

MISHPATIM - Judgements



Exodus 21:1 - 24:18

Last week we read in *parashat Yitro* - Jethro - of the revelation of God to His people at Mount Sinai - *Har Sinai*, הַר סִינַי. There He spoke the Ten Commandments, which are known in Hebrew as *Asseret Ha'Dibrot* - עֲשֶׂת הַדִּבְרוֹת - the Ten Words. Later He will give them to Moshe on the stone tablets - *luchot haBrit* - לוחות הברית.

This week's parasha begins with the words, "And these are the rules you shall set before them." *Ve'eleh ha'mishpatim asher tassim lif'neihem*. "AND these..." - וְאֵלֶּה - shows continuity. They are God's more detailed teachings on how to live as His people.

This is one of the longest portions of the Torah. It also is called Book of the Covenant -

Sifrei Ha'Brit - סִפְרֵי הַבְּרִית. A covenant is a mutual pact that requires willing and wholehearted agreement. In 24:7 the Israelites affirm, in effect: "We will obey everything the LORD has said; we will do and hear [His Word]." *Kol asher diber HaShem na'aseh ve'nishma*. To do - לַעֲשׂוֹת - To hear - לִישְׁמוֹעַ

God redeemed the former slaves to draw them to Himself to worship Him. We see here that worship is linked to Covenant and with obedience to the will of the Father. The Hebrew word for worship, *avodah* - עֲבוּדָה also means work. Worship is not simply passive adoration. It's pleasing our Father by doing and hearing and doing...*ad infinitum!*

The first *mishpatim* - just rulings that God gives are to do with slaves - *avadim* - עֲבָדִים, which means workers. *La'avod* - לַעֲבוֹד - to work. (*oved, ovedet, ovdim, ovdot* - עוֹבֵד, עוֹבֵדֶת, עוֹבְדִים, עוֹבְדוֹת). In the world, the poor usually need to work in the lowlier positions of servants or slaves. Yeshua said, "The poor you will always have among you...". God's Word thus emphasizes the importance of extending just and fair treatment to workers. All His commandments reveal that the God of Israel - *Elohei Yisrael* - אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, is passionate about moral justice, righteousness and ethics - *mishpat, tzedek ve'mussar* - מִשְׁפָּט - צְדָקָה - וּמוֹסָר.

24:9 -11 Moshe, Aharon and his two sons - *shnei banim* - שְׁנֵי בָנִים and 70 from the elders of Israel - *shiv'im mi'ziknei Yisrael* - שִׁבְעִים מִזִּיקְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל, saw God ... and ate and drank! *Yachlu ve'yishtu!* Infinitive - *Le'achol ve lishtot*. לָאֲכֹל וְלִישְׁתוֹת (*ochel, ochelet, och'lim, och'lot / shoteh, shotah, shot'im, shotot*)

FOOD - *Ochel* - אוֹכֵל **Fruit and Vegetables** - *Peirot veYirakot* - פִּירוֹת וַיִּרְקוֹת

1. I love to eat fruit and vegetables. *Ani ohev/et le'achol peirot ve'yirakot.*
2. In the Shuk there are many different kinds of fruit and vegetables. *B'Shuk yesh harbeh sugim peirot ve'yirakot.*
3. In a restaurant you have a menu. *B'mesadah yesh tafrit.*
4. We also eat meat and fish. *Anachnu gam ochlim basar ve'dag.*
5. We drink water, coffee, tea, juice or wine. *Anachnu shotim maiim, kaffe, tei, mitz.*

Note: Find a Menu on Hebrew Helps.

COLORS - Tz'vayim - צְבִימִים

red	<i>adom</i>	אָדוֹם	blue	<i>kachol</i>	כָּחוֹל
green	<i>yarok</i>	יָרוֹק	yellow	<i>tzahov</i>	צָהוֹב
pink	<i>varod</i>	וָרוֹד	orange	<i>catom</i>	כַּתוּם
purple	<i>sagol</i>	סָגוֹל	brown	<i>chum</i>	חוּם
black	<i>shachor</i>	שָׁחוֹר	white	<i>lavan</i>	לָבָן

Ma ha'tzevah? shel: banana: tapuz: tapuach: zayit:
rimmon: gezer: tapuach adamah: ha'degel shel Yisrael :

VOCABULARY - MILIM CHADASHOT - מִילִים חֲדָשׁוֹת

10 Commandments / Words	<i>Asseret ha'Dibrot</i>	עֲשֵׂרֵת הַדְּבָרוֹת
2 tablets of the Torah / Cov.	<i>Shnei luchot ha'Brit</i>	שְׁנֵי לוחות הַבְּרִית
board / chart / calendar	<i>luach</i>	לוח
worship / work	<i>avodah</i>	עֲבוֹדָה
restaurant	<i>misadah</i>	מִסְדָּה
color / colors	<i>tzevah / tz'vaiyim</i>	צָבַע צְבָעִים
slave / slaves / worker (s)	<i>eved / avadim</i>	עֶבֶד / עֲבָדִים
fruit and vegetables	<i>peirot ve'yirakot</i>	פְּרִיֹת וַיִּרְקוֹת
righteousness	<i>tzedek</i>	צְדָקָה
ethics / morality	<i>mussar</i>	מוֹסָר

