



DKJA

Parshat Mishpatim

Exodus 21:1 - 24:18

In this portion, Mishpatim, which means judgments, Moses sets before the Israelites the following groups of rules:

*The rules concerning slaves.

*Certain crimes punishable by death. Among these are murder and kidnapping.

*Rules and penalties for theft and lending.

*Certain laws pertaining to the Israelites remaining a holy people. Among these are reminders not to curse G-d. Other laws pertaining to holiness include prohibitions against eating flesh torn by wild beasts and against boiling a kid in its mother's milk.

*In the Sabbatical year, the land is to rest. The commandment to rest on the seventh day follows.

*The observance of the three festivals: The Feast of Unleavened Bread (Passover), The Feast of the Harvest (Shavuot), and the Feast of the Ingathering (Sukkot)

In addition, the principle of just restitution for damages is stated (an eye for an eye, etc.).

The slavery of the Israelites in Egypt is recalled to remind the people not to maltreat strangers, widows, and orphans in their midst.

Food for Thought:

The whole idea as it developed through the ages was to make the law **public** so that every Jew would know it. We often think of Jewish law as pertaining only to holidays, Kashrut and other rituals. The fact is that there is no area of life that Jewish law does not cover. For this reason, Judaism is more than just a system of beliefs and rituals.

Shabbat Shalom
Candle lighting time is 5:48 PM