

Mesorah Mag

The Weekly Magazine of the Orthodox Community at Rutgers Hillel

Cholympics Tomorrow Morning!

"Mesorah Mag is my favorite newspaper."

Andrew Getraer, Executive Director of Rutgers Hillel

Two Different Days

by Martelle Spienvak

In Parshat Yitro, we were given the *Aseret Hadibrot* - the Ten Commandments. It is only at the end of Parshat Mishpatim, this week's parsha, that Moshe is actually physically handed the *Luchot* (tablets) that contain the *Aseret Hadibrot*.

According to Rashi, these events occurred on two separate dates (at least if I understand Rashi correctly) or at least, two separate times. To me this suggests the obvious message of "what's written in between the two is extremely important!" Parshat Mishpatim is full of many different laws for justice in day-to-day life. Many of the laws written here are *bein adam l'chaveiro* - between people; not between person and G-d.

As the Mishnaic sage Hillel once said to the guy standing on one foot, "Do unto others what you wish done unto you; the rest of it [the Torah] is commentary." Many of these laws are set forth to teach us decency such as the treatment of a Jewish slave. Other laws listed here are to prevent mistreatment of others including one's parents (here there are two times it mentions things one **must not** do to one's parents, although both fearing and honoring parents are mentioned elsewhere in the Torah and either hitting or cursing one's parents most certainly do not go along with these precepts). It tells us to make sure not to, even unintentionally, hurt someone because you will be responsible for their injuries. The parsha also tells us to watch out for our animals that might hurt others.

Immediately after the laws are given, we have the laws of court. It is important for the judge to remove personal prejudices and biases from



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Schedule of Times

Shabbat Morning:
 9:30 am
 S"Z Kriat Shma: 9:30 am
 Lunch @ Weiss':
 Leaving Hillel @ 12:30
 Mincha: 4:55 pm
 Shabbat ends: 6:18 pm

Weekdays

Shacharit & Breakfast:
 8:15 am
 Mincha/Ma'ariv:
 5:20 pm

Next Friday

Candlelighting: 5:24 pm
 Friday Evening
 Prayers: 5:30 pm

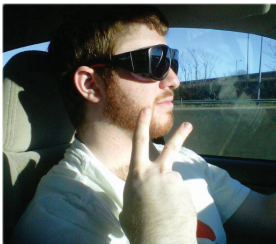


judgment. Only after that are a few laws of *bein adam l'makom* - between a person and G-d, are mentioned (such as the holidays) followed by a few brief promises of what will be for *Bnei Yisrael*. After that, we are offered the Torah to which we replied, "we will do and we will listen." And then, we are finally given the *Luchot* which contain the Ten Commandments, it is important for us to take note of all the other laws which go into the Torah and the commandments to fully be able to receive the *Luchot* as we did in this week's parsha.

Shabbat Shalom!

sin(Mishpatim)/cos(Mishptaim) = tan(Mishpatim)

by David Schenkler



Parshat Mishpatim begs you to ask at least two fundamental questions about it (out of the plethora of questions that need to be asked). One question deals with the location of the parsha in relation to the surrounding parshiot. The other question deals with the contents of the parsha and their placement throughout the parsha.

Let us quickly examine the contents first.

The parsha begins by laying down tons of rules for people to abide by with regards to man to man. You know, laws to deal with slaves, judges, cursing others, don't oppress a widow, orphan, or stranger/convert, and others. These are the "basics," a.k.a. mundane. Throughout, though, you've got the out-of-the-blue laws such as killing witches, no speaking or mentioning other gods, don't sleep with species that aren't so human, and the like. Since the parsha is already on a tangent, it goes from not oppressing

converts/strangers (for the second time in the parsha), to Shmita (not working the land on the seventh year of the 7-year cycle), to a commandment of resting on the Sabbath (and resting your workers and animals and land on the Sabbath), to a brief on the 3 Festivals (Passover, Shavuot, and Succot), to what not to put/do with certain things as offerings, to not cooking (and/or eating and/or deriving benefit from) meat and milk together.

Since the parsha is already on a tangent, why not make things more interesting and keep going on more tangents. So let's talk about B'nei Yisrael going into the land of Israel with a "Mal-ach" (angel or messenger), following Hashem's will, and conquering a huge piece of land. Let us not forget that Hashem is also telling us that we will receive a beautiful and plentiful land with vanquished enemies, and no woman will be barren or miscarry.

