

# מִשְׁפָּטִים

## MISHPATIM/ORDINANCES Shemot/Exodus 21:1-24:18

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In **contrast** to the laws of a secular nation which are **constantly changing** in order to **remain relevant**, the laws of the Torah are **unchanging and eternal**. The wisdom of the Almighty found in the Torah is so boundless that it is **applicable to all situations** in all environments. The New Covenant is not a “new” set of instructions, but a new location of where the Torah would be written:

*Jeremiah 31:33* "But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says יהוה: **I will put My Torah in their minds, and write it on their hearts...**

Although many Torah laws may **appear totally irrelevant**, in the pursuit of truth, the **Holy Spirit** can **bring to light** some awesome illustrations. As an example, let's take a look at the laws of slavery:

*Shemot 21:2* "If you buy a Hebrew servant, he shall serve six years; and in the seventh he shall go out free and pay nothing...<sup>5</sup> "But if the servant plainly says, **I love my master**, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,'<sup>6</sup> "then his master shall bring him to the judges. **He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.**

Now wait...have not the Israelites **just been freed** from the shackles of slavery? Wouldn't it make more sense if the Torah **immediately gave instructions** for **outlawing** any type of slavery? What about the **very first commandment**?

*Shemot 20:2* " I am יהוה your Elohim, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, **out of the house of bondage.**

Yes, the Israelites were saved in a **miraculous physical escape** from Egyptian slavery, giving us an **incredible picture** of the **ultimate deliverance** from spiritual bondage to sin. In Shemot 21 we read of a **slave faced** with freedom...freedom from his master, and he says, **"I love my master."** He would **prefer to serve his master** than have his own freedom...freedom from his master's laws. He would **prefer to be a "bondservant"** of the Master. He **"LOVES"** his Master.

It is interesting that the **law of the bondservant immediately follows** the Ten Commandments and **precedes** the rest of the **600 instructions**. It is a **time for reflection** – for them and for us. Are we **willing to serve**? Do we **love our Master**? Will everything we do be **for His glory**?

In our service to the Master, we must be **willing to give the maximum**. Yeshua is our example:

*Matthew 20:28* "just as the **Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve**, and to give His life a ransom for many."

*Philippians 2:5* Let this mind be in you which was also in Messiah Yeshua,<sup>6</sup> who, being in the form of Yah, did not consider it robbery to be equal with Yah,<sup>7</sup> but made Himself of no reputation, **taking the form of a bondservant**, and coming in the likeness of men.

Rav Sha'ul followed in the footsteps of the Messiah:

*Romans 1:1* Sha'ul, a **bondservant** of Yeshua the Messiah...

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**James, the half-brother to Yeshua** considered himself a “**bondservant**”:

*James 1:1 James, a bondservant of Yah and of Adonai Yeshua the Messiah...*

Also **Peter** and **Jude**:

*2 Peter 1:1 Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Yeshua the Messiah, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our Yah and Savior Yeshua the Messiah:*

*Jude 1:1 Jude, a bondservant of Yeshua the Messiah, and brother of James, To those who are called, sanctified by Yah the Father, and preserved in Yeshua the Messiah:*

**Returning to Shemot 21**, we should notice that the **location where the servant’s ear was pierced** was the **doorpost of the house**. The **doorposts** are **both** the **place** to which the **blood of the Passover lamb** was applied, and **upon which Israel is commanded to inscribe the words of the Torah** (Devarim 6). The **ear** is **appropriate** as the **Israelites had already promised** to “*shema*” (hear):

*Shemot 20:19 Then they said to Moshe, "You speak with us, and we will hear (shema - שְׁמָע)..."*

To **shema/hear** is often translated to “*obey*”:

*Shemot 24:7 Then he took the **Book of the Covenant** and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that **יהוה** has said we will do, and be obedient (shema - שְׁמָע)."*

If our **goal** is to be a “*bondservant*,” we should **consider our attitudes**:

*2 Timothy 2:24 a servant of Adonai must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,*

The **Almighty** specifically gave the book of **Revelation** to “*His bondservants*” to reveal **Yeshua** and to **give** them an **understanding** of the **end times**:

*Revelation 1:1 The Revelation of Yeshua the Messiah, which Yah gave Him to show His servants - - things which must shortly take place...*

The **instructions of the Torah** are **everlasting**. We **haven’t** even **begun** to **scratch the surface** of its **meaning and application to our lives**. Notice in the following **prophetic verses of Isaiah** that **יהוה’s “house”** is **established**. This is the “*house*” of the **Master that we want to be a “bondservant” of!** The “*house*” where our “*ear will be pierced*” and we will **commit to forever serving the Master!**

*Isaiah 2:2 Now it shall come to pass **in the latter days** That the mountain of **יהוה’s house** Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And **all nations shall flow to it**.<sup>3</sup> Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of **יהוה**, To the house of the Elohim of Ya’acov; **He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths.**" For out of Zion shall go forth the Torah, And the word of **יהוה** from Jerusalem.*

**Shabbat Shalom!**

**Ardelle**