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שופטים Shoftim

Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9

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- 18 שִׁפְטִים וְשֹׁטְרִים תִּתֵּן לָךְ בְּכָל־שְׁעֶיךָ אֲשֶׁר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ נָתַן לָךְ לְשִׁבְטֶיךָ וּשְׁפָטוּ אֶת־הָעָם מִשְׁפַּט־צֶדֶק: You shall appoint magistrates and officials for your tribes, in all the settlements that your God יהוה is giving you, and they shall govern the people with due justice.
- 19 לֹא־תִטֶּה מִשְׁפָּט לֹא תִכִּיר פָּנִים וְלֹא־תִקַּח שֹׁדד כִּי הַשֹּׁדד יַעֲוֶה עֵינֵי חֲכָמִים וַיְסַלֶּף הַבִּרְי צְדִיקָם: You shall not judge unfairly: you shall show no partiality; you shall not take bribes, for bribes blind the eyes of the discerning and upset the plea of the just.
- 20 צֶדֶק צֶדֶק תִּרְדֹּף לְמַעַן תִּחְיֶה וַיִּרְשֶׁת אֶת־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ נָתַן לָךְ: Justice, justice shall you pursue, that you may thrive and occupy the land that your God יהוה is giving you.
- 21 לֹא־תִטֵּעַ לָךְ אֲשֶׁרָה כָּל־עֵץ אֲצֵל מִזְבֵּחַ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֲשֶׁר תַּעֲשֶׂה־לָּךְ: You shall not set up a sacred post—any kind of pole beside the altar of your God יהוה that you may make—
- 22 וְלֹא־תִקֵּם לָךְ מַצֵּבָה אֲשֶׁר שָׂאָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ: or erect a stone pillar; for such your God יהוה detests.

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- 1 לֹא־תִזְבֹּחַ לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ שֹׁדד נֶשֶׁה אֲשֶׁר יְהִיָּה בּוֹ מוֹם כָּל דָּבָר רָע כִּי תוֹעֵבֶת יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ הוּא: You shall not sacrifice to your God יהוה an ox or a sheep that has any defect of a serious kind, for that is abhorrent to your God יהוה.
- 2 כִּי־יִמָּצֵא בְּקִרְבְּךָ בְּאֶחָד שְׁעֶיךָ אֲשֶׁר־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ נָתַן לָךְ אִישׁ אוֹיֶשֶׁה אֲשֶׁר יַעֲשֶׂה אֶת־הָרָע בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה־אֱלֹהֶיךָ לַעֲבֹר בְּרִיתוֹ: If there is found among you, in one of the settlements that your God יהוה is giving you, a man or woman who has affronted your God יהוה and transgressed the Covenant—
- 3 וַיֵּלֶךְ וַיַּעֲבֹד אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוּ לָהֶם וְלַשֶּׁמֶשׁ | אוֹ לַיָּרֵחַ אוֹ לְכָל־צָבָא הַשָּׁמַיִם אֲשֶׁר לֹא־צִוִּיתִי: turning to the worship of other gods and bowing down to them, to the sun or the moon or any of the heavenly host, something I never commanded—
- 4 וְהִגַּדְתָּ וְשִׁמַּעְתָּ וְדַרְשֶׁתָּ הִיטֵב וְהָנָה אָמֵת נִכּוֹן הַדָּבָר נַעֲשֶׂתָה הַתּוֹעֵבָה הַזֹּאת בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל: and you have been informed or have learned of it, then you shall make a thorough inquiry. If it is true, the fact is established, that abhorrent thing was perpetrated in Israel,
- 5 וְהוֹצֵאתָ אֶת־הָאִישׁ הַהוּא אוֹ אֶת־הָאִשָּׁה הַהוּא אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה אֶת־הַדָּבָר הָרָע הַזֶּה אֶל־שַׁעְרֶיךָ אֶת־הָאִישׁ אוֹ אֶת־הָאִשָּׁה וּסְקַלְתָם בְּאֲבָנִים וּמָתוּ: you shall take the man or the woman who did that wicked thing out to the public place, and you shall stone that man or woman to death.—
- 6 עַל־כִּי | שְׁנַיִם עֹדִים אוֹ שְׁלֹשָׁה עֹדִים יוֹמֵת הִמָּת לֹא יוֹמֵת עַל־כִּי עַד אֶחָד: A person shall be put to death only on the testimony of two or more (more Lit. “three.”) witnesses; no one shall be put to death on the testimony of a single witness.—

