

TARGUM ONQELOS

Mishpatim – Sipra d’Mapkana (Exodus) 21-24 – מִשְׁפָּטִים

¶ And these are the judgments which you shall set in order before them. When you purchase a servant, a son of Israel, six years he shall serve, and in the seventh go forth free, for nothing. If he came in alone, he shall go out alone; if the husband of a wife, his wife shall go out with him. If his master has given him a wife, and she has borne him sons or daughters, the wife and the children are the master's, and he shall go out alone. But if the servant shall say, I love my master, my wife and my children, I will not go out free; his master shall bring him before the judges, and shall take him to the door, even to the post, and his master shall bore his ear with an awl; and he shall be to him a working servant for ever.

¶ And when a man sells his daughter to be a handmaid, she shall not go out as at the outgoing of the men servants. If she is evil in the eyes of the master who had covenanted with her to be his, then he shall make her free; to another man he shall not have ability to sell her to domineer over her. And if he has covenanted her to his son, after the custom of the daughters of Israel shall he act towards her. And if he take another to him, her food, her raiment, and her marriage due he shall not restrain. And if these three he does not perform to her, he shall release her freely without money.

¶ Whoever strikes a man and kills him, he shall be killed. But if it was not done covertly to him, but he was delivered into his hand from before MarYah, then I will appoint you a place where he may flee. But when a wicked man acts toward his neighbor with deceitfulness to kill him, even from My altar you shall bring him away to put

him to death. Whosoever strikes his father or his mother shall be put to death. And whoever steals a soul of the house of Israel and sells him, or if he is found in his hand, shall be put to death. And he who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death. And when men contend, and a man strikes his neighbor with a stone or with his fist, and he does not die, but falls upon his bed; -if he rises again and walks about upon his staff, he who struck him shall be acquitted; only he shall make good his loss of labor, and defray the charge of the physician.

¶ And when a man strikes his servant or his handmaid with a staff, and he dies under his hand, he shall be condemned. But if he survives one day, or two, he shall not be condemned, because he was his money. If there are men contending with each other and they strike a woman with child and she miscarries, but she does not die, he shall be fined, as the husband of the woman may set upon him, and he shall give according to the sentence of judgment. But if death takes place, you shall give life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burning for burning, wound for wound, bruise for bruise. And if a man strikes the eye of his servant or his handmaid and destroys it, he shall let him go free, for the sake of his eye. Or if he causes a tooth to fall out of his servant or a tooth of his handmaid, he shall let him go free for the sake of his tooth.

¶ If an ox gores a man or woman to death, the ox shall be stoned, and his flesh must not be eaten; but the master of the ox shall be acquitted. But if the ox had gored in time before (yesterday and the day before), and it had been attested to his

master, and he not keeping him he has killed man or woman, the ox shall be stoned and the owner be put to death. If a fine of money¹ be laid upon him, he may give redemption for his life according to all that is laid upon him. If the ox gores a son or daughter of Israel, after this judgment shall it be done to him. If an ox gores a man-servant or a maidservant, the owner shall give to his master thirty sileen of silver, and the ox shall be stoned.

¶ And if a man opens a pit, or digs a pit, and does not cover it, and an ox or a donkey falls in, the master of the pit shall pay: he shall give silver to his owner, and the carcass shall be his own. And if the ox of one man hurts a neighbor's ox causing it to die, they shall sell the living ox and divide the money; and that which is dead they shall also divide. But if it is known that the ox gored in time past and his owner did not keep him in, he shall pay ox for ox, and the dead one shall be his. If a man steals an ox or a lamb, and kills or sells it, he shall repay five oxen for the ox, and four sheep for the lamb.

¶ If a thief is found breaking through, and he is struck and dies, there shall be no blood due to him. If the eyes of witnesses fall upon him, blood shall be due to him, he shall pay. If he has nothing, he shall be sold for his robbery. If the thing stolen, from an ox to an ass, is found in his possession, they being alive, he shall restore two for one. If a man lays waste to a field or vineyard, or sends his cattle to consume another's field, the best of his field and the best of his vineyard he shall restore. If fire breaks out, and it finds thorns, so that sheaves or standing corn or the field is consumed, he who kindled the fire shall pay.

