

Parashat Shoftim

פרשה שפטים

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32:1-32:52 MATSATI.COM / Rightly Dividing The Word of God

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Rivers of Living Water

השבועות הזה קוראים / This Week's Reading

תורה: Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9

הפטרה: Isaiah 51:12-52:12

הברית: John 1:19-27 Acts 3:22-23

החדשה

The passages I chose to study this week from the parsha (*Devarim / Deuteronomy 19:14-21:9*) speak on the heart of the men who are going out to battle against their enemies. Moshe speaks to the men about being afraid of war with their enemies in *Deuteronomy / Devarim 20:3-4 Do not be afraid, or panic, or tremble before them, for the Lord your God is the one who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.* (NASB) Additionally, the men who have not dedicated their home, their vineyard, and one who may be engaged (betrothed) should return home and do those things less another man would come if he were to die in battle. Also, it is interesting that even the man who is afraid may return to his house so that he will not cause the heart of his brothers to faint like his.

דברים 20:1-8

כִּי־תֵצֵא לְמִלְחָמָה עַל־אֹיְבֶיךָ וּרְאִיתָ סוּס וְרֶכֶב כִּי
עִם רַב מִמֶּךָ לֹא תִירָא מֵהֶם כִּי־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ עִמָּךְ
הַמַּעֲלֶה מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם: וְהָיָה כִּכְרַבְכֶם אֶל־הַמִּלְחָמָה
וְנָגַשׁ הַכֹּהֵן וְדִבֶּר אֶל־הָעָם: וְאָמַר אֲלֵיהֶם שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל
אֲתֶם קְרֹבִים הַיּוֹם לְמִלְחָמָה עַל־אֹיְבֵיכֶם אֶל־יְרֵכְךָ
לְבַבְכֶם אֶל־תִּירָאוּ וְאֶל־תַּחֲפוּזוּ וְאֶל־תַּעֲרֹצוּ מִפְּנֵיהֶם:
כִּי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם הִחֲלֶיךָ עִמָּכֶם לְהִלָּחֵם לָכֶם עִם־
אֹיְבֵיכֶם לְהוֹשִׁיעַ אֶתְכֶם: וְדִבְרוּ הַשְּׂטָרִים אֶל־הָעָם
לֵאמֹר מִי־הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר בָּנָה בַּיִת־חֲדָשׁ וְלֹא הִנְכוּ יָלְדוֹ
וַיָּשָׁב לְבֵיתוֹ פְּתִימוֹת בַּמִּלְחָמָה וְאִישׁ אַחֵר יִחְנָנּוּ:
וּמִי־הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר נָטַע כָּרֶם וְלֹא חִלְלוֹ יָלְדוֹ וַיָּשָׁב
לְבֵיתוֹ פְּתִימוֹת בַּמִּלְחָמָה וְאִישׁ אַחֵר יִחְלָלְנוּ: וּמִי־
הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר אָרַשׁ אִשָּׁה וְלֹא לָקַחָהּ יָלְדוֹ וַיָּשָׁב לְבֵיתוֹ
פְּתִימוֹת בַּמִּלְחָמָה וְאִישׁ אַחֵר יִקְחָנָהּ: וְיִסְפּוּ הַשְּׂטָרִים
לְדַבֵּר אֶל־הָעָם וְאָמְרוּ מִי־הָאִישׁ הַיָּרֵא וְיָרָה הַלֵּבָב
יָלְדוֹ וַיָּשָׁב לְבֵיתוֹ וְלֹא יִמַּס אֶת־לֵבָב אָחָיו כָּל־לֵבָבוֹ:

