

21:1-24:18 *Mishpatim*, “Judgments”

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***Mishpatim* Hebrew paragraph divisions**

- 21:1-6 {s} Conditions for a Hebrew male slave to go out free
- 21:7-11 {s} Conditions for a Hebrew female slave to go out free
- 21:12-13 {s} Manslaughter is not murder
- 21:14 {s} Murder receives the death penalty
- 21:15 {s} Striking father or mother receives the death penalty
- 21:16 {s} Kidnapping receives the death penalty
- 21:17 {s} Cursing father or mother receives the death penalty
- 21:18-19 {s} Assault of a neighbor when he does not die
- 21:20-21 {s} Assault of a male or female slave when he does or does not die
- 21: 22-25 {s} Assault of a woman with child when the child does or does not die
- 21:26-27 {p} Conditions for male or female slaves to go out free
- 21:28-32 {s} Restitution when an ox gores a person to death
- 21:33-34 {s} Restitution when a pit causes the death of an animal
- 21:35-36 {s} Restitution when an ox causes the death of an animal
- 22:1-4 {s} Restitution when a theft is discovered
- 22:5 {s} Restitution when an animal feeds in another man’s field
- 22:6 {s} Restitution when fire destroys a harvest
- 22:7-9 {s} Restitution when goods are lost from a neighbor’s safe- keeping
- 22:10-13 {p} Restitution when goods are destroyed from a neighbor’s safe- keeping
- 22:14-15 {s} Restitution when goods are borrowed
- 22:16-17 {s} Restitution when a virgin is seduced
- 22:18-19 {s} Sorceress = death penalty + lying with animals = death penalty
- 22:20-24 {p} Idolaters + afflictors of strangers, widows, orphans = utterly destroyed
- 22:25-27 {s} Not coveting interest or collateral from your neighbor
- 22:28-31 {s} Not coveting what belongs to God
- 23:1-3 {s} Not bearing false witness
- 23:4 {s} Return your enemy’s ox or donkey
- 23:5 {s} Relieve your enemy’s donkey’s burden
- 23:6-19 {p} Not perverting justice + oppressing strangers + Sabbath rest + not naming other gods + harvest feasts
- 23:20-25 {s} The Angel of YHVH will go before them in the way to Canaan
- 23:26-33 {p} What YHVH will do to bring them in
- 24:1-11 {s} Moses ratified the covenant between God and His people
- 24:12-18 {p} Moses went into the cloud to receive the Torah

***Mishpatim* Summary**

1A) 21:1-11 When **HEBREW SLAVES GO OUT FREE**;

1B) 21:12-22:20 WHEN RESTITUTION IS AND IS NOT TO BE MADE;

1C. 1) 22:21 And a **STRANGER YOU SHALL NOT WRONG**, neither shall you oppress him; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt;

1C. 2) 22:22-27 You shall not afflict **WIDOWS + FATHERLESS + POOR**;

1C. 3) 22:28 **YOU SHALL NOT REVILE GOD**, nor curse a ruler of your people;

1C. 4) 22:29-30 **THE FIRSTS BELONG TO GOD**;

1C. 5) 22:31 And **YOU SHALL BE HOLY MEN TO ME**; therefore you shall not eat any flesh that is torn by beasts in the field; you shall cast it to the dogs; {s}

1D) 23:1-2 You shall not utter a **FALSE REPORT**; nor put your hand with the **WICKED** to be an unrighteous witness. **2** You shall not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shall you bear witness in a cause to **TURN ASIDE** after a multitude to **PERVERT JUSTICE**;

1E) 23:3 Neither shall you favor a **POOR** man **IN HIS CAUSE**; {s}

CENTRAL AXIS) 23:4-5 **IF YOU MEET YOUR ENEMY'S OX OR HIS DONKEY GOING ASTRAY, YOU SHALL SURELY BRING IT BACK TO HIM AGAIN. 5** **IF YOU SEE THE DONKEY OF ONE WHO HATES YOU LYING UNDER ITS BURDEN, AND YOU WOULD REFRAIN FROM HELPING IT, YOU SHALL SURELY HELP HIM WITH IT**;