¶ When a man gives his neighbor silver or vessels to keep, and they are stolen from the man's house - if the thief is found, he shall repay double. If the thief is not found, the master of the house shall be

brought before the judges to make oath that he has not put forth his hand upon that which his neighbor had delivered to him. Upon every matter of guiltiness about ox or donkey or lamb, or raiment, or anything destroyed of which it may be said, This is it, the cause of both shall be brought before the judges, and he whom the judges shall condemn shall pay double to his neighbor. If a man delivers to his neighbor a donkey or an ox or a lamb or any cattle to keep, and it dies, or becomes injured, or is carried away, with no one seeing, an oath of MarYah shall be between them that he has not put forth his hand against that which his neighbor had delivered, and the owner shall accept the oath, and he shall not repay. But if it is stolen from him, he shall repay its owner; and if it is torn, and he brings witnesses that it was torn, he shall not repay. And if a man borrows from his neighbor and it is injured or died, the owner of it not being with it, he shall repay. But if the owner is with it, he shall not repay. If it was hired, let it be considered for its hire.

¶ And if a man seduces a virgin who is not betrothed and lies with her, he shall surely establish her to be his wife. If her father is unwilling to give her to him, he shall weigh down silver according to the dowry of virgins.

¶ An enchantress² shall not live. Whoever lies with a beast shall be put to death. Whoever sacrifices to the idols of the nations shall be put to death: -but to the Name of MarYah alone.

¶ And a stranger you shall not trouble nor oppress; for you were sojourners in the land of Mizraim. Do not afflict the widow or the orphan: if you indeed afflict them, and they cry before Me, I will surely hear their cry; and My displeasure shall be strong, and will kill you with the sword; and your wives shall be widows and your children fatherless.

¶ If you lend money to My people, to the poor who is with you shall not charge interest to him, [or, “you shall not be to him as a usurer”³] neither shall you inflict an injury upon him. If, as a pledge, you take your neighbor's garment, at sundown you shall return it to him. For it may be his only covering; for then it is the clothing for his skin: in what else would he sleep? And it shall be that when he cries before Me I will hear; for I am merciful.

¶ You shall not revile the judges, nor curse the ruler of My people. Your first fruits and your tithes you shall not delay to offer: the firstborn of your children you shall separate before Me; so shall you do with your oxen and with your sheep. Seven days shall the firstling be with its mother; on the eighth day you shall separate it before Me. And you shall be holy men before Me; and the flesh torn from a living animal you may not eat; you shall cast it to the dogs.

¶ You shall not take up a false report, nor set your hand with the wicked to be a false witness for him. You shall not follow the many to wickedness, neither shall you fail to teach that which in your eyes is judgment;⁴ after the many majority you shall fulfill judgment. And upon the poor you shall not be pitiful in judging him.

¶ If you meet the ox of your enemy, or his donkey, wandering away, you shall surely bring it back to him. When you see your enemy's donkey prostrate beneath his burden, you shall not abandon it;⁵ instead you shall surely abandon what is in your heart against him, and shall deliver it to him.

¶ You shall not warp the judgment of the poor man in his cause. From a false matter keep distant; and he who has been acquitted and has come forth from judgment, not being condemned, you shall not kill; for I will not justify the guilty.

¶ And you are not to receive a bribe; for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise, and perverts the words of the just. And you shall not distress the sojourner; for you know the mind of a sojourner; for you were dwellers in the land of Mizraim.

¶ Six years you shall sow the land and gather in its produce, but the seventh year you shall let it alone and allow it to rest, that the poor of your people may eat, and what they leave the beast of the field may eat. So also shall you do with your vineyard and with your olive ground.

¶ Six days shall you do your work, and in the seventh day have rest, that your ox and your donkey may rest, and the son of your handmaid and your sojourner may be quiet.

¶ Be mindful of all that I have spoken to you, and do not recall the names of the idols of the nations; let it not be heard upon your lips.

¶ Three times you shall solemnize a festival before Me in the year. You shall keep the festival of unleavened bread. Seven days shall you eat unleavened cake, as I have commanded you, in the time of the moon of Abiba, for therein you went forth from Mizraim; and you shall not appear before Me empty.