- יד העדִים תהיֶהֱבוּ בראשֶׁנָהּ לְהַמִּיתוֹ וְיָד כָּל־הָעָם בְּאַחֲרָנָהּ
וּבְעֶרְתָּ הָרָע מִקֶּרְבָּךְ: 7 Let the hands of the witnesses be the first to put [the condemned] to death, followed by the hands of the rest of the people. Thus you will sweep out evil from your midst.
- כִּי יִפְלֵא מִמֶּךָ דְּבַר לְמִשְׁפָּט בֵּי־יָדָם | לָדֵם בֵּי־יָדָיו וּבֵין
נָגַע לְנֹגַע דְּבָרֵי רִיבָת בְּשַׁעְרֶיךָ וְקִמַּתָּ וְעָלִיתָ אֶל־הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר
יִבְחָר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בּוֹ: 8 If a case is too baffling for you to decide, be it a controversy over homicide, civil law, or assault—matters of dispute in your courts—you shall promptly repair to the place that your God will have chosen,
- וּבָאתָ אֶל־הַכֹּהֲנִים הַלְוִיִּם וְאֶל־הַשֹּׁפֵט אֲשֶׁר יִהְיֶה בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם
וְהִרְשֵׁתָּ וְהִגִּידוּ לָךְ אֶת דְּבַר הַמִּשְׁפָּט: 9 and appear before the levitical priests, or the magistrate in charge at the time, and present your problem. When they have announced to you the verdict in the case,
- וְעָשִׂיתָ עֲלֵיפִי הַדְּבָר אֲשֶׁר יִגִּידוּ לָךְ מִן־הַמָּקוֹם הַהוּא אֲשֶׁר יִבְחָר
יְהוָה וְשָׁמַרְתָּ לַעֲשׂוֹת כְּכָל אֲשֶׁר יוֹרֶוךָ: 10 you shall carry out the verdict that is announced to you from that place that יהוה chose, observing scrupulously all their instructions to you.
- עֲלֵיפִי הַתּוֹרָה אֲשֶׁר יוֹרֶוךָ וְעַל־הַמִּשְׁפָּט אֲשֶׁר־יֹאמְרוּ לָךְ תַּעֲשֶׂה לֹא
תִסּוּר מִן־הַדְּבָר אֲשֶׁר־יִגִּידוּ לָךְ יָמִין וּשְׂמָאל: 11 You shall act in accordance with the instructions given you and the ruling handed down to you; you must not deviate from the verdict that they announce to you either to the right or to the left.
- וְהָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר־יַעֲשֶׂה בְּזִדּוֹן לְבַלְתִּי שָׁמַע אֶל־הַכֹּהֵן הַעֹמֵד לְשֶׁרֶת שָׁם
אֶת־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ אוֹ אֶל־הַשֹּׁפֵט וּמָתָה הָאִישׁ הַהוּא וּבְעֶרְתָּ הָרָע
מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל: 12 Should either party [to the dispute] act presumptuously and disregard the priest charged with serving there your God יהוה, or the magistrate, that party shall die. Thus you will sweep out evil from Israel:
- וְכָל־הָעָם יִשְׁמְעוּ וְיִרְאוּ וְלֹא יִזְדוֹנוּ עוֹד: 13 all the people will hear and be afraid and will not act presumptuously again.
- כִּי־תָבֹא אֶל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ נָתַן לָךְ וּיְרִשְׁתָּהּ וְיִשְׁבְּתָהּ
בָּהּ וְאָמַרְתָּ אֲשִׁימָה עָלַי מֶלֶךְ כְּכָל־הַגּוֹיִם אֲשֶׁר סְבִיבְתִּי: 14 If, after you have entered the land that your God יהוה has assigned to you, and taken possession of it and settled in it, you decide, “I will set a king over me, as do all the nations about me,”
- שׁוּם תִּשֶׂים עָלֶיךָ מֶלֶךְ אֲשֶׁר יִבְחָר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בּוֹ מִקֶּרֶב אֲחֵיךָ
תִּשֶׂים עָלֶיךָ מֶלֶךְ לֹא תוּכַל לָתֵת עָלֶיךָ אִישׁ נָכְרִי אֲשֶׁר לֹא־אֲחִיךָ
הוּא: 15 you shall be free to set a king over yourself, one chosen by your God יהוה. Be sure to set as king over yourself one of your own people; you must not set a foreigner over you, one who is not your kin.
- רַק לֹא־יִרְבֶּה־לּוֹ סוּסִים וְלֹא־יֵשֵׁב אֶת־הָעָם מִצְרַיִמָה לְמַעַן הִרְבּוֹת סוּס
וַיִּהְיֶה אָמַר לָכֶם לֹא תִסְפּוּן לָשׁוּב בְּדֶרֶךְ הַזֶּה עוֹד: 16 Moreover, he shall not keep many horses or send people back to Egypt to add to his horses, since יהוה has warned you, “You must not go back that way again.”
- וְלֹא יִרְבֶּה־לּוֹ נָשִׁים וְלֹא יִסּוֹר לִבּוֹ וְכֶסֶף וְזָהָב לֹא יִרְבֶּה־לּוֹ מְאֹד: 17 And he shall not have many wives, lest his heart go astray; nor shall he amass silver and gold to excess.
- וְהָיָה כְּשִׁבְתּוֹ עַל כִּסֵּא מַמְלַכְתּוֹ וְכָתַב לוֹ אֶת־מִשְׁנֵה הַתּוֹרָה הַזֹּאת
עַל־סֵפֶר מַלְפָּנֵי הַכֹּהֲנִים הַלְוִיִּם: 18 When he is seated on his royal throne, he shall have a copy of this Teaching written for him on a scroll by (by Nuance of Heb. milliphne uncertain.) the levitical priests.

