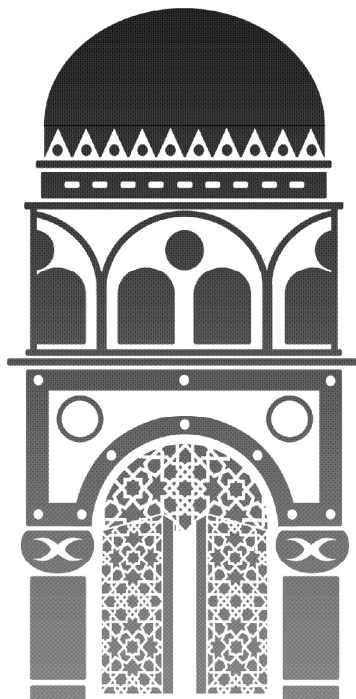


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SHABBAT SHALOM

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21/22 August 2020

2 Elul 5780

SHABBAT SHOF'TIM

Parashat Shof'tim opens with the command to appoint judges and legal officials to carry out justice within the society and with a warning against the worship of other gods. Two witnesses must be heard before a court can impose the death penalty. Cases of homicide, civil law, or assault too difficult to decide in one court must be transferred to a higher court. Regulations for choosing a king/leader are presented, including a warning that this leader should follow the laws of Torah faithfully. The offerings for priests are again set forth; also set forth is the difference between a true and false prophet. Cities of refuge for those guilty of manslaughter are described, with laws forbidding the movement of landmarks. The portion concludes with regulations to be observed during war and with assessments of communal responsibilities when the body of a murder victim is found beyond city limits.

DEUTERONOMY 18:1-22

א לא יִהְיֶה לַכֹּהֲנִים הַלְוִיִּם כָּל־שֶׁבֶט לְוֵי תִלְק וְנִחַלָּה עִם־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁי
יְהוָה וְנִחַלְתּוּ וְאֹכְלוּ: ב וְנִחַלָּה לֹא־יְהִי־לּוֹ בְּקֶרֶב אַחֲיוּ יְהוָה הוּא
נִחַלְתּוּ כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר־לּוֹ: ג וְזֶה יְהִי מִשְׁפָּט הַכֹּהֲנִים מֵאֵת הָעָם מֵאֵת זִבְחֵי
הַזֶּבַח אִם־שׂוֹר אִם־שָׂה וְנָתַן לַכֹּהֵן הַזֶּרַע וְהַלְחִיִּים וְהַקֶּבֶה: ד רֹאשִׁית
דִּגְנָךְ תִּירֹשֶׁךָ וְיִצְהָרְךָ וְרֹאשִׁית גֵּז צֹאנֶךָ תִּתֶן־לּוֹ: ה כִּי בּוֹ בָּתָר יְהוָה
אֱלֹהֶיךָ מִכָּל־שִׁבְטֵיךָ לַעֲמֹד לְשֶׁרֶת בְּשֵׁם־יְהוָה הוּא וּבָנָיו כָּל־הַיָּמִים:
ו וְכִי־יָבֵא הַלְוִי מֵאֶתֶד שְׁעָרֶיךָ מִכָּל־יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר־הוּא גֵר שָׁם וּבֵא
בְּכָל־אֹת נַפְשׁוֹ אֶל־הַמָּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר־יִבְחַר יְהוָה: ז וְשֶׁרֶת בְּשֵׁם יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיו
כְּכָל־אֲחָיו הַלְוִיִּם הַעֲמֻדִים שָׁם לִפְנֵי יְהוָה: ח תִּלְק כִּחַלְק יֹאכְלוּ לֶבֶד
מִמֶּכְרֵיו עַל־הָאֲבוֹת: ט כִּי אֲתָה בָּא אֶל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר־יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ נָתַן
לָךְ לֹא־תִלְמַד לַעֲשׂוֹת כְּתוֹעֵבֹת הַגּוֹיִם הָהֵם: י לֹא־יִמְצָא בְּךָ מַעֲבִיר
בְּנוֹ־וּבֵתוֹ בְּאֵשׁ קִסֵּם קִסְמִים מַעֲוֹן וּמְנַחֵשׁ וּמְכַשֵּׁף: יא וְחָבֵר חָבֵר וְשֹׁאֵל
אוֹב וְיִדְעָנִי וְדָרַשׁ אֶל־הַמֵּתִים: יב כִּי־תוֹעֵבֶת יְהוָה כָּל־עֲשֵׂה אֱלֹה וּבְגִלְל
הַתוֹעֵבֶת הָאֵלֹה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ מוֹרִישׁ אוֹתָם מִפְּנֵיךָ: יג תִּמְנִים תִּהְיֶה עִם
יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ: יד כִּי הַגּוֹיִם הָאֵלֹה אֲשֶׁר אֲתָה יוֹרֵשׁ אוֹתָם אֶל־מַעֲנֵנִים
וְאֶל־קִסְמִים יִשְׁמְעוּ וְאֲתָה לֹא כִן נָתַן לָךְ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ: טו נָבִיא מִקֶּרֶבְךָ
מֵאַחֶיךָ כְּמוֹנֵי יָקִים לָךְ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֲלֵיו תִּשְׁמָעוּ: טז כָּל אֲשֶׁר־שִׁאֲלַת
מֵעַם יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּחֹרֵב בְּיוֹם הַקֶּהֶל לֵאמֹר לֹא אִסּוֹף לִשְׁמַע אֶת־קוֹל
יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי וְאֶת־הָאֵשׁ הַגְּדֹלָה הַזֹּאת לֹא־אֲרָאָה עוֹד וְלֹא אָמוֹת:
יז וְיֹאמֶר יְהוָה אֵלַי הִיטִיבוּ אֲשֶׁר דִּבַּרוּ: יח נָבִיא אָקִים לָהֶם מִקֶּרֶב
אַחֵיהֶם כְּמוֹךָ וְנָתַתִּי דְבָרִי בְּפִיו וְדִבַּר אֲלֵיהֶם אֵת כָּל־אֲשֶׁר אֶצְוֶה:
יט וְהָיָה הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יִשְׁמַע אֶל־דְּבָרֵי אֲשֶׁר יְדַבֵּר בְּשִׁמִּי אֲנֹכִי אֲדַרֵּשׁ
מֵעַמּוֹ: כ אַךְ הַנָּבִיא אֲשֶׁר יִזִּיד לְדַבֵּר דְּבָר אֵת אֲשֶׁר לֹא־צוִיתִיו
לְדַבֵּר וְאֲשֶׁר יְדַבֵּר בְּשֵׁם אֱלֹהִים אַחֵרִים וּמֵת הַנָּבִיא הַהוּא: כא וְכִי
תֹאמַר בְּלִבְבְּךָ אֵיכָה נִדְּע אֶת־הַדְּבָר אֲשֶׁר לֹא־דִבְרוּ יְהוָה: כב אֲשֶׁר יְדַבֵּר
הַנָּבִיא בְּשֵׁם יְהוָה וְלֹא־יְהִיֶּה הַדְּבָר וְלֹא יָבֵא הוּא הַדְּבָר אֲשֶׁר לֹא־דִבְרוּ
יְהוָה בְּזֶדוֹן דִּבְרוּ הַנָּבִיא לֹא תִגּוֹר מִמֶּנּוּ:

DEUTERONOMY 18:1-22

1 The levitical priests, the whole tribe of Levi, shall have no territorial portion with Israel. They shall live only off Adonai's offerings by fire as their portion, 2 and shall have no portion among their brother tribes: Adonai 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 Adonai your God has chosen him and his descendants, out of all your tribes, to be in attendance for service in the name of Adonai 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 Adonai has chosen, he may do so whenever he pleases. 7 He may serve in the name of Adonai his God like all his fellow Levites who are there in attendance before Adonai. 8 They shall receive equal shares of the dues, without regard to personal gifts or patrimonies.9 When you enter the land that Adonai your God 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 Adonai, and it is because of these abhorrent things that Adonai your God is dispossessing them before you. 13 You must be wholehearted with Adonai your God. 14 Those nations that you are about to dispossess do indeed resort to soothsayers and augurs; to you, however, Adonai your God has not assigned the like.15 From among your own people, Adonai your God will raise up for you a prophet, like myself, whom you shall heed. 16 This is just what you asked of Adonai your God at Horeb, on the day of the Assembly, saying, "Let me not hear the voice of Adonai my God any longer or see this wondrous fire any more, lest I die."17 Whereupon Adonai 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 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 utter, 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 Adonai?"— 22 if the prophet speaks in the name of Adonai and the oracle does not come true, that oracle was not spoken by Adonai; the prophet has uttered it presumptuously: do not stand in dread of that person.

ISAIAH 51:12-52:6

I, I am God who comforts you!
What ails you that you fear
Humans who must die,
Mortals who fare like grass?
You have forgotten Adonai your Maker,
Who stretched out the skies and made firm the earth!
And you live all day in constant dread
Because of the rage of an oppressor
Who is aiming to cut you down.
Yet of what account is the rage of an oppressor?
Quickly the crouching one is freed;
Is not cut down and slain,
And shall not want for food.
For I Adonai your God—
Who stirs up the sea into roaring waves,
Whose name is Adonai of Hosts—
Have put My words in your mouth
And sheltered you with My hand;
I, who planted the skies and made firm the earth,
Have said to Zion: You are My people!
Rouse, rouse yourself!
Arise, O Jerusalem,
You who from Adonai's hand
Have drunk the cup of God's wrath,
You who have drained to the dregs
The bowl, the cup of reeling!
She has none to guide her
Of all the sons she bore;
None takes her by the hand,
Of all the sons she reared.
These two things have befallen you:
Wrack and ruin—who can console you?
Famine and sword—how shall I comfort you?
Your sons lie in a swoon
At the corner of every street—
Like an antelope caught in a net—
Drunk with the wrath of Adonai,
With the rebuke of your God.
Therefore,
Listen to this, unhappy one,
Who are drunk, but not with wine!

Thus said Adonai, your God,
Your God who champions God's people:
Herewith I take from your hand
The cup of reeling,
The bowl, the cup of My wrath;
You shall never drink it again.
I will put it in the hands of your tormentors,
Who have commanded you,
"Get down, that we may walk over you"—
So that you made your back like the ground,
Like a street for passersby.

Awake, awake, O Zion!
Clothe yourself in splendor;
Put on your robes of majesty,
Jerusalem, holy city!
For the uncircumcised and the unclean
Shall never enter you again.
Arise, shake off the dust,
Sit on your throne, Jerusalem!
Loose the bonds from your neck,
O captive one, Fair Zion!
For thus said Adonai:
You were sold for no price,
And shall be redeemed without money.
For thus said Adonai:
Of old, My people went down
To Egypt to sojourn there;
But Assyria has robbed them,
Giving nothing in return.
What therefore do I gain here?

—declares Adonai—

For My people has been carried off for nothing,
Their mockers howl

—declares Adonai—

And constantly, unceasingly,
My name is reviled.
Assuredly, My people shall learn My name,
Assuredly they shall learn on that day
That I, the One who promised,
Am now at hand.