2E) 23:6 You shall not subvert the judgment of your **POOR IN HIS CAUSE**;

2D) 23:7-8 Keep far from you a **FALSE MATTER**; and the innocent and righteous do not slay; for I will not justify the **WICKED**. **8** And you shall take no bribe; for **A BRIBE BLINDS** those who have sight, and **PERVERTS THE WORDS** of the righteous;

2C. 1) 23:9 And **A STRANGER YOU SHALL NOT OPPRESS**; for you know the heart of a stranger, seeing you were strangers in the land of Egypt;

2C. 2) 23:10-12 Sabbatical year provides for the **POOR** and **DISADVANTAGED**;

2C. 3) 23:13 **YOU SHALL NOT BLESS OTHER GODS**;

2C. 4) 23:14-19A **THE FIRSTS BELONG TO GOD**;

2C. 5) 23:19B YOU SHALL NOT PARTICIPATE IN IDOLATROUS PRACTICES;

2B) 23:20-33 Israel shall not **RECEIVE RESTITUTION OR MAKE COVENANT** with Canaanites, but shall utterly drive them out;

2A) 24:1-18 ISRAEL MADE A COVENANT WITH YHVH to walk in His ways.

Note on a A pair: The children of Israel were Hebrew slaves who went out of Egypt free; who as a result entered in to covenant with YHVH. They became His bondmen for righteousness' sake.

Mishpatim Chiastic structure

1A) 21:1-11 When **HEBREW SLAVES GO OUT FREE;**

1a) 21:1-2 Now these are the ordinances which you shall set before them. **2** If you buy a Hebrew servant, six years he shall serve; and in the seventh **he shall go out free for nothing;**

1b) 21:3-4 When his wife shall go out with him or not;

1a) 21:3a If he come in by himself, **he shall go out by himself;**

1b) 21:3b If he is married, then **his wife shall go out** with him;

central axis) 21:4a **If his master gives him a wife, and she bears him sons or daughters;**

2b) 21:4b **The wife** and her children **shall be her master's;**

2a) 21:4c And **he shall go out by himself;**

1c) 21:5 But if the servant shall plainly say: I love my master, my wife, and my children; **I will not go out free;**

central axis) 21:6a Then his master shall bring him to God, and shall bring him to the door, or to the doorpost; and his master shall bore his ear through with an awl;

2c) 21:6b And **he shall serve him for ever;** {s}

2b) 21:7-11a The maidservant espoused as a wife shall not go out but shall be redeemed;

1a) 21:7 And if a man sells his daughter to be a maidservant, **she shall not go out** as the menservants do;

1b) 21:8a If she does not please her master, **who has espoused her to himself,** then he shall let her be redeemed;

central axis) 21:8b **He shall have no power to sell her to a foreign people, seeing he has dealt deceitfully with her;**

2b) 21:9 And **if he espouse her to his son,** he shall deal with her after the manner of daughters;

2a) 21:10-11a If he take another wife, her food, her raiment, and her conjugal rights, **he shall not diminish.** **11** And if he does not do these three for her;

2a) 21:11b Then **she shall go out for nothing,** without money; {s}

1B) 21:12-22:20 WHEN RESTITUTION IS AND IS NOT TO BE MADE;

1a) 21:12-17 Death penalty for crimes against persons;

12 He that strikes a man, so that he dies, shall surely be put to death. **13** And if a man does not lie in wait, but God causes him to come into his hand; then I will appoint you a place where he may flee. {s} **14** And if a man comes presumptuously upon his neighbor, to slay him with guile; you shall take him from My altar, that he may die. {s} **15** And he who strikes his father, or his mother, shall be surely put to death. {s} **16** And he who steals a man, and sells him, or if he is found in his hand, he shall surely be put to death. {s} **17** And he who curses his father or his mother, shall surely be put to death; {s}

