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שופטים Shoftim

Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9

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- 18 יהוה אלהיך נתן לך לשבטריך ושפטו את־העם משפט־צדק: שפטים ושטר־ים תתן־לך בכל־שעריך אשר
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 שחד כי השחד יענל עיני חכמים ויסלף דברי צדיקים: לא־תטה משפט לא תכיר פנים ולא־תקח
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 תחיה וירשת את־הארץ אשר־יהנה אלהיך נתן לך: צדק צדק תרדה למען
Justice, justice shall you pursue, that you may thrive and occupy the land that your God יהוה is giving you.
- 21 לך אשרה כל־עץ אצל מזבח יהוה אלהיך אשר תעשה־לך: לא־תטע
You shall not set up a sacred post—any kind of pole beside the altar of your God יהוה that you may make—
- 22 ולא־תקים לך מצבה אשר שגא יהוה אלהיך: יהוה
or erect a stone pillar; for such your God יהוה detests.

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- 1 יהיה בו מום כל דבר רע כי תועבת יהוה אלהיך הוא: לא־תזבח ליהוה אלהיך שור ושה אשר
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 אשר יעשה את־הרע בעיני יהוה־אלהיך לעבר ברייתו: בקרבך באחד שעריך אשר־יהנה אלהיך נתן לך איש או־אשה קיי־מצא
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 להם ולשמם | או לירח או לכל־צבא השמים אשר לא־צוית: וילך ויעבד אלהים אחרים וישתחו
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 היטב והנה אמת נכון הדבר נעשתה התועבה הזאת בישראל: והגיד־לך ושמעת ודרשת
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 אל־שעריך את־האיש או את־האשה וסקלתם באבנים ומתו: והוא או את־האשה הוא אשר לשו את־הדבר הרע הזה והוצאת את־האיש
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 עד־ים או שלשה עד־ים יומת המת לא יומת על־פי עד אחד: על־פי | שנים
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.—

- בראשונה להמיתו ויד כלהעם באחרונה ובערת הרע מקרבך:
יד העזים תהיה בו
- 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.
- בשעריך וקמת ועלית אלהמלום אשר יבחר יהוה אלהיך בו:
למשפט ביןדם | לדם ביןדין לדיו ובין לנגע לנגע דברי ריבת
כי יפלא ממך דבר
- 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 יהוה will have chosen,
- אשר יהיה בימים ההם ודרשת והגידו לך את דבר המשפט:
ובאת אלהיכהנים הלולים ואלהשפט
- 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,
- הוא אשר יבחר יהוה ושמרת לעשות ככל אשר יורה:
ועשית עלפי הדבר אשר יגידו לך מן המקום
- 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.
- לך תעשה לא תסור מן הדבר אשר יגידו לך ימין ושמאל:
עלפי התורה אשר יורה ועל המשפט אשר יאמרו
- 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.
- אלהיך או אלהשפט ומת האיש הוא ובערת הרע משראך:
בזון לבלתי שמע אלהיכהן העמד לשרת שם את יהוה
והאיש אשר יעשה
- 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:
- וכל העם ישמעו ויראו ולא יזידון עוד:
- 13 all the people will hear and be afraid and will not act presumptuously again.
- בה ואמרת אשימה עלי מלך ככלהגוים אשר סביבתי:
כיתבא אלהארץ אשר יהוה אלהיך נתן לך וירשתה וישבתה
- 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,”
- עליך מלך לא תוכל לתת עליך איש נכלי אשר לא אחיך הוא:
עליך מלך אשר יבחר יהוה אלהיך בו מקרב אחיך תשים
שום תשים
- 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.
- הרבות סוס ויהוה אמר לכם לא תספון לשוב בדרך הזה עוד:
רק לא ירבהלו סוסים ולא ישיב את העם מצרימה למען
- 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.”
- ירבהלו נשים ולא יסור לבבו וכסף וזהב לא ירבהלו מאד:
ולא
- 17 And he shall not have many wives, lest his heart go astray; nor shall he amass silver and gold to excess.
- לו את משנה התורה הזאת על ספר מלפני הכהנים הלויים:
והיה כשבתו על כסא ממלכתו וכתב
- 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.

