

#48 Shoftim: Listen to Him

- **Appoint judges and officers (Deu 16.18-20)**

- **Conflicts are inevitable**

- Deu 16:18 TLV “Judges and officers you are to appoint within all your gates that Adonai your God is giving you, according to your tribes; and they are to judge the people with righteous judgment.

- **Do nothing that would twist justice or show partiality**

- Deu 16:19 TLV You are not to twist justice—you must not show partiality or take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and distorts the words of the righteous.
- God’s justice applies to people individually and is that same for every person.

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- **Appoint judges and officers (Deu 16.18-20)**

- We do not wait for justice; we pursue it.

- Deu 16:20 TLV Justice, justice you must pursue, so that you may live and possess the land that Adonai your God is giving you.

- We must testify truthfully to what we have seen.

- Lev 5:1 TLV “If a soul sins—after hearing a charge of an oath, and he is a witness whether he has seen or otherwise known—if he fails to report it, then he will bear his guilt.

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- **Yeshua witnessed to the truth:**

- Mat 26:62-65 TLV The kohen gadol stood up and said to Yeshua, “Have You no answer? What’s this they’re testifying against You?” (63) But Yeshua kept silent. The kohen gadol said to Him, “I charge You under oath by the living God, tell us if You are Mashiach Ben-Elohim!” (64) “As you have said,” replied Yeshua. “Besides that, I tell you, soon after you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power and coming on the clouds of heaven.” (65) Then the kohen gadol tore his clothes and said, “Blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, you’ve heard the blasphemy.

#48 Shoftim: Listen to Him

- **Justice in the body of Messiah (I Cor 6.1-11):**

- The world does not hold our same values.

- 1Co 6:1 TLV Does any one of you, when he has a matter against his neighbor, dare to go to court before the unrighteous and not before the kedoshim?

- “Matter against his neighbor” i.e. a civil case, lawsuit

- Paul is not talking about cases involving crimes.

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- **Justice in the body of Messiah (I Cor 6.1-11):**
 - Those who know Messiah are certainly more qualified to judge matters than pagan (secular) judges.
 - 1Co 6:2-3 TLV (2) Don't you know that the kedoshim will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to judge trivial matters? (3) Don't you know that we will judge angels? How much more the matters of this life!
 - Those that do not know the Messiah cannot ultimately judge correctly.

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- **Justice in the body of Messiah (I Cor 6.1-11):**
 - So why do you appoint pagan/unbelievers to judge?
 - 1Co 6:4 TLV So if you have courts for matters of this life, why do you appoint as judges those who have no standing in the community?
 - 1Co 6:4 CJB So if you require judgments about matters of everyday life, why do you put them in front of men who have no standing in the Messianic Community?
 - 1Co 6:4 ESV So if you have such cases, why do you lay them before those who have no standing in the church?

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- **Justice in the body of Messiah (I Cor 6.1-11):**
 - What a shame! Don't you have anyone in the congregation able to judge? What an awful testimony for Messiah.
 - 1Co 6:5-6 TLV I say this to put you to shame! Isn't there even one wise man among you who will be able to settle disputes between his brethren? (6) Instead, a brother goes to court against a brother—and before unbelievers at that!

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- **Justice in the body of Messiah (I Cor 6.1-11):**
 - Much better to suffer wrong, than to wrong.
 - 1Co 6:7-8 TLV Therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you have lawsuits among yourselves. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? (8) But you yourselves do wrong and cheat—and against your brothers and sisters at that!
 - I speculate that in many cases believers do not want God's judgements, because they are afraid, they might not be able to receive their selfish desires.
 - As when someone gets angry in a congregation and leaves, rather than seek a solution through God's community.

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- **Justice in the body of Messiah (I Cor 6.1-11):**
 - If we value the world's judgment, we need to remember:
 - 1Co 6:9-10 TLV Or don't you know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Don't be deceived! The sexually immoral, idolaters, adulterers, those who practice homosexuality, (10) thieves, the greedy, drunkards, slanderers, swindlers—none of these will inherit the kingdom of God.

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- **Justice in the body of Messiah (I Cor 6.1-11):**

- We used to be that way, but we are no longer:

- 1Co 6:11 TLV That is what some of you were—but you were washed, you were made holy, you were set right in the name of the Lord Yeshua the Messiah and by the Ruach of our God.

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- **Justice in the body of Messiah (I Cor 6.1-11):**

- God has given to us a ministry of reconciliation.

