

TORAH TIME

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PARASHA

Mishpatim

- Exodus 21:1-24:18
- Jeremiah 34:8-22, 33:25-26
- Matthew 17:1-11

TORAH TIME

After the 10 Commandments at Mount Sinai, YHWH gives a series of laws for the people of Israel. These include the laws of the servants; the punishment for murder, kidnapping, assault, and theft. YHWH also gave rules about how to treat people, giving loans, and how the courts are to be fair. The people of Israel are to obey all of YHWH's commands.

Also included are laws warning against treating foreigners badly; the observance of the festivals of YHWH, the farming gifts that are to be brought to the Holy Temple in Jerusalem; the warning against cooking a baby goat in its mother's milk; and the commandment of prayer. Altogether, the Parasha of Mishpatim contains fifty-three mitzvot/commandments.

YHWH promises to bring the people of Israel to the Holy Land, and warns them against the pagan ways of its current inhabitants. The people of Israel proclaim, "We will do and we will hear all that YHWH commands us."

Leaving Aaron and Hur in charge in the Israelite camp, Moses climbs Mount Sinai and remains there for forty days and forty nights to receive the Torah from YHWH

(This is an easy explanation of the Torah portion taken from the book "The Open Bible" available at www.emetministries.com)

MEMORY VERSE

Y'shua said, "For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you,"
John 13:15

LEARNING ACTIVITY

Last week you learned about the 10 Commandments that were given on Mount Sinai. The Torah has over 600 different commandments for us to follow. The Newer Testament has hundreds of commands too. This week's Torah portion has over 50 different commandments. Why did YHWH give us hundreds of rules to obey and follow?

The answer of course is simple – He did it because He loves us! Loving parents set rules for the behavior of their kids. Love motivates moms and dads to say "no" when something is not safe. Love stops you from getting your way all of the time. Love yells "no!" when a toddler tries to drink poison or pull the dog's tale. The love of a mother or father is powerful enough to spank, even though it really hurts the parents. Simply put, love sets rules.

Do you think that rules are loving? Rules, laws, judgments, or commandments are given to prevent the danger and bless the obedient. Loving laws aren't given to restrict or stop you. This week's Torah portion is called "mishpatim." The word "mishpatim" means "judgments, law, rules, justice, privilege." Mishpatim is from the base Hebrew word "shaphat", which means, "to establish, set on, reduce, bring, ordain, to contend and defend." Through the mishpatim, YHWH's love is trying to stop us from playing in a busy road of sin.

The commandments also give us an example of how to live. As you obey the Torah you actually act like the Messiah. Y'shua said, "For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you," John 13:15

Isn't it wonderful that YHWH through divine love gave His people mishpatim or rules on how to get along with each other? These rules remain as reminders on how we should live. Many issues are discussed in this portion, from how to help others to the Sabbath rest. On the pages below make a list of at least 30 different commandments you find in this week's Torah portion. Discuss these with your parents and talk to them about how rules show love. Don't forget to ask for help during this project.

WALK THE TALK

It is important to read the Torah portion each week because the Torah teaches us about the Messiah. John 1:14 says that the “word became flesh and dwelt among us.” This means that the Messiah was the living, breathing, eating, hurting, sleeping, actual, Word of YHWH in human form. Every Torah command describes the life of Messiah Y’shua. Imagine a walking, talking Torah scroll and you are imagining the Savior. The Messiah was always kind, always caring, and always obedient to YHWH.

Y’shua never broke the commandments of Torah nor spoke against them. His life was a powerful example of how to live. Y’shua never told a single lie or stretched the truth just a little. He always showed proper respect to others and acted in love every second of every minute of His life. He attended all festivals, perfectly kept the Shabbat without working, and gave the proper tithes and offerings. Y’shua was never rude to his parents, nor did he ever mention the names of the false gods. He treated everyone fairly, gave to others, and always helped the needy. Y’shua said, “For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you,” John 13:15. The life of Messiah should be our life!

When we read in the Torah of the various laws that YHWH gave, we are actually reading about “Word made flesh” Y’shua. The Messiah is found in every commandment and in every verse of the Torah. The more of the Torah we keep, the more we can be like our Master Y’shua. “To this you were called, because Messiah suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps,” 1 Peter 2:21.

What do you see when you think about the Messiah and the Torah? Draw a picture in the scroll of the Messiah obeying the Torah. Which commandment should you show him doing?

TORAH TALK

What does the name of this portion mean?

Why is this portion special?

What is the main subject of this portion?

How can you live this portion?

What commandments are in this portion?

Did you read about the Messiah in this portion? Where?

How did YHWH show His love to man in this portion?

