

Torah Cycle 2018-2019
Parshah: *Shoftim*
(Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9)

Outline of Shoftim

Several laws governing the judicial process and institutions of state

Deuteronomy 16:18

You shall appoint judges and officers in all your towns (gates) that the Lord your God is giving you, according to your tribes and they shall judge the people with righteous judgement.

16:19

...You shall not show **partiality**...
You shall **not accept a bribe**, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of the righteous.

16:20

Justice (tsedeq), and only justice (tsedeq), you shall follow, that you may live and inherit the land...

16:21

You shall not plant any tree as an Asherah beside the altar of the LORD your God that you shall make. And you shall not set up a pillar, which the LORD your God hates.

17:1

You shall not sacrifice to the LORD your God an ox or a sheep in which is a blemish, any defect whatever, for that is an abomination to the LORD your God.

2 Samuel 24:24

...I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing.

17:9-10

And you shall come to the Levitical priests and to the judge...and they shall declare to you the decision. Then you shall do according to what they declare to you...and you shall be careful to do according to all that they direct you....

Concerning a King—17b Prohibitions

Shall not

1. Multiply Horses
2. Multiply Wives
3. Acquire excessive wealth

17:18-20

...he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law...that he may learn to fear the LORD...and that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers...

17:14

When you come to the land that the LORD your God is giving you...and then say, “I will set a king over me, **like all the nations** that are around me”...

1 Samuel 8:5

...Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations.

The Cost of Living like the Nations (having a King other than Yeshua)

1 Samuel 8:10-18

- Sons for chariots and horsemen
- Men to be commanders
- Men to plow his ground
- Men to reap his harvest
- Men to make implements of war and chariots
- Daughters to be perfumers

- Daughters to be cooks and bakers
- Best fields, vineyards, olive orchards
- 10th of Grain
- 10th of Vineyards
- Male servants, female servants, best young men, and donkeys will be put used for his work.
- You shall be his slaves

Portion for the Levites 18:1-8

- The shoulder, two cheeks, and the stomach of sacrifices
- Firstfruits of grain, wine and oil
- First fleece from sheep
- Can eat in any town in which he ministers

20:1

When you go out to war against your enemies, and see horses and chariots and an army larger than your own, you shall not be afraid...

Who goes home?

1. Built a new home but has not dedicated (lived in) it
2. Planted a vineyard and not enjoyed its fruit
3. Engaged, but not married

20:5

Let him go back to his house, lest he die in the battle...

Death isn't the enemy.
A meaningless life is.

Death is the reminder that every
moment is precious.

A fourth person who goes home
20:8

...Is there any man who is fearful
and fainthearted? Let him go back
to his house...

Ephesians 6:12

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.



Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

Practical Strategies for Fear/ Anxiety

- Prayer (crying out to God)
- The Bedtime Shema
- Memorize/Recite Scripture
- Sing
- Talk to Trusted Ones
- Let others fight for you
- Speak Aloud the Enemies Lies
- Exercise
- Return to the “basics” of the Torah
- Take time for yourself (putting on the armor takes awhile)

James 1:2

Count it **all joy** my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

Psalms 8:2

Out of the **mouth of babes and infants**, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.