and gave God the Holy Spirit the priority in their lives that He deserves. Because the Character and Name of Messiah Yeshua is in Him, it is very important not to provoke God the Holy Spirit! It is very important for a believer to listen to His voice and obey His teaching.

Directions: Find the following Scripture verses in your Bible to correctly fill in the blanks of the following statements.

(NKJV used for Scripture references below)

1. (Genesis 1:2) God the Holy Spirit responded to the Word of God and powerfully brought _____ into creation.
2. (Exodus 3:2) God the Holy Spirit _____ against destruction by fire.
3. (Exodus 23:20) God the Holy Spirit _____ the redeemed people of God in the Way and _____ them into the place He prepares for them.
4. (Exodus 23:22-23) When God's people _____ the voice of God the Holy Spirit, their enemies will be destroyed before them.
5. (Acts 2:38) In order to receive the indwelling gift of God the Holy Spirit, one must first _____ and trust in the Name of Messiah Yeshua.
6. (John 14:16-20) When one trusts in the Name of Messiah Yeshua for redemption, God the Holy Spirit dwells _____ them and _____ them, uniting them with God.
7. (John 14:26) God the Holy Spirit, Whom God the Father sends in the Name of God the Son, _____ the believer all truth.

~Recap Review Quiz ~

Directions: Fill in the blank using the word bank below.

1. God's purpose for restoring His people to Him through redemption is to give them _____ to worship, serve and obey Him.
2. When the people of God allowed the land to rest in the seventh year, the land was free to _____ and _____ God.
3. When God's people rest on the weekly Sabbath, they demonstrate their _____ in and _____ on God.
4. The Feast of Unleavened Bread honors God for _____ His people and providing a _____ for them.
5. The Feast of Harvest honors God for guiding His people, allowing them to hear His voice in order to teach them His truth, making them one with _____.
6. The Feast of Ingathering honors God for being the One His people can _____ on for all their needs.
7. Offering bread with leaven in it with a blood sacrifice represents an offering given to God to _____ oneself.
8. The first fruits offering is an offering of _____ in God's ability to provide an abundant harvest.
9. The people of God are never to _____ other gods or serve them!
10. When God's people humbly repent of their sin, He is faithful to _____ them.
11. God will always preserve a remnant from the _____ of Ya'kov, because He has vowed to fulfill His will and purposes for His creation through them.
12. When the news of the order and power of God the Holy Spirit was understood all believers were fearful, and gave Him the _____ He deserves!

Word Bank

Descendants

Forgive

Faith

Future

Dependence

Obey

Depend

Freedom

Trust

Exalt

Priority

Worship

Serve

Redeeming

Him

