Midrash Mishpatim (“Judgments”)
Exodus 21:1 – 24:18

Last Week’s Portion Began the Covenant Requirements … and they Continue in this Week’s Portion

וְאֵלֶּה֙ הַמִּשְׁפָּטִים

 Starts with “and”, which is Connected to The “10 Words” of Chapter 20!

Human Relationships
Exodus 21:1-11

Slavery: Why would God start with this particular subject?
Israel has just come out of 100+ years of slavery, and needed the reminder!

The Year of Release שָמִית (shmitah) for Slaves
Deuteronomy 15

Work 6 years / freedom (rest) in the 7th

If the servant chooses to stay – becomes a Bondservant:
Procedure is done at the door – Threshold Covenant!

Bondservants (doulos) Saul of Tarsus
Yeshua
Us

Violence to People & Animals
Exodus 21:12-36

Institution of Capital Punishment Already established with Noah
Genesis 9:6

Levitical Sacrificial System covered only Unintentional Sins
Romans 6:15-18

Intentional Sins were NOT Covered
But the New Covenant covers Intentional Sin also:
“There is therefore no condemnation to them which are in Messiah Yeshua…” Romans 8:1

Distinction between Premeditated Murder & Manslaughter

Premeditated Murder – NO REMEDY but death
Manslaughter – Cities of Refuge Numbers 35:9-34

Judicial Details concerning Murder and Death
“Eye for eye, tooth for tooth…” Exodus 21:24

Example of lex talionis (Retributive Justice)
First codified in Code of Hammurabi (18th Century BC)
“Proper counter punishment for an offense”
Yeshua’s “interpretation” Matthew 5:38-42

Responsibility for Property
Exodus 22:1-15

God’s Endorsement of Capitalism!
verses 2-4

God’s “Stand Your Ground Law”
Only if life is threatened – NOT property

Moral Offences
Exodus 22:16-31

No Pre-marital Sex
Witchcraft, Bestiality & Idol Worship Punishable by Death
Special Protection for Foreigners, Widows & Orphans
Established No-Interest Loans to Israelites
Respect for Judges & Leaders
Reminder of the Obligation (and Ownership) of the Firstborn
Prohibition of Eating non-Kosher Meat

Truth in Justice
Exodus 23:1-9

No False Witness
Do not Engage in Mob Mentality
No Bribery
The Shabbat of the Land
Exodus 23:10-13
The Sabbatical Cycle - Every 7th Year the Land is to Rest
Leviticus 25:1-7
Jubilee Year - Every 50th Year:
Exodus 23:10-13
- The Land is to Rest
- All Slaves are set Free
- All Debts Cancelled & Land Returned
Leviticus 25:8-17
Israel’s Failure to Observe
Lev 26:31-35 & II Chron 36:21

The Feasts
Exodus 23:14-19

Passover
Exodus 12

Shalosh Reg’lim: 3 times per year – all able-bodied men appear in Jerusalem

Unleavened Bread

Shavuot (Wheat Harvest)

Sukkot (Nuts, Fruit & Oil)

Dietary Laws Concerning Meat Sacrificed to Idols
Exodus 23:19b

“You shall not boil a young goat in its mother’s milk.”

Do not offer sacrifices that were improperly killed – note the context!
1) Form of sacrifice to pagan gods
2) Don’t consume the seed along with the fruit
3) Don’t kill with what God designed for life

First Only Herbs & Seeds… then (after Flood) Only Animals that eat Herbs & Seeds

God Links Israel to the Land
Exodus 23:20-26

The Angel of the LORD
“…for My Name is in Him.”

Yeshua
Or Yehoshua
Or should it be spelled Yehoshua

God’s Battle Plan
Exodus 23:27-31

God will:
Send His Fear Before them (Israel’s enemies)
Confuse every Nation Israel Encounters
Make Israel’s Enemies Turn their Backs & Run
Send hornets ahead of them to drive out the:
Hivites Near Mt Hermon (probably descendants of Nephilim)
Canaanites Inhabitants of Promised Land
Hittites Descendants of Heth – Northern Canaan

God will not drive them out all at once because Israel could not control all the land.
Set Bounds:
From the Red Sea (East) to the Mediterranean Sea (West)
From the desert (South) to the River (Euphrates – North)

The Covenant Confirmed @ Sinai
Exodus 24:1-18

Moses, Aaron + Nadab + Abihu & 70 elders

Nadab & Abihu run into difficulties later on …. Leviticus 10:1-2

“…built an altar under the hill…”

Another suggestion of a marriage under the chupah

A Blood Ratified

1) Reading (Ex 24:7a)
2) Agreement (Ex 24:7b)
3) Blood Shed (Ex 24:5-5)
4) Confirming Meal (Ex 24:11b)

Covenant:

Haftarah: Jeremiah 34:8-22 Freedom for Hebrew Slaves

Brit Chadashah: Luke 22:14-20 Yeshua Confirms the New Covenant