- 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

- 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 אֱלֹהִימָתִים:
- אֱלֹהִים וּבִגְלַל הַתּוֹעֵבֹת הָאֵלֶּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ מוֹרִישׁ אוֹתָם מִפָּנֶיךָ: כִּי־תוֹעֵבֹת יְהוָה כָּל־עֲשֵׂה
- תָּמִים תִּהְיֶה עִם יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ:
- וְאֵלֵי־קִסְמִים יִשְׁמְעוּ וְאֹתָהּ לֹא כֵן נָתַן לְךָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ: כִּי | הַגּוֹיִם הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר אָתָּה יוֹרֵשׁ אוֹתָם אֵלִי־מַעֲנֵנִים
- מִקֶּרְבְּךָ מֵאֲחֵיךָ כְּמִנִּי יָקִים לְךָ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֵלָיו תִּשְׁמָעוּן: נְבִיא
- יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי וְאֹת־הָאֵשׁ הַגְּדֹלָה הַזֹּאת לֹא־אֶרְאֶה עוֹד וְלֹא אָמוּת: יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בַּחֹלֶב בַּיּוֹם הַקֹּהֵל לֵאמֹר לֹא אֶסָּף לִשְׁמֹעַ אֶת־קוֹל כָּל אֲשֶׁר־שָׁאֵלְתָּ מֵעַם
- וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֵלַי הִיטִיבוּ אֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרוּ:
- כְּמוֹךָ וְנִתְּנִי דְבָרִי בְּפִיו וּדְבַר אֲלֵיהֶם אֶת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר אֶצְוֶנוּ: נְבִיא אֲקִים לָהֶם מִקֶּרֶב אֲחֵיהֶם
- אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יִשְׁמַע אֶל־דְּבָרִי אֲשֶׁר יְדַבֵּר בְּשִׁמִּי אֲנֹכִי אֶדְרֹשׁ מֵעַמּוֹ: וְהָיָה הָאִישׁ
- לְדַבֵּר וְאֲשֶׁר יְדַבֵּר בְּשֵׁם אֱלֹהִים אֲחֵרִים וּמִתְּהַבֵּיא הַהוּא: אֵךְ הַנְּבִיא אֲשֶׁר יִזִּיד לְדַבֵּר דְּבַר בְּשִׁמִּי אֶת אֲשֶׁר לֹא־צִוִּיתִיו
- וְכִי תֹאמַר בְּלִבְבְּךָ אֵיכָה נִדְּעַ אֶת־הַדְּבַר אֲשֶׁר לֹא־דִבַּרְוּ יְהוָה:
- אֲשֶׁר לֹא־דִבַּרְוּ יְהוָה בְּזִדּוֹן דְּבָרוֹ הַנְּבִיא לֹא תִגּוֹר מִמֶּנּוּ: יְדַבֵּר הַנְּבִיא בְּשֵׁם יְהוָה וְלֹא־יִהְיֶה הַדְּבַר וְלֹא יָבֹא הוּא הַדְּבַר אֲשֶׁר

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,
- אֱלֹהֶיךָ נָתַן לְךָ אֶת־אֶרְצָם וִירִשְׁתָּם וַיִּשְׁבְּתָּ בְּעָרֵיהֶם וּבְבִתְיֵיהֶם: כִּי־יִכְרֹת יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֶת־הַגּוֹיִם אֲשֶׁר יְהוָה