¶ And the festival of harvest, the first fruits of your labors which you have sowed in your fields; and the festival of gathering, at the end of the year when you gathered in your labors from the field. Three times in the year shall all your males appear before MarYah, the Ruler of the world. You shall not offer with unleavened bread the blood of My pascha, neither shall the fat of the sacrifice of the feast remain without on the altar until morning. The beginning of the first fruits of your land you shall bring into the sanctuary of MarYah your Alaha. You shall not eat flesh with milk.

¶ Behold, I send My Emissary before you, to protect you in the way, and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. Take heed before Him, and listen intently to His words; do not rebel against Him, for He will not forgive your sins; for in My Name are His words. For if you will truly listen to His words, and do all that I shall speak, I will be a foe to your enemies, and will afflict all those who afflict you. For My Emissary shall go before you, and bring you in, to the Amoraee and Hittaee, and Perizaee and Kenaanaee, Hivaaee and Jebusaee; and I will destroy them.

¶ You shall not worship their idols, nor serve them, nor do according to their way, but shall utterly demolish them, and break their images; and you shall serve before MarYah your Alaha, and He will bless your food and your drink, and will take away grievous evils from among you. There shall be none abortive or barren in your land; the number of your days will I complete.

¶ I will send My terror before you, and will perturb all the people among whom you shall come to fight against them, and I will make all your adversaries turn their back before you. I will send the hornet before you, and it shall drive out the Hivaaee and Kenaanaee and the Hittaee from before you. I will not expel them before you in one year, lest the land be made desolate, and the beasts of the field multiply against you. Little and little I will drive them out before you, until you shall be increased and inherit the land.

¶ And I will appoint your boundary from the sea of Suph to the sea of the Philistae, and from the desert to the river; for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hands, and you shall drive them out before you. You shall make no covenant with them nor with their idols. They shall not dwell in your land, lest they cause you to commit sin before Me; for if you serve their

idols, it will be a stumbling-block to you.

¶ And He said to Mosheh, Come up before MarYah, you and Aharon, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel; and they shall worship at a distance. And Mosheh shall draw near alone before MarYah, but they shall not draw near, nor shall the people ascend with them.

¶ And Mosheh came and recited to the people all the words of MarYah and all the judgments; and all the people answered with one voice and said, All the words that MarYah has spoken will we do. And Mosheh wrote all the words of MarYah.

¶ And he arose in the morning, and constructed an altar at the lower part of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. And he sent the firstborn sons of Israel, and they offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed oxen as consecrated offerings before MarYah. And Mosheh took half of the blood and set it in basins, and half the blood he sprinkled upon the altar.

¶ And he took the Book of the Covenant, and read before the people; and they said, All that MarYah has spoken we will do and obey. And Mosheh took the blood and sprinkled it upon the altar to make atonement for the people, and said, Behold the Blood of the Covenant which MarYah has ratified with you upon all these words.

¶ And Mosheh and Aharon, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up. And they saw the Glory of Alaha of Israel, and under the throne of His glory as the work of a precious stone, and as the face of heaven for its clearness. Yet the princes of the sons of Israel were not hurt; and they saw the Glory of MarYah, and rejoiced in their sacrifices which were accepted with favor, as though they had eaten and drunk.

¶ And MarYah said to Mosheh, Come up into My Presence in the mountain, and be there, and I will give you the tablets of stone, and the Aurayta [Torah] and the precepts, as I have written them, that you may teach them.

¶ And Mosheh arose and Jehoshua his minister, and Mosheh ascended the mountain on which was revealed the Glory of MarYah. But to the elders he said, Wait for us here until we return to you: and, behold, Aharon and Hur are with you: whoever has a matter for judgment, let him bring it before them.

¶ And Mosheh ascended the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain; and the glory of MarYah dwelt upon Mount Sinai, and the cloud enveloped it six days. And He called to Mosheh on the seventh day out of the midst of the cloud. And the appearance of the Glory of MarYah was as the appearance of devouring fire on the summit of the mountain in the eyes of the sons of Israel. And Mosheh entered into the midst of the cloud, and ascended the mount; and Mosheh was in the mount forty day and forty nights.

Notes

[1] Sam. Vers., "If a price of expiation."

[2] Sam. Vers., "a pythoness."

[3] Sam. Vers., "an extactor."

[4] Other copies, "what thou hast sought out concerning judgment."

[5] Sam. Vers., "wilt thou turn away to abandon him?"

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