1b) 21:18-27 Restitution in cases of assault;

18 And if men contend together, and one strikes the other with a stone, or with his fist, and he does not die, but keeps to his bed; **19** if he rises again, and walks abroad on his staff, then shall he that struck him be acquitted; only he shall pay for the loss of his time, and shall cause him to be thoroughly healed. {s} **20** And if a man strikes his bondman, or his bondwoman, with a rod, and he dies under his hand, he shall surely be punished. **21** Notwithstanding if he continues a day or two, he shall not be punished; for he is his money. {s} **22** And if men strive together, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit departs, and yet no harm follows, he shall be surely fined, according as the woman's husband shall lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. **23** But if any harm follow, then you shalt give life for life, **24** eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, **25** burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe. {s} **26** And if a man strikes the eye of his bondman, or the eye of his bondwoman, and destroys it, he shall let him go free for his eye's sake. **27** And if he smites out his bondman's tooth, or his bondwoman's tooth, he shall let him go free for his tooth's sake; {p}

1c. 1) 21:28-32 When an animal owner is liable for death caused by his animal;

28 And if an ox gores a man or a woman, so that they die, the ox shall be surely stoned, and its flesh shall not be eaten; but the owner of the ox shall be acquitted. **29** But if the ox was wont to gore in time past, and warning had been given to its owner, and he did not keep it in, but it had killed a man or a woman; the ox shall be stoned, and its owner also shall be put to death. **30** If there is laid on him a ransom, then he shall give for the redemption of his life whatever is laid on him. **31** Whether it had gored a son, or had gored a daughter, according to this judgment shall it be done to him. **32** If the ox gores a bondman or a bondwoman, he shall give to their master thirty shekels of silver, and the ox shall be stoned; {s}

1c. 2) 21:33-22:15 Restitution for loss of animals;

33 And if a man shall open a pit, or if a man shall dig a pit and not cover it, and an ox or a donkey falls into it, **34** the owner of the pit shall make it good; he shall give money to the owner of them, and the dead beast shall be his. {s} **35** And if one man's ox hurts another's, so that it dies; then they shall sell the live ox, and divide the price of it; and the dead also they shall divide. **36** Or if it is known that the ox was wont to gore in time past, and its owner had not kept it in; he shall surely pay ox for ox, and the dead beast shall be his own; {s}

2c. 1) 22:1-4 When a property owner is liable for the death of the thief;

22:1 If a man steal an ox, or a sheep, and kill it, or sell it, he shall pay five oxen for an ox, and four sheep for a sheep. **2** If a thief is found breaking in, and is struck so that he dies, there shall be no bloodguiltiness for him. **3** If the sun has risen upon him, there shall be bloodguiltiness for him; (and the thief) shall make restitution; if he has nothing, then he shall be sold for his theft. **4** If the theft is found alive in his hand, whether it is an ox, or donkey, or sheep, he shall pay double; {s}

2c. 2) 22:5-15 Restitution for loss of property;