- 2 תבדיל לך בתוך ארצך אשר יהיה אלהיך נתן לך לרשותה: שְׁלוֹשׁ עָרִים
you shall set aside three cities in the land that your God יהוה is giving you to possess.
- 3 ארצך אשר ינחילך יהיה אלהיך והיה לנוס שמה כל־רצח: תכין לך הדרך ושלשת את־גבול
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.—
- 4 יכה את־רעהו בבל־דעת והוא לא־שנא לו מתמל שלשם: וזה דבר הרצח אשר־ינוס שמה וחי אשר
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.
- 5 ומצא את־רעהו ומת הוא ינוס אל־אחת הערים־האלה וחי: לחטב עצים ונדהה ידו בגרזן לכרת העץ ונשל הברזל מן־העץ ואשר יבא את־רעהו ביער
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.—
- 6 נפש ולו אין משפט־מות כי לא שנא הוא לו מתמול שלשום: הדם אחרי הרצח כִּי־יחם לבבו והשיגו כִּי־רבה הדרך והפּהו פן־ירדה גאל
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.
- 7 על־כן אנכי מצוך לאמר שלש ערים תבדיל לך:
7 That is why I command you: set aside three cities.
- 8 נשבע לאבותיך ונתן לך את־כל־הארץ אשר דבר לתת לאבותיך: ואם־ירחיב יהיה אלהיך את־גבולך כאשר
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—
- 9 כל־הצוים ויספת לך עוד שלש ערים על השלש האלה: אנכי מצוך היום לאהבה את־יהוה אלהיך וללכת בדרכיו כִּי־תשמר את־כל־המצוה הזאת לעשתה אשר
9 if you faithfully observe all this Instruction that I enjoin upon you this day, to love your God יהוה and to walk in God's ways at all times—then you shall add three more towns to those three.
- 10 ארצך אשר יהיה אלהיך נתן לך נחלה והיה עליך דמים: ולא ישפך דם נקי בקרב
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.
- 11 וארב לו וקם עליו והכהו נפש ומת וגם אל־אחת הערים האלה: וכִּי־יהיה איש שנא לרעהו
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,
- 12 זקני עירו ולקחו אתו משם ונתנו אתו ביד גאל הדם ומת: ושלחו
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;
- 13 לא־תחוס עינך עליו ובִּעֲרַת דם־הנקי מִשְׁרָאֵל וטוב לך:
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.
- אֲשֶׁר תִּנְחֹל בְּאַרְצְךָ אֲשֶׁר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ נָתַן לְךָ לְרִשְׁתָּהּ: לֹא תִסֵּיג גְּבוּל רֵעֶךָ אֲשֶׁר גְּבֻלוֹ רַאשֵׁינִים בְּנַחֲלֶיךָ.
- יֶחָטֵא עַל־פִּי | שְׁנֵי עֵדִים אֹו עַל־פִּי שְׁלֹשָׁה־עֵדִים יִקוּם דְּבַר: לֹא־יִקוּם עַד אֶחָד בְּאִישׁ לְכָל־עוֹן וּלְכָל־חַטָּאת בְּכָל־חָטֵא אֲשֶׁר
- כִּי־יִקוּם עַד־חֵמֶס בְּאִישׁ לַעֲנוֹת בּוֹ סָרָה:
- לִפְנֵי יְהוָה לִפְנֵי הַכֹּהֲנִים וְהַשֹּׁפְטִים אֲשֶׁר יִהְיוּ בַיָּמִים הָהֵם: וְעָמְדוּ שְׁנֵי־הָאֲנָשִׁים אֲשֶׁר־לֵהֶם הָרִיב
- וְדָרְשׁוּ הַשֹּׁפְטִים הַיָּטֵב וְהַנָּה עַד־שִׁקְלָהּ הָעֵד שֶׁקֶר עָנָה בְּאֶחָיו:
- וַעֲשִׂיתֶם לוֹ כְּאֲשֶׁר זָמַם לַעֲשׂוֹת לְאֶחָיו וּבַעֲרַתְּ הָרָע מִקִּרְבְּךָ:
- יִשְׁמְעוּ וְיִרְאוּ וְלֹא־יִסְכְּפוּ לַעֲשׂוֹת עוֹד כַּדָּבָר הָרָע הַזֶּה בְּקִרְבְּךָ: וְהִנֵּשְׂאָרִים
- עֵינְךָ נָפֶשׁ בְּנָפֶשׁ עֵין בְּעֵין שֵׁן בְּשֵׁן יָד בְּיָד רֶגֶל בְּרֶגֶל: וְלֹא תַחֲוֶס

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.”
- לֹא תִירָא מֵהֶם כִּי־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ עִמָּךְ הַמַּעֲלֶךְ מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם: כִּי־יֵצֵא לַמִּלְחָמָה עַל־אֹיְבֶיךָ וְרָאִיתָ סוּס וְרֶכֶב עִם רֵב מִמֶּךָ
- וְהָיָה בְּקִרְבְּכֶם אֶל־הַמִּלְחָמָה וְנִגַּשׁ הַכֹּהֵן וְדִבֶּר אֶל־הָעָם:
- אֲלֵי־יָרֵךְ לְבַבְכֶם אֲלֵי־תִירָאוֹ וְאֲלֵי־תַחְפוּזוֹ וְאֲלֵי־תַעְרָצוֹ מִפְּנֵיהֶם: אֱלֹהֶם שִׁמְעֵ יִשְׂרָאֵל אַתֶּם קִרְבִּים הַיּוֹם לַמִּלְחָמָה עַל־אֹיְבֵיכֶם וְאָמַר
- הִהֲלֹךְ עִמָּכֶם לְהַלָּתֶם לָכֶם עַם־אֹיְבֵיכֶם לְהוֹשִׁיעַ אֶתְכֶם: כִּי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם

חָנְכוּ יֶלֶךְ וַיִּשָּׁב לְבֵיתוֹ פְּנֵי־יְמוֹת בְּמִלְחָמָה וְאִישׁ אֲחֵר יִחַנְכֶנּוּ:
הַשְּׁטָרִים אֲלֵהֶם לֵאמֹר מִי־הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר בָּנָה בֵּית־חֹדֶשׁ וְלֹא
וּדְבָרוֹ

חָלְלוּ יֶלֶךְ וַיִּשָּׁב לְבֵיתוֹ פְּנֵי־יְמוֹת בְּמִלְחָמָה וְאִישׁ אֲחֵר יִחַלְלֶנּוּ:
וּמִי־הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר־נָטַע כָּרֶם וְלֹא

לָקָחָהּ יֶלֶךְ וַיִּשָּׁב לְבֵיתוֹ פְּנֵי־יְמוֹת בְּמִלְחָמָה וְאִישׁ אֲחֵר יִקְחָנָהּ:
וּמִי־הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר־אָרֶשׁ אִשָּׁה וְלֹא

וְרֶךְ הַלֵּב יֶלֶךְ וַיִּשָּׁב לְבֵיתוֹ וְלֹא יִמָּס אֶת־לֵבָב אָחִיו כְּלָבָיו:
וַיִּסְפּוּ הַשְּׁטָרִים לְדַבֵּר אֲלֵהֶם וְאָמְרוּ מִי־הָאִישׁ הַזֶּה

לְדַבֵּר אֲלֵהֶם וּפָקְדוֹ שָׂרֵי צָבָאוֹת בְּרֹאשׁ הָעָם:
וְהָיָה כְּכֹלֶת הַשְּׁטָרִים

כִּי־תִקְרַב אֶל־עִיר לְהִלָּחֶם עָלֶיהָ וְקִרְאתָ אֵלֶיהָ לְשָׁלוֹם:

וּפָתְחָהּ לָךְ וְהָיָה כְּלֵהֶם הַנִּמְצָא־בָּהּ יִהְיוּ לָךְ לְמָס וְעֲבָדוֹךָ:
וְהָיָה אִם־שָׁלוֹם תַּעֲנֶךָ

וְאִם־לֹא תִשָּׁלֵם עִמָּךְ וְעָשְׂתָה עִמָּךְ מִלְחָמָה וְצָרָתָ עָלֶיהָ:

וּנְתַנָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּיָדְךָ וְהָכִיתָ אֶת־כָּל־זְכוּרָהּ לַפִּי־חֶרֶב:

תִּבְּזָ לָךְ וְאָכַלְתָּ אֶת־שָׁלַל אִיְבֹיךָ אֲשֶׁר נָתַן יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ לָךְ:
רַק הַנָּשִׁים וְהַטָּף וְהַבְּהֵמָה וְכָל אֲשֶׁר יִהְיֶה בְּעִיר כְּל־שָׁלָלָהּ

הָרְחִיקָתָ מִמֶּךָ מֵאֹד אֲשֶׁר לֹא־מַעֲרִי הַגּוֹיִם־הָאֵלֶּה הֵנָּה:
כִּן תַּעֲשֶׂה לְכָל־הָעָרִים

הָאֵלֶּה אֲשֶׁר יִהְיֶה אֱלֹהֶיךָ נָתַן לָךְ נַחֲלָה לֹא תַחֲיָה כְּל־נִשְׁמָה:
לֹק מַעֲרֵי הָעַמִּים

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.

