

Mishpatim
“Judgments”

Torah: Exodus 21:1-24:18
Haftarah: Jeremiah 33:25-26 & 34:8-22
Brit Chadasha: Matthew 5:38-42; 15:1-20; Mark 7:1-23; Acts 23:1-11;
Hebrews 9:15-22, 10:28-39

All verses are from the Tree of Life Bible

TORAH:

Exodus 21

Ordinances for the Covenant

- 1 “Now these are the ordinances which you will set before them.
- 2 “If you buy a Hebrew servant, he is to serve for six years, and in the seventh he is to go free, without payment.
- 3 If he comes in by himself, he is to go out by himself. If he was married, then his wife will go out with him.
- 4 If his master gave him a wife, and she bears him sons or daughters, the wife and her children will be her master’s, and he will go free by himself.
- 5 “ But if the servant plainly states, ‘I love my master, my wife and my children, and I will not go out free,’
- 6 then his master is to bring him to God, then take him to a door or to a doorpost. His master is to pierce his ear through with an awl, and he will serve him forever.
- 7 “If a man sells his daughter to be a maidservant, she is not to go free as the male servants do.
- 8 If she does not please her master who has selected her for himself, then he is to allow her to be redeemed. He will have no power to sell her to a foreign people, seeing as he has dealt deceitfully toward her.

9 If he betroths her to his son, he must give her the rights of a daughter.

10 If he takes another wife, he is not to diminish her food, her clothing, or her marriage rights.

11 If he does not provide these three to her, then she is to go free without payment.

12 "Whoever strikes a man so that he dies must surely be put to death.

13 But if he did not hunt him down, yet God caused it to happen, then I will appoint for you a place where he may run.

14 If a man presumes to kill his neighbor with craftiness, you are to take him from My altar and put him to death.

15 "Anyone who strikes his father or his mother must surely be put to death.

16 "Anyone who steals a person and sells him, or is found with him under his hand, must surely be put to death.

17 "Whoever curses his father or his mother must surely be put to death.

18 "If people quarrel, and one strikes the other with a stone or with his fist, and the other does not die but lies in bed,

19 if he rises again and walks around on his staff, then the one that struck him he will be cleared. But he must pay for the loss of his time and help him to be thoroughly healed.

20 "If a man strikes his male or female servant with a staff, who dies by his hand, he must surely be punished.

21 Notwithstanding, if the servant gets up in a day or two he will not be punished, for he is his property.

22 "If men fight, and hit a pregnant woman so that her child is born early, yet no harm follows, the one who hit her is to be strictly fined, according to what the woman's husband demands of him. He must pay as the judges determine.

23 But if any harm follows, then you are to penalize life for life,

24 eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot,

25 burn for burn, wound for wound, blow for blow.

26 "If a man strikes the eye of his male or female slave and destroys it, he must let him go free for the sake of his eyesight.

27 If he strikes out his slave's tooth, he must let him go free for the sake of his tooth.

28 “If an ox gores a man or a woman so that they die, the ox must surely be stoned, and its meat is not to be eaten, but the owner of the ox will be cleared.

29 If the ox was given to goading in times past, and a warning has been given to its owner, yet he has not kept it pent up, and it has killed a man or a woman, then the ox must be stoned and its owner must also be put to death.

30 If instead a ransom is placed on him, then he is to pay for the redemption of his life whatever is demanded.

31 Whether it has gored a son or daughter, this rule is to be applied to him.

32 If the ox gores a male or female slave, he is to pay 30 shekels of silver to their master, and the ox is to be stoned.

33 “If one uncovers a pit or digs a pit and does not cover it, and an ox or a donkey falls in,

34 the owner of the pit must pay compensation. He is to give money to the owner, and the dead animal will be his.

35 “If one man’s ox hurts another’s ox so that it dies, they are to sell the live ox and divide the price. They are also to divide the dead one.

36 Or if it becomes known that the ox was given to violence in times past, and its owner has not kept it pent up, he must surely pay ox for ox, and the dead animal will be his own.