5 If a man cause a field or vineyard to be eaten, and shall let his beast loose, and it feed in another man's field; of the best of his own field, and of the best of his own vineyard, shall he make restitution. {s} **6** If fire break out, and catch in thorns, so that the shocks of corn, or the standing corn, or the field are consumed; he that kindled the fire shall surely make restitution. {s} **7** If a man deliver to his neighbour money or stuff to keep, and it be stolen out of the man's house; if the thief be found, he shall pay double. **8** If the thief be not found, then the master of the house shall come near to God, to see whether he have not put his hand unto his neighbour's goods. **9** For every matter of trespass, whether it be for ox, for donkey, for sheep, for raiment, or for any manner of lost thing, of which one says: 'This is it,' the cause of both parties shall come before God; he whom God shall condemn shall pay double to his neighbour. {s} **10** If a man deliver to his neighbour an donkey, or an ox, or a sheep, or any beast, to keep, and it dies, or is hurt, or driven away, no man seeing it; **11** the oath of YHVH shall be between them both, to see whether he has not put his hand to his neighbor's goods; and its owner shall accept it, and he shall not make restitution. **12** But if it is stolen from him, he shall make restitution to its owner. **13** If it is torn in pieces, let him bring it for a witness; he shall not make good that which was torn. {p} **14** And if a man borrows anything from his neighbor, and it is hurt, or dies, the owner of it not being with it, he shall surely make restitution. **15** If the owner of it is with it, he shall not make it good; if it was hired, it came with its hire; {s}

2b) 22:16-17 Restitution when a virgin is seduced (an assault on her innocence);

16 And if a man entices a virgin who is not betrothed, and lies with her, he shall surely pay the bride price for her to be his wife. **17** If her father utterly refuses to give her to him, he shall pay money according to the bride price of virgins; {s}

2a) 22:18-20 Death penalty when there can be no restitution;

18 You shall not permit a sorceress to live. **19** Whoever lies with a beast shall surely be put to death. {s} **20** He who sacrifices to the gods, save to YHVH only, shall be utterly destroyed;

1C. 1) 22:21 And a **STRANGER YOU SHALL NOT WRONG**, neither shall you oppress him; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt;

1C. 2) 22:22-27 You shall not afflict **WIDOWS + FATHERLESS + POOR**;

1a) 22:22 You shall not afflict any widow, or fatherless child;

1b) 22:23 If you afflict them in any way — for **if they cry at all to Me, I will surely hear their cry** —

1c) 22:24 My wrath shall wax hot, and I will kill you with the sword; and your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless (i.e., **YHVH Himself becomes the covering** for widows + fatherless); {p}

central axis) 22:25 If you lend money to any of My people, even to the poor with you, you shall not be to him as a creditor; neither shall you lay interest on him;

2c) 22:26-27a If you at all take your neighbor's garment in pledge, you shall restore it to him by the going down of the sun; **27** for **that is his only covering**, it is his garment for his skin; within what shall he sleep?

2b) 22:27b And it shall come to pass, **when he cries to Me, that I will hear**;

2a) 22:27c For **I am gracious**; {s}

1C. 3) 22:28 **YOU SHALL NOT REVILE GOD**, nor curse a ruler of your people;

1C. 4) 22:29-30 You shall not delay to offer of the fulness of your harvest, and of the outflow of your presses. The firstborn of your sons you shall give to Me. **30** Likewise you shall do with your oxen, and with your sheep; seven days it shall be with its mother; on the eighth day you shall give it to Me (i.e., **THE FIRSTS BELONG TO GOD**);

1C. 5) 22:31 And **YOU SHALL BE HOLY MEN TO ME**; therefore you shall not eat any flesh that is torn by beasts in the field; you shall cast it to the dogs; {s}

1D) 23:1-2 You shall not utter a **FALSE REPORT**; nor put your hand with the **WICKED** to be an unrighteous witness. **2** You shall not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shall you bear witness in a cause to **TURN ASIDE** after a multitude to **PERVERT JUSTICE**;

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2C. 1) 23:9 And **A STRANGER YOU SHALL NOT OPPRESS**; for you know the heart of a stranger, seeing you were strangers in the land of Egypt;

2C. 2) 23:10-12 Sabbatical year provides for the **POOR** and **DISADVANTAGED**;

1a) 23:10 And **six years you shall sow your land**, and gather in its increase;

1b) 23:11a **But the seventh year you shall let it rest** and lie fallow;

central axis) 23:11b **That the poor of your people may eat; and what they leave the beast of the field shall eat;**

2b) 23:11c **In like manner** you shall deal with your **vineyard**, and with your **oliveyard**;

