

Shoftim, Torah, August 19, 2023

Deuteronomy 16:18-18:5

(18) You shall appoint magistrates and officials for your tribes, in all the settlements that your God יהוה is giving you, and they shall govern the people with due justice. (19)

You shall not judge unfairly: you shall show no partiality; you shall not take bribes, for bribes blind the eyes of the discerning and upset the plea of the just. (20) Justice, justice shall you pursue, that you may thrive and occupy the land that your God יהוה is giving you. (21)

You shall not set up a sacred post—any kind of pole beside the altar of your God יהוה that you may make — (22) or erect a stone pillar; for such your God יהוה detests. (1) You shall not sacrifice to your God יהוה an ox or a sheep that has any defect of a serious kind, for that is

דברים ט"ז:י"ח-י"ח:ה'

(יח) שֹׁפְטִים וְשֹׁטְרִים תִּתֶּן לְךָ
בְּכָל־שְׁעָרֶיךָ אֲשֶׁר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ
נָתַן לְךָ לְשִׁבְטֶיךָ וְשָׁפְטוּ אֶת־הָעָם
מִשִּׁפְט־צֶדֶק: (יט) לֹא־תִטֶּה מִשִּׁפְט
לֹא תִכְרֵר פָּנִים וְלֹא־תִקַּח שֹׁחַד כִּי
הַשֹּׁחַד יְעוֹרֵר עֵינַי חֹכְמִים וַיִּסְלַף
דְּבָרֵי צְדִיקִים: (כ) צֶדֶק צֶדֶק תִּרְדֹּף
לְמַעַן תִּחְיֶה וַיִּרְשַׁת אֶת־הָאָרֶץ
אֲשֶׁר־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ נָתַן לְךָ: {ס}
(כא) לֹא־תִטֵּעַ לְךָ אֲשֶׁרָה כָּל־עֵץ
אֲצִל מִזִּבְחַת יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֲשֶׁר
תַּעֲשֶׂה־לְךָ: (כב) וְלֹא־תִקִּים לְךָ
מִצֵּבָה אֲשֶׁר שָׁנָא יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ:
{ס} (א) לֹא־תִזְבֹּחַ לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ
שׁוֹר וְשֵׂה אֲשֶׁר יִהְיֶה בּוֹ מוֹם כָּל
דָּבָר רָע כִּי תוֹעֲבַת יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ
הוּא: {ס} (ב) כִּי־יִמָּצֵא בְּקִרְבְּךָ

abhorrent to your God (2) . יהוה If there is found among you, in one of the settlements that your God יהוה is giving you, a man or woman who has affronted your God יהוה and transgressed the Covenant— (3) turning to the worship of other gods and bowing down to them, to the sun or the moon or any of the heavenly host, something I never commanded— (4) and you have been informed or have learned of it, then you shall make a thorough inquiry. If it is true, the fact is established, that abhorrent thing was perpetrated in Israel, (5) you shall take the man or the woman who did that wicked thing out to the public place, and you shall stone that man or woman to death. — (6) A person shall be put to death only on the testimony of two or more witnesses; no one shall be put to death on the testimony of a single witness.— (7) Let the hands of the witnesses be the first to put

בְּאַחַד שְׁעָרֶיךָ אֲשֶׁר־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ
נָתַן לְךָ אִישׁ אוֹ-אִשָּׁה אֲשֶׁר יַעֲשֶׂה
אֶת־הָרַע בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה־אֱלֹהֶיךָ לְעֵבֵר
בְּרִיתוֹ: (ג) וַיִּלָּךְ וַיַּעֲבֹד אֱלֹהִים
אֲחֵרִים וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוֶה לָהֶם וְלַשָּׁמַשׁ | אוֹ
לַיָּרֵחַ אוֹ לְכָל־צַבָּא הַשָּׁמַיִם אֲשֶׁר
לֹא־צִוִּיתִי: (ד) וְהִגַּדְתָּ וְשָׁמַעְתָּ
וְדַרְשֶׁתָּ הַיֵּטֵב וְהִנֵּה אָמֶת נִכּוֹן
הַדָּבָר נַעֲשֶׂתָה הַתּוֹעֵבָה הַזֹּאת
בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל: (ה) וְהוֹצֵאת אֶת־הָאִישׁ
הַהוּא אוֹ אֶת־הָאִשָּׁה הַהוּא אֲשֶׁר
עָשׂוּ אֶת־הַדָּבָר הָרָע הַזֶּה
אֶל־שְׁעָרֶיךָ אֶת־הָאִישׁ אוֹ
אֶת־הָאִשָּׁה וּסְקַלְתֶּם בְּאֲבָנִים
וּמָתוּ: (ו) עַל־פִּי | שְׁנַיִם עֵדִים אוֹ
שְׁלֹשָׁה עֵדִים יוֹמַת הַמָּת לֹא יוֹמַת
עַל־פִּי עֵד אֶחָד: (ז) יָד הָעֵדִים
תְּהִי־בּוֹ בְּרֵאשִׁיטָה לְהַמִּיתוֹ וַיֵּד
כָּל־הָעָם בְּאַחֲרָנָה וּבַעֲרַת הָרַע
מִקֶּרְבָּךְ: {פ} (ח) כִּי יִפְלֹא מִמֶּךָ
דָּבָר לְמִשְׁפָּט בֵּין־דָּם | לְדָם