37 If a man steals an ox or a sheep, and kills it or sells it, he is to pay five oxen for one ox or four sheep for one sheep.

Exodus 22

1 “If a thief found breaking in is struck so that he dies, there is no bloodguilt for him.

2 But if the sun has risen, there is bloodguilt, and he is to make full restitution. If he has nothing, then he must be sold for his theft.

3 If the item is found in his hand alive—whether ox, donkey or sheep—he is to pay double.

4 “If a man causes a field or vineyard to be eaten by letting his animal loose, and it feeds in another man’s field, then he is to make restitution from the best of his own field and the best of his own vineyard.

5 “If fire breaks out and spreads among thorns, so that stalks of grain, standing grain or the fields themselves are consumed, then the one who lit the fire must make full restitution.

6 “If a man entrusts his neighbor with money or items for safekeeping, and it is stolen out of the man’s house, when the thief is found, he must pay double.

7 If the thief is not found, then the master of the house is to present himself to God, to see whether he has laid his hand on his neighbor’s goods.

8 For any transgression—whether ox, donkey, sheep, clothing, or anything else lost—when someone says, ‘This is mine!’ the case of both parties is to be brought before God. The one whom God convicts is to pay double to his neighbor.

9 “If a man entrusts his neighbor with a donkey, ox, sheep or any animal to care for, and it dies, is hurt or taken away with no one seeing,

10 then there must be an oath before *Adonai* between the two of them, to determine whether or not he has laid his hand on his neighbor’s goods. The owner is to accept it with no restitution.

11 But if indeed it was stolen from him, he is to make restitution to the owner.

12 If it is torn in pieces, let him bring it as evidence. He is not required to pay for what has been torn to pieces.

13 “If a man borrows anything belonging to his neighbor, and it is harmed or dies in the absence of the owner, he must make full restitution.

14 But if the owner is present, he is not required to pay restitution. If it was rented, it is covered by the rental fee.

15 “If a man seduces a virgin who is not engaged, and lies with her, he must pay a dowry for her to be his wife.

16 But if her father utterly refuses to give her to him, he must weigh out silver equal to the dowry for virgins.

17 “You must not permit a sorceress to live.

18 “Anyone who lies with an animal must surely be put to death.

19 “Anyone who sacrifices to the gods, except to *Adonai* alone, is to be put under a ban of destruction.

20 “You must not exploit or oppress an outsider, for you were outsiders in the land of Egypt.

21 “You must not mistreat any widow or orphan.

22 If you mistreat them in any way, and they cry out to Me, I will surely hear their cry.

23 My wrath will burn hot, and I will kill you with the sword. So your wives will become widows and your children will become orphans.

24 “If you lend money to any of My people, to the poor among you, you are not to act like a debt collector with him, and you are not to charge him interest.

25 If you ever take your neighbor’s cloak as a pledge, you are to return it to him before the sun goes down,

26 for that is his only covering, his cloak for his skin. What will he sleep in? When he cries out to Me I will hear, because I am gracious.

27 “Do not despise God, or curse a ruler of your people.

28 “Do not hold back the fullness of your crops or your vintage. You are to present the firstborn of your sons to Me.

29 “Do the same with your cattle and with your sheep. For seven days it is to be with its mother, and on the eighth day you are to give it to Me.

30 “You are to be a holy people for Me. You must not eat any flesh torn by beasts in the field. You may throw it out to the dogs.

Exodus 23

1 “Do not to spread a false report. Do not join hands with the wicked by becoming a malicious witness.

2 “Do not follow a crowd to do evil. Nor are you to testify in a case, to follow a crowd and pervert justice.

3 On the other hand, nor should you takes sides with a poor man in his case.

4 “If you find your enemy’s ox or his donkey going astray, you must surely bring it back to him again.

5 If you see the donkey of the one that hates you lying down under its burden, do not leave it. Rather, you are to release it with him.

6 “You are not to pervert justice to your poor in his dispute.

7 Stay far away from a false charge. Do not kill the innocent and the righteous, for I will not justify the guilty.

8 Take no bribe, for a bribe blinds those who have sight, and perverts the words of the righteous.

9 “Do not oppress an outsider, for you know the heart of an outsider, since you were outsiders in the land of Egypt.

10 “For six years you are to sow your land and gather the increase.

11 But during the seventh year you are to let it rest and lie fallow, so that the poor among your people may eat. Whatever they leave behind, the animals of the field may eat. You are to deal with your vineyard and your olive grove in the same way.

12 “ You are to do your work for six days, but on the seventh day you will rest, so that your ox and your donkey may have rest, and also the son of your handmaid and the outsider may be refreshed.

13 “With all the things that I have said to you, take heed. Make no mention of the names of other gods, and do not let them be heard in your mouth.

Three Harvest Festivals

14 “Three times in the year you are to celebrate a festival for Me.

15 You are to observe the Feast of Matzot. For seven days you will eat *matzot* as I commanded you, at the time appointed in the month Aviv, for that is when you came out from Egypt. No one is to appear before Me empty-handed.

16 Also you are to observe the Feast of Harvest, the firstfruits of your labors that you sow in the field, as well as the Feast of the Ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather your crops from the field.

17 Three times in the year all your men are to appear before *Adonai Elohim*.

18 “Do not offer the blood of My sacrifice with *hametz*. Nor is the fat of My feast to remain out all night until the morning.

19 Bring the choicest firstfruits of your land into the House of *Adonai* your God.

“Do not boil a kid in its mother’s milk.

20 “Behold, I am sending an angel before you, to guard you on the way and to bring you into the place that I have prepared.

21 Watch for Him and listen to His voice. Do not rebel against Him because He will not pardon your transgression, for My Name is in Him.

22 But if you listen closely to His voice, and do everything I say, I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.

23 For My angel will go before you, and bring you to the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hivites and the Jebusites, and I will cut them off.

24 You are not to bow down to their gods or serve them, or do what they do. Rather, you are to utterly overthrow them, and break their pillars in pieces.

25 You are to serve *Adonai* your God, and He will bless your food and your water. Moreover I will take sickness away from your midst.

26 None will miscarry nor be barren in your land, and I will fill up the number of your days.

27 “I will send My terror before you and throw all the people to whom you will come into panic, and make all your enemies turn their backs to you.

28 I will send the hornet before you, which will drive out the Hivites, the Canaanites and the Hittites, from before you.

29 I will not drive them out from before you in a single year. Otherwise the land would become desolate, and the animals of the field will multiply against you.

30 But little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you are fruitful. Then you will possess the land.

31 “I will set your border from the Sea of Reeds to the sea of the Philistines, and from the wilderness to the Euphrates River. For I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you are to drive them out before you.

32 Make no covenant with them or with their gods.

33 They must not dwell in your land and cause you to sin against Me, for if you worship their gods, they will be a snare to you.”

Exodus 24

Cutting the Covenant at Sinai

1 Then to Moses He said, “Come up to *Adonai*, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel, and worship from afar.

2 Moses alone is to approach *Adonai*, but the others may not draw near, nor are the people to go up with him.”

3 So Moses came and told the people all the words of *Adonai* as well as all the ordinances. All the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words which *Adonai* has spoken, we will do.”

4 So Moses wrote down all the words of *Adonai*, then rose up early in the morning, and built an altar below the mountain, along with twelve pillars for the twelve tribes of Israel.

5 He then sent out young men of *Bnei-Yisrael*, who sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings of oxen to *Adonai*.

6 Then Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins and the other half he poured out against the altar.

7 He took the Scroll of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. Again they said, "All that *Adonai* has spoken, we will do and obey."

8 Then Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant, which *Adonai* has cut with you, in agreement with all these words."

9 Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up.

10 They saw the God of Israel, and under His feet was something like a pavement of sapphire, as clear as the very heavens.

11 Yet He did not raise His hand against the nobles of *Bnei-Yisrael*. So they beheld God, and ate and drank.

12 Then *Adonai* said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and stay there, and I will give you the tablets of stone with the *Torah* and the *mitzvot*, which I have written so that you may instruct them."

13 So Moses rose up along with his attendant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God.

14 To the elders he said, "Wait for us here until we come back to you. See, Aaron and Hur are with you—whoever has a dispute should go to them."

15 When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it.

16 The glory of *Adonai* settled upon Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days. Then on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud.

17 The appearance of the glory of *Adonai* was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of *Bnei-Yisrael*.

18 So Moses entered into the midst of the cloud and went up onto the mountain. Moses was on the mountain 40 days and 40 nights.

HAFTARAH

Jeremiah 33:25-26

25 Thus says *Adonai*: “If I have not made My covenant of day and night firm, and the fixed patterns ordering the heavens and earth,
26 only then would I reject the offspring of Jacob, and of My servant David so that I would not take from his offspring rulers over the offspring of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. For I will restore them from their exile, and have compassion on them.”

Jeremiah 34:8-22

8 The word that came to Jeremiah from *Adonai*, after King Zedekiah had made a covenant with all the people that were at Jerusalem, to proclaim liberty to them,
9 so that everyone should let his manservant and his maidservant—Hebrew man or Hebrew woman—go free, so that no one should make a slave of a Jew, his brother.

10 So all the princes and all the people obeyed, who had entered into the covenant, that everyone would free his manservant and his maidservant and not make them slaves any more—they obeyed, and freed them.

11 But afterward they turned around and made the servants and the handmaids, whom they had let go free, return, and brought them back into subjection as servants and as handmaids.”

12 So the word of *Adonai* came to Jeremiah from *Adonai*, saying,

13 thus says *Adonai*, the God of Israel: “I made a covenant with your fathers in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage, saying:

14 ‘At the end of seven years you are to set free every man his brother that is a Hebrew who has been sold to you and has served you six years; you are to let him go free from you.’ But your fathers did not obey Me, nor inclined their ear.

15 Now you had repented, and had done that which is right in My eyes, by proclaiming liberty everyone to his neighbor. You even had made a covenant before Me in the House where My Name is called.

16 But you turned around and profaned My Name, and made everyone his servant and his handmaid, whom you had let go free at their will, return, and you brought them back into subjection, to be your servants and handmaids.”

17 Therefore thus says *Adonai*: “You have not obeyed Me, to proclaim liberty, everyone to his brother and everyone to his neighbor. Behold, I proclaim for you a liberty,” declares *Adonai*, “to the sword, to plague and to famine! So I will make you a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth.

18 I will give the men who have transgressed My covenant, who have not performed the words of the covenant which they made before Me, when they cut the calf in two and passed between its parts

19 —the princes of Judah and the princes of Jerusalem, the officers, the *kohanim*, and all the people of the land who passed between the parts of the calf—

20 I will even give them into the hand of their enemies and into the hand of them who seek their life, and their dead bodies will be for food to the birds of the sky and to the beasts of the earth.

21 King Zedekiah of Judah and his princes I will give into the hand of their enemies and into the hand of them who seek their life, and into the hand of the king of Babylon’s army, who were withdrawing from you.

22 Indeed, I will command,” declares *Adonai*, “and cause them to return to this city. They will fight against it, capture it, and burn it down with fire; and I will make the cities of Judah a wasteland, with no one living.”

BRIT CHADASHA

Matthew 5:38-42

Overcoming Evil with Good

38 “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’

39 But I tell you, do not resist an evildoer. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn to him also the other.

40 And the one wanting to sue you and to take your shirt, let him also have your coat.

41 Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two.

42 Give to the one who asks of you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

Matthew 15:1-20

Drash on the Mountain

1 Now when *Yeshua* saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain. And after He sat down, His disciples came to Him.

2 And He opened His mouth and began to teach them, saying,

3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

5 “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall be shown mercy.

8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

10 “Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me.

12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great! For in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Called to Be Salt and Light

13 “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt should lose its flavor, how shall it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.

14 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on a lampstand so it gives light to all in the house.

16 In the same way, let your light shine before men so they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Filling the Law to the Fullest

17 “Do not think that I came to abolish the *Torah* or the Prophets! I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill.