והייתה עמו וקרא בו כלימי חיו למען ילמד לראות את־יהוה
אלהיו לשמר את־כל־דברי התורה הזאת ואת־החקים האלה לעשותם:

לבלתי רום־לבבו מאחיו ולבלתי סור מן־המצוה ימין ושמאל
למען יאריך ימים על־ממלכתו הוא ובניו בקרב ישראל:

19 Let it remain with him and let him read in it all his life, so that he may learn to revere his God יהוה, to observe faithfully every word of this Teaching as well as these laws.

20 Thus he will not act haughtily toward his fellows or deviate from the Instruction to the right or to the left, to the end that he and his descendants may reign long in the midst of Israel.

18

לֹא־הָיָה לַכֹּהֲנִים הַלְוִיִּם כְּלִישְׁבָּט לְנִי חֶלֶק וְנַחֲלָה עִם־יִשְׂרָאֵל
אֲשֶׁי יְהוָה וְנַחֲלָתוֹ יֹאכְלוּ:

וְנַחֲלָה לֹא־יְהִי־הֵלֹךְ בְּקֶרֶב אָחִיו יְהוָה הוּא נַחֲלָתוֹ כְּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר־לוֹ:

וְזֶה יִהְיֶה מִשְׁפָּט הַכֹּהֲנִים מֵאֵת הָעָם מֵאֵת זִבְחֵי הַזֶּבַח אִם־שֹׁר אִם־שֶׂה
וְנִתֵּן לַכֹּהֵן הַזֹּלֵעַ וְהַלְתִּיָּם וְהַקֶּבֶה:

רֵאשִׁית הַגֶּנֶךְ תִּירְשֶׁן וַיִּצְהֹךְ וּרְאשִׁית גֶּזַ צֹאנֶךָ תִּתֹּן־לוֹ:

כִּי בֹ בַחַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ מִכָּל־שְׁבָטֶיךָ לַעֲמֹד לְשֹׁר בְּשֵׁם־יְהוָה הוּא
וּבְנָיו כָּל־הַיָּמִים:

וְכִי־יָבֹא הַלֵּוִי מֵאֶחָד שְׁעָרֶיךָ מִכָּל־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר־הוּא גֵר שָׁם וּבָא
בְּכָל־אַנֶּת נִפְשׁוֹ אֶל־הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר־יִבְחַר יְהוָה:

וְשָׁרַת בְּשֵׁם יְהוָה אֱלֹהָיו כְּכָל־אֲחָיו הַלְוִיִּם הַעֹמְדִים שָׁם לִפְנֵי
יְהוָה:

חֶלֶק כְּחֶלֶק יֹאכְלוּ לֶבֶד מִמֶּכְרֵיו עַל־הָאֲבוֹת:

כִּי אֲתָה בָא אֶל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ נָתַן לָךְ לֹא־תִלְמַד לַעֲשׂוֹת
כְּתוֹעֵבַת הַגּוֹיִם הָהֵם:

לֹא־יִמָּצָא בְךָ מַעֲבִיר בְּנוֹ־וּבִתּוֹ בָּאֵשׁ קֶסֶם קְסָמִים מַעֲוִין וּמְנַחֵשׁ
וּמְכַשֵּׁף:

1 The levitical priests, the whole tribe of Levi, shall have no territorial portion with Israel. They shall live only off יהוה's offerings by fire as their (their Lit. "its," i.e., the tribe's.) portion,

2 and shall have no portion among their brother tribes: יהוה is their portion, as promised.

3 This then shall be the priests' due from the people: Everyone who offers a sacrifice, whether an ox or a sheep, must give the shoulder, the cheeks, and the stomach to the priest.

4 You shall also give him the first fruits of your new grain and wine and oil, and the first shearing of your sheep.

5 For your God יהוה has chosen him and his descendants, out of all your tribes, to be in attendance for service in the name of יהוה for all time.

6 If a Levite would go, from any of the settlements throughout Israel where he has been residing, to the place that יהוה has chosen, he may do so whenever he pleases.

7 He may serve in the name of his God יהוה like all his fellow Levites who are there in attendance before יהוה.

8 They shall receive equal shares of the dues, without regard to personal gifts or patrimonies. (without regard to personal gifts or patrimonies Meaning of Heb. uncertain.)

9 When you enter the land that your God יהוה is giving you, you shall not learn to imitate the abhorrent practices of those nations.

