

SHOFTIM - JUDGES

Written by Rabbi Philip Hammond.. Posted in Reconciliation Parashah

Our next teaching comes from parashah SHOFTIM – JUDGES.

Devarim/Deuteronomy 16:18 - 21:9; Isaiah/Yeshayahu 51:12-52:12

18 “You shall appoint for yourself judges and officers in all your towns which the Lord your God is giving you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with righteous judgment. 19 You shall not distort justice; you shall not be partial, and you shall not take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and perverts the words of the righteous. 20 Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue, that you may live and possess the land which the Lord your God is giving you. 21 “You shall not plant for yourself an Asherah of any kind of tree beside the altar of the Lord your God, which you shall make for yourself. 22 You shall not set up for yourself a sacred pillar which the Lord your God hates. Deuteronomy 16:18-22 [NASB]

There is no doubt that Eretz Israel is the homeland for the nation of Israel. It is to be our permanent land, a land where Israel fulfils its role according to HaShem’s instructions; this requires a united nation becoming Torah observant. We are given some pertinent instructions in the following statement:

“Righteousness, righteousness shall you pursue, so that you will live and possess the Land HASHEM, your God, gives you.” Deuteronomy 16:20

As a people we are to pursue righteousness /Radaph tzedeq

Radaph/רדף = Pursue with intent; seeking aims and objectives, striving eagerly.

Tzedeq/צדק = Satisfy objective justice; being right in a moral and forensic sense; cleanse.

It is important that we understand this commandment from our heavenly Father delivered through Moshe, as it has a direct bearing on the blessings we receive from our Heavenly Father. Rest assured that all instructions from HaShem have a purpose, especially so when those instructions are delivered to the nation of Israel. The purpose referred to here is for Israel to flourish and grow and therefore “live” in the Promised Land, a Land flowing with milk and honey.

All citizens of Biblical Israel must pursue with intent the righteous instructions of HaShem. These instructions are purpose built for the nation of Israel, these instructions provide us with the means to have order and harmony within our communities and build a “fence” of protection around our nation.

I find it rather fascinating that after this commandment to pursue righteousness, that we have the following:

“You shall not plant for yourselves an idolatrous tree-any tree-near the Altar of HASHEM, your God, that you shall make for yourself. And you shall not erect for yourselves a pillar, which HASHEM, your God, hates.” Deuteronomy 16:21-22.

As a farmer I know what happens when a rotten dead tree falls across your fence. The fence is destroyed and the animals escape and end up entering into other areas where they should not be. This is what can happen when Israel is involved in planting rotten trees next to the “fence” of Torah. The so-called Christmas tree is one such tree. People, who claim citizenship of Biblical Israel, plant these trees right next door to the Torah, and these rotten trees have grown up and uprooted and fallen across the fence of Torah. The people then flee through the broken fence and end up leaving the protection of Torah and it must be noted HaShem hates these trees of idolatry. Such trees when planted and worshipped, withdraw the worshipper away from the One true God, resulting in the focus of one’s attention being devoted to another, ending the pursuit of righteous justice. How can anyone justify a Christmas tree in the house of HaShem, the Holy One of Israel, is beyond me, but it happens due to a warped sense of Judgment and justice. Trees of idolatry have no place in the Promised Land, and it is an abomination to have them anywhere near the Torah, as a suggested replacement. The Christmas tree has destroyed the truth of Yeshua as HaMoshiach in the eyes of many. The damage that has been done to our communities and our children cannot and should not be underestimated. Anyone who involves themselves with the lie of Christmas is condoning the telling of lies to our children, and is in the business of destroying the instructions of HaShem. This is the direct result of not pursuing righteous justice, based on the Torah, but replacing it with the so-called righteous justice of “man”.

The true Moshiach of Israel would never be found supporting the planting and worshipping of these rotten trees of idolatry. Yet countless millions throughout the world

promote such a foolish notion. They ask that you believe in a Moshiach who has turned His back on the righteous Torah, and instead has implemented a new and exciting life to embrace, a life that rejects the Torah of the Father. If this is the case then we have a rebellious Moshiach, a rebellious Son and someone whom we should not follow. When HaMoshiach Yeshua is painted in the frame of this false rotten picture, then is it any wonder Judah rejects HaMoshiach Yeshua. Judah is to guard the Torah, and it is their duty to reject one who does not teach and follow the Holy Torah.