2a) 23:12 **Six days you shall do your work**, but on the seventh day you shall rest; that your ox and your donkey may have rest, and the son of your handmaid, and the stranger, may be refreshed;

2C. 3) 23:13 And in all things that I have said to you take heed; and make no mention of the name of other gods, neither let it be heard out of your mouth (i.e., **YOU SHALL NOT BLESS OTHER GODS**);

2C. 4) 23:14-19A **THE FIRSTS BELONG TO GOD**;

1a. 1) 23:14 **Three times** you shall keep a feast to Me **in the year**;

1a. 2) 23:15 The feast of unleavened bread you shall keep; seven days you shall eat **unleavened bread**, as I commanded you, at the time appointed in the month of Abib--for in it you came out from Egypt; and none shall appear before Me empty;

1a. 3) 23:16a And the feast of harvest, the **firstfruits of your labors**, which you sow in the field (i.e., Shavuot);

central axis) 23:16b And the feast of ingathering, at the end of the year, when you gather in your labors out of the field (i.e., Sukkot);

2a. 1) 23:17 **Three times in the year** all your males shall appear before YHVH;

2a. 2) 23:18 You shall not offer the blood of My sacrifice with **leavened bread**; neither shall the fat of My feast remain all night until the morning;

2a. 3) 23:19 The choicest **firstfruits of your land** you shall bring into the house of YHVH your God;

2C. 5) 23:19B You shall not boil a kid in its mother's milk (i.e, **YOU SHALL NOT PARTICIPATE IN IDOLATROUS PRACTICES**);

2B) 23:20-33 Israel shall not **RECEIVE RESTITUTION OR MAKE COVENANT** with Canaanites, but shall utterly drive them out;

1a.1) 23:20-23 **I will send My angel before you;**

1a) 23:20 Behold, **I send an angel before you**, to keep you by the way, and **to bring you into** the place which I have prepared;

1b) 23:21a Take heed of him, and **hearken to his voice**; do not be rebellious against him;

central axis) 23:21b **For he will not pardon your transgression; for My name is in him;**

2b) 23:22 But if you shall indeed **hearken to his voice**, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy to your enemies, and an adversary to your adversaries;

2a) 23:23 For **My angel shall go before you**, and **bring you in to** the Amorite, and the **Hittite**, and the Perizzite, and the **Canaanite**, the **Hivite**, and the Jebusite; and I will cut them off;

1a.2) 23:24-25a **You shall not bow down to their gods nor serve them;**

1a) 23:24a **You shall not bow down to their gods, nor serve them;**

1b) 23:24b Nor do after **their doings**;

central axis) 23:24c **But you shall utterly overthrow them;**

2b) 23:24d And break in pieces **their pillars**;

2a) 23:25a And **you shall serve YHVH your God**;

1b) 23:25b And He will bless your bread, and your water; and I will **take sickness away** from your midst; {s}

2b) 23:26 None shall miscarry, nor be barren in your land; the number of your days I will fulfill;

2a.1) 23:27-31 I will send My terror and the hornet before you;

1a) 23:27a I will send My terror before you, and will discomfit all the people to whom you shall come;

central axis) 23:27b And I will make all your enemies turn their backs to you;

2a) 23:28-31 I will send the hornet before you;

1A) 23:28A And I WILL SEND THE HORNET BEFORE YOU;

1B) 23:28B WHICH SHALL DRIVE OUT;

1C) 23:28C The HIVITE, the CANAANITE, and the HITTITE, from before you;

1D) 23:29-30B LEST THE LAND BECOME DESOLATE;

1a) 23:29a I will not drive them out from before you;

1b) 23:29b In one year;

central axis) 23:29c Lest the land become desolate, and the beasts of the field multiply against you;

2b) 23:30a By little and little;

2a) 23:30b I will drive them out from before you;