What did you learn from the Torah?

HEBREW LESSON



MEET THE TZADDI:

TZEDEKAH=RIGHTEOUSNESS

Tzahv=Turtle

WRITE THE LETTER

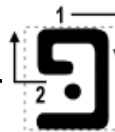


Note that the second stroke descends from the right and meets the first stroke about halfway.

REVIEW THE LETTERS



Note that the second stroke descends to the right of the end of the first stroke.



Most people form this letter using two separate strokes.

Activity Ideas

Find and show a video clip of Moses and the Ten Commandments. There are many options to choose from that are available online or at a rental store.

Make a chart listing the 3 Feasts in the Bible, Feast of Unleavened Bread, Feast of Harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering.

Make a model of the "Mountain of YHWH". Get dry ice and create a cloud around the mountain. To make the smoke just mix the dry ice with warm water. Great visual! You can also draw the mountain and glue cotton balls spread apart around the mountain.

Read in the Bible and in a dictionary about a "slave" and a "servant." Discuss what the difference was between a servant and a slave during Bible times.

Eat some matzah. Taste it plain and then put some toppings on it. What is leaven? How does yeast work in dough?

Use poster board and make a list of "Mishpatim" at your family. Include the rules your family has for behavior. Use this to remember how to behave.

Visit a local police station and talk to an officer about the importance of rules. What would happen if there were no rules in your city? Why do officers have to enforce the rules?

Shapes

in Hebrew

צורות

tsoo-rot



רְבוּעַ

Square

רְבִיִּעַ



מַעֲיָן

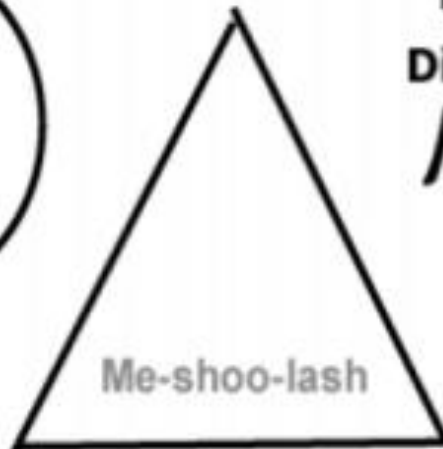
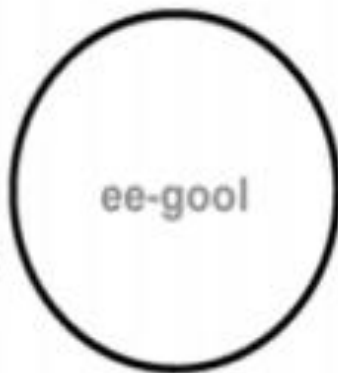
Diamond

מַעֲיָן

עֵגוּל

Circle

עֵגוּל



מִשְׁלָשׁ

Triangle

COMMANDS IN MISHPATIM

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

13. _____

14. _____

15. _____

COMMANDS IN MISHPATIM

16. _____

17. _____

18. _____

19. _____

20. _____

21. _____

22. _____

23. _____

24. _____

25. _____

26. _____

27. _____

28. _____

29. _____

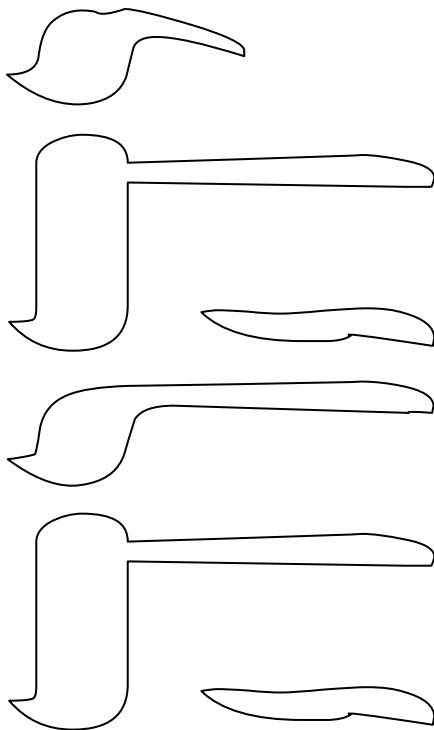
30. _____

YHWH gave the commandments to Moshe who then gave the commands to the people of Israel. We should share YHWH's love with other people, just like Moses did. Color and then cut out these pictures. Give them to friends or family members.



**CHOOSE
LIFE**

I call heaven and earth to record this...
I have set before you life and death,
blessing and cursing: choose life.
-Deut. 30:19



**RENEW
YOUR MIND
THINK
ON PURPOSE
ROMANS 12:2**