Praise HaShem this is not the actual case, as Yeshua is the Living Torah, the living Word of HaShem, and we can and do embrace Him as HaMoshiach of Israel, the One sent by the Father, to gather in the lost sheep of Israel. With these things in mind it must be mentioned that Judah has caused damage by constructing its own fence, a fence that runs next too, but none the less, outside the “boundaries” of the fence of Torah. This “two fence” construction has caused confusion amongst the sheep as the boundaries are no longer clearly defined. This has led to many within the Jewish community putting the commentary and rules of “famous” Rabbis and Sages equal to or above the Torah of Moshe. We find sheep from both Houses well outside the boundaries of Torah, sheep that have escaped through the broken fences, leaving the lush green pastures planted and nurtured by HaShem and Yeshua, and electing to enter the pig pens eating the decaying food fed to the pigs. A pig pen is no place for the flock of HaShem!!!

Sadly, as a nation, Israel continues to gather and feed in the pig pens, but the great news is that there is coming a time when this will cease, a time when all Israel will return to the lush green pastures of the Promised Land. These pastures will have been meticulously prepared and maintained by HaMoshiach Yeshua, rich in nutrients, providing life. There will be a tree in the lush green pastures of the Promised Land, not a tree connected to idolatry but a Tree that provides shelter, protection, a Tree HaShem has Himself planted, the Tree of Life.

Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, 2 in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 There will no longer be any curse; and the

throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; 4 they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. 5 And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.

6 And he said to me, "These words are faithful and true"; and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His angel to show to His bond-servants the things which must soon take place. 7 "And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book." 8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. 9 But he said to me, "Do not do that. I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God."

10 And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. 11 Let the one who does wrong, still do wrong; and the one who is filthy, still be filthy; and let the one who is righteous, still practice righteousness; and the one who is holy, still keep himself holy." 12 "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." 14 Blessed are those who wash their robes, [some bibles have "doing His commandments"] so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city. 15 Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying. 16 "I, Yeshua, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the assemblies. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." 17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost. 18 I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book. 20 He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. Come, Lord Yeshua. 21 The grace of the Lord Yeshua be with all. Amen. Revelations 22:1-21 [NASB]

Please note the highlighted verses in relation to the Tree of life, especially verse 15. Outside of the Promised Land you will find those who love to practice lying. Consider this statement in the context of trees of idolatry. People who profess to belong to the

nation of Israel love to practice the lie of Christmas. I have been in Christian Churches where Christmas trees are erected, and Mr Clause makes an appearance – what an abomination this is to our Father and Moshiach Yeshua. Christmas is NOT a Moed/appointed time of our heavenly Father and should be “destroyed” by any who claim to be citizens of Biblical Israel. I am saddened to report that Judah has also become infected with the disease of this rotten tree. Many in Judah have seen Chanukah as an opportunity to compete with Christmas, pandering to the pressures of “man” instead of standing up for the Torah of HaShem as delivered by Moshe.

The nation of Israel is to worship HaShem and HaShem alone, not in a manner influenced by outside pollutants, propped up by rotten deadly dying trees, but by submitting to the King of Kings and the Lord of Lord’s through the pursuing of righteous justice, set in the unmovable foundations of Torah.

We read an important message in:

“You shall surely set over yourself a king whom HASHEM, your God, shall choose; from among your brethren you shall set a king over yourself; you cannot place over yourself a foreign man, who is not your brother.” Deuteronomy 17:15

As a nation Israel is NOT to have a foreigner, a pagan, an idolater ruling over the people. This is a commandment that is “set in stone” just as the 10 Words were written on stone. Both Houses will have to come under the Kingship of HaMoshiach, who will rule according to Biblical Torah, and both Houses will receive a “shake up”. All foreign elements will be removed, just as we are encouraged or demanded to remove the leaven from our houses over the period known as Pesach. The search for “leaven” should be a constant within the Houses of Israel, we should be on the constant look out for the leaven that is dropped from rotten dying trees of idolatry. Both Houses must use the same formula given to us by our heavenly Father and of course that is the Holy Torah – The written and the Living Torah Yeshua HaMoshiach. We learn to do this via the teachings of Sages, teachers and Rabbis of repute who focus on the Word and instructions of HaShem above the word and instructions of “man”. HaShem has always brought forward prophets, and leaders to guide our nation, the problem has been and continues to be that the nation is unwilling to accept such prophets and leaders, preferring to elect leaders

from the foreign gene pool. What love, patience and mercy our Father has for His children.

We serve a wonderful God, as there is no God like the God of Israel, and no nation like the nation of Israel, and no land like Eretz Yisrael.

Blessings to all citizens of biblical Israel,

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