SHABBAT ZEST

Parshat Mishpatim 29th Shevat 5777

Torah Reading / Haftara:

Artscroll – p.416/1156

Living Torah – p.356/1118

SHABBAT TIMES:

Candle Lighting: 5:13pm

Kabbalat Shabbat Davening: 6:30pm

Shabbat Morning Davening: 9:15am

Mincha: After Kiddush

Shabbat Ends 6:24pm

NEXT SHABBAT TERUMAH

CANDLE LIGHTING @ 5:25 PM

This week's Kiddush is sponsored by the Caplan Family on the occasion of Noah's Bar Mitzvah

MAZEL TOV to the Caplan Family on the Bar Mitzvah of Noah

Parsha In a Nutshell

Exodus 21:1-24:18

Following the revelation at Sinai, G-d legislates a series of laws for the people of Israel. These include the laws of the indentured servant; the penalties for murder, kidnapping, assault and theft; civil laws pertaining to redress of damages, the granting of loans and the responsibilities of the "Four Guardians"; and the rules governing the conduct of justice by courts of law.

Also included are laws warning against mistreatment of foreigners; the observance of the seasonal festivals, and the agricultural gifts that are to be brought to the Holy Temple in Jerusalem; the prohibition against cooking meat with milk; and the mitzvah of prayer. Altogether, the Parshah of Mishpatim contains 53 mitzvot—23 positive commandments and 30 prohibitions.

G-d promises to bring the people of Israel to the Holy Land, and warns them against assuming the pagan ways of its current inhabitants.

The people of Israel proclaim, "We will do and we will hear all that G-d commands us." Leaving Aaron and Hur in charge in the Israelite camp, Moses ascends Mount Sinai and remains there for forty days and forty nights to receive the Torah from G-d.

Haftorah

Jeremiah 34:8-22, 33:25-26

The Parshat Shekalim Torah reading discusses the annual obligation for every Jew to give half a shekel to the Temple coffers. The haftorah discusses the efforts of King Jehoash (9th century BCE) to earmark these communal funds for the upkeep of the first Holy Temple.

Background for this Haftorah: Because of an alliance with the Northern Kingdom of Israel, idol worship had become rampant in the erstwhile righteous Davidic dynasty-controlled Southern Kingdom. When the king of the Southern Kingdom, Ahaziah, was killed, his mother Athaliah murdered the remainder of the royal family and seized the throne. During her brief reign, she actively promoted idolatry. Unbeknownst to her, one of Ahaziah's sons, a small baby, was hidden and survived. When he became seven years of age, Jehoiada the High Priest led a successful revolt against Athaliah, and installed the child king, Jehoash, as the new King of Judea.

The Haftorah begins with the new king renewing the people's covenant with G-d. They destroyed all the pagan altars and statues and appointed officers to oversee the Holy Temple. Jehoash then instructed the priests regarding all the funds that were donated to the Temple. According to his plan, all the funds would be appropriated by the priests. In return, the priests would pay for the regular maintenance of the Temple. In the 23rd year of Jehoash's reign, the priests neglected to properly maintain the Temple. Jehoash then ordered that all monies should be placed in a special box that was placed near the Temple altar, and these funds were given directly to the workers and craftsmen who maintained the Temple.

Please do not take this sheet to or from shul on Shabbat - Please discard this sheet appropriately as it contains the name of G-d

UPCOMING EVENTS

12th March: Purim including 9am **Shacharit**, 10am **Breakfast**, 10:30am **Megillah reading** followed by **Purim Party including lunch**

21st March – Ladies Guild Lunch – Guest Speaker film and documentary producer Pamela Wagman

11th April – Communal Seder – Details to follow

11th May: AGM

21st May – Rabbi Half Marathon run.

Recurring Events

Cheder OPEN

Mummy and Me Open

Yahrzeits for the coming week 29th Shevat – 5th Adar:

29. Barry Capal – Father

2. Barbara Cohen – Mother

3. Eleanor Borman – Father

3. Karen Levy – Father

3. Ian Steinberg – Father

3. Avril Trainis – Husband

4. Ruth Leigh - Brother

A Little Deeper – Last 5 Commandments Explained – Human

This week we continue with the last five commandments pertain to human relationships:

COMMANDMENT #6: "Do not murder."

Some confuse this with "do not kill." There are times when one must kill - e.g. self defence, or in wartime. We are not idealized pacifists! Only what the Torah declares to be murder is "wrong."

In a pagan world of gladiators and coliseums, of human sacrifice and infant and mercy killing, the value of human life was very cheap. The Torah considers the preservation of life to be an ultimate value. The punishment for murder (with witnesses and a proper warning) is the death penalty.

COMMANDMENT #7: "Do not commit adultery."

This Mitzvah addresses the sanctity of married life. Instead of seeing one's spouse as a jail keeper preventing him from enjoying other liaisons, the Torah sees a spouse as a provider exclusively for him, in order to prevent him from even thinking of others.

Solid family life and a stable home is the bedrock of society. To infringe on the husband-wife relationship is to endanger the microcosm of the home, and ultimately society at large. The positive marital relationship is embedded in this strong prohibition, whose punishment (with witnesses and warning) is the death penalty.

COMMANDMENT #8: "Do not steal."

This verse refers to "do not kidnap" (stealing money is mentioned elsewhere), which is a capital punishment if there are witnesses and warning (Talmud).

COMMANDMENT #9: "Do not bear false witness."

Human beings are enjoined to keep their speech pure. One of the worst injustices is to pervert a verdict.

COMMANDMENT #10: "Do not covet."

This commandment applies to the mind. It is a uniquely G-d-given law. No other law book mentions it. Just try prosecuting someone for "coveting!" Except for the all-knowing G-d, there's no way to know another person's thoughts - and whether he's coveting the other person's house, spouse, and money.

Question: Why do the laws between humanity and G-d have thoughts before words and actions, and the laws between people have actions first?

Answer: When it comes to humanity and G-d, the most important thing is your intention. First the mind, then actions and words. Let everyone know what you believe and then apply it to your life. Actions without beliefs are meaningless, like putting Tefillin on a monkey!

When it comes to the laws between people, the actions come first, and then speech and mind, because as human beings our fellow members of society are unable to see or know our thought, but our actions speak louder than our thoughts or words.

Wishing you all peaceful and uplifting Shabbos.