[the condemned] to death, followed by the hands of the rest of the people. Thus you will sweep out evil from your midst. (8) If a case is too baffling for you to decide, be it a controversy over homicide, civil law, or assault—matters of dispute in your courts—you shall promptly repair to the place that your God יהוה will have chosen, (9) and appear before the levitical priests, or the magistrate in charge at the time, and present your problem. When they have announced to you the verdict in the case, (10) you shall carry out the verdict that is announced to you from that place that יהוה chose, observing scrupulously all their instructions to you. (11) You shall act in accordance with the instructions given you and the ruling handed down to you; you must not deviate from the verdict that they announce to you either to the right or to the left. (12) Should either party [to the dispute]

בְּיַד־יָדָיו לְדִין וּבִין נִגְעַ לְנִגְעַ דְּבָרֵי
רִיבַת בְּשַׁעֲרֶיהָ וּקְמַתָּ וְעַלִּיתָ
אֶל־הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר יִבְחָר יְהוָה
אֱלֹהֶיךָ בּוֹ: (ט) וּבָאתָ אֶל־הַכֹּהֲנִים
הַלְוִיִּם וְאֶל־הַשֹּׁפֵט אֲשֶׁר יִהְיֶה
בְּיָמֶיךָ הַהֵם וְדַרְשָׁתָּ וְהִגִּידוּ לְךָ אֵת
דְּבַר הַמִּשְׁפָּט: (י) וְעָשִׂיתָ עַל־פִּי
הַדָּבָר אֲשֶׁר יִגִּידוּ לְךָ מִן־הַמָּקוֹם
הַהוּא אֲשֶׁר יִבְחָר יְהוָה וְשָׁמַרְתָּ
לְעֲשׂוֹת כְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר יֹרֶוּךָ: (יא)
עַל־פִּי הַתּוֹרָה אֲשֶׁר יֹרֶוּךָ
וְעַל־הַמִּשְׁפָּט אֲשֶׁר־יֹאמְרוּ לְךָ
תַּעֲשֶׂה לֹא תִסּוֹר מִן־הַדָּבָר
אֲשֶׁר־יִגִּידוּ לְךָ יְמִין וּשְׂמָאל: (יב)
וְהָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר־יַעֲשֶׂה בְּזוֹנוֹ לְבַלְתִּי
שָׁמַעַ אֶל־הַכֹּהֵן הָעֹמֵד לְשַׁרְתָּ שָׁם
אֶת־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ אוֹ אֶל־הַשֹּׁפֵט
וּמֵת הָאִישׁ הַהוּא וּבַעֲרַתָּ הָרֶעַ
מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל: (יג) וְכָל־הָעָם יִשְׁמְעוּ
וַיֵּרָאוּ וְלֹא יִזְדוֹן עוֹד: {ס} (יד)
כִּי־תָבֹא אֶל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר יְהוָה

act presumptuously and disregard the priest charged with serving there your God יהוה, or the magistrate, that party shall die. Thus you will sweep out evil from Israel: (13) all the people will hear and be afraid and will not act presumptuously again. (14) If, after you have entered the land that your God יהוה has assigned to you, and taken possession of it and settled in it, you decide, “I will set a king over me, as do all the nations about me,” (15) you shall be free to set a king over yourself, one chosen by your God יהוה. Be sure to set as king over yourself one of your own people; you must not set a foreigner over you, one who is not your kin. (16) Moreover, he shall not keep many horses or send people back to Egypt to add to his horses, since יהוה has warned you, “You must not go back that way again.” (17) And he shall not have many wives, lest his heart go astray; nor shall he