- 2Co 5:14-18 TLV For the love of Messiah compels us, since we have concluded that One died for all; as a result all died. (15) And He died for all so that those who live might no longer live for themselves, but for the One who died for them and was raised. (16) So from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Messiah according to the flesh, yet now we no longer know Him this way. (17) Therefore if anyone is in Messiah, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (18) Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Messiah and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

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• **Justice in the body of Messiah (I Cor 6.1-11):**

- God has given to us a ministry of reconciliation.
 - My children have close friends. I love them, because they love my children.
 - We should love those that belong to Messiah.
 - 1Jn 4:7-11 TLV Loved ones, let us love one another, for love is from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. (8) The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. (9) The love of God was revealed among us by this—that God sent His one and only Son into the world so that we might live through Him. (10) This is love—not that we have loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atonement for our sins. (11) Loved ones, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

#48 Shoftim: Listen to Him

- **Justice is exclusive to Adonai's Torah:**
 - Anything that might draw away from the acceptable worship of Adonai is forbidden. It will cause the perversion of justice.
 - Such as Asherah poles and pillar, i.e. a monument to yourself (Deu 16.21-22)
 - Someone who worships other gods or any heavenly body (Deu 17.2-7)

#48 Shoftim: Listen to Him

- **Hard cases to be taken to the kohanim and judges (Deu 17.8-13).**
 - You must obey their judgments.
 - This was what Yeshua was talking about:
 - Mat 23:2-3 TLV saying, “The Torah scholars and Pharisees sit on the seat of Moses. (3) So whatever they tell you, do and observe. But don’t do what they do; for what they say, they do not do.
 - Much the same thing as our leaders are doing now; ruling one way, but actually doing something different themselves.

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- **Rules for a king (Deu 17.14-29)**
 - He was to be an Israelite
 - He was to do nothing that would draw him away from trusting Adonai;
 - Multiplying horses, wives, or silver and gold.
 - He was to make a copy of the Torah for himself:
 - He was to read in it every day so he could learn to do it.
 - Being king, he need to be able to make righteous judgements.

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- **The Levites were “imbedded” among the people.**
 - They were to teach Adonai’s judgements.
 - Therefore they were to eat of their portion of the offerings and firstfruits.
 - Deu 18:5 TLV For Adonai your God has chosen him from all your tribes to stand and serve in the Name of Adonai—him and his sons forever.

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- **Do NOT listen to any spiritual counsel, but Adonai's (Deu 18.9-14)**

- Deu 18:10-12 TLV There must not be found among you anyone who makes his son or daughter pass through the fire, or a fortune-teller, soothsayer, omen reader, or sorcerer, (11) or one who casts spells, or a medium, a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. (12) For whoever does these things is an abomination to Adonai, and because of these abominations Adonai your God is driving them out from before you.

#48 Shoftim: Listen to Him

- **A prophet like Moses:**

- Deu 18:15 TLV Adonai your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your midst—from your brothers. To him you must listen.
- This was what they asked Adonai to do in Horeb.
- They must listen to Him.
- A presumptuous prophet or a prophet speaking in the name of other gods must die.
 - Deu 18:20 TLV But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My Name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods—that prophet will die.’

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- **The cities of refuge (Deu 19.1-13)**
 - Too prevent the shedding of innocent blood.
 - Deu 19:4 TLV Now this is the case of the one who kills, who may flee there and live— whoever kills his neighbor unintentionally and did not hate him in the past—
 - **The murderer could find NO refuge there.**
 - Deu 19:11-13 TLV “But suppose someone hates his neighbor, waits in hiding for him, rises up against him, strikes him dead, then flees to one of these cities. (12) Then the elders of his hometown should send and take him from there and hand him over to the avenger of blood, to die. (13) Your eye should not pity him, but you must purge the innocent blood from Israel, so that it may go well with you.

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- **Two or three witnesses:**

- **To insure justice:**

- Deu 19:15 TLV A single witness shall not rise up against a person for any offense or sin that he commits. By the word of two or three witnesses is a case to be established.

- **False witnesses punished with the same punishment:**

- Deu 19:19-20 TLV then you are to do to him just as he had plotted to do to his brother. So you will purge the evil from your midst. (20) Those who remain will hear and be afraid, and they will no longer do such an evil thing as this in your midst.
- The fear of God's justice will turn us from evil.
- Exo 20:16 TLV Do not bear false witness against your neighbor.

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• **Trust Adonai with a single heart in battle (Deu 20.1-20):**

- Deu 20:3-4 TLV He will say to them, ‘Hear, O Israel, you are drawing near today to the battle against your enemies. Don’t be fainthearted! Don’t fear or panic or tremble because of them. (4) For Adonai your God is the One who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies to save you.’

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• Purging innocent blood (Deu 21.1-9)

- What to do when you do not know who killed a person.
- Atonement was made, otherwise blood guilt would be on the congregation.
 - Deu 21:7-9 TLV 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, Adonai, 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 Adonai’s sight.