

Midrash *Shoftim* ("Judges")
Deuteronomy 16:18 – 21:9

Are We to Judge Others????

Yes (Matthew 18:15-17) & No (Matthew 7:1-5)

Appointment of Judges & Officers

Deuteronomy 16:18-21

שֹׁפְטִים *Shof'tim* (Judges) & שֹׁטְרִים *Shot'rim* (Officers)

They shall not: Pervert Justice
Show Partiality
Take a Bribe } That they may live & inherit The Land

The Two-Tier Judicial System

The Sanhedrin: (70 Elders (Num 11:16-17) + Moses = 71)

Deuteronomy 17:1-13

No Defect nor Blemish in Sacrificial Animals

Idol-Worshippers to be Judged: With Testimony of 2 or 3 Witnesses
Outside the Gate

Stone to Death ... Witnesses Throw First!

John 8:7

Not Revenge, but to "put away evil from among you."

The Levitical Court: For cases too difficult for *Sanhedrin*

Premeditated Murder vs. Accidental Death
"Hung" Jury
Penalty Determination } Obey or Die!

Selection of Kings

Deuteronomy 17:14-20

Israel will ask for a king "like all the nations around us." **BIG PROBLEM!!**

I Samuel 10:18-19

Must be Israeli & must govern by Torah:

No Cavalry (to keep the people in submission)

No Harem (to be seduced away from God – *Ba'al Peor*)

No Gold nor Silver

Solomon's Failure { I Kings 4:26
I Kings 11:4-10
I Kings 10:14

Must write his own personal copy of Torah

Read it all the days of his life But Never Done!

II Kings 22:8-13

Learn the Fear of the LORD

Guard שָׁמַר (*shamar*) and Do עָשָׂה (*asah*) Them

The Portion for the Priests

Deuteronomy 18:1-8

No Land Inheritance, but...

From Sacrifices: Shoulder, Cheeks (with Jaw = "hand") & Stomach (*Phinchas*)

From Firstfruits Offerings: Grain, Wine, Oil & Fleece

"...besides what comes from the sale of his inheritance." (v8) Courses of Priesthood: I Chronicles 24

Forbidden Pagan Practices

Deuteronomy 18:9-14

No Child Sacrifice ...But they did!

Jeremiah 32:35

No Divination, Soothsaying & Wizardry

The God of Israel "declares the end from the beginning"!

Isaiah 46:8-10

These things lead to occultism ⇔ Nazi Germany

King Saul Consulted a Medium & Took his Own Life

I Samuel 28:7-9

God gave Prophets to Israel in order to:

Declare His Divine Will & "Secrets"

Amos 3:7

Provide a Method of Checks & Balances

A Prophet Like Moses

Deuteronomy 18:15-19

Israel "Appointed" Moses as Prophet at Sinai

Exodus 20:18-19

Rabbis: Every generation will have a leader like Moses

“from the midst of them...” (**Can NOT be Muhammad!!!**)
The People are to “hear & do” (*shema*)

The Prophet Announcing Yeshua:

1st Coming: John the Baptist

2nd Coming: Perhaps Elijah??

Matthew 17:11-12

Malachi 4:5-6

False Prophets

One who speaks words that do not come to pass

Contrast this with the **False Prophet** of Deuteronomy 13

Deuteronomy 18:20-22

Cities of Refuge – Added Detail to the Avenger of Blood (Numbers 35)

Deuteronomy 19:1-13

Property Boundaries

Person Moving a Boundary Marker is Cursed

Equivalent to theft

Originally Established When Joshua Conquered Canaan

Jubilee: Insured This Allotment Remained Unchanged

Deuteronomy 19:14

Deuteronomy 27:17

Laws Concerning Witnesses

One Witness Cannot Condemn; Must be 2 or 3

Torah & Prophecies Witness that Yeshua is Messiah

Moses & Elijah @ Transfiguration

A Spirit-Filled Israel?????

Deuteronomy 19:15-21

Matthew 5:17

Matthew 17

Zechariah 4

Laws Concerning Warfare

Deuteronomy 20:1-20

The Priest Encourages the Troops Before Battle

Then the Officers Release Those Who Have:

A New Unoccupied House

A New Un-harvested Vineyard

A Newly Betrothed Wife

} Who are Fearful & Faint-Hearted ⇒ Gideon Judges 7

i.e. Those More Fearful of the Enemy than of God!

A Repeat of the 10 Spies' Report!

Positive: David's Defeat of Goliath

Negative: Israel's Defeat at Ai

I Samuel 17

Joshua 8

Before Engaging in Battle, Offer Terms of Surrender

If Accepted: Pay Tribute & Accept Law of Torah

If Rejected in Far Away Cities: All Males Killed

Women & Children Taken Captive

Animals & Valuables Taken as Spoil

If Rejected in Canaan – **Kill Every Living Thing**

So Wicked that if Left Alive they Would Corrupt Israel

Israel Failed to do this and was Corrupted from Within!

} Spiritual Warfare

Israel Remaining Holy Would Preserve Moral Welfare of Mankind

The Sanctity of Life

Deuteronomy 21:1-9

Murder: Crime Not Only Against Fellow Man, but Also Against God

If Body is Found & Perpetrator Not Identified:

Nearest City Must Atonement for the Bloodshed

Sacrifice an Un-Worked Heifer ...to Sanctify the Land

Heifer Purification

Hint of Judas' Burial

Matthew 27:3-8

Haftarah:

Isaiah 51:12–52:12

God Will Comfort Israel in the Restoration

Brit Chadashah:

John 12:47-50

Yeshua's 1st Coming was Not to Judge

Revelation 19:11

...But His 2nd Coming is to Judge The Earth Dwellers!