

48_Shoftim_This Life is in His Son

September 7, 2024

- **Torah:** Deuteronomy 16.18-21.9
- **Haftarah:** Isaiah 51.12-52.12; (52.13-53.6)
- **Shlichim:** I John 5.1-11

48_Shoftim_This Life is in His Son

- **Shoftim v'shoterim: judges and officers**

- 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.

- Being human, we will mistreat, do unjustly, or offend one another. We need someone to decide what is right.

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- **Judges must judge righteous judgment:**
 - 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.
 - No partiality means it makes no difference your rank or riches; you still are judged righteously.
 - This is the problem with DEI. It is not based on justice, but equal outcomes that show favoritism.

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- **We are not to seek riches or fame, but justice:**
 - Pro 28:22 TLV A stingy man chases after riches, but does not know that poverty will overtake him.
 - 1Ti 6:9 TLV But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and a trap and many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.
 - Mat 5:6 TLV “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
- Being rich is not a sin. Pursuing riches as our main goal is.

48_Shoftim_This Life is in His Son

- **Justice is something we must pursue:**

- 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.

- **Judges are commanded to search out the truth:**

- Deu 17:3-4 TLV This person goes and serves other gods and worships them—the sun or moon or any of the heavenly host, which I have not commanded. (4) It is told to you and you have heard about it, and you investigate thoroughly and indeed it is true and the thing certain—this abomination has been done in Israel.

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- **False Witness:**

- Deu 5:17b TLV (17b) ... ‘Do not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- True testimony is crucial to justice.
- Some say this just means not to lie

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- **Certainly, we are commanded NOT to lie:**
 - Lev 19:11 TLV (11) You are not to steal. You are not to lie. You are not to deceive one another.
 - Col 3:9 TLV (9) Do not lie to one another. After all, you have taken off the old self with its practices
 - Rev 21:8 TLV (8) But for the cowardly and faithless and detestable and murderers and sexually immoral and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars—their lot is in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

48_Shoftim_This Life is in His Son

- **In the commandment Adonai is specifically addressing, “false witness”?**
 - Are some sins worse than others?
 - God is emphasizing something more important than the lies we tell one to another.
 - He is telling us what he loves:
 - Psa 11:7 TLV For Adonai is righteous—He loves justice. The upright will see His face.

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- **We have instructions for dealing with division within the body of Messiah:**
 - Yeshua told us how in Matthew 18.
 - Paul rebuked the Corinthians for their lack of judgment in I Corinthians 6

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- **In this parashah other aspects of righteous judgment are given:**
 - Execution of those serving idols: Deu 17.1-7
 - Difficult decisions made by the priest and judges which must be obeyed.
 - The king is to write a copy of the Torah from which to read so that he will fear God and keep His commandments.

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- **How do we know we are born of God and that we love the children of God?**

- 1Jn 5:1-3 TLV Everyone who believes that Yeshua is the Messiah is born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves the one born of Him. (2) We know that we love God's children by this—when we love God and obey His commandments. (3) For this is the love of God—that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

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- **Understanding loving God brings us close to the kingdom of God:**

- Mar 12:32-34 TLV “Well said, Teacher,” the Torah scholar said to Him. “You have spoken the truth, that He is echad, and besides Him there is no other! (33) And ‘to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, and with all the strength,’ and ‘to love the neighbor as oneself,’ is much more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”
- (34) When Yeshua saw that he had answered wisely, He said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And no one dared any longer to question Him.

48_Shoftim_This Life is in His Son

- **Love is not an empty phrase:**

- 1Jn 3:16-17 TLV (16) We have come to know love by this—Yeshua laid down His life for us, and we also ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. (17) But if someone has material possessions and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

48_Shoftim_This Life is in His Son

- **Where do we get the power to love God and the brethren?**

- 1Jn 5:4-5 TLV For everyone born of God overcomes the world. And the victory that has overcome the world is this—our faith. (5) Who is it that overcomes the world, if not the one who believes that Yeshua is Ben-Elohim?

48_Shoftim_This Life is in His Son

- **C. S. Lewis talks of faith in “Mere Christianity.”**
 - He tells how believers use the word “faith” in two senses.
 - (1) Belief—accepting or regarding as true the doctrines of Christianity. Believing because of evidence.
 - (2) Faith, in the sense in which I am here using the word, is the art of holding on to things your reason has once accepted, in spite of your changing moods.
 - Lewis, C. S.. Mere Christianity (C.S. Lewis Signature Classics) (p. 138). HarperCollins. Kindle Edition.

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- **Belief in the evidence, according to C. S. Lewis:**
 - There is not virtue in believing good evidence/proof.
 - Even wicked people believe in good evidence.
 - The devils believe:
 - Jas 2:18-19 TLV But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith without works and I will show you faith by my works. (19) You believe that God is one. You do well. The demons also believe—and shudder!

48_Shoftim_This Life is in His Son

- **Faith in the sense the C. S. Lewis uses:**
 - Is the art of holding on to things your reason has once accepted, in spite of your changing moods.
 - Lewis, C. S.. Mere Christianity (C.S. Lewis Signature Classics) (p. 140). HarperCollins. Kindle Edition.
 - How many people have stated what they believed to be the truth only to apologize after they are severely pressured by the public.

48_Shoftim_This Life is in His Son

- **Testing strengthens our faith:**
 - Jas 1:2-3 TLV (2) Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, (3) knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.
- **The only place to receive strength to continue in our faith is to believe the Yeshua is the Son of God:**
 - 1Jn 5:5 TLV Who is it that overcomes the world, if not the one who believes that Yeshua is Ben-Elohim [the Son of God]?

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• **What is the evidence that Yeshua is Ben-Elohim:**

- 1Jn 5:6-8 TLV Messiah Yeshua is the One who came by water and blood—not by water only, but by water and blood.
- The Spirit is the One who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.
- (7) For there are three that testify— (8) the Spirit, the water, and the blood—and these three are one.

48_Shoftim_This Life is in His Son

- **God himself testified of Yeshua:**
 - 1Jn 5:10 TLV The one who trusts in Ben-Elohim has the testimony in himself; the one who does not trust in God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given about His Son.
- **The who believes in Yeshua has God's testimony within him:**
 - 1Co 6:19 TLV Or don't you know that your body is a temple of the Ruach ha-Kodesh [the Holy Spirit] who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

48_Shoftim_This Life is in His Son

- **What is God's Testimony:**

- 1Jn 5:11-12 TLV And the testimony is this—that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. (12) The one who has the Son has life; the one who does not have Ben-Elohim [Son of God] does not have life.