10 Let no one be found among you who consigns a son or daughter to the fire, or who is an augur, a soothsayer, a diviner, a sorcerer,

- 11 one who casts spells, or one who consults ghosts or familiar spirits, or one who inquires of the dead.
- 12 For anyone who does such things is abhorrent to הוהי, and it is because of these abhorrent things that your God הוהי is dispossessing them before you.
- 13 You must be wholehearted with your God הוהי.
- 14 Those nations that you are about to dispossess do indeed resort to soothsayers and augurs; to you, however, your God הוהי has not assigned the like.
- 15 From among your own people, your God הוהי will raise up for you a prophet like myself; that is whom you shall heed.
- 16 This is just what you asked of your God הוהי at Horeb, on the day of the Assembly, saying, "Let me not hear the voice of my God הוהי any longer or see this wondrous fire any more, lest I die."
- 17 Whereupon הוהי said to me, "They have done well in speaking thus.
- 18 I will raise up for them from among their own people a prophet like yourself, in whose mouth I will put My words and who will speak to them all that I command;
- 19 and anybody who fails to heed the words [the prophet] speaks in My name, I Myself will call to account.
- 20 But any prophet who presumes to speak in My name an oracle that I did not command to be uttered, or who speaks in the name of other gods—that prophet shall die."
- 21 And should you ask yourselves, "How can we know that the oracle was not spoken by הוהי?"—
- 22 if the prophet speaks in the name of הוהי and the oracle does not come true, that oracle was not spoken by הוהי; the prophet has uttered it presumptuously: do not stand in dread of that person.
- וְחֹבֵר חֶבֶר וְשֹׂאֵל אוֹב וְיִדְעָלִי וְדָרַשׁ אֱלֹהִים מֵתִים:
- כִּי־תוֹעֵבֶת יְהוָה כָּל־עֲשֵׂה אֵלֶּה וּבִגְלָל הַתּוֹעֵבֶת הָאֵלֶּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ מוֹרִישׁ אוֹתָם מִפָּנֶיךָ:
- תָּמִים תִּהְיֶה עִם יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ:
- כִּי | הַגּוֹיִם הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר אַתָּה יורֵשׁ אוֹתָם אֵל־מַעֲנְנִים וְאֵל־קֶסָמִים יִשְׁמְעוּ וְאַתָּה לֹא כֵן נָתַן לָךְ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ:
- נָבִיא מִקֶּרְבְּךָ מֵאַחֶיךָ כָּמֹנִי יָקִים לָךְ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֵלָיו תִּשְׁמָעוּן:
- כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־שָׁאַלְתָּ מֵעַם יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בַּחֹרֵב בְּיוֹם הַקֹּהֵל לֵאמֹר לֹא אֶסָּף לִשְׁמֹעַ אֶת־קוֹל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי וְאַתָּה־אֵשׁ הַגְּדֹלָה הַזֹּאת לֹא־אֶרְאֶה עוֹד וְלֹא אָמוּת:
- וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֵלַי הִיטִיבוּ אֲשֶׁר דִּבְרוּ:
- נָבִיא אֲקִים לָהֶם מִקֶּרֶב אֲחֵיהֶם כְּמוֹךָ וְנָתַתִּי דְבָרִי בְּפִיו וְדִבֶּר אֲלֵיהֶם אֶת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר אֶצְוֶה:
- וְהָיָה הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יִשְׁמַע אֶל־דְּבָרִי אֲשֶׁר יִדְבֹּר בְּשִׁמִּי אֲנֹכִי אֶדְרֹשׁ מֵעַמּוֹ:
- אֶךְ הַנָּבִיא אֲשֶׁר יִזְיֹר לְדַבֵּר דְּבַר בְּשִׁמִּי אֶת אֲשֶׁר לֹא־צִוִּיתִיו לְדַבֵּר וְאֲשֶׁר יִדְבֹּר בְּשֵׁם אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים וּמֵת הַנָּבִיא הַהוּא:
- וְכִי תֹאמְרוּ בְּלִבְבְּכֶם אֵיכָה נֵדַע אֶת־הַדְּבַר אֲשֶׁר לֹא־דִבְּרוּ יְהוָה:
- אֲשֶׁר יִדְבֹּר הַנָּבִיא בְּשֵׁם יְהוָה וְלֹא־יְהִי הַדְּבַר וְלֹא יָבֹא הָאֵל הַדְּבַר אֲשֶׁר לֹא־דִבְּרוּ יְהוָה בְּזֶדוֹן דִּבְּרוּ הַנָּבִיא לֹא תִגּוֹר מִמֶּנּוּ:

19

- 1 When your God הוהי has cut down the nations whose land your God הוהי is assigning to you, and you have dispossessed them and settled in their towns and homes,
- כִּי־יִכְרֹת יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֶת־הַגּוֹיִם אֲשֶׁר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ נָתַן לָךְ אֶת־אֶרְצָם וַיִּרְשׁוּם וַיִּשְׁבְּתָם בְּעָרֵיהֶם וּבְבֵתֵיהֶם:

- שְׁלוֹשׁ עָרִים תִּבְדִּיל לָךְ בְּתוֹךְ אֶרֶצְךָ אֲשֶׁר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ נָתַן לָךְ לְרִשְׁתָּהּ: 2 you shall set aside three cities in the land that your God יהוה is giving you to possess.
- תִּכְיֶן לָךְ הַחֲדָרָה וְשִׁלַּשְׁתָּ אֶת־גְּבוּל אֶרֶצְךָ אֲשֶׁר יִנְחִילְךָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ וְהָיָה לָנוֹס שָׁמָּה כָּל־רֹצֵחַ: 3 You shall survey the distances, and divide into three parts the territory of the country that your God יהוה has allotted to you, so that any [man] ([man] See note at 4.42.) who has killed someone (who has killed someone See note at 4.42.) may have a place to flee to.—
- וְהָיָה דִּבְרֵי הָרֹצֵחַ אֲשֶׁר־יָנוֹס שָׁמָּה נָחִי אֲשֶׁר יָכָה אֶת־רֵעֵהוּ בְּבִלְיָדָעַת וְהוּא לֹא־שָׂנֵא לוֹ מִתְּמָל שְׁלֹשָׁם: 4 Now this is the case of the killer who may flee there and live: one who has slain another unwittingly, without having been an enemy in the past.
- וְאִשׁוֹ יֵבֵא אֶת־רֵעֵהוּ בְּעֵץ לַחֲטָב עֲצִים וְנִדְחָה יָדוֹ בְּגִרְזָן לַכֶּתֶחַ הָעֵץ וְנִשָּׁל הַבְּרִזָּל מִן־הָעֵץ וּמָצָא אֶת־רֵעֵהוּ נִמָּת הוּא יָנוֹס אֶל־אֶחָת הָעָרִים־הָאֵלֶּה וְנָחִי: 5 For instance, a man goes with another fellow into a grove to cut wood; as his hand swings the ax to cut down a tree, the ax-head flies off the handle and strikes the other so that he dies. That man shall flee to one of these cities and live.—
- כִּי־יִרְדֹּף גָּאֵל הַדָּם אֶת־חַיֵּי הָרֹצֵחַ כִּי־יָחֵם לִבּוֹ וְהִשְׁיִגוֹ כִּי־יִרְבֶּה הַדֶּרֶךְ וְהִכְהוּ גָּפֶשׁ וְלֹא אֵין מִשְׁפָּט־מָלוּת כִּי לֹא שָׂנֵא הוּא לוֹ מִתְּמָל שְׁלֹשָׁם: 6 Otherwise, when the distance is great, the blood-avenger, pursuing the killer in hot anger, may overtake him and strike him down; yet he did not incur the death penalty, since he had never been the other's enemy.
- עַל־כֵּן אֲנִכִּי מִצְוֶךָ לֵאמֹר שְׁלֹשׁ עָרִים תִּבְדִּיל לָךְ: 7 That is why I command you: set aside three cities.
- וְאִם־יִרְחִיב יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֶת־גְּבולְךָ כְּאֲשֶׁר נִשְׁבַּע לְאַבְרָהָם וְנָתַן לָךְ אֶת־כְּלִי־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר לָתֵת לְאַבְרָהָם: 8 And when your God יהוה enlarges your territory, as was sworn to your fathers, and gives you all the land that was promised to be given to your fathers—
- כִּי־תִשְׁמְרוּ אֶת־כָּל־הַמִּצְוָה הַזֹּאת לַעֲשׂוֹתָהּ אֲשֶׁר אֲנִכִּי מִצְוֶךָ הַיּוֹם לְאַהֲבָה אֶת־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ וּלְלַכֵּת בְּדַרְכָּיו כָּל־הַיָּמִים וְיִסְפָּת לָךְ עוֹד שְׁלֹשׁ עָרִים עַל הַשְּׁלֹשׁ הָאֵלֶּה: 9 if you faithfully observe all this Instruction that I enjoin upon you this day, to love your God and to walk in God's ways at all times—then you shall add three more towns to those three.
- וְלֹא יִשְׁפֹךְ דָּם נָקִי בְּקֶרֶב אֶרֶצְךָ אֲשֶׁר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ נָתַן לָךְ נַחֲלָה וְהָיָה עָלֶיךָ דָּמִים: 10 Thus blood of the innocent will not be shed, bringing bloodguilt upon you in the land that your God יהוה is allotting to you.
- וְכִי־יִהְיֶה אִישׁ שָׂנֵא לְרֵעֵהוּ וְאָרַב לוֹ וְקָם עָלָיו וְהִכְהוּ נָפֶשׁ נִמָּת וְלֹא אֶל־אֶחָת הָעָרִים הָאֵלֶּה: 11 If, however, a man who is the enemy of another lies in wait and sets upon [the victim] and strikes a fatal blow and then flees to one of these towns,
- וְשִׁלְחוּ וְקָנִי עִירָו וְלָקְחוּ אוֹתוֹ מִשָּׁם וְנָתַנוּ אוֹתוֹ בְּיַד גָּאֵל הַדָּם וְנָמַת: 12 the elders of his town shall have him brought back from there and shall hand him over to the blood-avenger to be put to death;
- לֹא־תַחֲנוּס עֵינֶיךָ עָלָיו וּבִעֲרַת דָּם־הַנָּקִי מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל וְטוֹב לָךְ: 13 you must show him no pity. Thus you will purge Israel of the blood of the innocent, (purge Israel of the blood of the innocent Cf. Num. 35.33–34.) and it will go well with you.