And since this is a tangential parsha, we will now go back to the story of Mount Sinai, with the famous words of "We will do and we will listen (obey)" (though it is interesting to note that Moshe does read to them from Bereishit up to Mount Sinai before they say these words). Moshe ascends the mountain, Hashem appears to everyone in a prophecy of Him sitting on a chair with His feet on a sapphire floor, other things happen, and Moshe is up there for 40 days and nights.

Wait, what?! Didn't we just read the Ten Sayings (no, it is not commandments, for there are more than ten commandments) in Parshat Yitro, with a few other commandments as well at the end? Also,



in the parsha after Mishpatim, which is Terumah, Hashem tells Moshe to tell everyone that if his heart desires to do so, he should give donations toward the building of the Tabernacle, a.k.a. the Mishkan. Why is Hashem stating all these civil laws, along with a few extra laws not so civil? How could Moshe tell B'nei Yisrael to donate for the Mishkan if he is up on top of the mountain for 40 days and nights? Don't forget that the Torah is written as a scroll, not as a book with pages sectioning each parsha.

To be continued next week...

Parshah Points

Courtesy of Chabad.org

Following the revelation at Sinai, G-d legislates a series of laws for the people of Israel. These include the laws of the indentured servant; the penalties for murder, kidnapping, assault and theft; civil laws pertaining to redress of damages, the granting of loans and the responsibilities of the "Four Guardians"; and the rules governing the conduct of justice by courts of law.

Also included are laws warning against mistreatment of foreigners; the observance of the seasonal festivals, and the agricultural gifts that are to be brought to the Holy Temple in Jerusalem; the prohibition against cooking meat with milk; and the mitzvah of prayer. Altogether, the Parshah of Mishpatim contains 53 mitzvot--23 imperative commandments and 30 prohibitions.

G-d promises to bring the people of Israel to the Holy Land, and warns them against assuming the pagan ways of its current inhabitants.

The people of Israel proclaim, "We will do and we will hear all that G-d commands us." Leaving Aaron and Hur in charge in the Israelite camp, Moses ascends Mount Sinai and remains there for forty days and forty nights to receive the Torah from G-d.

Mesorah Mag

Editor - in -Chief:

Miriam Leichtman

Layout Editor:

Jeff Rabinowitz

Events Editor:

Talia Friedman

Contributing Writers:

Martelle Spiewak,

David Schenkler

Want to write for us?
Sign up after Havdalah
in the Hillel lobby.

You can reach us at:
Mesorahmag@gmail.com

Birthdays!

Feb 23:         
Daniel Kohanim

Feb 24:
Rebecca Green
Michelle Haimowitz

Feb 26:
Jason Langer



Mesorah Calendar

Sunday	Kosher Fat Sandwich Night -- 7 pm @ Hillel A Night at the Movies -- 8:00 @ 76 Jefferson St.
Monday	Rutgers Hillel Purim Spiel -- 8 pm @ Hillel Town Hall Meeting -- 8 pm @ Hillel Hebrew Club -- 8:30 pm @ Hillel What's Brewin' -- 9:30 @ ABP
Tuesday	Men's Shiur w/ R' Lewis -- 7:30 @ 48 Ray St. Kosher Cooking with the Weiss's -- 8 pm @ 76 Jefferson St. Miri Cohen's Women's Shiur -- 9:00 pm @ 55 Huntington St. Bystander Intervention Workshop -- 9 pm @ Hillel
Wednesday	PBJAM -- 12 noon @ Hillel Jewish Book Club -- 7 pm @ Hillel Crossing the Line -- 8 pm @ Hillel Shiur & Beer -- 9:30 pm @ location TBA
Thursday	Mishmar w/ Rivka Kahan -- 8 pm @ Hillel Study with a Buddy -- 9 pm @ Hillel 3rd Floor

Jewish Joke

Fabritzi, Jacques, and Abe are about to be executed and they are asked what they wish to have for their last meal.

Fabritzi asks for a Pepperoni Pizza which he is served. He is then executed.

Jacques asks for a Filet Mignon which he is served. He too is then promptly executed.

Abe requests a plate of strawberries.

"Strawberries?"

"Yes," replies Abe, "strawberries."

"But they are out of season."

"So, nu, I'll wait"

Purim is coming up! If you would like to send Mishloach Manot, please speak with Ari Podhorcer!

Get Ready! Mesorah ice skating on the 25th at 8 pm!

Want the eruv to be UP?
Then help check it!
Speak with Andrew Cohen or Sam Kaplan to discuss how you can get involved!