Devarim / Deuteronomy

20:1-8

20:1 'When you go out to battle against your enemies and see horses and chariots and people more numerous than you, do not be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, who brought you up from the land of Egypt, is with you. 20:2 'When you are approaching the battle, the priest shall come near and speak to the people. 20:3 'He shall say to them, 'Hear, O Israel, you are approaching the battle against your enemies today. Do not be fainthearted. Do not be afraid, or panic, or tremble before them, 20:4 for the Lord your God is the one who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.' 20:5 'The officers also shall speak to the people, saying, 'Who is the man that has built a new house and has not dedicated it? Let him depart and return to his house, otherwise he might die in the battle and another man would dedicate it. 20:6 'Who is the man that has planted a vineyard and has not begun to use its fruit? Let him depart and return to his house, otherwise he might die in the battle and another man would begin to use its fruit. 20:7 'And who is the man that is engaged to a woman and has not married her? Let him depart and return to his house, otherwise he might die in the battle and another man would marry her.' 20:8 'Then the officers shall speak further to the people and say, 'Who is the man that is afraid and fainthearted? Let him depart and return to his house, so that he might not make his brothers' hearts melt like his heart.' (NASB)

25 Why do you think that it is so important to address these things prior to going to
war with the enemy? The call to war against the enemy requires a heart that is
dedicated 100% to the battle that lies ahead. If a man has some unfinished
business, these things may weight (lay) upon his heart resulting in the possibility
that he would not be fully dedicated to the task at hand to defeat the enemy. I
30 believe there is a parallel application here for us today. If we are supposed to
believe, with sincere repentance (returning to God), we must do so whole
heartedly without looking back and longing for the life we had before we had
come to Yeshua in faith.

The scriptures this week should cause us to sit down and seriously think
about our lives. Do your day to day activities line up with regard to your
35 relationship with the Lord? Have you thought about this that today it is very easy
to live out our lives without much if any concern for the eternal consequences of
our sins? Yisrael was faced with the reality of war and the possibility of dying.
In the same way, but not necessarily by the cause of war, death may come without
warning for us today. Keeping this in mind, while reading this week's parsha, I
40 have asked of myself; do I live without much concern about sin by what I see,
what I say, what I think, and what I do? Has the need to see Yeshua's death as
the means by which God's justice is satisfied been diminished as the doctrine of
"easy grace" has been taught in our times. I use the phrase "easy grace" because
the consequences of sin are not emphasized so much today with respect to living a
45 life of holiness and righteousness before God that is coupled with our need for
salvation. In *Romans 6:1* Paul said "*Shall we continue to sin that grace may
abound? May it never be!*" The hatred of sin as far as Paul was concerned is
proof that one is truly born new, born again. The one that has truly come under
the blood of the lamb is healed and cleansed of sin. To be numb to sin or to be
50 unconcerned about it is simply not the perspective of a true believer. It is a false
hope that one can think that it is possible to live in unrighteousness and then hope
that on the Day of Judgment God's grace will overcome God's justice.

Once we have come to receive the gift of salvation, there is a change
within us that results in our both loving God's righteous ways, and striving
55 through the power He provides to walk in them. Righteousness becomes our way
of life because God has transformed us and therefore we strive to live righteously.
This is the work of God's Spirit in our lives. Yeshua spoke about the Ruach
HaKodesh (Holy Spirit) in *John* chapter 7 saying that the Spirit will be as a river
of living waters flowing within us.

John 7:37-52

*7:37 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried
out, saying, 'If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. 7:38 'He
who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will
65 flow rivers of living water.' 7:39 But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom
those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet
given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. 7:40 Some of the people
therefore, when they heard these words, were saying, 'This certainly is the
Prophet.' 7:41 Others were saying, 'This is the Christ.' Still others were
70 saying, 'Surely the Christ is not going to come from Galilee, is He? 7:42
'Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the descendants of
David, and from Bethlehem, the village where David was?' 7:43 So a*

