

THE BEREKHU

LEADER / OLAH

BAREKHU ET ADONAI HA'ME'VO-RAKH

BLESS THE LORD, WHO IS TO BE BLESSED

CONGREGATION / OLIM

BARUCH ADONAI HA'ME'VO-RAKH LA OLAM VA'ED

BLESSED IS ADONAI, WHO IS BLESSED FOREVER AND EVER

שׁוֹפְטִים

Shoftim – Judges

Devarim / Deuteronomy 16:18 – 21:9

Reading Deuteronomy 20:10 – 21:9

Blessing the Reading of the Torah

ברוך אתה אדני

אלהינו מלך העולם

אשר בחר בנו מכל העמים

ונתן לנו את תורתו

ברוך אתה אדני נותן התורה

Barukh ata Adonai Eloheynu,

melekh ha-olam,

Asher bechar banu mik-kol ha-am-mim

venatan la-nu et Torato.

Baruch ata Adonai, no-tein Ha-Torah

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe

Who chose us from all the people and gave us His Torah

Blessed are you, Lord, giver of the Torah

Blessing over the reader of Torah

May He who blessed our fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob bless *Rob Oaks* because he has come up for the honor of God, for the honor of the Torah and for the honor of the Shabbat. In this merit may the Holy One, Blessed be He, protect and deliver *Rob* from all trouble and distress, from all affliction and illness, and may He send blessing and success to all his endeavors, together with all Israel and all his brethren;
and the congregation says,
In Yeshua's Name
Amen.

Deuteronomy 20:10 - 12

10 “When you go near a city to fight against it, call out shalom to it.

11 Now if it answers you peacefully and opens up to you, then all the people found in it will serve you as forced laborers.

12 If it does not make peace with you but makes war against you, then lay siege against that city.

Deuteronomy 20:13 - 15

13 When Yah your Elohim hands it over to you, you are to strike all its males with the sword.

14 Only the women, children, livestock and all that is in the city—all its spoil—may you take as plunder for yourself. So you may consume your enemies' spoil, which Yah your Elohim has given you.

15 Thus you will do to all the cities that are very distant from you, which are not among the towns of these nations nearby.

Deuteronomy 20:16 - 18

16 However, only from the cities of these peoples, which Yah your Elohim is giving you as an inheritance, you must not let anything that breathes live.

17 You must utterly destroy them—the Hittites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites—just as Yah your Elohim has commanded you.

18 You are to do this so they will not teach you to do all the abominations as they have done for their gods, and so you would sin against Yah your Elohim.

Deuteronomy 20:19 - 20

19 “When you lay siege to a city for a long time, making war against it to capture it, you are not to destroy its trees by swinging an axe at them. For from them you may eat, so you shall not chop them down. For is the tree of the field human, that it should enter the siege before you?

20 You may destroy and chop down only the trees that you know are not trees for food, so that you may build siege equipment against the city that is making war with you until its downfall.

Deuteronomy 21:1 - 3

- 1 “Suppose a slain person is found fallen in a field, on the land Yah your Elohim is giving you to possess—who struck him is unknown.
- 2 Then your elders and judges must come out and measure the distance to the towns that are around the slain one.
- 3 Now the town nearest to the slain one—the elders of that city are to take from the herd a heifer that has not been used for work or pulled a yoke.

Deuteronomy 21:4 - 6

4 Then the elders of that city are to bring the heifer down to a flowing wadi that has not been plowed or sown, and break the heifer's neck there in the valley.

5 The priests, the sons of Levi, will come forward—for Yah your Elohim has chosen them to serve Him and pronounce blessings in His Name, and by their mouth every dispute and assault is to be settled.

6 All the elders of that city nearest to the slain one will wash their hands over the heifer whose neck was broken in the valley.

Deuteronomy 21:7 - 9

7 Then they will answer and say, 'Our hands did not shed this blood, nor did our eyes see.

8 Grant atonement for Your people Israel whom You have redeemed, Yah, and do not put innocent blood on Your people Israel.' Then atonement will be granted to them for the blood.

