

Mishpatim part three (Exodus 24)

In the previous portions of this parsha, we read YHWH's mitzvot (commands), the 10 commandments, along with many details on how to live, treat your fellow Israelite and the "foreigner", how to deal with your enemies, and what to do with the pagans that inhabit the land which we are about to receive. In this final portion of Mishpatim, we will read how Israel accepts this "Marriage contract"! We are to be "doers of the Word" and not just "hearers of the Word." This Parsha Mishpatim begins with the words; *"Aileh hamishpatim asher tasim lefneyhem"* (Ex.21:1)- which can be translated, *"These are the laws which you should place INSIDE of them."* Hebraic writings speak of "internalizing" and "absorbing" the commands of Torah into our very bones. This same idea is reflected in the words of Yeshua when he said we are to "eat his flesh and drink his blood" (John 6:22-58), making the Torah as much of our very being as flesh and blood is. He came to teach these aspects of Torah, "fulfilling the Torah" (Matthew 5:17-21), which means to teach it correctly. He criticized those who failed to realize (and teach) this true inner dimension of the Torah (i.e., Matthew 23:23-28). {Yashinet} This parsha contains more mitzvot than any other parsha...

-v1&2 We see that Moses, Aaron, His two sons, and seventy leaders of Israel are to go up to Sinai. Only Moses can approach! The "seventy leaders" are perhaps the "Leaders" that Yitro suggested to Moses (Ex. 18:17-26) YHWH seems to agree with this "delegation" of power and gives them the Ruach Hakodesh (Num. 11:15-17). Seventy is an interesting number in scripture.... Seventy descendants of Jacob go to join Joseph in Egypt (Deut. 10:22). The Torah given to the Israelites on Shavuot came forth in "Seventy Tongues" (Jewish Tradition). Israel camped by twelve springs and seventy palm trees (Num. 33:9). Seventy years of exile for Judah (Jer. 25:11-12 & Dan. 9:2). The seventy elders, much later celebrated easter and were punished (Ezek. 8:10-12). The Messiah said we should forgive seventy times seven (Matt. 18:22)

-v3&4 Moses told us about this contract, we accept it, he then writes ALL of it down, thus **negating** any myth's of an "oral torah" passed by YHWH/Moses orally until written down later, aka the Jerusalem Talmud. To argue this the Rabbi's try to claim that this acceptance is not the Torah or the Commands, but merely the agreement not to come up to the mountain or touch it's base from (Ex.19), that seems highly unlikely, the last chapters were all about the instructions of the Torah/Commandments, this is what they are accepting. "We will obey every word YHWH has spoken" Israel now accepts, but later breaks this "marriage contract" and YHWH divorces Israel and exiles us (Jer.3:1-13 & Is.50). But in later days HE will re-gather us again! (Jer.3:14-18&Is.49:17-19) "Twelve upright stones for the twelve tribes of Israel" Reminds me that anyone who makes it to "Heaven" or "New Jerusalem" will enter through one of the twelve tribes gates (Rev.21:11-13) So only those who accept the "marriage contract"(TORAH) and wear white garments(Walk out TORAH) will enter through one of the twelve gates! (Rev.22:14,12:17,&14:12)

-v5,6,7,&8 Half of the blood went on the altar, half went on the people upon hearing/accepting the written Torah or “Marriage contract” thus making an eternal blood covenant! The Messiah did the same! (Heb.13:11-21) The final culmination of this marriage is in Revelations 21:22

-v9,10,&11 The “Sapphire” under his thrown is also seen by Ezekiel (1:25-28). Sapphire is one of the twelve foundations on which the “New Jerusalem” is built (Rev.21:18-20). One of the twelve stones on the high priest’s breast plate is sapphire (Ex.28:15-21&39:10-14) Sapphire is the stone of the tribe of Dan (birth order in Gen.29&30, is stone order in Ex.28), Dan provides justice for Israel (Ex.49:16-17), and his name means “He Judged” (Gen.30:1-6). So you could say YHWH’s thrown is built on judgment and justice, and one of the foundations that Heaven is built on is also judgment and justice. The “notables of Israel” in v11 to me seems to make these leaders of thousands men, or hundreds of thousands people, seem small or just “notable” it personally makes me feel even less “notable”, in the large scope of things, individually we are all a small part. “He did not lay His hand”: This indicates that they deserved that a hand be laid upon them?

-v12&13 The stone tablets in v12 seem to be different then the “book of the covenant” in v7. Rashi claims the book of the covenant is Gen.1:1 until this point. This is the first time Joshua is on the mountain, all other previous mentions of him are as a general (Ex.17)

-v14,15,&16 Moses tells the seventy leaders to “stay here and wait for us” and he leaves Aaron the Levite and Hur from the tribe of Judah (Ex.31:2) in charge. {Hur: He was Miriam’s son, and his father was Caleb the son of Jephunneh, as it is said: “and Caleb took to himself Ephrath, and she bore to him Hur” (I Chron. 2:19). Ephrath was Miriam, as is stated in Sotah (11b) ~Rashi}. Where was it that they were supposed to wait? Was it half way up the mountain (v9)? Or were Aaron, Hur, and the seventy in the camp with the Israelites (Because Joshua and Hur are not mentioned with them in v9, but we know Joshua was there from v13) If we read Ex.32:17 (When Moses finally comes down) it seems Joshua is on the mountain, and Aaron and Hur are in the camp (Ex.32:1) Notice in v16, it seems to tell us that YHWH called to Moses on the Sabbath, this would mean six days of separation, and on the seventh he communes with us, a picture of the thousand year reign.

-v17&18 “Forty Days and nights” draws interesting comparisons in scripture... Noah’s flood (Gen.7:12), Moses fasted and pleaded for Israel’s golden calf sin (Ex.34:28), The land was explored by twelve men, one from each tribe for forty days (Num.11:25), Israel is punished for forty years, one year for each day of exploration, because of the bad report (Num.14:34), The philistines and Goliath taunted Saul for forty days before David saved them (1Sam.17:16), Elijah flees Jezebel for forty days (1Kings 19:8), Yeshua was tempted and fasted for forty days (Matt.4, Mark1,&Luke4), Yeshua appeared before the disciples after His resurrection for forty days (Acts1:3)

Altogether, the Parsha of Mishpatim contains fifty-three mitzvot -- 23 imperative commandments and 30 prohibitions. {chabad.org}

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