75 *division occurred in the crowd because of Him. 7:44 Some of them wanted to seize Him, but no one laid hands on Him. 7:45 The officers then came to the chief priests and Pharisees, and they said to them, 'Why did you not bring Him?' 7:46 The officers answered, 'Never has a man spoken the way this man speaks.' 7:47 The Pharisees then answered them, 'You have not also been led astray, have you? 7:48 'No one of the rulers or Pharisees has believed in Him, has he? 7:49 'But this crowd which does not know the Law is accursed.' 7:50 Nicodemus (he who came to Him before, being one of them) said to them, 7:51 'Our Law does not judge a man unless it first hears from him and knows what he is doing, does it?' 7:52 They answered him, 'You are not also from Galilee, are you? Search, and see that no prophet arises out of Galilee.'* (NASB)

85 According to *John 7:37*, Yeshua said these words during the last day of the great feast. According to the *Mishnah Sukka 4:9*, each day of the feast involved a procession to the pool of Siloam to draw water. The water was then taken to the temple and poured out upon the altar as a libation (a drink offering) at the morning korban service. This was a great time of joy and at that time this joy was associated with *Yeshayahu / Isaiah 12:3 Therefore you will joyously draw water from the springs of salvation. (NASB)* At this point it is believed that Yeshua spoke to the crowd that *'If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.'* in *John 7:37*. 'What Yeshua offers is the fulfillment of the very things they were celebrating. Here Yeshua is repeating the call of our Father in Heaven, *"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters"* (*Yeshayahu / Isaiah 55:1*). He is fulfilling the role that God has for Him, who *"will guide them and lead them beside springs of water"* (*Yeshayahu / Isaiah 49:10*). Yeshua's offer shows that He is far more than just a prophet or an agent; here we have the Lord offering us flowing rivers of life.

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Yeshua is offering the Spirit to us as individuals, *"... if anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink ..."* *John 7:37*. The first requirement is thirst; everyone is spiritually thirsty, it is something God has placed in our hearts and is also a part of the human condition being separated from God which started in the Garden of Eden. Our spiritual thirst is what brings us to our relationship with the Lord. What do you thirst for, what do you really desire spiritually? Sin is how one seeks to satisfy one's thirst in something other than God. The verses for this week has Moshe speaking to the people, the men of war to get their lives in order before entering into the battle because it is of utmost importance to have a heart that is fully dedicated to the task of defeating the enemy. Yeshua's invitation, on the other hand, did not come with the condition that one's life needs to be in order. The requirement is to have a thirst for God. Yeshua invites those who know they are thirsty for Him, those who are poor in spirit (*Matthew 5:3*), and to receive the invitation, to come, and to drink (*John 7:37*). To drink in the life that Yeshua has for us means to align ourselves with Him, trusting in Him, receiving His teaching, believing in Him, and obeying His commands. This kind of faith will enable you to receive the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit) and enter into an abiding relationship with the Messiah (Christ). All of this is based on who and what God has done for us. If you can see how thirsty you are today to be fully satisfied spiritually and have not received the gift that God offers you, it is time to

do so right now today. Open your hands, and receive the gift of grace that God is offering you. Come and pray with me.

125 Heavenly Father,

I believe the scriptures reveal that You sent Your Son Yeshua to be my savior and to offer me rivers of living waters. I believe that Yeshua's blood was shed for the forgiveness of my sins. Please forgive me of my sins. I believe and receive Yeshua and accept Him into my heart. Please send me your Holy Spirit to dwell within me and to make me a new man, a new creation, to change my heart, my mind, and all that I am so that I can bring glory to Your Name. Help me to have a passion for You Lord along with a deep and meaningful relationship by the power of Your Spirit. Help me to be an obedient child, to set my priorities straight so that I can put You first in my life. Please strengthen my faith and draw me nearer to You. Thank You Lord for the blessing of the Holy Scriptures, I give You all of the glory, the honor, and the praise. In Yeshua's name I pray.

Amen

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Be Blessed in Yeshua our Messiah!

הללויה לאדוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד:

Hallelujah for our Lord, our Teacher, our Rabbi,

“Yeshua” King Messiah forever and ever