9 So you will purge the guilt of innocent blood from your midst, when you do what is right in Yah's sight.



First Century Ministries

Torah Portion: Shoftim Part 1

“Judges”
Deuteronomy
16:18-21:9



Types of Biblical Authority

- Judges → civil
- Priests → ritual, “religious”
- Kings → national

Judges – Deuteronomy 16:18-21

18 Appoint judges and officials for each of your tribes in every town the Lord your God is giving you, and they shall judge the people fairly. 19 Do not distort justice or show partiality. Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the innocent. 20 Follow justice and justice alone, so that you may live and possess the land the Lord your God is giving you.

Qualifications for Judges

- Judge with righteous judgment
- Don't distort justice
- Don't show partiality
- Don't accept bribes
- Pursue justice

What is “judgment”?

- מִשְׁפָּט (mishpat)
- “judgment”
 - Decision
 - Case law
- “justice”
 - Ex. 23:6 “Do not distort justice [misphat] to your poor people in their disputes.”

What is “righteous judgment”?

- מִשְׁפַּט-צֶדֶק (mishpat tzedek)
- Exodus 24:3 Then Moses came and reported to the people all the words of the LORD and all the judgments; and all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words which the LORD has spoken we will do!”
- The Lord’s standard

What is “righteous judgment”?

- The Lord’s standard
- Right judgment = _____

What is “righteous judgment”?

- The Lord’s standard
- Right judgment = justice
- How do you make the right judgment call?

What is “righteous judgment”?

- Jethro – “*select capable men from all the people—men who fear God*” (Exodus 20:21)
- A man who fears God =
 - ✓ listens to God’s instructions
 - ✓ Executes on them
 - ✓ A man like Abraham
 - “*Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son*” (Gen 22:12)

“Don’t distort justice”

“Justice is the
crowning glory
of the virtues.”

-Cicero



“Don’t distort justice”

- לא־תִטֶּה מִשְׁפָּט (lo tateh mishpat)
- Root = natah:
 - stretch
 - extend
 - bend

Distorting justice for the poor

Exodus 23:3 - do not show favoritism to a poor person in a dispute.

23:6 - Do not deny justice [nakah mishpat] to your poor people in their disputes.

Principles of not distorting

- Proverbs 4:27 *“Do not turn (natah) to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.”*
- Proverbs 17:23 *“The wicked accept bribes in secret to pervert (natah) the ways of justice.”*

“Don’t show partiality”

- לא תִּכְרֹם פָּנִים (lo takkir panim)
- Root: nakar
 - pay attention to
 - acknowledge
 - observe

A literal translation

- “don’t pay attention to the [person’s] face”
- “don’t acknowledge the [person’s] face”
- “don’t observe the [person’s] face”

In class, I sometimes fail at this...

Justice is (or should be) blind

“Justice is blind,
until a judge gives it
eyes.”

What are some ways one
can show partiality?

Ways one could show partiality

- Importance of a matter
- Wealth of the person
- Following the crowd

Partiality: Importance

Deuteronomy 1:17

“Do not show partiality in judging; hear both small and great alike. Do not be afraid of anyone, for judgment belongs to God. Bring me any case too hard for you, and I will hear it.”

Partiality: Wealth

Exodus 23:3

“You shall not show favor to a poor person in his dispute.”

Partiality: Crowd

Exodus 23:2

“Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong. When you give testimony in a lawsuit, do not pervert justice by siding with the crowd”

“Don’t accept bribes”

- Deuteronomy 16:19 - “a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of righteous people.”

Two masters?

Matthew 6:22-23 – “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!”

Who are you serving?

- Loving bribes perverts justice
- Not serving righteousness of God
- Self-serving

What about those in
authority bribing others?

Leaders who Bribe – Ancient & Modern Precedents

- Quid pro quo
- Not always money!
- “vote for me, and I will...”
 - Pay off your student loans
 - Give you extra money toward your house
 - Pay for your groceries
 - Help you pay for your children’s clothes and car seats

A Biblical Briber

- “All of this I will give you...if you will bow down and give me your vote”
-Satan (paraphrased)

Should only judges be the kind
of people who follow these
instructions?

Should Believers judge others?

Answer: yes, but with righteous judgment!

Righteous Judgment – John 5

Some time later, Yeshua went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. 2 Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. 3 Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed.