2D) 23:30C-31A Until YOU ARE INCREASED AND INHERIT THE LAND. And I will set your border from the Red Sea even to the sea of the Philistines, and from the wilderness to the River;

2C) 23:31B For I will deliver THE INHABITANTS OF THE LAND into your hand;

2B) 23:31C And YOU SHALL DRIVE THEM OUT;

2A) 23:31D BEFORE YOU;

2a.2) 23:32-33 You shall make no covenant with them, nor **with their gods**. They shall not dwell in your land--lest they make you sin against Me, for you will **serve their gods**--for they will be a snare to you; {p}

2A) 24:1-18 ISRAEL MADE A COVENANT WITH YHVH to walk in His ways;

1a) 24:1-9 Moses went up with Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel;

1a) 24:1-2 And to Moses He said: **Come up to YHVH**, you, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel; and worship afar off; **2** and Moses alone shall come near to YHVH; but they shall not come near; neither shall the people go up with him;

1b) 24:3a And Moses came and told the people **all the words of YHVH**, and all the ordinances;

1c) 24:3b-4a And all the people answered with one voice, and said: **All the words which YHVH has spoken will we do.** **4** And **Moses wrote all the words of YHVH;**

central axis) 24:4b-5 And rose up early in the morning, and built an altar under the mount, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. **5** And he sent the young men of the children of Israel, who offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to YHVH;

2c) 24:6-8b *Moses read all the words of YHVH/* The people said: **All that YHVH has spoken we will do;**

1A.1) 24:6 And **MOSES TOOK HALF OF THE BLOOD**, and put it in basins; and half of the blood he dashed against the altar;

1A.2) 24:7A And he took the **BOOK OF THE COVENANT**;

CENTRAL AXIS) 24:7B **AND READ IN THE HEARING OF THE PEOPLE; AND THEY SAID:**

ALL THAT YHVH HAS SPOKEN WILL WE DO, AND OBEY;

2A.1) 24:8A And **MOSES TOOK THE BLOOD**, and sprinkled it on the people, and said;

2A.2) 24:8B Behold the **BLOOD OF THE COVENANT**, which YHVH has made with you;

2b) 24:8c In agreement with **all these words**;

2a) 24:9 Then **Moses went up**, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel;

1b) 24:10a And **they saw the God of Israel**;

central axis) 24:10b **And there was under His feet the likeness of a paved work of sapphire stone, and the likeness of the very heaven for clearness;**

2b) 24:11 And on the nobles of the children of Israel He laid not His hand; and **they beheld God**, and did eat and drink; {s}

2a) 24:12-18 **Moses went up** with Joshua;

1a) 24:12-15a Moses called to **come up into the mount** to God;

1A) 24:12-13 **COME UP TO ME INTO THE MOUNT/ MOSES WENT UP;**

1a) 24:12a And YHVH said to Moses: **Come up to Me into the mount** and be there;

central axis) 24:12b **And I will give you the tables of stone, and the law and the commandment, which I have written, that you may teach them;**

2a) 24:13 And Moses rose up, and Joshua his minister; and **Moses went up into the mount** of God;

CENTRAL AXIS) 24:14 **AND TO THE ELDERS HE SAID: WAIT HERE FOR US, UNTIL WE COME BACK TO YOU; AND, BEHOLD, AARON AND HUR ARE WITH YOU; WHOSOEVER HAS A CAUSE, LET HIM COME NEAR TO THEM;**

2A) 24:15A And **MOSES WENT UP INTO THE MOUNT**;

1b) 24:15b And **the cloud** covered the mount;

1c) 24:16a And the **glory of YHVH** abode on mount Sinai;

central axis) 24:16b **And the cloud covered it six days; and the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud;**

2c) 24:17 And the appearance of the **glory of YHVH** was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel;

2b) 24:18a And Moses entered into the midst of **the cloud**;

2a) 24:18b And **went up into the mount**; and Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights. {p}