- 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 יהוה has commanded you,
- 18 lest they lead you into doing all the abhorrent things that they have done for their gods and you stand guilty before your God יהוה.
- 19 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?
- 20 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.
- הַכְנַעֲנִי וְהַפְּרָזִי הַחִוִּי וְהַיְבוּסִי כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּךְ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ:
כִּי־יִהְיוּרָם תְּחִרִימָם הַחִתִּי וְהָאֳמֹרִי
אֲשֶׁר עָשׂוּ לֵאלֹהֵיהֶם וַחֲטֹאתָם לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֵיכֶם:
לִמְעַן אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יִלְמְדוּ אֶתְכֶם לַעֲשׂוֹת כְּכָל תּוֹעֲבוֹתָם
וְאַתּוֹן לֹא תִכְרַת כִּי הָאָדָם עֵץ הַשָּׂדֶה לְבָא מִפְּנֶיךָ בַּמִּצּוֹר:
לְתַפְּשָׁהּ לֹא־תִשְׁחִית אֶת־עֵצָהּ לְנִדַּח עָלֶיהָ גִּרְוֹן כִּי מִמֶּנּוּ תֹאכֵל
כִּי־תִצּוֹר אֶל־עִיר יָמִים רַבִּים לְהִלָּחֵם עָלֶיהָ
מִצּוֹר עַל־הָעִיר אֲשֶׁר־הוּא עֹשֶׂה עִמָּךְ מִלְחָמָה עַד רִדְתָּהּ:
עֵץ אֲשֶׁר־תִּדְעַ כִּי־לֹא־עֵץ מֵאֲכָל הוּא אֹתוֹ תִּשְׁחִית וְכִרְתָּ וּבְנִיתָ
רֶק

21

- 1 If, in the land that your God יהוה 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 יהוה has chosen them for divine service and to pronounce blessing in the name of יהוה, 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.
- יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ נָתַן לְךָ לְרִשְׁתָּהּ נָפֶל בְּשָׂדֶה לֹא נֹדֵעַ מִי הַכָּהוּ:
כִּי־מֵצָא חָלָל בְּאֲדָמָה אֲשֶׁר
וַיֵּצְאוּ זִקְנֶיךָ וּשְׁפָטֶיךָ וּמִדְּדוּ אֶל־הָעָרִים אֲשֶׁר סְבִיבַת הַחָלָל:
הָהוּא עֹנֶלֶת בְּקֶר אֲשֶׁר לֹא־עָבַד בָּהּ אֲשֶׁר לֹא־מִשְׁכָּה בָּעָל:
וְהִזְיָה הָעִיר הַקְּרִיבָה אֶל־הַחָלָל וּלְקַחְוּ זִקְנֵי הָעִיר
אִיתָן אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יֵעָבֵד בּוֹ וְלֹא יִזְרַע וְעָרְפוּ־שֵׁם אֶת־הָעֹנֶלֶת בְּנָחַל:
וְהוֹרְדוּ זִקְנֵי הָעִיר הַהוּא אֶת־הָעֹנֶלֶת אֶל־נָחַל
לְשַׁרְתּוֹ וּלְבַרְךָ בְּשֵׁם יְהוָה וְעַל־פִּיהֶם יְהִיָּה כְלִירִיב וְכָל־נִגְעָ:
וַיִּגָּשׁוּ הַכֹּהֲנִים בְּנֵי לֵוִי כִּי בָם בָּחַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ
אֶל־הַחָלָל יִרְחֻצּוּ אֶת־יְדֵיהֶם עַל־הָעֹנֶלֶת הָעָרֻפָה בְּנָחַל:
וְכָל זִקְנֵי הָעִיר הַהוּא הַקְּרִיבִים
יֵדִינוּ לֹא (שָׁפַכְנוּ) אֶת־הַדָּם הַזֶּה וְעֵינֵינוּ לֹא רָאוּ:
וְעָנוּ וְאָמְרוּ

יְהוָה וְאַל־תִּתֵּן דָּם נָלִי בְּקִרְבִּי עִמָּךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל וְנִכְפַּר לָהֶם הַדָּם:
כִּפֹּר לְעַמְּךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר־פָּדִיתָ

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.

תִּבְעַר הַדָּם הַנִּקִּי מִקִּרְבְּךָ כִּי־תַעֲשֶׂה הַיֶּשֶׁר בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה:
וְאַתָּה

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.