18 Amen, I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or serif shall ever pass away from the *Torah* until all things come to pass.

19 Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever keeps and teaches them, this one shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness exceeds that of the Pharisees and *Torah* scholars, you shall never enter the kingdom of heaven!

Mark 7:1-23

Hearts Harden

1 Now the Pharisees and some of the *Torah* scholars who had come from Jerusalem gathered around *Yeshua*.

2 And they saw that some of His disciples were eating bread with unclean hands, that is, not washed.

3 (For the Pharisees and all Jewish people do not eat unless they wash their hands up to the elbow, keeping the tradition of the elders.

4 And when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they perform a ritual washing. There are many other traditions they have received and hold, such as the washing of cups, pitchers, copper vessels.)

5 The Pharisees and *Torah* scholars questioned *Yeshua*, “Why don’t Your disciples walk according to the tradition of the elders? Why do they eat bread with unwashed hands?”

6 And He said to them, “Rightly did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors Me with their lips but their heart is far from Me.

7 And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’

8 Having left behind the commandment of God, you hold on to the tradition of men.”

9 He was also telling them, “You set aside the commands of God, in order that you may validate your own tradition.

10 For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘He who speaks evil of father or mother must be put to death.’

11 But you say if anyone tells his father or mother, ‘Whatever you might have gained from me is *korban* (that is, an offering to God),’

12 then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother,

13 making void the word of God with your tradition that you’ve handed down. And you do many such things.”

14 Then *Yeshua* called the crowd again and began saying to them, “Hear Me, everyone, and understand.

15 There is nothing outside the man that can make him unholy by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of the man that makes the man unholy.”

16 [footnote: Some mss. Add: *If any man has ears to hear, let him hear.*]

17 When He had left the crowd and entered the house, His disciples questioned Him about the parable.

18 And He said to them, “Are you then also lacking understanding? Don’t you grasp that whatever goes into the man cannot make him unholy?

19 For it does not enter into the heart but into the stomach, and then goes out into the sewer, cleansing all foods.”

20 And He continued, “It is what comes out of the man that makes the man unholy.

21 For from within, out of the heart of men, come evil intentions, sexual immorality, theft, murder,

22 adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustfulness, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness.

23 All these evil things come from within and make the man unholy.”

Acts 23:1-11

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Hebrews 9:15-22

15 For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, in order that those called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—since a death has taken place that redeems them from violations under the first covenant.

16 For where there is a covenant, the death of the one who made it must be established.

17 For a covenant is secured upon the basis of dead bodies, since it has no strength as long as the one who made it lives.

18 That is why not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood.

19 For when every commandment had been spoken by Moses to all the people according to the *Torah*, he took the blood of the calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and he sprinkled both the book itself and all the people.

20 He said, “This is the blood of the covenant which God commanded you.”

21 And in the same way, he sprinkled the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry with the blood.

22 And nearly everything is purified in blood according to the *Torah*, and apart from the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Hebrews 10:28-39

28 Anyone who rejected the *Torah* of Moses dies without compassion on the word of two or three witnesses.

29 How much more severe do you think the punishment will be for the one who has trampled *Ben-Elohim* underfoot, and has regarded as unholy the blood of the covenant by which he was made holy, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?

30 For we know the One who said, "Vengeance is Mine; I will repay," and again, "Adonai will judge His people."

31 It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Suffering Perfects *Yeshua's* Followers

32 But remember the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a great struggle with sufferings.

33 Sometimes you were publicly exposed to abuses and afflictions, and other times you became partners with those who were treated this way.

34 For you suffered along with the prisoners and joyfully accepted the plundering of your possessions, knowing that you have for yourselves a better and lasting possession.

35 Therefore, do not lose your boldness, which has great reward.

36 For you need perseverance so that, after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.

37 For yet "in a very little while, the Coming One will come, and He will not delay.

38 But My righteous one shall live by *emunah*; and if he shrinks back, My soul takes no pleasure in him."

39 But we are not among the timid ones on the path to destruction, but among the faithful ones on the path to the preservation of the soul.