אֱלֹהֶיךָ נָתַן לְךָ וַיִּרְשָׁתָהּ וַיִּשְׁבָּתָהּ
בָּהּ וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲשִׁימָה עָלַי מֶלֶךְ
כְּכָל־הַגּוֹיִם אֲשֶׁר סְבִיבֹתַי: (טו)
שׁוּם תַּשִּׁים עָלֶיךָ מֶלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר יִבְחַר
יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בּוֹ מִקְּרֵב אַחֶיךָ
תַּשִּׁים עָלֶיךָ מֶלֶךְ לֹא תֹכֵל לַתֵּת
עָלֶיךָ אִישׁ נְכָרִי אֲשֶׁר לֹא־אֶחָיִךָ
הוא: (טז) רַק לֹא־יִרְבֶּה־לְּךָ סוּסִים
וְלֹא־יָשִׁיב אֶת־הָעַם מִצְרַיִם לְמַעַן
הַרְבֹּת סוּס וַיְהוֶה אָמַר לָכֶם לֹא
תִסְפוֹן לָשׁוּב בַּדֶּרֶךְ הַזֶּה עוֹד: (יז)
וְלֹא יִרְבֶּה־לְּךָ נָשִׁים וְלֹא יִסּוּר
לְבָבוֹ וּכְסָף וְזָהָב לֹא יִרְבֶּה־לְּךָ
מָאֵד: (יח) וְהָיָה כְּשִׁבְתְּךָ עַל כִּסֵּא
מִמְּלַכְתְּךָ וְכָתַב לְּךָ אֶת־מִשְׁנֵה
הַתּוֹרָה הַזֹּאת עַל־סֵפֶר מִלְּפָנַי
הַכְּהֹנִים הַלְוִיִּם: (יט) וְהָיְתָה עִמּוֹ
וְקָרָא בּוֹ כָּל־יְמֵי חַיָּיו לְמַעַן יִלְמַד
לְיִרְאָה אֶת־יְהוָה אֱלֹהָיו לְשִׁמֹּר
אֶת־כָּל־דְּבָרֵי הַתּוֹרָה הַזֹּאת
וְאֶת־הַחֻקִּים הָאֵלֶּה לַעֲשׂוֹתָם: (כ)

amass silver and gold to excess. (18) When he is seated on his royal throne, he shall have a copy of this Teaching written for him on a scroll by the levitical priests. (19) Let it remain with him and let him read in it all his life, so that he may learn to revere his God יהוה, to observe faithfully every word of this Teaching as well as these laws. (20) Thus he will not act haughtily toward his fellows or deviate from the Instruction to the right or to the left, to the end that he and his descendants may reign long in the midst of Israel. (1) The levitical priests, the whole tribe of Levi, shall have no territorial portion with Israel. They shall live only off יהוה's offerings by fire as their portion, (2) and shall have no portion among their brother tribes: יהוה is their portion, as promised. (3) This then shall be the priests' due from the people: Everyone who offers a sacrifice, whether an ox or a sheep,

לְבִלְתִּי רוּם-לְבָבוֹ מֵאַחֲיוֹ וּלְבִלְתִּי
 סוּר מִן-הַמִּצְוָה יְמִין וּשְׂמֹאל
 לְמַעַן יֵאָרֶיךָ יְמֵים עַל-מַמְלַכְתּוֹ
 הוּא וּבָנָיו בְּקֶרֶב יִשְׂרָאֵל: {ס} (א)
 לֹא-יִהְיֶה לְפָנָיִם הַלְוִיִּם כָּל-שִׁבְט
 לְוֵי חֵלֶק וְנַחֲלָה עִם-יִשְׂרָאֵל אִשִּׁי
 יְהוָה וְנַחֲלָתוֹ יֹאכְלוּ: (ב) וְנַחֲלָה
 לֹא-יִהְיֶה-לּוֹ בְּקֶרֶב אָחָיו יְהוָה הוּא
 נַחֲלָתוֹ כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר-לּוֹ: {ס} (ג) וְזֶה
 יִהְיֶה מִשְׁפֵּט הַכֹּהֲנִים מֵאֵת הָעָם
 מֵאֵת זִבְחֵי הַזֶּבַח אִם-שׂוֹר
 אִם-שֶׁה וְנָתַן לְפָנָיו הַזֶּרֶע וְהַלְחִימֵם
 וְהִקְבֵּה: (ד) רֵאשִׁית דְּגַנְךָ תִּירֹשֶׁךָ
 וַיְצִהְרֶךָ וְרֵאשִׁית גִּזְ צֹאנֶךָ תִּתֶּן-לּוֹ:
 (ה) כִּי בּוֹ בָחַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ
 מִכָּל-שִׁבְטֶיךָ לְעֹמֵד לְשֵׁרֶת
 בְּשֵׁם-יְהוָה הוּא וּבָנָיו כָּל-הַיָּמִים:
 {ס}

must give the shoulder, the cheeks,
and the stomach to the priest. (4)

You shall also give him the first
fruits of your new grain and wine
and oil, and the first shearing of
your sheep. (5) For your God יהוה
has chosen him and his
descendants, out of all your tribes,
to be in attendance for service in
the name of יהוה for all time.