Righteous Judgment – John 5

One who was there had been disabled for thirty-eight years. 6 When Yeshua saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?”

Righteous Judgment – John 5

“Sir,” the disabled man replied, “I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.” 8 Then Yeshua said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” 9 At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

Righteous Judgment – John 5

The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, 10 and so the Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat.”

11 But he replied, “The man who made me well said to me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’ ” So they asked him, “Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?”

Righteous Judgment – John 5

13 The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Yeshua had slipped away into the crowd that was there.

14 Later Yeshua found him at the temple and said to him, “See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.” 15 The man went away and told the Jewish leaders that it was Yeshua who had made him well.

Righteous Judgment – John 5

So, because Yeshua was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him. 17 In his defense Yeshua said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.” 18 For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

Righteous Judgment – John 5

9 Yeshua gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. 20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed.

Righteous Judgment – John 5

21 For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. 22 Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, 23 that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.

Righteous Judgment – John 5

24 “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. 25 Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. 26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. 27 And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

Righteous Judgment – John 5

28 “Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice 29 and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned. 30 By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.

Righteous Judgment – John 7

- Yeshua doesn't go immediately to Jerusalem
- Wasn't ready to die while the Jewish leaders were looking for him
- Went secretly after disciples left Galilee

Righteous Judgment – John 7

- Begins to teach halfway into the festival
- Jews are amazed, “How did this man get such learning without having been taught?”

Righteous Judgment – John 7

16 Yeshua answered, “My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me. 17 Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. 18 Whoever speaks on their own does so to gain personal glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him. 19 Has not Moses given you the Torah? Yet not one of you keeps the Torah. Why are you trying to kill me?”

Righteous Judgment – John 7

20 “You are demon-possessed,” the crowd answered.
“Who is trying to kill you?”

21 Yeshua said to them, “I did one miracle, and you are all amazed. 22 Yet, because Moses gave you circumcision (though actually it did not come from Moses, but from the patriarchs), you circumcise a boy on the Sabbath. 23 Now if a boy can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be broken, why are you angry with me for healing a man’s whole body on the Sabbath? 24 Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge righteously.”

Are we called to judge others?

- Yes, but in accordance with _____

Are we called to judge others?

- Yes, but in accordance with the Torah
- Make sure your nose is clean!

Judgment of Others

Matthew 7: “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. 3 “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

Paul's Experience – 1 Corinthians 5

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate: A man is sleeping with his father's wife. And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have gone into mourning and have put out of your fellowship the man who has been doing this?

Paul's Experience – 1 Corinthians 5

For my part, even though I am not physically present, I am with you in spirit. As one who is present with you in this way, I have already passed judgment in the name of our Lord Yeshua on the one who has been doing this.

Paul's Experience – 1 Corinthians 5

hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord. Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough?

Paul's Experience – 1 Corinthians 5

I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people—not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world.

Paul's Experience – 1 Corinthians 5

But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people. What business is it of mine to judge those outside the congregation? Are you not to judge those inside? God will judge those outside. “Expel the wicked person from among you.

Judgment Call

- We are all to make the appropriate judgment call
- Based on the leading of _____

Judgment Call

- We are all to make the appropriate judgment call
- Based on the leading of the Spirit

Believers as Judges

- Judge with righteous judgment
- Don't distort justice
- Don't show partiality
- Don't accept bribes
- Pursue justice

Next Week...

Where authorities over Israel went wrong...

The Levites, the Judges, the Kings, the Rulers

Parashah Ki Tetze Aliyah or Reading

כִּי-תֵצֵא – When you go

Deuteronomy 21:10 – 25:19

- 1st Day Deuteronomy 21:10 – 21 Haftarah
- 2nd Day Deuteronomy 21:22 – 22:7 Isaiah 54:1 - 10
- 3rd Day Deuteronomy 22:8 – 23:7
- 4th Day Deuteronomy 23:8 – 24
- 5th Day Deuteronomy 23:25 – 24:4 Gospels
- 6th Day Deuteronomy 24:5 – 13 Matthew 24:29 - 42
- 7th Day Deuteronomy 24:14 – 25:19



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Blessings and Shalom