- 14 You shall not move your neighbor's landmarks, set up by previous generations, in the property that will be allotted to you in the land that your God יהוה is giving you to possess.
- 15 A single witness may not validate against an [accused] party any guilt or blame for any offense that may be committed; a case can be valid only on the testimony of two witnesses or more. (more See note at 17.6.)
- 16 If someone appears against another party to testify maliciously and gives incriminating yet false testimony,
- 17 the two parties to the dispute shall appear before יהוה, before the priests or magistrates in authority at the time,
- 18 and the magistrates shall make a thorough investigation. If the one who testified is a false witness, having testified falsely against a fellow Israelite,
- 19 you shall do to the one as the one schemed to do to the other. Thus you will sweep out evil from your midst;
- 20 others will hear and be afraid, and such evil things will not again be done in your midst.
- 21 Nor must you show pity: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.
- לֹא תִסֵּיג גְּבוּל רֵעֶךָ אֲשֶׁר גָּבְלוּ רִאשֹׁנִים בְּנְחֻלְתְּךָ אֲשֶׁר תִּנְחַל בְּאַרְצְךָ אֲשֶׁר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ נָתַן לְךָ לְרִשְׁתָּהּ:
- לֹא־יִקוּם עַד אֶחָד בְּאִישׁ לְכַלְעוֹן וּלְכַלְחָטָאֵת בְּכָל־חַטָּאת אֲשֶׁר יַחֲטִיֵּא עַל־כִּי | שְׁנֵי עֲדוּיִם אֹן עַל־כִּי שְׁלֹשָׁה־עֲדוּיִם יָקוּם דָּבָר:
- כִּי־יִקוּם עַד־חֹמֶס בְּאִישׁ לַעֲנוֹת בּוֹ סָרָה:
- וְעָמְדוּ שְׁנֵי־הַאֲנָשִׁים אֲשֶׁר־לָהֶם הָרִיב לִפְנֵי יְהוָה לִפְנֵי הַכֹּהֲנִים וְהַשֹּׁפְטִים אֲשֶׁר יִהְיוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם:
- וְדָרְשׁוּ הַשֹּׁפְטִים הַיָּטִב וְהַנָּה עַד־שִׁקְלָהּ הָעֵד שֶׁקָּר עָנָה בְּאָחִיו:
- וַעֲשִׂיתֶם לוֹ כַּאֲשֶׁר זָמַם לַעֲשׂוֹת לְאָחִיו וּבַעֲרַתְּ הָרָע מִקִּרְבְּךָ:
- וְהַנֹּשְׂאָרִים יִשְׁמְעוּ וַיִּרְאוּ וְלֹא־יִסָּפּוּ לַעֲשׂוֹת עוֹד כַּדָּבָר הָרָע הַזֶּה בְּקִרְבְּךָ:
- וְלֹא תַחֲסוּ עֵינֶךָ נֶפֶשׁ בְּנֶפֶשׁ עֵין בְּעֵין שֵׁן בְּשֵׁן יָד בְּיָד רֶגֶל בְּרֶגֶל:

20

- 1 When you [an Israelite warrior] take the field against your enemies, and see horses and chariots—forces larger than yours—have no fear of them, for your God יהוה, who brought you from the land of Egypt, is with you.
- 2 Before you join battle, the priest shall come forward and address the troops.
- 3 He shall say to them, “Hear, O Israel! You are about to join battle with your enemy. Let not your courage falter. Do not be in fear, or in panic, or in dread of them.
- 4 For it is your God יהוה who marches with you to do battle for you against your enemy, to bring you victory.”
- כִּי־תֵצֵא לְמַלְחָמָה עַל־אֹיְבֶיךָ וְרָאִיתָ סוּס וְרֶכֶב עִם רֵב מִמֶּךָ לֹא תִירָא מֵהֶם כִּי־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ עִמָּךְ הַמַּעֲלֶךְ מִבְּרֶגֶל מִצְרָיִם:
- וְהָיָה כִּקְרַבְכֶם אֶל־הַמִּלְחָמָה וְנָגַשׁ הַכֹּהֵן וְדִבֶּר אֶל־הָעָם:
- וְאָמַר אֲלֵהֶם שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל אַתֶּם קָרַבִּים הַיּוֹם לְמַלְחָמָה עַל־אֹיְבֵיכֶם אֶל־יָרֵךְ לְבַבְכֶם אֶל־תִּירְאוּ וְאֶל־תַּחֲפֹזוּ וְאֶל־תַּעֲרָצוּ מִפְּנֵיהֶם:
- כִּי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם הֵהָלֵךְ עִמָּכֶם לְהִלָּחֵם לָכֶם עִם־אֹיְבֵיכֶם לְהוֹשִׁיעַ אֶתְכֶם:

- 5 Then the officials shall address the troops, as follows: “Is there anyone who has built a new house but has not dedicated it? Let him go back to his home, lest he die in battle and another dedicate it.
- 6 Is there anyone who has planted a vineyard but has never harvested it? Let him go back to his home, lest he die in battle and another harvest it.
- 7 Is there anyone who has paid the bride-price for a wife, (paid the bride-price for a wife Thereby making her his wife legally, even though she has not yet moved into his household.) but who has not yet taken her [into his household]? Let him go back to his home, lest he die in battle and another take her [into his household as his wife].”
- 8 The officials shall go on addressing the troops and say, “Is there anyone afraid and disheartened? Let him go back to his home, lest the courage of his comrades flag like his.”
- 9 When the officials have finished addressing the troops, army commanders shall assume command of the troops.
- 10 When you approach a town to attack it, you shall offer it terms of peace. (offer it terms of peace Or “call on it to surrender.”)
- 11 If it responds peaceably and lets you in, all the people present there shall serve you at forced labor.
- 12 If it does not surrender to you, but would join battle with you, you shall lay siege to it;
- 13 and when your God יהוה delivers it into your hand, you shall put all its males to the sword.
- 14 You may, however, take as your booty the women, the children, the livestock, and everything in the town—all its spoil—and enjoy the use of the spoil of your enemy, which your God יהוה gives you.
- 15 Thus you shall deal with all towns that lie very far from you, towns that do not belong to nations hereabout.
- 16 In the towns of the latter peoples, however, which your God יהוה is giving you as a heritage, you shall not let a soul remain alive.
- וּדְבָרוֹ הַשְּׁטָרִים אֲלֵהֶם לֵאמֹר מִי־הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר בָּנָה בֵּית־חֲדָשׁ וְלֹא חֲנָלּוֹ יָלָךְ וַיָּשֶׁב לְבֵיתוֹ פְּנֵי־מוֹת בַּמִּלְחָמָה וְאִישׁ אֲחֵר יִחַנְּכֶנּוּ:
- וּמִי־הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר־נָטַע כָּרֶם וְלֹא חָלְלוֹ יָלָךְ וַיָּשֶׁב לְבֵיתוֹ פְּנֵי־מוֹת בַּמִּלְחָמָה וְאִישׁ אֲחֵר יִחַלְלֶנּוּ:
- וּמִי־הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר־אַרְשׁ אִשָּׁה וְלֹא לָקָחָהּ יָלָךְ וַיָּשֶׁב לְבֵיתוֹ פְּנֵי־מוֹת בַּמִּלְחָמָה וְאִישׁ אֲחֵר יִקְחֶנָּה:
- וַיִּסְפּוּ הַשְּׁטָרִים לְדַבֵּר אֶל־הָעָם וְאָמְרוּ מִי־הָאִישׁ חִירָא וְרָךְ הַלֵּלָב יָלָךְ וַיָּשֶׁב לְבֵיתוֹ וְלֹא יָמָס אֶת־לֵלָב אֲחִיו כְּלָבָבוֹ:
- וְהָיָה כְּכֹלֹת הַשְּׁטָרִים לְדַבֵּר אֶל־הָעָם וּפָקְדוֹ שָׂרֵי צְבָאוֹת בִּרְאֵשׁ הָעָם:
- כִּי־תִקְרַב אֶל־עִיר לְהִלָּחֵם עָלֶיהָ וְקִרְאתָ אֲלֶיהָ לְשָׁלוֹם:
- וְהָיָה אִם־שָׁלוֹם תַּעֲנֶנּוּ וּפִתְחָהּ לָךְ וְהָיָה כָּל־הָעָם הַנִּמְצָא־בָּהּ יִהְיוּ לָךְ לְמָס וְעַבְדוֹךָ:
- וְאִם־לֹא תִשְׁלִים עִמָּךְ וְעָשְׂתָה עִמָּךְ מִלְחָמָה וְצָרָתְךָ עָלֶיהָ:
- וּנְתַנָּהּ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּיָדְךָ וְהָכִיתָ אֶת־כָּל־זְכוּרָהּ לַפִּי־חֶרֶב:
- רַק הַנְּשִׁים וְהַטָּף וְהַבְּהֵמָה וְכָל־אֲשֶׁר יִהְיֶה בְּעִיר כָּל־שְׁלָלָהּ תָּבוֹז לָךְ וְאָכַלְתָּ אֶת־שָׁלָל אִיְלֶיךָ אֲשֶׁר נָתַן יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לָךְ:
- כֵּן תַּעֲשֶׂה לְכָל־הָעָרִים הָרְחוֹקֹת מִמָּךְ אֲשֶׁר לֹא־מַעֲרִי הַגּוֹיִם־הָאֵלֶּה הֵנָּה:
- רַק מַעֲרֵי הָעַמִּים הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ נָתַן לָךְ נַחֲלָה לֹא תַחֲזֶיהָ כְּלִנְשָׁמָה:

- 17 No, you must proscribe (proscribe See Lev. 27.29.) them—the Hittites and the Amorites, the Canaanites and the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites—as your God הוה has commanded you, lest they lead you into doing all the abhorrent things that they have done for their gods and you stand guilty before your God הוה.
- 18 When in your war against a city you have to besiege it a long time in order to capture it, you must not destroy its trees, wielding the ax against them. You may eat of them, but you must not cut them down. Are trees of the field human to withdraw before you into the besieged city?
- 19 Only trees that you know do not yield food may be destroyed; you may cut them down for constructing siegeworks against the city that is waging war on you, until it has been reduced.
- 17 כִּי־הִחָרַם תִּחְרִימֵם הַחִתִּי וְהָאֹמֹרִי הַכְּנַעֲנִי וְהַפְּרִזִּי הַחִוִּי וְהַיְבוּסִי כַאֲשֶׁר צִוָּךְ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ:
- 18 לְמַעַן אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יִלְמְדוּ אֶתְכֶם לַעֲשׂוֹת כָּכָל תּוֹעֲבוֹתָם אֲשֶׁר עָשׂוּ לְאֱלֹהֵיהֶם וַחֲטֹאתֵם לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם:
- 19 כִּי־תִצּוֹר אֶל־עִיר יָמִים רַבִּים לְהִלָּחֵם עָלֶיהָ לְתַפְשָׁהּ לֹא־תִשְׁחִית אֶת־עֵצָהּ לִנְדָּח עָלֶיהָ גִּרְוֹן כִּי מִמֶּנּוּ תֹאכַל וְאוֹתוֹ לֹא תִכְרֹת כִּי הָאָדָם עֵץ הַשָּׂדֶה לִבָּא מִפְּנֶיךָ בַּמָּצוֹר:
- 20 רַק עֵץ אֲשֶׁר־תֵּדַע כִּי־לֹא־עֵץ מֵאֲכָל הוּא אֹתוֹ תִשְׁחִית וְכָרַת וּבִנְיַת מִצְוֹר עָלֶיהָ־עֵץ אֲשֶׁר־הוּא עֹשֶׂה עִמָּךְ מִלְחָמָה עַד רִדְתָּהּ:

21

- 1 If, in the land that your God הוה is assigning you to possess, someone slain is found lying in the open, the identity of the slayer not being known,
- 2 your elders and magistrates shall go out and measure the distances from the corpse to the nearby towns.
- 3 The elders of the town nearest to the corpse shall then take a heifer which has never been worked, which has never pulled in a yoke;
- 4 and the elders of that town shall bring the heifer down to an everflowing wadi, which is not tilled or sown. There, in the wadi, they shall break the heifer's neck.
- 5 The priests, sons of Levi, shall come forward; for your God הוה has chosen them for divine service and to pronounce blessing in the name of הוה, and every lawsuit and case of assault (assault Cf. 17.8. Or “skin affection”; cf. 24.8.) is subject to their ruling.
- 6 Then all the elders of the town nearest to the corpse shall wash their hands over the heifer whose neck was broken in the wadi.
- 7 And they shall make this declaration: “Our hands did not shed this blood, nor did our eyes see it done.
- 1 כִּי־מִצָּא חָלָל בְּאֶדְמָה אֲשֶׁר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ נָתַן לְךָ לְרִשְׁתָּהּ נָפֶל בַּשָּׂדֶה לֹא נֹדַע מִי הַקָּהוּ:
- 2 וַיֵּצְאוּ זִקְנֶיךָ וּשְׁפָטֶיךָ וּמִדְּדוּ אֶל־הָעָרִים אֲשֶׁר סְבִיבַת הַחָלָל:
- 3 וְהָיָה הָעִיר הַקְּרֹבָה אֶל־הַחָלָל וּלְקַחֹהּ זִקְנֵי הָעִיר הַהִוא עֹגֶלֶת בָּקָר אֲשֶׁר לֹא־עָבַד בָּהּ אֲשֶׁר לֹא־מִשְׁכָּה בָּעֵל:
- 4 וְהוֹרְדוּ זִקְנֵי הָעִיר הַהִוא אֶת־הָעֹגֶלָה אֶל־נָחַל אֵיתָן אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יִעָבֵד בּוֹ וְלֹא יִזְרַע וְעָרְפוּ־שָׁם אֶת־הָעֹגֶלָה בְּנָחַל:
- 5 וַיָּבֹאוּ הַכֹּהֲנִים בְּנֵי לֵוִי כִּי בָם בָּחַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לְשִׁרְתּוֹ וּלְבָרָךְ בְּשֵׁם יְהוָה וְעַל־פִּיהֶם יִהְיֶה כְּלִירִיב וְכָל־נִגְעַ:
- 6 וְכָל זִקְנֵי הָעִיר הַהִוא הַקְּרֹבִים אֶל־הַחָלָל יִרְחֻצוּ אֶת־יְדֵיהֶם עַל־הָעֹגֶלָה הָעָרֻפָה בְּנָחַל:
- 7 וַעֲנוּ וְאָמְרוּ יְדֵינוּ לֹא (שִׁפְכָהּ) [שִׁפְכָנוּ] אֶת־הַדָּם הַזֶּה וְעֵינֵינוּ לֹא רָאוּ:

- 8 Absolve, הוהי, Your people Israel whom You redeemed, and do not let guilt for the blood of the innocent remain among Your people Israel.” And they will be absolved of bloodguilt.
- כַּפֹּר לְעַמְּךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר־פָּדִיתָ יְהוָה וְאַל־תִּתֵּן דָּם נָקִי בְּקִרְבִּי
עַמְּךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל וְנִכְפַּר לָהֶם הַדָּם:
- 9 Thus you will remove from your midst guilt for the blood of the innocent, for you will be doing what is right in the sight of הוהי.
- וְאַתָּה תִּבְעֵר הַדָּם הַנָּקִי מִקִּרְבְּךָ כִּי־תַעֲשֶׂה הַיֶּשֶׁר בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה: