

**Shoftim**  
**“Judges”**

**Torah:** Deuteronomy 16:18 – 21:9  
**Haftarah:** Isaiah 51:12 – 52:12  
**Brit Chadasha:** Acts 3:13-26, 7:35-53, 1 Corinthians 5:9-13,  
1 Timothy 5:17-22, Hebrews 10:28-31

**All verses are from the Tree of Life Bible**

**TORAH:**

**Deuteronomy 16:18**

*Judges Appointed*

18 “Judges and officers you are to appoint within all your gates that *Adonai* your God is giving you, according to your tribes; and they are to judge the people with righteous judgment.

19 You are not to twist justice—you must not show partiality or take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and distorts the words of the righteous.

20 Justice, justice you must pursue, so that you may live and possess the land that *Adonai* your God is giving you.

21 You are not to plant for yourself an Asherah pole of any kind of wood beside the altar of *Adonai* your God that you make for yourself.

22 Nor are you to set up a pillar for yourself—*Adonai* your God hates this.

**Deuteronomy 17**

*Investigations and Witnesses*

1 “You are not to sacrifice to *Adonai* your God a bull or a sheep that has a defect or anything bad—for that would be an abomination to *Adonai* your God.

2 Suppose there is found in your midst—within one of your gates that *Adonai* your God is giving you—a man or woman who does what is evil in the eyes of *Adonai* your God by transgressing His covenant.

3 This person goes and serves other gods and worships them—the sun or moon or any of the heavenly host, which I have not commanded.

4 It is told to you and you have heard about it, and you investigate thoroughly and indeed it is true and the thing certain—this abomination has been done in Israel.

5 Then you are to bring out to your gates that man or woman who has done this evil thing, and stone that man or woman with stones to death.

6 By the word of two or three witnesses, the one who is to die is to be put to death. No one is to be put to death by the word of one witness.

7 The hand of the witnesses is to be first to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people. So you are to purge the evil from your midst.

8 “Suppose a matter arises that is too hard for you to judge—over bloodshed, legal claims or assault—matters of controversy within your gates. Then you should go up to the place *Adonai* your God chooses,

9 and come to the Levitical *kohanim* and the judge in charge at that time. And you will inquire, and they will tell you the sentence of judgment.

10 You are to act according to the sentence they tell you from that place *Adonai* chooses, and take care to do all that they instruct you.

11 You are to act according to the instruction they teach you and the judgment they tell you—you must not turn aside from the sentence they tell you, to the right or to the left.

12 The man who acts presumptuously by not listening to the *kohen* who stands to serve there before *Adonai* your God, or to the judge, that man must die. So you are to purge the evil from Israel.

13 Then all the people will hear and be afraid, and not act presumptuously again.

#### *Torah for Kings*

14 “When you come to the land that *Adonai* your God is giving you, possess it and dwell in it, and you say, ‘I will set a king over me, like all the nations around me,’

15 you will indeed set over yourselves a king, whom *Adonai* your God chooses. One from among your brothers will be appointed as king over you—you may not put a foreigner over you, who is not your brother.

16 Only he should not multiply horses for himself or make the people return to Egypt to multiply horses, because *Adonai* has said to you, “You must never go back that way again.”

17 Nor should he multiply wives for himself, so that his heart does not turn aside, nor multiply much silver and gold for himself.

18 “Now when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself a copy of this *Torah* on a scroll, from what is before the Levitical *kohanim*.

19 It will remain with him, and he will read in it all the days of his life, in order to learn to fear *Adonai* his God and keep all the words of this *Torah* and these statutes.

20 Then his heart will not be exalted above his brothers, and he will not turn from the commandment to the right or to the left—so that he may prolong his days in his kingship, he and his sons, in the midst of Israel.

#### **Deuteronomy 18**

1 “The Levitical *kohanim*, all the tribe of Levi, are to have no portion or inheritance with Israel. They are to eat the offerings made to *Adonai* by fire as His inheritance.

2 They will have no inheritance among their brothers—*Adonai* is their inheritance, just as He promised them.

3 So this will be the share due to the *kohanim* from the people—from those who offer a sacrifice, whether a bull or sheep, they are to give the *kohen* the shoulder, two cheeks, and the stomach.

4 The firstfruits of your grain, of your new wine, of your oil, and the first fleece of your sheep, you are to give him.

5 For *Adonai* your God has chosen him from all your tribes to stand and serve in the Name of *Adonai*—him and his sons forever.

6 “Suppose a Levite comes from one of your towns, wherever he is living in all of Israel, and he comes whenever his soul desires to the place *Adonai* chooses,

7 and serves in the Name of *Adonai* his God like all his fellow Levites who stand there before *Adonai*.

8 They are to eat equal portions, regardless of their fathers’ goods.

#### *Occultism Loathsome to Adonai*

9 When you enter the land *Adonai* your God is giving you, you are not to learn to do the abominations of those nations.

10 There must not be found among you anyone who makes his son or daughter pass through the fire, or a fortune-teller, soothsayer, omen reader, or sorcerer,

11 or one who casts spells, or a medium, a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead.

12 For whoever does these things is an abomination to *Adonai*, and because of these abominations *Adonai* your God is driving them out from before you.

13 You are to be blameless before *Adonai* your God.

14“For these nations, which you are about to dispossess, listen to soothsayers and fortune-tellers, but as for you, *Adonai* your God will not allow you to do so.

#### A Prophet is Promised

15“*Adonai* your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your midst—from your brothers. To him you must listen.

16 This is just what you asked of *Adonai* your God in Horeb on the day of the assembly when saying, ‘I cannot continue to hear the voice of *Adonai* my God or see this great fire any more, or I will die.’

17 “*Adonai* said to me, ‘They have done well in what they have spoken.

18 I will raise up a prophet like you for them from among their brothers. I will put My words in his mouth, and he will speak to them all that I command him.

19 Now whoever does not listen to My words that this prophet speaks in My Name, I Myself will call him to account.

20 But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My Name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods—that prophet will die.’

21 “Now should you say in your heart, ‘How would we recognize the word that *Adonai* has not spoken?’

22 When a prophet speaks in *Adonai*’s Name and the word does not happen or come true, that is a word that *Adonai* has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously—do not be afraid of him.

## **Deuteronomy 19**

### *Cities of Refuge*

1 “When *Adonai* your God cuts off the nations whose land *Adonai* your God is giving you, and you dispossess them and dwell in their cities and houses,

2 you are to set apart three cities for yourself within the land He is giving you to possess.

3 You are to prepare the way for yourself and divide into three parts the borders of your land that *Adonai* your God enables you to inherit, so that anyone who kills may flee there.

4 Now this is the case of the one who kills, who may flee there and live—whoever kills his neighbor unintentionally and did not hate him in the past—

5 as when someone goes into the forest with his neighbor to chop wood, and his hand takes a swing with the axe to cut down the tree, and the iron flies off the wood and hits his neighbor so that he dies. He may flee to one of these cities and live.

6 Otherwise if the way is long, the avenger of the blood, while his heart is hot, may chase the manslayer, catch up to him and strike him dead. Yet no death sentence is on him, since he did not hate him in the past.

7 Therefore I am commanding you—set apart three cities for yourself.

8 “Suppose *Adonai* your God enlarges your territory, as He has sworn to your fathers, and He gives you all the land that He promised to give to your fathers—

9 when you take care to do all this *mitzvah* that I am commanding you today, to love *Adonai* your God and to always walk in His ways. Then you are to add three more cities for yourself, besides these three.

10 Then innocent blood will not be shed within your land that *Adonai* your God is giving you as an inheritance, and there would be blood upon you.

11 “But suppose someone hates his neighbor, waits in hiding for him, rises up against him, strikes him dead, then flees to one of these cities.

12 Then the elders of his hometown should send and take him from there and hand him over to the avenger of blood, to die.

13 Your eye should not pity him, but you must purge the innocent blood from Israel, so that it may go well with you.

14 “You must not move your neighbor’s boundary marker that the first generations marked out, in the inheritance you will receive in the land *Adonai* your God is giving you to possess.

15 A single witness shall not rise up against a person for any offense or sin that he commits. By the word of two or three witnesses is a case to be established.

16 Suppose a hostile witness rises up against someone to accuse him of wrongdoing.

17 Then both people who have the dispute will stand before *Adonai*, before the *kohanim* and judges in charge at that time.

18 The judges are to investigate thoroughly, and if indeed the witness is a false witness and has testified falsely against his brother,

19 then you are to do to him just as he had plotted to do to his brother. So you will purge the evil from your midst.

20 Those who remain will hear and be afraid, and they will no longer do such an evil thing as this in your midst.

21 Your eye must not show pity—life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

## **Deuteronomy 20**

### *Confidence in Battle*

1 “When you go out to battle against your enemies and see horse and chariot—a people more numerous than you—do not be afraid of them. For *Adonai* your God, the One who brought you up from the land of Egypt, is with you.

2 When you draw near to the battle, the *kohen* will come forward and speak to the people.

3 He will say to them, ‘Hear, O Israel, you are drawing near today to the battle against your enemies. Don’t be fainthearted! Don’t fear or panic or tremble because of them.

4 For *Adonai* your God is the One who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies to save you.’

5 “The officers are to speak to the troops saying, ‘What man has built a new house but has not dedicated it? Let him go back to his house—otherwise he might die in the battle and another man would dedicate it.

6 What man has planted a vineyard but has not put it to use? Let him go back to his house—otherwise he might die in the battle and another man would begin to use it.

7 What man has become engaged to a woman but has not married her? Let him go back to his house—otherwise he might die in the battle and another man would marry her.’

8 The officers will speak further to the troops and say, ‘What man is afraid and fainthearted? Let him go back to his house—so he does not weaken his brothers’ heart like his own.’

9 Then when the officers have finished speaking to the troops, they should appoint army commanders at the head of the troops.

10 “When you go near a city to fight against it, call out *shalom* to it.

11 Now if it answers you *shalom* and opens up to you, then all the people found in it will serve you as forced laborers.

12 If it does not make peace with you but makes war against you, then lay siege against that city.

13 When *Adonai* your God hands it over to you, you are to strike all its males with the sword.

14 Only the women, children, livestock and all that is in the city—all its spoil—may you take as plunder for yourself. So you may consume your enemies’ spoil, which *Adonai* your God has given you.

15 Thus you will do to all the cities that are very distant from you, which are not among the towns of these nations nearby.

16 However, only from the cities of these peoples, which *Adonai* your God is giving you as an inheritance, you must not let anything that breathes live.

17 You must utterly destroy them—the Hittites , the Amorites , the Canaanites , the Perizzites , the Hivites and the Jebusites—just as *Adonai* your God has commanded you.

18 You are to do this so they will not teach you to do all the abominations as they have done for their gods, and so you would sin against *Adonai* your God.



19 “When you lay siege to a city for a long time, making war against it to capture it, you are not to destroy its trees by swinging an axe at them. For from them you may eat, so you shall not chop them down. For is the tree of the field human, that it should enter the siege before you?

20 You may destroy and chop down only the trees that you know are not trees for food, so that you may build siege equipment against the city that is making war with you until its downfall.

## **Deuteronomy 21**

### *Purging Innocent Blood*

1 “Suppose a slain person is found fallen in a field, on the land *Adonai* your God is giving you to possess—who struck him is unknown.

2 Then your elders and judges must come out and measure the distance to the towns that are around the slain one.

3 Now the town nearest to the slain one—the elders of that city are to take from the herd a heifer that has not been used for work or pulled a yoke.

4 Then the elders of that city are to bring the heifer down to a flowing wadi that has not been plowed or sown, and break the heifer’s neck there in the wadi.

5 The *kohanim*, the sons of Levi, will come forward—for *Adonai* your God has chosen them to serve Him and pronounce blessings in His Name, and by their mouth every dispute and assault is to be settled.

6 All the elders of that city nearest to the slain one will wash their hands over the heifer whose neck was broken in the wadi.

7 Then they will answer and say, ‘Our hands did not shed this blood, nor did our eyes see.

8 Grant atonement for Your people Israel whom You have redeemed, *Adonai*, and do not put innocent blood on Your people Israel.’ Then atonement will be granted to them for the blood.

9 So you will purge the guilt of innocent blood from your midst, when you do what is right in *Adonai's* sight.

## HAFTARAH

### Isaiah 51:12-23

12 “I, I am the One who comforts you. Who are you that you should fear man, who dies, or a son of man, who is given up like grass?”

13 But you forgot *Adonai* your Maker, who stretched out the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth. Are you in constant dread all day because of the fury of the oppressor as he makes ready to destroy? But where is the fury of the oppressor?

14 Soon one bowed down will be released. He will not die and go to the Pit, nor will his bread be lacking.

15 “For I am *Adonai* your God, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar— *Adonai-Tzva’ot* is His Name.

16 I have put My words in your mouth, and covered you with the shadow of My hand— I who set the heavens in place, who laid the foundations of the earth, and say to Zion, ‘You are My people.’”

17 Awake, awake! Stand up, Jerusalem! From *Adonai’s* hand you have drunk the cup of His fury, the chalice of reeling that you have drained to the dregs.

18 There is none to guide her among all the sons she has borne, nor is there one to take her by the hand among all the sons she has raised.

19 These two things have befallen you —who will mourn for you?— devastation and destruction, famine and the sword. How will I comfort you?

20 Your sons have fainted. They lie at every street corner, like an antelope in a net. They are full of *Adonai’s* fury, the rebuke of your God.

21 Therefore hear this, you who are afflicted, who are drunk, but not with wine.

22 Thus says your Lord, *Adonai* your God who defends His people: “Behold, I have taken from your hand the cup of reeling, the bowl of My wrath. You will never drink it again.

23 Then I will put it into the hand of your tormentors, who said to you, 'Lie down, so we may walk over you.' You have made your back like the ground and like a street for passersby.

## **Isaiah 52:1-12**

### *Ma Navu: The Song of Salvation*

1 Awake, awake! Clothe yourself in your strength, Zion! Clothe yourself in beautiful garments, Jerusalem, the holy city, for the uncircumcised and the unclean will never invade you again.

2 Shake off the dust and arise! Be enthroned, Jerusalem. Loose the bonds off your neck, captive Daughter of Zion.

3 For thus says *Adonai*: "You were sold for nothing. So you will be redeemed without silver."

4 For thus says *Adonai Elohim*: "At first My people went down to Egypt to reside there, then the Assyrian oppressed them for nothing.

5 "Now therefore, what do I have here?" —it is a declaration of *Adonai*— "My people are taken away for nothing? Its rulers wail" —it is *Adonai's* declaration— "and My Name is continually blasphemed all day long.

6 Therefore My people will know My Name. Therefore in that day, I am the One who will be saying, '*Hineni!*'"

7 How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who announces *shalom*, who brings good news of happiness, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

8 The voice of your watchmen— they will lift up their voices. Together they are shouting for joy! For they will see eye to eye when *Adonai* returns to Zion.

9 Break forth in joy, sing together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for *Adonai* has comforted His people. He has redeemed Jerusalem.

10 *Adonai* has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations. All the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

11 Leave, leave! Get out of there! Touch no unclean thing. Go out of her midst. Purify yourselves, you who carry the vessels of *Adonai*.

12 For you will not go out in haste, nor will you go in flight, for *Adonai* will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard.

## BRIT CHADASHA

### Acts 3:13-26

13 The God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His Servant *Yeshua*—the One you handed over and disowned before Pilate, though he had decided to release Him.

14 But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you.

15 You killed the Author of life—the One God raised from the dead! We are witnesses of it.

16 Now through faith in the name of *Yeshua*, His name has strengthened this man whom you see and know. Indeed, the faith through *Yeshua* has given this man perfect health in front of you all.

17 “Now brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your leaders did.

18 But what God foretold through the mouth of all His prophets—that His Messiah was to suffer—so He has fulfilled.

19 Repent, therefore, and return—so your sins might be blotted out,

20 so times of relief might come from the presence of *Adonai* and He might send *Yeshua*, the Messiah appointed for you.

21 Heaven must receive Him, until the time of the restoration of all the things that God spoke about long ago through the mouth of His holy prophets.

22 Moses said, ‘*Adonai* your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from among your brothers. Hear and obey Him in all that He shall say to you.

23 And it shall be that every soul that will not listen to that Prophet shall be completely cut off from the people.’

24 Indeed, all the prophets who have spoken from Samuel on have announced these days.

25 You are the sons of the prophets and also of the covenant that God cut with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'In your seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.'

26 God raised up His Servant and sent Him first to you, to bless you all by turning each of you from your wicked ways."

### **1 Corinthians 5:9-13**

9 I wrote to you in my letter not to mix together with sexually immoral people—

10 not at all meaning the sexually immoral people of this world or the greedy or swindlers or idolaters, for then you would have to exit the world.

11 But now I am writing to you not to mix together with anyone who is being called a brother if he is sexually immoral or greedy or an idolater or a slanderer or a drunkard or a swindler—not even to eat with such a fellow.

12 For what business do I have judging outsiders? Don't you judge those who are inside?

13 But those who are outside, God judges. Put away the wicked fellow from among yourselves.

### **1 Timothy 5:17-22**

17 The elders who lead well are worthy of honor and honorarium—especially those who work hard in the word and teaching.

18 For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing," and, "The worker is worthy of his wage."

19 Do not accept an accusation against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses.

20 Correct those who continue sinning in the presence of everyone, so that the rest also may fear.

21 I solemnly charge you—before God and Messiah *Yeshua* and the chosen angels—to observe these things without taking sides, doing nothing out of favoritism.

22 Do not lay hands on anyone hastily or take part in the sins of others—keep yourself pure.

### **Hebrews 10:28-31**

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.